

**SPORTS:** Pandemic will change experience for fans [Back page](#)

**TRAVEL:** Touring a gem mine in Germany [Page 23](#)

**MUSIC:** The 1975's Healy as complex as ever [Page 32](#)

EUROPE & PACIFIC  
**WEEKEND**  
EDITION

DA 5 BLOODS

Spike Lee's tale of vets returning to Vietnam feels urgent amid current crises

Movies, Pages 20-21

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 40 @SS 2020

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

平成32年4月5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 ¥100

\$1.00

## AMERICA PROTESTS

### Milley says he was wrong to participate in church walk

By ROBERT BURNS  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Mark Milley, the nation's top military officer, said Thursday he was wrong to accompany President Donald Trump on a walk through Lafayette Square that ended in a photo op at a church. He said his presence "created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics."

"I should not have been there," the Joint Chiefs chairman said in remarks to a National Defense University commencement ceremony.

Trump's June 1 walk through the park to pose with a Bible at a church came after authorities used pepper spray and flash bangs to clear the park and streets of largely peaceful protesters demonstrating in the aftermath of George Floyd's death in Minnesota in police custody.

Milley said his presence and the photographs compromised

SEE MILLEY ON PAGE 8



# Trump nixes renaming

## President 'will not even consider' stripping Army posts of Confederate names

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump in a trio of tweets Wednesday afternoon appeared to quash any chance that the Army could change the names of 10 southern Army installations named for Confederate generals while he remains in the White House.

"[M]y Administration will not even consider the renaming of these Magnificent and Fabled Military Installations," Trump wrote in his tweets, which did not mention the Confederacy. "Our history as the Greatest Nation in the World will not be tampered with. Respect our Military!"

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy signaled this week that they were open to a "bipartisan conversation" on the potential renaming of posts, as demonstrations spread across the United States aimed at addressing systemic racism in the country. It marked a dramatic change in stance for

the Army, which has for decades defended the naming of those posts during the Jim Crow era. In late February, Army officials foot-stomped their unwillingness to consider the issue, saying the names were rooted in the "spirit of reconciliation" and not meant to honor any particular cause.

Army officials said McCarthy hoped to get congressional support before he committed to any changes, though the service has the power to change the names of its installations without the input of lawmakers or other federal officials.

But the conversation appeared to end Wednesday. A defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday afternoon that it was unlikely McCarthy or Esper would challenge Trump on the issue.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany on Wednesday called the issue an "absolute nonstarter" for Trump, adding the president would veto any legislation passed that included direction to rename one or all of

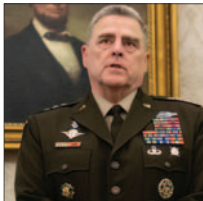
SEE RENAMING ON PAGE 6

■ Congress advances bills that would set process to change names of bases

Page 6

Soldiers stand in front of the Airborne Corps Headquarters sign at Fort Bragg, N.C.

JOSHUA COWDEN/U.S. Army



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley said Thursday his presence on a walk that ended in a photo op at a church with President Donald Trump last week created an incorrect perception about the military's involvement in domestic politics.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	Change in price
Germany	\$2.295	\$2.037	\$2.949	\$2.659	--	--
Change in price	+2.2 cents	+5.4 cents	+4.8 cents	+1.0 cents	--	No change
Netherlands	--	\$3.354	\$3.568	\$3.457	\$2.834	\$2.190
Change in price	--	+7.6 cents	+7.9 cents	+4.4 cents	No change	No change
U.K.	--	\$2.607	\$2.859	\$2.569	\$2.750	\$2.460
Change in price	--	+5.4 cents	+4.8 cents	+1.0 cents	+4.8 cents	+1.0 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	Guam	Change in price
Japan	--	\$2.739	--	\$2.449	\$2.119	--	--
Change in price	--	+5.0 cents	--	+1.0 cents	+6.0 cents	+6.0 cents	+6.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.089	--	--	\$2.449	\$2.099**	\$2.409	\$2.740
Change in price	+6.0 cents	--	--	+1.0 cents	+6.0 cents	+6.0 cents	+5.0 cents

\* Diesel EFF \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of June 12-18

## EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Rate	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9409
Euro costs (June 12)	\$1.11	Thailand (Baht)	30.98
Dollar buys (June 12)	60.8561	Turkey (Lira)	6.8248
British pound (June 12)	\$1.25	(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.)	
Japanese yen (June 12)	105.00		
South Korean won (June 12)	1,158.00		
<b>Commercial rates</b>			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776		
British pound	\$1.2656		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3489		
China (Yuan)	7.0687		
Denmark (Krone)	6.5514		
Egypt (Pound)	16.9488		
Hong Kong	\$1.1379/0.8788		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7502		
Hungary (Forint)	30.28		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4514		
Japan (Yen)	106.83		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3075		
Norway (Krone)	9.4343		
Philippines (Peso)	50.16		
Poland (Zloty)	3.93		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3327		
South Korea (Won)	1,198.21		

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.06
3-month bill	0.17
30-year bond	1.52

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

## TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 40
- Classified ..... 41
- Comics ..... 38, 42-43
- Crossword ..... 38, 42-43
- Faces ..... 39
- Opinion ..... 44-45
- Sports ..... 48-56
- Weekend ..... 17-38

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

ADVERTISING  
+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

ADVERTISING  
+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

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY

# Base housing still has mold, maintenance problems

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

Cleaning mold, reducing toxic exposure and providing maintenance still need improvement in the military's ongoing efforts to provide safe housing for service members and their families, according to a watchdog report.

Officials for the Defense Department's inspector general reviewed eight housing-related IG reports issued from 2014 to 2017 for its latest audit released Tuesday. The report stated that while progress has been made across a wide variety of concerns, there is still room for service officials to improve the quality of barracks and family housing available on military bases.

In those eight reports, the IG made 110 recommendations and 19 remain open.

The audit took a deeper look at "a nonstatistical sample of 16 recommendations from five reports to assess whether policies and controls over the maintenance and inspection of government-owned and privatized housing were in place to ensure the safety of service members and their families," according to the report. Out of the 16 recommendations that were reviewed in the audit, 10 still remain open.

"While several corrective actions were taken related to health and safety policy for military housing, such as developing or revising DOD or service level housing policies and procedures, completing repairs and using a joint service working group to identify improvements in facility inspection and maintenance programs across the DOD, many deficiencies in radon and mold remediation, comprehensive inspections and repairs to identified health [and] safety deficiencies still existed," according to the report.

Military housing, which is primarily managed by private companies, came under public scrutiny nearly two years ago when Reuters published an investigation that revealed the sometimes dangerous conditions of homes on bases, such as rodent and insect infestations, mold growth from poorly repaired water intrusions and toxic levels of exposure to lead, asbestos and other hazards.

Since then, Congress has intervened and created a series of



SCOTT T. STURKOL/U.S. Army

**The South Post Family Housing area at Fort McCoy, Wis.. An audit released Tuesday found progress has been made on correcting mold and maintenance problems in military housing but there is still room for improvement.**

reforms to improve base housing. Though after congressional testimony in December from military families, military service officials and the leadership of private housing management companies, lawmakers from both political parties agreed that more can be done to protect families.

Reports from the IG, as well as the Government Accountability Office, have played a role in identifying problem areas within base housing.

Open recommendations in Tuesday's audit report primarily involved the DOD, Army and Air Force, as well as the Navy's Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. Auditors allowed for affected agencies to provide feedback to the report prior to its public release. In some instances, there was agreement on what needed to be done and a timeline provided. Others refuted the IG's assessment.

The report cited that Army

and DOD officials did not issue revised guidance for mold control and remediation and for radon evaluation and mitigation because of confusion over which office was responsible for implementing recommendations to issue policies and because issuing or updating guidance was not a high priority, according to the report.

The deputy assistant secretary of defense for facilities management disagreed with the IG's findings, and responded that a joint-service working group has been established and meets quarterly to review outstanding IG recommendations for facility maintenance and inspections.

The report also found that the Army did not complete comprehensive and independent annual inspections to comply with health and safety requirements in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Army skipped two installations in 2017, citing higher priority work. The ser-

vice did so again in 2018 because of a lack of funding. Inspections in 2019 were not comprehensive because the Army limited the time for inspections at four bases. Army officials responded that this will be managed properly in 2020, according to the report.

The Air Force skipped annual health and safety inspections at two bases because the service reallocated resources for damage caused at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., during Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Those bases will be inspected with reports available by July, according to the report.

At Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, the base commander did not take corrective actions to properly label electrical panels in barracks because it was considered a low funding priority, according to the report. That commander, typically a Navy captain, also made repairs to poor lighting in barracks hallways and rooms,

but the repairs did not resolve the issue.

The commandant's office for Naval District Washington responded in agreement with the findings and offered a timeline for resolution, according to the report.

Other open recommendations covered issues related to policies and instructions, preventive maintenance and environmental health and safety.

"If DOD management does not address previous recommendations that were made to improve military housing, the DOD will continue to expose military families to health and safety hazards at installations around the world," according to the report.

The report did not make any new recommendations, but encouraged that all open recommendations be resolved.

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

## 18-year-old Marine collapses, dies during physical training

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An 18-year-old Marine died two weeks ago during physical training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., marking the third member of the service to die this year while exercising, according to a new Navy report.

Cpl. Ethan M. Moores collapsed May 27 during fitness training and died at the base's Naval Med-

ical Center. Emergency services at the base administered CPR to Moores and transported him to the medical center, 1st Lt. Daniel Linfante, a spokesman for 2nd Marine Division, said Wednesday in a statement.

Moores is the second Marine to collapse and die during physical training in May. A sergeant collapsed May 8 in Oceanside, Calif., near Marine Corps Base

Camp Pendleton, while on a run and died May 11 at a local hospital, according to the Navy's mishap summary report posted this week. The Marine Corps was unable to provide the Marine's name Wednesday. The third death also happened in California, as Marine Pfc. Tyrell J. Audain, 19, died April 15 after he collapsed during a physical fitness test at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Twenty-nine Palms.

According to the Navy report, there were two deaths in fiscal year 2019 related to physical training in the Marine Corps, and three in fiscal year 2018. Since 2010, there have been about two to three deaths each year associated with physical training.

Moores was a machine gunner with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 2018.

He had wanted to be a Marine since he was a child, according to his online obituary. He is survived by his father Matthew Moores.

There were no elevated heat advisories on the day that Moores died, according to Linfante. His death is under investigation.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @caitlmmkenney

## WAR ON TERRORISM

## General: Conditions for withdrawal not met

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. Central Command's top general said Wednesday that he cannot recommend a full withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan by mid-2021 unless the Taliban demonstrate they no longer support al-Qaida forces there.

The United States is on track to draw down its force size to about 8,600 troops by next month, a stipulation agreed to in the Feb. 29 accord signed with the Taliban, Marine Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, the CENTCOM commander, said Wednesday. But the Taliban has yet to meet conditions laid out in that agreement, including cracking down on terrorist groups, which McKenzie said would make him comfortable in recommending a full drawdown of American forces from Afghanistan by May 2021, a time marker also placed in that deal.

"If conditions would allow, we're prepared to go to zero" by May, McKenzie said in a video conference hosted by the Washington-based think tank Middle East Institute. "If asked my opinion, those conditions have not been fully met."

McKenzie's remarks come just weeks after news reports indicated President Donald Trump had demanded the Pentagon draw up plans to fully withdraw troops from Afghanistan by the Nov. 3 presidential election. Top Pentagon officials have

pushed back on such an option but will offer the president the plans, nonetheless, according to reports by The New York Times and The Washington Post, citing unnamed officials.

Trump, who has long called for a withdrawal from Afghanistan where U.S. troops have been fighting nearly 19 years, has not confirmed publicly that he ordered planning for a full drawdown. But on May 26, he told reporters that he wanted troops out "as soon as reasonable. Over a period of time, but as soon as reasonable."



McKenzie

On Wednesday, McKenzie reiterated the U.S. long-stated claim that it maintains troops in Afghanistan to ensure terrorist networks cannot use that country to plan attacks against Americans. The United States invaded Afghanistan in the weeks following the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington by al-Qaida. U.S. and allied troops have fought there ever since. Since 2015, U.S. troops in Afghanistan have primarily trained and advised Afghan forces, but a small group also targets terrorists.

"The threat to the United States is not the Taliban, it's never been the Taliban, it's the entities they allow to live in Afghanis-

tan," McKenzie said, referring primarily to al-Qaida.

The Taliban has regularly fought against Islamic State terrorists in Afghanistan, McKenzie said.

The U.N. wrote in a report last week that the Taliban had not severed its vast ties to al-Qaida and might have actually strengthened them in recent months. The Feb. 29 accord explicitly calls for the insurgent group to renounce al-Qaida and cut off any support to the terrorist group.

Some 400 to 600 al-Qaida fighters remain in Afghanistan, where they operate in 12 of the nation's 34 provinces, according to the U.N. That includes al-Qaida's top leader and successor to Osama Bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The U.N. report also accused the Taliban of consulting with al-Qaida throughout its negotiations with the United States. The report said the Taliban "offered guarantees that it would honor their historical ties" to al-Qaida. It described that long-standing alliance as "deep" and often "personal," including intermarriages and family ties.

Meanwhile, the Taliban has honored its commitment in the agreement not to attack American and other foreign coalition forces, McKenzie said. However, it has launched regular, aggressive attacks against U.S.-backed Afghan military and security forces.

Violence across the nation dipped during

the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ended May 24. McKenzie said the Taliban have since "ramped back up" operations against Afghan government forces.

The general said he hoped he will soon see the Taliban and Afghan government begin long-sought negotiations, which he hopes could lead to a long-term cease-fire.

The two sides have begun informal negotiations and have taken some steps outlined in the Feb. 29 agreement toward more formal discussions, including the release of hundreds of prisoners. The Afghan government was not a party to the February agreement, but agreed to some terms laid out in it.

McKenzie said the coming weeks will mark a "very critical time" as the two sides edge toward a dialogue. But he said he worried the Taliban might not live up to the concessions it claims to be willing to make — either with the United States or the Afghan government.

"I think the Taliban needs to demonstrate that they're going to be faithful partners," the general said. "We don't have to like the Taliban, we don't have to believe the Taliban. What we need to do is watch the Taliban and see what they do. ... [but] It's unclear to me yet they are fully embracing this and are ready to move forward. We'll know more in the days ahead."

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## Hospital outside of Bagram is demolished

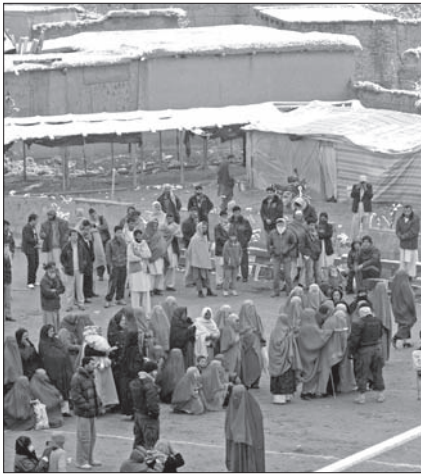
By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A hospital outside America's largest base in Afghanistan has been razed after it was irreparably damaged in a Taliban attack last year, when the militants tried to breach Bagram Airfield, officials said.

"Due to the unsuitability of the buildings for future use and the safety hazards they presented to anyone who might venture on to the site, Resolute Support obtained permission from the (Afghan Ministry of Defense) to clear the remaining structures," NATO's RS mission said in a statement Tuesday.

The hospital, which had a gate onto the base, was being rebuilt "to serve the Afghan people," U.S. officials said around the time the Taliban attacked it on Dec. 11. Two Afghan civilians were killed in the attack, which aimed to penetrate Bagram Airfield, and at least 80 people were injured, including five service members from the Republic of Georgia, a coalition partner.

The Georgians, who helped prevent the Taliban from getting onto Bagram, were only slightly injured, their commander, Lt. Col Giorgi Jincharadze, said at the time.



BRANDON POMREKNE/U.S. Army

Afghan wait in line to be seen at the South Korean hospital at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan in 2011.

The medical facility was funded and run for more than a decade by South Korea until the Afghan Defense Ministry took it over in 2016.

Under the South Koreans, up to 11 doctors worked at the facility, providing care to hundreds of patients every day, the U.S. military said in a statement in 2018.

The hospital sat unused and had fallen into disrepair after the South Koreans handed it over to

the Afghan military, locals said. The Taliban attack dealt a final blow to the facility.

"The hospital was slowly, slowly ruined," said Abdul Shokour Qudousi, governor of the district near Bagram.

"It was left alone, and then got destroyed," he said.

Zuhair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3

## Afghanistan War critic Tata is nominated for Pentagon policy post

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has nominated Anthony Tata, a retired Army brigadier general and occasional Fox News commentator, to a top job at the Pentagon as he eyes a reduced troop presence in Afghanistan and escalating tensions from China to Iran.

The White House announced his nomination as undersecretary of Defense for policy on Wednesday. The announcement cited his "extensive uniformed service."

Tata, a West Point graduate who retired from the Army in 2009 after 28 years on active duty, has publicly advocated for withdrawing U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan and Syria and replacing them with private contractors — a controversial view in the eyes of many military and policy professionals.

"History supports presidential authorization for the use of private military contractors during transition operations to help the U.S. and its allies achieve strategic aims," Tata and private security mogul Erik Prince wrote in a 2019 piece published by FoxNews.com. "Now is the time to begin the transition, secure our vital interests, and husband our precious resources."

Tata, who was deputy commanding general of U.S. forces in Afghanistan from 2006-2007,

would replace John Rood at the Defense Department if confirmed by the Senate. Rood was ousted in February after playing a minor but important role in Trump's impeachment saga. Rood certified to Congress last May that Ukraine was eligible to receive \$250 million in security assistance, aid that was later temporarily blocked by the White House.

Since the president asked him to take the job, Tata dived from his company, Tata Leadership Group, a business leadership development consultancy, and signed an ethics letter identifying the names of his clients in case any of them have business ties with the Pentagon during his tenure, according to a person familiar with the matter. He was granted a top secret clearance last year as part of his private sector work and it has since been updated to a top secret/sensitive compartmented information clearance, the person said.

Since his retirement from the Army in 2009, Tata has served as the secretary of North Carolina's Transportation Department, the chief operations officer of the District of Columbia Public Schools and the superintendent of the Wake County public schools system in North Carolina.

He is also the author of several thrillers.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Pentagon could pay billions in defense contractor leave claims

By **CAITLIN M. KENNEY**  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The cost of helping defense contractors keep their employees on the payroll during the coronavirus pandemic could cost the Defense Department tens of billions of dollars if Congress does not step in with additional funding, the undersecretary overseeing acquisitions told House lawmakers Wednesday.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES, includes section 3610, which authorizes the Defense Department to reimburse leave claims by defense industry contractors for keeping employees on their payroll who could not

work due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Without Congress providing funding to cover the claims, the Defense Department would have to pay out the money from its own budget, which could cause negative impacts to the military, said Ellen Lord, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment.

“While the department may be able to use other appropriated funds to reimburse contractors, the cost for 3610 is likely well beyond the department’s renewed ability to do so without significantly jeopardizing modernization or readiness,” she told the House Armed Services Committee.

The Defense Department’s estimates of how much supplemental funding it could

request is “in the double digits of billions of dollars,” on the lower end, Lord said.

Lord also said one primary defense contractor had informed them that the contractor estimated its impacted cost to be up to \$1.5 billion for the company and associated suppliers.

Costs associated with operating during the pandemic but not covered by section 3610, such as purchasing personal protective equipment or stop-work orders, is estimated to cost that contractor more than another \$1 billion, Lord said.

No contractors have submitted a claim yet under section 3610 due to the lack of appropriations from Congress, Lord said. “I believe that they’re concerned that

they might get a one-time shot and want to make sure what the entire situation is,” she said about the claims.

The Pentagon’s estimated figure is based on information from talking with contractors about the issues they are facing, and they also have DOD employees talking with management teams and collecting further data, Lord said.

Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., said he believed because Congress had already given authorization for the section that he expected there would also be support for the funding.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

## Pentagon to give Ukraine \$250M in aid to counter Russia

*Stars and Stripes*

The Pentagon will provide \$250 million in military assistance to Ukraine during the next fiscal year to strengthen its capacity to counter Russian aggression, it said Thursday.

The funds, given through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, are earmarked for additional training, equipment and advisory efforts for Ukraine’s security forces, the Pentagon said in a statement.

“This reaffirms the long-standing defense relationship between the United States and Ukraine — a critical partner on

the front line of strategic competition with Russia,” it said.

Half of the sum will be contingent on Ukraine making more progress in defense reforms, including strengthening civilian control of the military, increasing transparency and competition in weapons procurement and the defense industrial sector, and bolstering internal controls to reduce corruption, the statement said.

The funding will also support Ukraine’s cyberdefense and strategic communications capabilities, “in order to counter Russian cyber offensive operations and

misinformation,” the Pentagon said.

The aid package was announced weeks after the Defense Department notified Congress about plans to provide Ukraine with equipment including mobile battle-field radar systems, ambulances, secure communications equipment, and patrol boats armed with 30 mm autocannons for service in the Black Sea, where Russia has a clear advantage over Ukraine’s navy.

Russia seized and annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014, and Kiev continues to battle Russian-backed separatists in the east of the country where about

4,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed.

The funds would help strengthen Ukrainian combat capabilities and save lives, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said in a statement. The ministry and the country’s armed forces “are sincerely grateful” to their American partners, it said.

In the past, the U.S. has provided lethal military equipment to Ukraine’s military, including anti-tank Javelin missiles, sniper rifles, grenade launchers and counterair-traffic radars.

news@stripes.com

### Save With a Low Intro APR on Purchases—and Earn \$150 Bonus Cash

Open a new **cashRewards** credit card, and you'll get **0% APR** on purchases for **6 months**. After that, a variable APR between **9.65% and 18%** applies.<sup>1</sup>

Plus, you'll earn **\$150 bonus cash back** when you spend **\$2,000 within 90 days** of account opening.<sup>2</sup>



- 1.5%**  
CASH BACK ON PURCHASES<sup>2</sup>
- NO**  
ANNUAL FEE<sup>1</sup>
- NO**  
BALANCE TRANSFER FEES
- NO**  
FOREIGN TRANSACTION FEES

**NAVY FEDERAL Credit Union**  
ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
VETERANS

Our Members Are the Mission

Apply today!  
Visit [navyfederal.org/cashrewardsoffer](http://navyfederal.org/cashrewardsoffer).



Insured by NCUA. As of 5/1/2020, rates range from 9.65% APR to 18.00% APR, are based on creditworthiness, and will vary with the market based on the U.S. Prime Rate. ATM cash advance fees: None if performed at a Navy Federal branch or 4.9% otherwise; \$3.00 per domestic transaction or \$1.00 per foreign transaction. Offer valid for cardholders issued new cashRewards credit card accounts. To be eligible for the \$150 cash back, you must make \$2,000 or more in net purchases within 90 days of account opening. Rewards are earned on eligible net purchases. Net purchases means the sum of your eligible purchase transactions minus returns and refunds. Eligible purchase transactions do not include, and rewards are not earned for, the following transactions: cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind, including finance charges, late fees, returned check fees, ATM cash advance fees, and annual fees, if any. Cash equivalent transactions, such as the purchase, loading or reloading of gift and prepaid cards (e.g., money orders, Visa® Prepaid Cards, and other cash equivalent gift cards), may not be eligible purchase transactions and may not earn rewards. Please allow up to eight weeks after the 90-day period for the bonus cash back to post to your rewards balance. Account must be open and not in default at the time the bonus cash back posts to your rewards balance. Limit of one promotional offer at account opening. Offer valid for accounts applied for on 5/1/20 to 8/31/20. Excludes Navy Federal Business cards. Rewards are earned on eligible net purchases. © 2020 Navy Federal NFCU 13891 (5-20)

MILITARY

# Bills call for panel to study renaming posts

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate's initial version of the 2021 Pentagon policy bill directs the establishment of a three-year commission charged with studying ways to strike honors to the Confederacy at military installations, Senate Armed Services Committee staffers said Thursday.

A draft of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act voted out of the committee Thursday morning would build an eight-person panel "to study and provide recommendations concerning the removal [of] names, symbols, displays, monuments and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America" from military posts, the committee said. That would include changing the names of 10 southern Army bases named for Confederate generals from the Civil War. President Donald Trump balked at that proposition on Wednesday as calls grew to strip those posts of their long-standing names amid nationwide demonstrations against racial inequalities.

Senate Armed Services Committee aides, who spoke Thursday on the condition of anonymity to discuss the bill before its contents are published, said the creation of the commission to study the topic had bipartisan support, but not all members agreed. The topic was added into the bill on Wednesday, just days after Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy signaled he was open to starting a discussion about the names of the 10 posts. For years — and even as recently as late February — Army officials refused to consider changing the posts' names.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the committee, told reporters on a conference call Thursday that he was among those who opposed its inclusion.

Inhofe avoided providing his personal opinion on installations carrying names of Confederate generals, but he said local communities and state officials shouldn't be directly involved in any process that could change long-standing installation names and have "veto authority" on any potential changes. The 10 posts in question have carried their names since the 1910s and 1940s.

"Sometimes we don't agree on some issues. This is one we don't agree on," Inhofe said just after praising how well Republicans and Democrats on the committee

worked together to craft the bill. "My effort's going to be to allow the local communities ... to participate in whether or not they want to do this. So, we have a long ways to go on that issue."

The inclusion could set up a fight with Trump over the NDAA, the annual bill that sets Pentagon policy and directs its spending. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Wednesday that the issue was a "nonstarter" and she vowed Trump would veto any bill that would change military installations' names. Trump wrote in a tweet earlier Wednesday that he would "not even consider" name changes.

In a tweet Thursday, Trump appeared to foot-stomp the issue, writing: "THOSE THAT DENY THEIR HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT!"

Two members of the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday introduced similar legislation in their chambers that would create a commission to study the issue. The measure was co-sponsored by Reps. Anthony Brown, D-Md., and Don Bacon, R-Neb., who are veterans and issued statements supporting striking Confederate names from military installations.

"The symbols and individuals that our military honors matter. It matters to the black soldier serving at an installation honoring the name of a leader who fought to preserve slavery and oppression. It matters to the culture of inclusivity and unity needed for our military to get the job done," Brown said in a prepared statement.

The House "National Commission on Modernizing Military Installation Designations" bill would review and make recommendations on renaming military installations and other Defense Department property within a year. The commission would be made up of members of Congress as well as individuals appointed by the military service secretaries.

Just hours after McCarthy signaled his support for a discussion on the installations' namesakes on Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, a former Army secretary, also said he was open to such a conversation. The Army has the ability to change the names of its installations without input from Congress or other federal authorities.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC



CHRIS SEWARD/AP

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, both former Army officers, put out word that they are "open to a bipartisan discussion" of renaming Army bases like North Carolina's Fort Bragg that honor Confederate officers associated by some with the racism of that tumultuous time.

## Renaming: White House says name change would dishonor fallen troops from those bases

### FROM FRONT PAGE

the installations in question. She said that would include the National Defense Authorization Act, which is required to set annual Pentagon policy and funding.

In his tweets, Trump singled out Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Benning, Ga., as "legendary" and "very powerful bases" that "have become a great part of the great American heritage and a history of winning, victory, and freedom."

Fort Bragg was named in 1918 for Gen. Braxton Bragg. Fort Hood was named in 1943 for Gen. John Bell Hood. Fort Benning was named in 1918 for Brig. Gen. Henry Benning. All three were slave owners who saw mixed results as military leaders, according to historians. Bragg, for example, was stripped of his command after losing the Battle of Chattanooga in Tennessee in 1863. Hood, too, would lose his command after a loss in the Battle of Nashville in late 1864.

The other posts named for Confederate generals are: Camp Beauregard and Fort

Polk in Louisiana; Fort Gordon in Georgia; Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia, and Fort Rucker in Alabama.

Trump's tweets Wednesday came as a growing chorus of Army veterans called for the renaming of the bases. A petition on change.org calling for the renaming of the bases had more than 14,000 signatures Wednesday afternoon.

Retired Army Gen. David Petraeus was the latest prominent veteran of the service to call for the change, saying it was an "easy, even obvious decision."

"These bases are, after all, federal installations, home to soldiers who swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States," Petraeus wrote in an editorial published Tuesday in *The Atlantic*. "The irony of training at bases named for those who took up arms against the United States, and for the right to enslave others, is inescapable to anyone paying attention. Now, belatedly, is the moment for us to pay such attention."

During the White House press briefing, McEnany

claimed renaming the Army posts would dishonor soldiers who died in battle after deploying from those installations.

"To suggest that somehow these forts are inherently racist and their names need to be changed is a complete disrespect to the men and women who the last bit of American land they saw before they went overseas and lost their lives was these forts," she said.

Trump's tweet also comes as an Army official said Wednesday that the service would consider banning Confederate memorabilia on its installations, such as displays of the Confederate battle flag. No decision has been made on that prospect, according to the official who was not authorized to discuss private deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Marine Corps earlier this year was the first military service to issue such a ban. The Navy said Tuesday that it would begin the process to bar the open display of the Confederate battle flag from its bases, ships, submarines and aircraft.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## Senator wants nonveteran presidents restricted from Arlington burial

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., wants to prohibit U.S. presidents and vice presidents from being buried at Arlington National Cemetery unless they've served in the

military.

Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran and retired U.S. Army officer, introduced legislation Wednesday to bar nonveteran presidents and vice presidents from Arlington. The cemetery is nearing capacity, and the Army, which operates

it, has proposed to restrict eligibility criteria. If fewer veterans and service members can be buried there, open spots shouldn't go to presidents or vice presidents who haven't served, Duckworth reasoned.

"This legislation makes sure

that no burial space should be reserved for individuals who are not service members or veterans — even if he or she served as president or vice president of the United States," Duckworth said in a statement.

Current President Donald

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have not served in the military. Duckworth has been a longtime critic of Trump and his medical exemption from the Vietnam War draft.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

## MILITARY

# Military brothers compete in TV's 'The Titan Games'

By DAVID EDGE  
Stars and Stripes

A pair of service member siblings who last year went head-to-head in the final of a military best warrior competition have taken part in "The Titan Games," which is now airing on NBC.

Lt. Col. Eric Palicia, an engineer with U.S. Army Europe, and his younger brother Air Force Capt. Noah Palicia, a C-130 instructor pilot stationed in Yokota, Japan, competed against Olympians, members of elite law enforcement teams, multisport athletes and others for the televised challenge.

The season two premiere aired May 25, drawing 3.4 million viewers, the entertainment publication Variety reported. The show was recorded in February but broken up into 10 episodes.

The sports reality show, hosted by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, last year put competitors through challenges that included dragging 350 pounds of metal chains up a 30-foot incline, vaulting across a 15-foot gap, and pushing their opponent off a platform two stories above the ground. The winner of each round moves ahead until one man and one woman are crowned titans and receive \$100,000 in prize money.

"It was a combination of every aspect of fitness tested at one time," said Eric Palicia, without revealing how he or his brother, who is 10 years younger than he is, did in the competition.

Last year, Noah Palicia, the airman, beat his soldier brother, Eric, to win the DOD's Alpha Games world championships. Noah's wife posted a message on the Titan Games Instagram saying that the Palicia brothers should be on the show, and that got the ball rolling.

"The fun thing about my brother and I, during competitions is that we are essentially the same person, he is just Eric 2.0," said



DEBORAH ARAGON/U.S. Air Force

**Brothers Air Force Capt. Noah Palicia and Army Lt. Col. Eric Palicia competed in September 2019, in the Alpha Warrior competition at Retama Park near San Antonio.**

the older Palicia, with a laugh. "When we go up against each other, everything is the same. We have the exact same strategy and it comes down to who can execute it faster and better."

"The Titan Games" airs on

NBC on Mondays at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, and on the American Forces Network on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in Europe and the Pacific.

edge.david@stripes.com  
Twitter: @DavidEdge96798393

## Taiwan intercepts Chinese jets in airspace after US flies over

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
Stars and Stripes

Taiwan reported intercepting several Chinese fighter jets on Tuesday, the same day a U.S. military transport plane overflew the island, according to the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense.

Chinese fighters "briefly entered Taiwan's southwest airspace" and were intercepted that morning, a ministry statement said Tuesday.

The ministry said its aircraft had "broadcast warnings" to the Su-30 Flankers within the Taiwan air defense identification zone, or ADIZ. The Focus Taiwan news website said the ministry issued that statement at 12:30 p.m.

The same day, a U.S. C-40A Clipper transport plane, a military variant of the Boeing 737-700C commercial airliner, flew over the island with permission and without landing, according

to a separate ministry statement. Taiwan media cited online flight trackers reporting the U.S. flight originated in Okinawa at 8:53 a.m.

It's not clear if the U.S. and Chinese military flights were linked. The Air Force's 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, did not immediately reply to an emailed request for further information on Thursday. Boeing builds Clippers for the U.S. Navy, according to the company

website.

Golf9, a Twitter user who tracks military flights in the Western Pacific, tweeted at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday that the southbound Clipper had skirted Taiwan's western coast. Taiwan News wrote Tuesday that U.S. military jets rarely fly over Taiwan's airspace, preferring instead to fly in international waters around the island.

The ministry's statement did not identify the type or number

of its own aircraft involved. "Our aerial reconnaissance and patrol aircraft took full control of the aircraft and actively drove [them] away from the response area," the statement said.

An ADIZ is a defined area extending beyond national territory where unidentified aircraft may be intercepted before they cross into sovereign airspace.

ditzler.joseph@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JosephDitzler

## S. Korea firm fined \$68.4M in US military fraud case

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — SK Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., one of South Korea's largest engineering companies, has been fined \$68.4 million in a U.S. military bribery and fraud case involving a multimillion-dollar contract at Camp Humphreys, the Justice Department said.

The company pleaded guilty Wednesday in the Western District of Tennessee to one count of wire fraud and was sentenced to pay \$60.6 million in criminal fines—the largest such fine ever imposed by the federal district court—and \$2.6 million in restitution to the Army, according to a statement.

SK E&C also must pay \$5.2 million in civil penalties to the United States as part of a separate False Claims Act settlement, which the Justice Department said it credited against the criminal fine.

In 2008, the company won a major contract for land and infrastructure development, including water and sewage systems, at Camp Humphreys, as the former remote outpost was being transformed into the U.S. military's flagship base on the divided peninsula.

Citing plea documents, the Justice Department said SK paid about \$2.6 million to a fake construction company that subsequently funneled the money to a contracting official with the Army Corps of Engineers. It then submitted false documents to the Army to cover up the fraud, the government said.

SK E&C also admitted that employees had obstructed or tried to obstruct federal investigations into the scheme by withholding requested documents and information, burning documents and trying to persuade an individual not to cooperate with U.S. authorities, according to the statement.

As part of the plea agreement, SK E&C agreed to cooperate fully in all matters relating to the misconduct and to implement a compliance and ethics program to prevent future violations of U.S. federal law throughout its operations, the Justice Department said.

SK E&C, which could not immediately be reached for further comment, also agreed not to pursue U.S. federal government contracts during a three-year probation period.

news@stripes.com

## JOIN THE TEAM THAT FIGHTS FOR CHANGE

U.S. Army  
Special Operations

Civil Affairs

**VISIT GOARMYSOF.COM OR  
TEXT STRIPES TO 462-769**

MILITARY

# Unit in Poland 1st with ‘upgunned’ Strykers

By **IMMANUEL JOHNSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

**BEMOWO PISKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland** — Not far from Russian territory, U.S. soldiers at this Polish base have been putting the Army’s newest ‘upgunned’ Stryker combat vehicles through their paces.

Half of the unit’s Strykers have a 30 mm gun and the other half have an anti-tank Javelin Weapon System, said Lt. Col. Andrew Gallo, 3rd Squadron commander with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and commander of the Enhanced Forward Presence battle group.

The regiment uses the infantry carrier variant to deploy its fighters and engage enemy forces, Gallo said. It is the first and only unit in the Army to get the variants with enhanced weaponry, which were first deployed to Europe in late 2017. Last week, the squadron used them in live-fire exercises here, about 50 miles south of the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

“Unlike other Stryker brigade combat teams in the Army, (the EFP battle group) has significantly enhanced lethality, which is critical based on any potential emerging threats we may face in this area,” Gallo said.

In nearby Kaliningrad, Moscow plans to reestablish a “fighter-er aviation regiment and naval assault aviation (bomber) regiment,” The Heritage Foundation, a conservative U.S.-based think tank, said in an October report.

The live-fire event comes as U.S. and other NATO forces about

340 miles to the west took part in the Allied Spirit exercise, an effort to bolster cooperative defense efforts in Europe.

Russia remains a threat to the Continent, particularly through its use of cyberattacks and information warfare to expose and exploit vulnerabilities, the Heritage Foundation report said.

It was Moscow’s intervention in Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula that prompted the Army to speed development of its light armored vehicles in 2015, after realizing that the machine-gun-armed Stryker was outmatched by Russian BMP-3 tracked infantry fighting vehicles.

The Russian vehicles are armed with a 100 mm low-velocity gun, and BTR-82 wheeled transporters carrying either a 30 mm autocannon or a 120 mm gun mortar.

“The Russians, it turns out, had upgraded and fielded significant capabilities while we were engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Gen. Daniel B. Allyn was quoted as saying in January 2017, while serving as the Army vice chief of staff.

Late last year, the service announced plans to install anti-electronic warfare systems in more than 300 of its Europe-based Strykers to protect from adversary attempts to cripple GPS-based systems in the event of a conflict.

“Dragoon” Strykers, named after the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and armed with 30 mm Medium Caliber Weapon Systems, can fire high-explosive, armor-piercing



**THOMY HANMLIN**/U.S. Army

**U.S. soldiers with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment maneuver in a “Dragoon” Stryker during a live-fire gunnery training event in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, last month.**

and air-burst rounds at double the range of machine guns mounted in the Common Remote Weapons Station, or CROWS.

The CROWS-J Stryker is equipped with Javelin anti-tank missiles, which the Army has said have a qualified range of 2,500 meters and are “highly lethal” to tanks and other targets.

The weapons improvements give the eight-wheeled vehicles

a huge boost in firepower, compared with the once-standard M2 .50-caliber machine guns. The 30 mm cannon is also paired with an M-240B, which can be dismounted and used by soldiers maneuvering on foot, said Sgt. Daniel Torres, a Stryker vehicle commander.

For Torres, the best thing about the vehicle is its speed and capacity to carry troops and all their

equipment into battle. The General Dynamics-made Stryker has a top road speed of over 60 mph and a range of over 300 miles, the Army has said.

“Both [variants] are used at the same time, each one is specialized for certain situations, but they both enhance mobility on the battlefield,” Torres said.

johnson.immanuel@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: Manny\_Stripes

## Milley: General’s statement risks the wrath of a president sensitive to criticism

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

his commitment to a military divorced from politics.

“My presence in that moment and in that environment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics,” Milley said. “As a commissioned uniformed officer, it was a mistake that I have learned from, and I sincerely hope we all can learn from it.”

His statement risked the wrath of a president sensitive to anything hinting at criticism of events he has staged. It comes as Pentagon leaders’ relations with the White House are still tense after a disagreement last week over Trump’s threat to use federal troops to quell civil unrest triggered by Floyd’s death.

After protesters were cleared from the Lafayette Square area, Trump led an entourage that included Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper to St. John’s Episcopal Church, where he held up a Bible for photographers and then returned to the White House.

Esper had not said publicly that he erred by being with Trump at that moment. He told a news conference last week that when they



**PATRICK SEMANSKI/AP**

**President Donald Trump walks with members of his staff and Cabinet to St. John’s Church on June 1. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, right, said Thursday his presence at the event “was a mistake that I have learned from.”**

left the White House he thought that they were going to inspect damage in the Square and at the church and to mingle with National Guard troops in the area.

Milley’s comments at the National Defense University were his first public statements about the Lafayette Square event on June 1, which the White House

had hailed as a “leadership moment” for Trump akin to Winston Churchill inspecting damage from German bombs in London during World War II.

The public uproar following Floyd’s death has created multiple layers of extraordinary tension between Trump and senior Pentagon officials. When Esper

told reporters on June 3 that he had opposed Trump bringing active-duty troops on the streets of the nation’s capital to confront protesters and potential looters, Trump castigated him in a face-to-face meeting.

Just this week, Esper and Milley let it be known through their spokesmen that they were open to a “bipartisan discussion” of whether the 10 Army bases named for Confederate Army officers should be renamed as a gesture aiming to disassociate the military from the racist legacy of the Civil War. On Wednesday, Trump tweeted that he would never allow the names to be changed, catching some in the Pentagon by surprise.

The Marine Corps last week moved ahead with a ban on public displays of the Confederate Army battle flag on its bases, and the Navy this week said it plans a similar ban applied to its bases, ships and planes. Trump has not commented publicly on those moves, which do not require White House or congressional approval.

Milley used his commencement address, which was prerecorded and presented as a video message in line with social distancing due

to the coronavirus pandemic, to raise the matter of his presence with Trump in Lafayette Square. He introduced the subject to his audience of military officers and civilian officials in the context of face-to-face meeting.

“Both [variants] are used at the same time, each one is specialized for certain situations, but they both enhance mobility on the battlefield,” Torres said.

“And I am not immune,” he said, noting the photograph of him at Lafayette Square. “That sparked a national debate about the role of the military in civil society.” He expressed regret at having been there and said the lesson to be taken from that moment is that all in uniform are not just soldiers but also citizens.

“We must hold dear the principle of an apolitical military that is so deeply rooted in the very essence of our republic,” he said. “It takes time and work and effort, but it may be the most important thing each and every one of us does every single day.”

Milley also expressed his outrage at the Floyd killing and urged military officers to recognize it as a reflection of centuries of injustice toward African Americans.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Army Week events help lift spirits of soldiers in Japan

By **Theron Godbold**  
*Stars and Stripes*

**CAMP ZAMA, Japan** — Soldiers taking part in Army Week competitions this week at the home of U.S. Army Japan were doing more than demonstrating feats of strength.

“They were releasing pent-up energy, lifting their spirits and mixing with comrades — with safeguards — after months abiding by restrictions aimed at keeping them healthy during the global coronavirus pandemic.

“If you look around, people were depressed, but now they’re with their comrades getting in a good workout,” said Sgt. Doug Pistner, a medic from Minneapolis. “That not only helps their physical well-being, but also their mental health.”

The three events began Monday under hazy skies, with the aroma of bleach in the air. Equipment set out for the Army Combat Fitness Test portion was wiped clean in preparation for the competitors.

“We’re sanitizing everything after we use it,” Pistner said.

Army Week, an annual series of events that marks the Army’s birthday, was trimmed from the usual four days to three this year because of health protection safeguards in place to curb the coronavirus. This year marks the Army’s 245th year.

On Monday, more than 100

troops took part in the new Army Combat Fitness Test, a series of events designed to simulate combat activity.

For example, hurling a 10-pound medicine ball simulates throwing equipment over an obstacle or helping a buddy to climb a wall. Other proxy workouts include a three-repetition maximum deadlift, hand release pushups and a sprint-drag-carry series.

In the end, Capt. Patrick Sorenson, of Grand Ronde, Ore., took first place in the combat fitness competition. He works for U.S. Army Japan’s information management directorate.

The Army will make the new combat fitness test its official gauge of soldiers’ physical fitness in October, according to the Army’s website. Lt. Col. Roberto Herrera, lead planner for Army Week at Camp Zama, said that the fitness events were a good way for soldiers to familiarize themselves with the test.

Herrera said that safety and sanitization were major factors in planning the event. During Army Week, troops were expected to monitor their own health, Herrera said. Participants’ temperatures were checked and they had to answer a series of health-related questions. Finally, the equipment was sanitized frequently and anyone other than the actual participants wore face masks.



PHOTOS BY THERON GOBOLD/Stars and Stripes

**Soldiers catch their breath after completing a five-mile run with eight obstacle stations during an Army Week competition at Camp Zama, Japan, on Tuesday.**

Everyone maintained social distancing during the events.

Even with the stricter safety guidelines, soldiers were happy to be out and doing something with friends and coworkers.

“Since this whole [coronavirus] thing, it’s good to see different units together,” said Pfc. Dwight Zuniga, of Brooklyn, N.Y. “It’s good healthy competition.”

Day 2 pitted 23 teams of five against each other in the Functional Fitness Team Competition. Events included a run of nearly five miles, interspersed with eight activity stations including an obstacle course and litter carry. Herrera called those two the hardest of the day’s events.

First Sgt. Christopher Lett, from Mobile, Ala., the captain of the winning team, said that his group relied on more than physical fitness for the win.

“We had to get the right people with the right mental mindset,” he said. “It was the soldiers who have exhibited the ability to perform under pressure and not quit.”



**A soldier works through an obstacle course during a functional fitness test competition at Camp Zama, Japan, on Tuesday.**

godbold.theron@stripes.com  
Twitter @GodboldTheron

## USAF tentatively plans to announce master sergeant promotions by end of July

By **James Bolinger**  
and **Matthew Keeler**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force tentatively plans to name its new master sergeants next month, announcements delayed for months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

New master sergeants may be notified by the third week of July, in time to sew on their rank by Aug. 1, the date they traditionally do so, according to emails from the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio shared with Stars and Stripes.

Tech. Sgt. Matt Davis, who works in public affairs for 7th Air Force at Osan Air Base, South Korea, is eligible for promotion and has a good shot of getting master sergeant, he said Tuesday.

He said that moving ahead with promotions is one way to get the Air Force back on track in the

wake of the coronavirus restrictions, such as those that have delayed airmen and their families movement to new duty stations.

“It’s going to be great for me and my family because we have been waiting awhile,” Davis said. The master sergeant promotion board began meeting June 1. It was unable to meet March 23 as originally scheduled thanks to movement restrictions imposed by the Defense Department to curb the coronavirus’ spread.

The July time frame for announcing the promotions is tentative, according to an email from Chief Master Sgt. Dan Hoglund at the personnel center. He said that he will announce when the dates are locked in or changed.

Airmen anticipating a promotion to technical sergeant or staff sergeant may be notified by the second week of September, according to the personnel center.

## The Health Plan that Covers You Worldwide

### FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN

- Receive access to mental health programs designed to help ease life’s stressors
- Enjoy generous chiropractic, acupuncture and massage therapy benefits
- Receive worldwide coverage – 200+ direct billing partners, overseas providers treated as in-network
- Use our convenient 24/7 translation line & nurse advice line
- Save with our competitive rates and low annual deductibles
- Keep this health plan if you return to the U.S.

[afspa.org/fsbp](https://afspa.org/fsbp)

FEHB High Option Plan open to eligible Federal Civilian employees.

All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Foreign Service Benefit Plan’s Federal brochure (FI 72-00)



**afspa**

FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN

Caring For Your Health Worldwide

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Military eyes easing restrictions in Japan

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

**YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan** — The U.S. military could soon begin easing its health safeguards in Japan as the number of new coronavirus cases there continues to fall.

Sasebo Naval Base commander Capt. Brad Stallings, in a Facebook message Wednesday, said U.S. Forces Japan was expected to lower its health protection condition from Charlie to Bravo on Friday and extend the public health emergency itself through July 14. However, the post was updated Thursday to say Bravo was expected “sometime soon” without mentioning an extension.

Charlie indicates sustained transmission of a disease. Bravo means there is merely increased community transmission.

The health emergency, de-

clared by USFJ commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider on April 6, is currently set to expire after Sunday.

Any decision on moving to Bravo will be conditions based, and it will then be up to individual commanders to decide whether to follow USFJ’s lead, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Derek Carlson, a USFJ spokesman, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

“It’s not like even if it does happen this week that everything is going to take a hard side back towards normality,” he said. “Every commander ... will take the time to assess his mission and the safety of his people, dependents and service members to ensure their measures are the right measures for their location.”

The Department of Defense advises personnel to continue to practice social distancing and avoid unnecessary travel within

Bravo conditions.

New coronavirus cases in Japan dropped sharply from the start of the month and have remained low.

Between June 1 and Wednesday, the country reported 367 new infections and a total of 17,251 cases since reporting started in January, according to the World Health Organization. On Wednesday, there were 41 new cases and three deaths. In all, 919 people in Japan have died of coronavirus-related causes.

Some commanders in Japan have already started loosening restrictions. The Army, for example, has authorized soldiers and others attached to its posts to travel and patronize off-base restaurants in a limited area.

Service members stationed at Camp Zama, Sagami General Depot and Yokohama North Dock may now travel within most of

Kanagawa prefecture and part of Tokyo prefecture, U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Viet Liung said in a Monday update to coronavirus rules.

Stallings said in his Wednesday post he would bring back services and liberty opportunities in stages, slowly and methodically.

“I want to thank everyone for their resiliency and support throughout this trying time,” he said. “Although we will be able to do more things, a great deal of personal responsibility is still required by each of us to keep this virus outside our fence lines.”

Starting Friday, personnel at Sasebo may indulge in a range of activities within Nagasaki prefecture, Stallings said, including driving, sightseeing, shopping, shore and river fishing, hiking, golfing, biking, running, walking, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, swimming, going to museums,

camping and surfing.

They may also purchase take-out food from restaurants with only one person per family allowed inside at a time, he said. The commander of Yokosuka Naval Base, Capt. Rich Jarrett, said to expect long lines when the installation’s barber shops open Saturday for the first time in nearly three months. The Navy in March relaxed its grooming standards on hair length to promote social distancing.

“There’s a lot more hair on peoples’ heads and it’s taking a little bit longer,” Jarrett said.

Also on Saturday, Yokosuka will reopen its gyms — but only for active-duty U.S. and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sailors.

Stars and Stripes reporter Caitlin Doornbos contributed to this report. [robson.seth@stripes.com](mailto:robson.seth@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @SethRobson1

## USS Kidd returns to sea after outbreak

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

The USS Kidd got underway Wednesday from San Diego after being sidelined at port since late April dealing with a coronavirus outbreak.

The guided-missile destroyer is scheduled to return to its mission supporting counternarcotics operations in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific Ocean in the U.S. Southern Command’s area of responsibility, the Navy said in a statement Wednesday.

Kidd was one of the two Navy ships hit hardest by the coronavirus. The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt spent two months in port on Guam contending with an outbreak that infected more than 1,150 sailors, killing one. The carrier returned to regular operations last week.

Kidd arrived at Naval Base San Diego on April 28 to provide medical care for those among

the roughly 330 crew members who contracted the coronavirus, which causes the COVID-19 respiratory disease.

The Navy has not disclosed the exact number of Kidd crew members who tested positive.

A skeleton caretaker crew remained aboard the ship as its sailors went ashore for treatment and quarantine. On May 19, 90 sailors confirmed to be free of the virus relieved the caretakers.

The ship’s crew had begun a regimen of deep cleaning the ship even before docking in April, and it was thoroughly disinfected while in San Diego, the statement said.

In an open letter to the San Diego region, Cmdr. Nathan Wemett, the Kidd’s commanding officer, thanked the local community for helping the crew with recovery and return to sea.

“Our priority was — and remains — to take care of our Sailors,” he said. “The San Diego



JOSEPH MILLAR/U.S. Navy

A sailor returns to the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd at Naval Base San Diego after completing a coronavirus quarantine on June 5.

region helped us do that by extending your collective arms and helping us respond to and recover from this insidious virus.

“With the care of military and local health professionals, as well

as support from military leadership, shipmates along the waterfront, and area businesses, we fought this invisible enemy and cleaned our ship.”

Wemett specifically cited sup-

port received from the US Makin Island, US Shoup, US Stockdale, USNS Miguel Keith and other Navy personnel.

[olson.wyatt@stripes.com](mailto:olson.wyatt@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

## 2 test positive for virus after arriving in South Korea from US

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

**SEOUL, South Korea** — Two more U.S. troops tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving in South Korea from the United States on government-chartered flights, the military said Thursday, raising to 34 the total number of cases affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea.

The confirmation of the new infections came as South Korea struggles to contain a series of recent local outbreaks that have threatened to curtail its much-lauded progress in containing the

respiratory virus.

USFK has implemented a strict process aimed at preventing the spread of the virus by troops traveling to South Korea from abroad. All troops must be tested upon arrival, then placed in mandatory quarantine or isolation depending on the results.

A second negative test is required before release from quarantine.

One service member had negative results in his first test after arriving on Osan Air Base aboard the Patriot Express on May 27, so he was transported to Camp Humphreys for quarantine. How-

ever, he tested positive on the second test and has been moved to an isolation barracks outfitted with negative pressure rooms, USFK said in a press release.

The second service member arrived on Osan Air Base on Monday, where he immediately moved into a quarantine facility. He tested positive for the virus on Wednesday and remains in the Camp Humphreys isolation barracks, according to the press release.

USFK has reported 34 coronavirus cases since late February, including 10 active-duty service members, military de-

pendents, contractors and other U.S. and South Korean civilian employees.

Most have recovered, but the military has seen a recent spike in infections among troops arriving from the United States for new assignments on the divided peninsula.

South Korea, meanwhile, recorded 45 new cases on Wednesday, including 40 local infections, for a total of 11,947, according to the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That marked a slight decrease from the previous day, but health authorities have expressed con-

cern that it is becoming more difficult to trace infections amid a series of cluster outbreaks in Seoul and surrounding areas after the numbers had declined to single digits last month.

“As the virus is spreading quickly, there is a limit in containing the spread just by tracking people who have made contact with COVID-19 patients,” senior health official Yoon Tae-ho said during a daily briefing. “Therefore everybody must follow sanitary guidelines to slow the expansion.”

[gamei.kim@stripes.com](mailto:gamei.kim@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @kimgamei

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# 1.5M more laid-off workers seek unemployment benefits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 1.5 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, evidence that many Americans are still losing their jobs even as the economy appears to be slowly recovering with more businesses partially reopening.

The latest figure from the Labor Department marked the 10th straight weekly decline in applications for jobless aid since they peaked in mid-March when the coronavirus hit hard. Still, the pace of layoffs remains historically high.

The total number of people who are receiving unemployment aid fell slightly, a sign that some people who were laid off when restaurants, retail chains and small businesses suddenly shut down have been recalled to work.

The figures are “consistent with a labor market that has begun what will be a slow and difficult healing process,” said Nancy Vanden Houten, an economist at Oxford Economics. “Still, initial jobless claims remain at levels that at the start of the year might

have seemed unthinkable.”

Last week’s jobs report showed that employers added 2.5 million jobs in May, an unexpected increase that suggested that the job market has bottomed out.

But the recovery has begun slowly. Though the unemployment rate unexpectedly declined from 14.7%, it is still a high 13.3%. And even with the May hiring gain, just one in nine jobs that were lost in March and April have returned. Nearly 21 million people are officially classified as unemployed.

Even those figures don’t capture the full scope of the damage to the job market. Including people the government said had been erroneously categorized as employed in the May jobs report and those who lost jobs but didn’t look for new ones, 32.5 million people are out of work, economists estimate. That would have raised May’s unemployment rate to 19.7%.

Thursday’s report also shows that an additional 706,000 people applied for jobless benefits last week under a new program for self-employed and gig work-

ers that made them eligible for aid for the first time. These figures aren’t adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn’t include them in the official count.

The weekly reports on applications for unemployment benefits track layoffs. But they don’t directly account for hiring, which can offset layoffs. The surprise job gain in May suggests that some employers are recalling laid-off workers.

Private real-time data also points to steady, if modest, rehiring. Data from Kronos, whose software tracks workers’ hours, shows that the number of shifts worked has recovered steadily since bottoming in mid-April. Shifts worked have risen 25% since then, recovering nearly half the work that was lost to the pandemic-induced business shutdowns.

“The growth in shifts worked ... indicates that furloughed employees are being called back to work as each state opens up,” said Dave Gilbertson, a Kronos executive.

Twenty-four states reported a rise in applications for jobless



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**A customer walks out of a U.S. Post Office branch and under a banner advertising a job opening in Seattle earlier this month.**

aid last week, up from just four the week before, though the state data isn’t adjusted for seasonal trends so it can be volatile. California, New York and Massachusetts reported sharp increases. Florida, Georgia and Texas, some of the earliest states to reopen their economies, reported large declines.

In February, the economy fell into a deep recession, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the association of economists that is the official arbiter of recessions. The Federal Reserve estimated Wednesday that the economy will shrink 6.5% this year. That would be, by far, the deepest annual contraction on

records dating to World War II.

Even as restaurants, bars and gyms reopen, they are doing so at lower capacity. And consumer spending on such services remains far below what it was before the viral outbreak.

Unemployment benefits are providing significant support for jobless Americans, with total payments having reached \$94 billion in May — six times the previous record set in 2010 just after the previous recession. This time, the benefits include an additional \$600 a week from the federal government. But that extra benefit is set to end July 31, and the Trump administration opposes extending it.

“Alexa, open Stars and Stripes”

Start your day  
with the top  
headlines from

STARS AND STRIPES®

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Many forces behind alarming rise in US cases

By MIKE STOBBER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — States are rolling back lockdowns, but the coronavirus isn't done with the United States.

Cases are rising in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis, a worrying trend that could worsen as people return to work and venture out during the summer.

In Arizona, hospitals have been told to prepare for the worst. Texas has more hospitalized COVID-19 patients than at any time before. And the governor of North Carolina said that recent jumps caused him to rethink plans to reopen schools or businesses.

There is no single reason to explain all the surges. In some cases, more testing has revealed more cases. In others, local outbreaks are big enough to push statewide tallies higher. But experts think that at least some are due to lifting stay-at-home orders, school and business closures, and other restrictions put in place during the spring to stem the virus's spread.

The virus is also gradually fanning out.

"It is a disaster that spreads," said Dr. Jay Butler, who oversees coronavirus response work at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's not like there's an entire continental seismic shift and everyone feels the shaking all at once."

The virus first landed on the U.S. coasts, carried by international travelers infected abroad. For months, the epicenter was in northeastern states. More recently, the biggest increases have been in the South and the West.

The AP analyzed data compiled by the COVID Tracking Project, a volunteer organization that collects coronavirus testing data in the U.S. The analysis found that in 21 states as of Monday, the rolling seven-day average of new cases per capita was higher than the average seven days earlier.

Here's what's driving increases in some of the states with notable upticks:

• **Arizona** — Republican Gov. Doug Ducey ended Arizona's stay-at-home order May 15 and eased restrictions on businesses. Arizona residents who were cooped up for six weeks flooded Phoenix-area bar districts, ignoring social distancing guidelines.

The state began seeing a surge of new cases and hospitalizations about 10 days later.

"It seems pretty clear to me that what we're seeing is directly related to the end of the stay-at-home order," said Will Humble, executive director of the Arizona Public Health Association.

It wasn't just that the order ended: There were no requirements to wear face masks, no major increases in contact tracing to spot and stop evolving outbreaks and no scale-up of infection control at nursing homes, he said.

"Those are missed opportuni-



New Hampshire Rep. Steve Woodcock has his temperature taken as he arrives for a legislative session in Durham, N.H., on Thursday at the Whittemore Center at the University of New Hampshire.

## Vaccine test set for July

Associated Press

The first experimental COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is on track to begin a huge study next month to prove it can fend off the coronavirus, its manufacturer announced Thursday — a long-awaited step in the global vaccine race.

The vaccine, developed by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will be tested in 30,000 volunteers — some given the real shot and some a dummy shot.

Moderna said that it has already made enough doses for the pivotal late-stage testing. Still needed before those

injections begin are results of how the shot has fared in smaller, earlier-stage studies. But Moderna's announcement suggests that those studies are making enough progress for the company and the NIH to get ready to move ahead.

Moderna launched its vaccine test in mid-March with an initial 45 volunteers. The company said that it has finished enrolling 300 younger adults in its second stage of testing, and has begun studying how older adults react to the vaccine. These initial studies check for side effects and how well people's immune systems respond to different doses.

ties that if implemented today, could still make a big difference," said Humble, a former director of the state Department of Health Services.

Testing has been increasing in Arizona, which increases the chance of finding new cases. But the proportion of tests that come back positive has also been on the rise.

The AP analysis found that Arizona had a rolling average of fewer than 400 new cases a day at the time the shutdown was lifted, but it shot up two weeks later and surpassed 1,000 new cases a day by early this week. Hospitalizations have also risen dramatically, hitting the 1,200 mark last

week.

The state also passed another grim milestone last week, recording its 1,000th death.

Meanwhile, Arizona hospitals on Tuesday reported that they were at 83% of capacity, up from 78% the previous day. That could force affected hospitals to cancel elective surgeries. Rises established under an executive order Ducey issued in April said that hospitals wanting to resume elective surgeries had to have at least 20% of their beds available.

• **North Carolina** — In North Carolina, more testing plus more people out and about during reopening seem to be the main drivers of recent case upticks,

said Kimberly Powers, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of North Carolina. On Saturday, the state recorded its highest single-day increase, with 1,370. While testing has grown in the last two weeks, so has the rate of tests coming back positive.

"These trends moving in the wrong direction is a signal we need to take very seriously," said North Carolina's top health official, Mandy Cohen, who, along with Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, has urged the public to take precautions to protect themselves.

But some state residents are not on board.

"I think they should start opening stuff a little bit more," said Jason Denton, an electrician from Greenville who said that one of his main concerns was getting to the gym.

"That's like my therapy," he said.

• **Texas** — Few states are re-opening faster than Texas, where hospitalizations surged past 2,100 on Wednesday for the first time during the pandemic. That's a 42% increase in patients since Memorial Day weekend, when restless beachgoers swarmed Texas' coastline and a water park near Houston opened to big crowds in defiance of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's orders.

Texas' percentage of tests coming back positive has also jumped to levels that are among the nation's highest. State officials point to hot spots at meetup parks and prisons in rural counties, where thousands of new cases have cropped up, but have not offered explanations for a rise in

numbers elsewhere.

Abbott, who has recently begun wearing a mask in public, has shown no intention of pumping the brake on reopening a state where conservative protesters in May pressured him to speed up the timeline on getting hair salons back in business.

On Friday, Texas is set to lift even more restrictions and let restaurant dining rooms reopen at nearly full capacity.

• **Alabama** — In Alabama, outbreaks in nursing homes and poultry plants helped drive state numbers upward, though there was a drop more recently. But that may change — there is evidence of community transmission in the capital, Montgomery, which has become an emerging hot spot, said State Health Officer Scott Harris.

"I think reopening the economy gave a lot of people the wrong impression ... that, 'Hey everything is fine. Let's go back to normal,'" Harris said. "Clearly, it is not that way. Really, now more than ever we need people to stay 6 feet apart, wear face coverings and wash their hands."

Montgomery hospital intensive care units are as busy as during flu season.

"I can assure you that Montgomery's cases are not going down, and if our community does not take this seriously, the virus will continue to spread, and at some point, our medical capacity will reach its limit," Dr. David Thrasher, director of respiratory therapy at Jackson Hospital, said in a statement.

• **Arkansas** — Arkansas has also seen increases in cases, hospitalizations and the percentage of tests that come back positive. But the state's situation is a complicated story of different outbreaks at different times, said Dr. Nate Smith, director of the Arkansas Department of Health.

After a peak in April, levels were low until spikes began about three weeks ago — mainly in the cities of Rogers and Springdale in the northwest and in De Queen further south. The cases have been concentrated among Hispanics and those who work in chicken production facilities.

The chicken plants never were closed, Smith said. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Wednesday said that the state will move into a new phase of reopening, starting Monday.

• **Looking ahead** — Experts are wondering what will happen in the next week or so in the wake of nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police.

The protests were outdoors, which reduces the likelihood of virus spread, and many participants have worn masks and taken other precautions. But it's still a lot of people close together, chanting, singing and yelling.

"I don't think we won't see a big spike. But those data aren't in yet," Humble said.



# 245 YEARS STRONG



## HAPPY 245<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, U.S. ARMY!

Dear Service Members, Retirees, Veterans and Military Family Members,

The Exchange joins the Nation in honoring the U.S. Army on its 245th birthday. Since June 14, 1775, Soldiers have raised their right hands and served with distinction, sacrificing their own comfort and safety, with some of our brothers- and sisters-in-arms giving their "last full measure of devotion" to protect our Nation.

Soldiers have stood strong and resilient in every conflict and whenever called upon to support at home. From the far off lands to the field hospitals supporting the COVID-19 response, these heroes have made life better for our Nation, and we remember, honor and thank them and their families on this special day.

Here's to the greatest land force in the world. The Exchange is honored to be in your foxhole. Hooah!

Soldier for Life!

**Tom Shull**  
Director/CEO



**EXCHANGE**  
[shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com)

# NATION

## Trump OKs embargo on tribunal workers probing US military

By DEB RIECHMANN AND MATTHEW LEE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump lobbed a broadside attack Thursday against the International Criminal Court by authorizing economic sanctions and travel restrictions against court workers directly involved in investigating American troops and intelligence officials for possible war crimes in Afghanistan without U.S. consent.

The executive order signed by the president marks his administration's latest attack against international organizations, treaties and agreements that do not hew to its policies. Since taking office, Trump has withdrawn from the Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear deal and two arms control treaties with Russia. He has pulled the U.S. out of the U.N. Human Rights Council and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, threatened to leave the International Postal Union and announced an end to cooperation with the World Health Organization.

"The International Criminal Court's actions are an attack on the rights of the American people and threaten to infringe upon our national sovereignty," White House press secretary

Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement. "The ICC was established to provide accountability for war crimes, but in practice it has been an unaccountable and ineffective international bureaucracy that targets and threatens United States personnel as well as personnel of our allies and partners."

The executive order authorized the secretary of state, in consultation with the treasury secretary, to block financial assets within U.S. jurisdiction of court personnel who directly engage in investigating, harassing or detaining U.S. personnel. The order also authorizes the secretary of state to block court officials and their family members involved in the investigations from entering the United States.

McEnany said that, despite repeated calls by the United States and its allies, the ICC has not embraced reform. She alleged that the court continues to pursue politically motivated investigations against the U.S. and its partners, including Israel.

"We are concerned that adversary nations are manipulating the International Criminal Court by encouraging these allegations against United States personnel," McEnany said.



JOHN ROARK, THE IDAHO POST-REGISTER/AP

Investigators search for human remains Tuesday at Chad Daybell's residence in the 200 block of 1900 East, in Salem, Idaho.

## Relatives: Bodies found are 2 kids missing in Idaho since September

By REBECCA BOONE  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The bodies of two children uncovered in rural Idaho are a boy and his big sister who have been missing since September, relatives said Wednesday, bringing a grim end to a search that captivated people worldwide but no fewer questions about a case that has put their mother and her husband behind bars.

Authorities have not released the identities of the bodies discovered on the property of Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, a few weeks after the kids were last seen.

But Joshua "JJ" Vallow's grandfather Larry Woodcock told

the Post Register in Idaho Falls that "both children are no longer with us."

Relatives of JJ, who was 7 when he vanished, and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan sent a joint statement to Phoenix television station KSAZ-TV confirming the deaths and asking for privacy.

It's another gruesome turn in a case that had dragged on for months without answers and grew ever stranger with its ties to the couple's doomsday beliefs and the mysterious deaths of their former spouses.

But developments were rapid this week: Investigators searched Chad Daybell's property for evidence, they found children's bodies, and prosecutors charged him with destroying or concealing

two sets of human remains. Then finally, relatives reported that the children they have been fighting to find for months were dead.

Daybell's attorney, John Prior, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. A judge set bail at \$1 million during a short court hearing Wednesday.

In court documents, Madison County Prosecutor Rob Wood said he believes Chad Daybell either concealed or helped hide the remains knowing that they were about to be used as evidence in court. Wood said the first body was hidden or destroyed sometime on or after Sept. 8 — the last known day that Tylee was seen — and the second on or after Sept. 22, the last known day that JJ was seen.

## Cristobal remnants head toward Canada after battering Midwest

Associated Press

HOLLAND, Mich. — Severe thunderstorms accompanied by winds approaching 50 mph battered lower Michigan late Wednesday as the remnants of Tropical Storm Cristobal moved out of the Midwest and into Canada.

Cristobal ended a trek from the Gulf of Mexico up through the midsection of the U.S. that caused flooding across the region, downed trees and power lines and damaged homes and businesses in Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa.

By Wednesday evening, about 2 inches of rain had fallen on

Midland, Mich., where the threat of flooding was enhanced by the failure last month of two dams along the Tittabawassee River following days of heavy rains.

In Detroit, dark clouds unleashed a downpour before briefly yielding to the sun in the early evening, which was followed by another round of rain accompanied by strong winds and hail.

About 430,000 customers of the state's electric utilities, Jackson, Mich.-based Consumers Energy and Detroit-based DTE Energy, were reported to be without power late Wednesday.

A line of thunderstorms pushed through Ottawa County in western Michigan on Wednesday

morning. The city of Holland along Lake Michigan activated storm warning sirens as winds reached speeds of 70 mph, ac-

ording to the county's emergency management office.

The weather service issued a gale warning through Wednesday

evening on Lake Michigan because of the possibility of strong winds creating waves of 6 to 10 feet.

**AMERICAN IN K-TOWN OR WIESBADEN?**



**FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH**

IN OUR UNIQUE ONLINE CLUB

**Join NOW and get our 3-month trial FOR FREE!**

\*Offer valid for U.S. citizens. Use Code USL2020May to benefit.

[www.uslovewiesbaden.com](http://www.uslovewiesbaden.com)



## Memories with STARS & STRIPES Pacific

Share your Memories with Stars and Stripes Pacific!

Your photos/stories will appear on the Stars and Stripes Pacific 75th Anniversary Website, [75.stripes.com](http://75.stripes.com).





## NATION

# Trump is resuming fundraising events

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is resuming in-person fundraising events after a three-month hiatus as his campaign works to maintain a cash advantage over Democrat Joe Biden that it believes is vital to victory in November.

Trump is traveling to Dallas on Thursday to raise more than \$10 million for his campaign and the Republican Party, according to a GOP official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the plan. He'll hold another event Saturday at his private golf course in New Jersey.

The moves come at a critical moment in the campaign. Trump's reelection plans have been rocked by the coronavirus pandemic, a severe economic recession and weeks of nationwide protests over racial injustice. That's added to a sense of urgency to build on the more than \$250 million Trump already has in the bank to overcome stiff headwinds.

"There is definitely pent-up excitement for in-person fundraisers," said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael

Ahrens. "Donors are eager to support the campaign and our party."

Republican Party and Trump campaign officials held virtual fundraising events during the pandemic, but in-person events featuring the president are far more lucrative. Trump is planning a steady stream of fundraisers to keep his campaign flush with cash through Election Day.

The fundraising trip also marks the president's first formal return to political activities since the pandemic and comes ahead of Trump's planned resumption of political rallies later this month. Trump said the first event would be next week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, followed by rallies in Florida, Texas and Arizona — all states led by Republicans who have aggressively relaxed social distancing restrictions.

Trump's return to the fundraising circuit comes after his cash intake slowed during the pandemic. He barely eked out a lead over Biden in April, taking in \$61.7 million, compared to the \$60 million Biden raised with the Democratic National Committee.

# With tables turned, Ocasio-Cortez plays defense in her primary fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's turn to defend her record and battle accusations that she's lost touch with her district.

The out-of-nowhere winner of 2018's most spectacular election upset, the New York Democrat faces a June 23 primary in which her chief rival, a former Republican, has adopted the mantra "AOC is MIA." The mighty U.S. Chamber of Commerce has launched a digital ad, with English and Spanish versions, asking why Ocasio-Cortez isn't supporting "good-paying jobs in the tech industry."

As Congress' youngest woman and one of its most recognizable faces, the 30-year-old former activist and bartender remains a heavy favorite to win. Yet with her hard-left views, her celebrity status and job losses that have staggered her New York City district during the coronavirus pandemic, her opponents say they sense weak spots.

"There's a real contrast here between AOC's record, what she's done for the district, and this perception of her being this Hollywood glam girl," said Scott

Reed, the chamber's senior political strategist.

The congresswoman's campaign declined to make her available for an interview. Her pollster, Celinda Lake, said Ocasio-Cortez stands little chance of losing.

"They're out of touch with the district," Lake said of the chamber, the nation's largest business organization.

Ocasio-Cortez began airing a TV spot this week that underlines the importance of turnout in what's likely to be a low-turnout primary. "Listen, if we want change, we've also got to vote for it," she said.

"She knows how dangerous primaries can be and she's taking it seriously," said Sean McElwee, who conducts research for progressive candidates.

The chamber and Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, Ocasio-Cortez's top challenger, are focusing chiefly on two things: One is Ocasio-Cortez's March vote against a \$2 trillion economic relief pack-

age, the other her opposition to Amazon's plan to build a jobs-rich headquarters in a Queens neighborhood in the district, which the company abandoned in 2019.

"She voted against the interests of my neighbors," Caruso-Cabrera said in an interview, citing the bill's money for the unemployed and small businesses. Congress approved the legislation.

Caruso-Cabrera has cast Ocasio-Cortez as a divisive elitist who ignores the district, which also covers parts of the Bronx. Caruso-Cabrera said that after Congress approved the coronavirus bill and the pandemic was ravaging New York, Ocasio-Cortez "stayed in a luxury apartment in D.C. with a Whole Foods in the lobby."

Ocasio-Cortez, the only Democratic vote against the relief legislation, said in a debate last week that she opposed it because its help for large corporations was a gift "for Donald Trump and his friends." She also said the bill denied benefits to many immigrants.

She said the Amazon headquarters plan guaranteed no jobs for district residents and would have cost taxpayers money and boosted rents.



Ocasio-Cortez

2020 DoD MWR LIBRARIES SUMMER READING!

DIG DEEPER:  
READ, INVESTIGATE, DISCOVER

DoD MWR LIBRARIES  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
on Military Installations Worldwide

2020

For more information about Summer Reading for adults, teen, children, and families:  
[ila.org/dodsmsumread](http://ila.org/dodsmsumread)

MILITARY

# A look at some of the military's best photos of 2019

*Stars and Stripes*

A lightning bolt rips through a purple sky above the amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha in a photo that helped earn Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Carlstrom the 2019 military photographer of the year award.

Carlstrom, of Naval Air Station North Island, Calif., was one of nine Defense Department personnel re-

cently named winners of the annual Defense Media Awards. Others included Samuel King of the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., who was named DOD's top civilian photographer for his work, including an image of an Air Force bugler framed by the gold fringe of a U.S. flag.

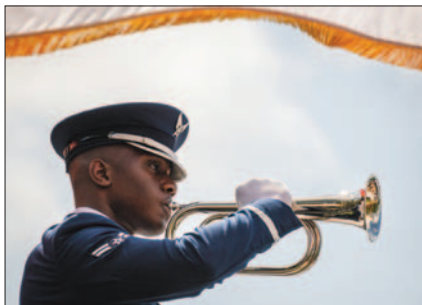
Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis Magee won the defense communicator of the year award for his video, photography and writing work with Coast

District 8 in New Orleans, La.

The awards program is open to military personnel and civilian employees of the DOD and military services, who work as graphic artists, photographers, videographers, communicators and writers.

All of the 2019 winners and their portfolios can be seen at <https://www.dvidshub.net/awards/dma/2019>.

[news@stripes.com](mailto:news@stripes.com)



SAMUEL KING JR./U.S. Air Force

**Airman 1st Class Giovanni Wilson, an honor guard at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., plays taps during the 50th annual explosive ordnance disposal memorial service in May 2019. This photo and others earned Air Force civilian photographer Samuel King Jr. the Defense Media Activity's civilian photographer of the year award.**



EUGENE OLIVER/U.S. Air Force

**Moody Mud Run participants swim under a barbed wire obstacle in Ray City, Ga., in one of the photos that earned Airman 1st Class Eugene Oliver the Air Force's military photographer of the year.**



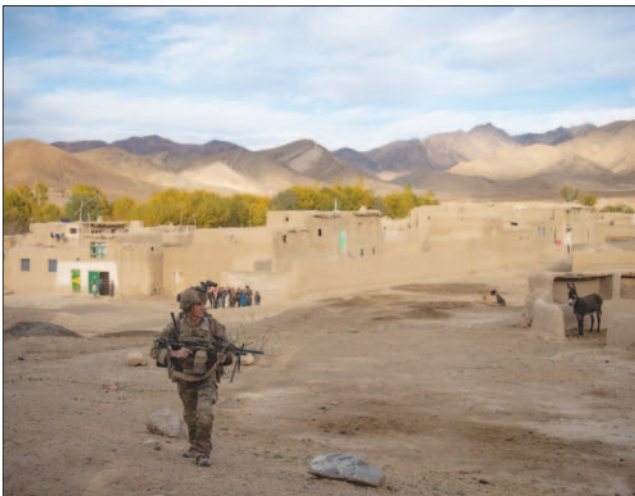
JENNESSA DAVEY/U.S. Marine Corps

**Gunnery Sgt. Saul Moreno monitors in-flight operations in Wellton, Ariz., in April 2019. The photo helped earn Cpl. Jennessa Davey the Marine Corps' military photographer of the year award.**



KYLE CARLSTROM/U.S. Navy

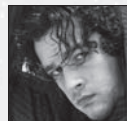
**Seaman Rakeem Williams stands watch during a lightning storm aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha on Nov. 18. The photo was part of a portfolio that earned Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Carlstrom honors as the Defense Media Activity's military photographer of the year for 2019.**



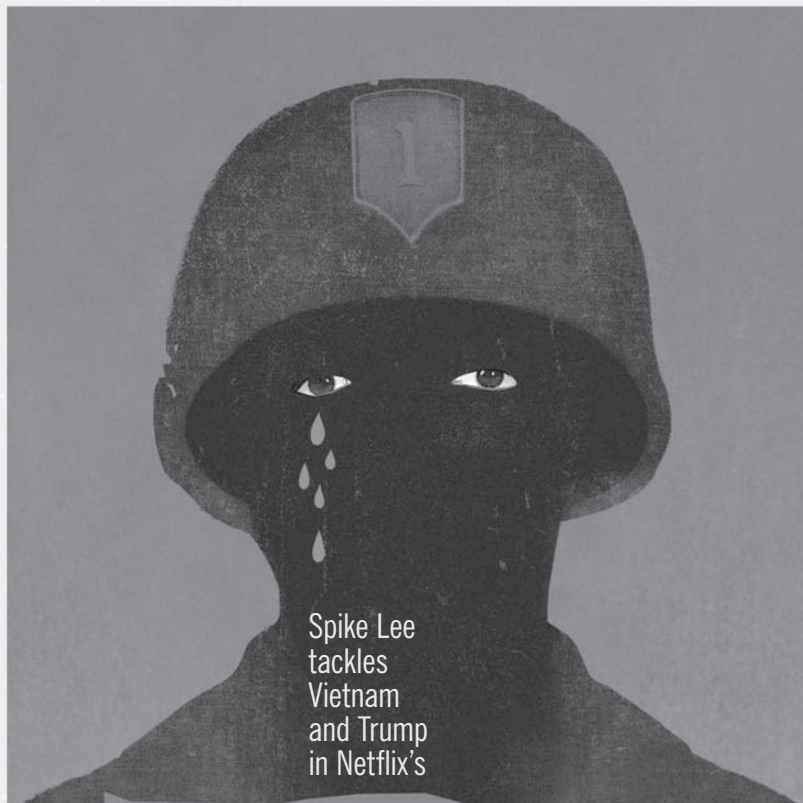
ALEX MANNE/U.S. Army

**A U.S. Army soldier patrols through a village in Afghanistan on Nov. 4 in a photo from the portfolio that earned Staff Sgt. Alex Manne recognition as the Army's military photographer of the year.**

# WEEKEND



The 1975's  
Matty Healy  
Music, Page 32



Spike Lee  
tackles  
Vietnam  
and Trump  
in Netflix's

# DA 5 BLOODS

Movies, Pages 20-21

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



TERO VESALAINEN, DREAMSTIME/TNS

Distractions abound at home, but there are apps that can help with focus and follow-through.

## Apps for healthy habits

### Stay on track and focused with these 4 productivity apps

By Sara Butler and Nina Garin  
The San Diego Union-Tribune

Now that many of us are working from home, it's so easy to get distracted by pretty much everything.

Though we can't control things like kids asking us about multiplication, a partner's conference call or needy pets, we can try to control our time management. To help with that, we tested a few productivity applications to keep us on task while we work from home.

So whether it's organizing assignments or not wasting time on the internet, here are some apps we recommend.

#### Create habits: Streaks

I can get very lazy about the simplest things: flossing, drinking water, exercising. But I'm also pretty competitive, which is why I've used Streaks since long before the coronavirus quarantine.

The app is very simple but beautifully designed. Instead of a list, your tasks appear as circles with cute, matching graphics in each. The idea is to keep your streak of tasks going for as long as possible.

The way it works is you pick a variety of things you want to do (or don't want to do) and once you complete each one, you press the circle. You can pick something generic, like reading, or you can assign a length of time to your reading and how many days per week you'd like to do it.

If you do your task every day, yes, you create new habits, but you also build streaks. Like, I've had vegetables every day for 16 days! The thought of losing my streak often forces me out of bed to floss just to keep it going.

Streaks is only available for iOS and it costs \$4.99. (Garin)

#### Manage tasks: Todoist

Todoist is exactly what it sounds like: a to-do list. Simply write in tasks you want to complete, add due dates and check them off as you go.

I admit I'm a physical planner person; I prefer writing to typing and had trouble transitioning to digital calendars. Surprisingly, I found that Todoist actually complements my analog calendar. Every morning, I jot down my assignments, meetings or chores into my planner. Then I take my notes and input them into the app, which lets

me create subtasks, something my physical planner doesn't have room for.

You'll need to upgrade to Premium (\$3 per month) to unlock features like reminders, labels and filters, but the free version is enough for me. (Butler)

#### Limit distractions: Pocket

Pocket has only one purpose: bookmarking online articles. With other built-in bookmarking alternatives, like Reading List, an additional app may seem unnecessary. But I think Pocket's additional features make it worth the free download.

I spend approximately 90% of my workday online, often surfing the internet for article inspiration or research. But spending so much time online often means stumbling across interesting articles that are not work-related that can be tempting to read on the clock.

Now, I resist the urge and tuck the article in my Pocket with a click of a button (through a Chrome extension on my computer). Then I open my Pocket app on my phone at 6 p.m. and indulge in all the content guilt-free.

Rather than directing you back to the website, Pocket saves the text of each article so you can read without internet connectivity. And when I don't want to stare at the screen after a long day at the computer, I opt to have the article read out loud to me.

If you want different fonts, a permanent saved library or no advertisements, premium costs \$5 a month. (Butler)

#### Increase productivity: BlockSite

While Pocket is great for bookmarking articles I come across during my workday, there are some specific websites I find myself returning to during office hours. The biggest culprit? Social media.

Enter BlockSite, a Chrome extension that restricts access to certain websites. I gave BlockSite the URLs that tend to distract me the most — Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — and bam! The websites are gone. When I try to visit them, I receive a web page with a cheeky message like "No way, Jose," or "What do you think you're doing?"

BlockSite is completely free, but to be honest, I'd probably pay for it. It's like having your boss over your shoulder, reminding you that even though you're at home, you're still working. (Butler)

## GADGET WATCH

### Waterproof phone case passes the pool drop test

By Gregg Ellum  
Tribune News Service

Does it work? That's a critical question when thinking about a waterproof case for any electronic device. There's no second chance. It must work on the first and every try.

So I cautiously tried a few Catalyst waterproof cases for several of the latest iPhones. I wouldn't consider my backyard pool extreme, but water is water. So knowing it's somewhere many others will go this summer, with my iPhone in a Catalyst case inside my swimsuit pocket, I proceeded to jump in the pool. I swam around a little, came up and made a call like I had never gone in the pool.

Catalyst cases provide full protection against water, drops, dust and dirt. I used the Catalyst waterproof case for the iPhone 11 Pro (\$89.99), which allows up to 33 feet of waterproof protection and drop proof protections of up to 6.6 feet.

The case consists of two parts: a back panel with silicone seals, and a front plate, which snap together to form a waterproof connection.

Volume controls, the charging port and even the speaker are accessible with the case on. A waterproof tab protects the Lightning port; fold it out when needed,

and snap it back when you're done. For audio, the bottom of the case has patented True Sound Acoustic Technology, allowing for perfect sound to get out and the phone's microphones to hear you for perfect calls. Essentially, all the phone's functionality worked as expected.

The back has a clear, hard-coated covering over the phone's optical lenses, and one of the most critical features to make the phone work perfectly is the integrated touchscreen film.

You have to have a lot of trust to take your prize device in water; the Catalyst waterproof cases earn that trust for iPhones as well as similar products for AirPods and iPads.

Online: catalyst-case.com; prices vary by device



SATECHI/TNS

Satechi's new 106W Pro USB-C PD desktop charger delivers maximum power to most anything needing a charge.

Satechi's new powerful 106W Pro USB-C PD desktop charger delivers maximum power to most anything needing a charge and is built with the ports people need for today's devices.

More and more devices, like laptops and tablets, are switching to USB-C, so it's nice to see a company like Satechi understand that and deliver a great multi-device charging accessory for a modern charger to address those needs.

It's equipped with dual USB-C power delivery ports and two standard USB-A 3.0 ports.

The compact (4.75-by-1.19-by-3.13-inch) high-speed power bank includes a 4-foot AC power cord to power the black/space gray charger. Online: satechi.net; \$79.99

The Kangaroo Water + Climate Sensor is a great device to send you alerts, which could potentially save you a small fortune.

When it comes to smart home devices, easy setup is the key, along with working well and the price. The sensor works with the Kangaroo Security companion app to detect problems and send instant alerts if water is detected in areas it shouldn't be along with changing temperature and humidity.

Temperature and humidity readings show you a lot, assuming that your thermostat's settings are consistent. If the sensor detects a big change, something is wrong. A push notification to your smartphone will alert you of the temperature change or if water as little as 1 millimeter is detected.

The sensor works on its own and does not require a hub, connecting directly to your existing Wi-Fi. Online: heykangaroo.com; \$29.99



CATALYST/TNS  
Catalyst cases protect fully against water, drops, dust and dirt.



KANGAROO/TNS

The Kangaroo Water + Climate Sensor detects possible water leaks and sends an alert directly to your phone.

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# Changing the face of comedy

## Stars of TV's 1st Muslim American sitcom weigh in on Hollywood's longtime neglect

By **LORRAIN ALI**  
Los Angeles Times

**N**one looked more surprised than “Ramy’s” Ramy Youssef when he won a Golden Globe — over Michael Douglas, no less — for his performance in Hulu’s comedy about an aimless, Muslim American millennial in suburban New Jersey.

And no one was more shocked than Youssef when Mahershala Ali signed on for season two of the half-hour series, in a central role, playing a Sufi sheikh. “I thought maybe someone made a mistake,” joked Youssef, “Ramy” co-creator, writer, director and star. “I mean, ‘Moonlight’ and then my show?”

“It was no mistake,” replied Ali.

The performers, who spoke over the phone on the eve of the new season’s May 29 release, may come from different ends of the entertainment spectrum, but both have broken barriers in TV and film.

Ali became the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar when he was honored for his supporting role in 2016’s “Moonlight.” Youssef is behind the first Arab and Muslim American sitcom. But the true miracle, at least for those stuck in Hollywood’s conventional thinking, is that “Ramy” is funny and irrelevant.

The comedy follows the rumbled, 20-something Ramy Hassan (Youssef) as she seeks meaning and purpose in everything from porn to Friday prayer. Ali stars as Sheikh Ali, who serves as a spiritual guide for the meandering, aimless soul.

“Ramy” is a clever and fresh exploration of race, xenophobia and finding one’s identity in a country that’s continually grappling with its own cultural DNA, with complex issues and shifting paradigms at its core.

Sheik Ali and Ramy are an odd pair: The imam is thoughtful and disciplined. Ramy is self-centered and impulsive. Together they show what it takes to survive and thrive as an African American father, a modern Muslim and a brown kid with considerably lower career drive than his immigrant parents.

Here, Youssef and Ali discuss their unexpected partnership.

**Los Angeles Times:** One of the most respected and sought-after talents in Hollywood joined your little show for season two, Ramy. How in the name of Allah did you pull that off?

**Ramy Youssef:** I’ll explain if you could just help us out a little and do

some editing, because Mahershala insists on talking all the time. The guy is wiling out.

**Mahershala Ali:** (laughs) As long as you make this all about me. And we’re just going to call next season “Ali.”

**Youssef:** “Ali!” Oh, my God, dude. I’m so down. Kill “Ramy.” Season 3 is “Ali,” without hesitation. But really, you don’t see many practicing Muslims in Hollywood. When we ran into each other, he said, “Tell me if you ever need anything.” And, “We should get some food together sometime.” And I was like, really? So we did get some food, and that’s when I said: “Remember when you asked me to let you know if I needed anything? Well ...”

**Was there a concern that Mahershala’s presence might overshadow the show?**

**Youssef:** We had a really special first season, and second seasons, everyone knows they are some of the hardest things to pull off. You’re



in alignment with who I am than some of the more dramatic work, believe it or not.

**Ramy, you’ve said you never set out to make a show about Muslim representation. It’s “Ramy’s” weird little world. But the show hits all these universal chords about self-worth, family and just the daily struggles of being a less-than-fabulous human.**

**Youssef:** There’s such little content (by Muslims) for Muslim audiences, so a show like ours is almost in this slot to represent and cover things in a certain way. But we don’t. We consistently (tackle) things that can’t be explained adequately in one conversation or one news headline. When you say it really shouldn’t work but it does, that’s exactly the point. That’s the balancing act that’s always really exciting for me.

**Part of that duality means viewers who’ve never been in an Islamic center or been involved in conversations between friends about what is and isn’t haram are all of a sudden part of this new world. It’s simple but groundbreaking.**

**Ali:** It was sort of a shock to me that I’ve been Muslim for 20 years, and it’s taken 20 years to have the experience that I did with “Ramy.” I converted like a year before 9/11, and I had just started working professionally. My first name is Mahershala. I was born with that, so I changed my last name to Ali. So I’m working on the television series “Crossing Jordan.” I remember when those planes hit those towers, I had only two lines over the next two episodes.

Going from, “Do not tell anybody you’re Muslim” in 2001 to 2020, when you’re playing an imam on television, doing your prayers in Arabic and then praying between setups, on set, it’s just mind-blowing. “The leap and the change ... I never imagined being on a set, and then at a given time of the day, look to your left, the right and there’s like a couple of dudes over there making prayer together after they just left craft services.

**Ramy Youssef, left, and Mahershala Ali star in the Hulu series “Ramy.”**

Hulu/TNS

trying to strike this balance: How do you keep what worked and how do you innovate at the same time? I really cannot think of any other way we could have done it, at the level that I feel we did, without Mahershala. He was always so much part of the “Ramy” world.

**Ali:** I was nervous every day because I just wanted to make sure I was doing right by the show. You want to make sure you’re not throwing things off. That would be horrible, if you watch the show and you’re not even Sheikh Ali. You’re Mahershala. Like, terrifying. I wanted it to feel real and for people to walk away thinking, “That made sense. I’m glad they came together to do it.”

Because so often you get combinations where the people guest star on television shows or do films together — names, big entities or whatnot — and it just doesn’t work. I wanted “Ramy” to work.

**It does. In fact, I think it’s even better than season one. Were you a fan?**

**Ali:** Yes. I loved that it felt like it was speaking to me specifically as a Muslim. I was seeing an experience up there that didn’t feel too far removed from my own ... of a young Muslim man, searching. Also you could fall in love with the character, really root for him, even though he was probably going to make the wrong choice.

**Youssef:** He tends to lack direction at times. Yes.

**Mahershala, we associate you with serious Hollywood dramas and prestige TV like “True Detective” and “House of Cards.” A comedy is probably the last place folks expect to see you.**

**Ali:** Well “Green Book” is like a comedy. In his heart, that whole film is chemistry and timing. I also did “Room 104.” But I can see why people are surprised because for the most part, the work they’re familiar with is heavy drama. But if you know me, I’m an absolute idiot. I’m super silly, goofy, cracking jokes all the time. I like to laugh and make light of things. I’m sure I’m funny, I think, at times. Ramy?

**Youssef:** Um...

**Ali:** OK, but (“Ramy”) is actually more

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

By ANN HORNBADY ■ *The Washington Post*

When Spike Lee phoned in for an interview last week, New York was still in the throes of demonstrations against police brutality, a lockdown brought on by COVID-19 and the civic unrest and economic crisis that have ensued.

But Lee, who was calling from his home on the Upper East Side, was in a surprisingly exuberant mood. “Wednesday [June 3] was the first day nobody died from corona,” he said, citing data regarding confirmed deaths published by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. What’s more, he had taken a bike ride to mayoral residence Gracie Mansion a few days earlier that considerably raised his spirits.

“I had a mask on, trying to be in-cog-negro,” he recalls with a wry laugh. “And it was a great sight for my sore eyes to see my fellow New Yorkers — white, brown, red and black — unified and speaking up against the powers that be.”

He was even more heartened by what he saw on CNN all week. “It happened all across the United States of America, not just New York,” he says excitedly. “It’s all over ... Baltimore, D.C. — I mean, even places where there are no black people! Salt Lake City, Utah. Des Moines, Iowa. ... Many more places that don’t have a large minority population. But they’re out there, too. I haven’t seen this since I was a kid growing up in the ‘60s.”

Having a conversation with Lee is akin to a dance: He is as sharply observant and curiously critical as the films he’s been making since his groundbreaking debut in 1986 with “She’s Gotta Have It.” But, like most of his movies, he possesses an underlying current of humor that can instantly disarm even his harshest detractors. His new movie, “Da 5 Bloods,” which begins streaming on Netflix on Friday, exemplifies what makes him so distinctive as a director: He’s one of a handful of filmmakers who have refined their own, instantly recognizable cinematic language

(those rack-focus dolly shots, those double-edit hugs).

Lee has also been fearless about making polemical work, and speaking out about politics off-screen, regardless of the blowback he might receive in Hollywood or from his audience. Given the huge and diverse turnouts at the nationwide demonstrations over the past two weeks, is he optimistic that systemic change is at hand?

The answer, he says, is all about follow-through. “Let’s not get (ahead of) ourselves,” he warns. “Let’s see what’s happened when we wake up on Nov. 4. Because regardless of what’s happening now, if Agent Orange gets reelected, then it’s been in vain.”

“Agent Orange,” as Lee’s fans know, is the filmmaker’s preferred name for President Donald Trump. It’s also a deadly chemical that was used as an herbicide and defoliant in Vietnam, where “Da 5 Bloods” takes place. The movie stars Delroy Lindo, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Clarke Peters and Norm Lewis as veterans who return to the country to recover the remains of their fallen squad leader (played in flashbacks by Chadwick Boseman). Along the way, they embark on a scheme reminiscent of John Huston’s “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre,” one of Lee’s all-time favorites.

Although it obeys the conventions of war films and caper flicks, “Da 5 Bloods” also recognizes the disproportionate sacrifice of black soldiers in Vietnam, who were drafted, sent to the front lines, killed and court-martialed far more often than their white peers. Lee, who with Kevin Willmott reteoled Danny Bilson and Paul De Meo’s script that had originally been about white characters, first heard about the project as he was preparing to direct “BlackKkKlansman” in 2017. Although he couldn’t have known then that the themes of “Da 5 Bloods” would be so germane in 2020, he says, “It doesn’t take a great leap to make a correlation between what happened to black and brown boys in Vietnam and what’s happened to black and brown

communities with corona. You can tie that together without having to work.”

Inimitable Spike Lee touches abound throughout “Da 5 Bloods,” which features one of his most familiar stylistic flourishes: a stirring prologue and epilogue, in this case featuring Muhammad Ali and Martin Luther King Jr. — both of whom criticized the Vietnam War, both of whom were reviled for doing so at the time, and both of whom have been sanctified into sentimental heroes over the ensuing decades.

The decision to include King in “Da 5 Bloods” was particularly personal for Lee. The civil rights leader was a senior at Atlanta’s Morehouse College when Lee’s father was a freshman; Lee graduated from Morehouse in 1979 with Martin Luther King III. “Dr. King wasn’t just talking about how immoral the Vietnam War was,” Lee insists. “He was talking about Dow Chemical and all the other people who were profiting off the war, who were making napalm and Agent Orange. And I think that’s why he got assassinated. Not because he was trying to desegregate counters or all that other stuff. When he started speaking against the war, they were like, ‘This guy gotta go.’”

Film fans will recognize more than a few shoutouts to “Apocalypse Now” in “Da 5 Bloods,” which features at least two straight-up homages to Francis Ford Coppola’s 1979 film. Lee had just graduated from Morehouse and was preparing to attend film school at New York University when that film came out. He was working as an intern at Columbia Pictures in Los Angeles.

“I was at the first screening,” he recalls fondly, trying to find the ticket stub while he talks. “Twelve noon, the Cinerama Dome, Sunset Boulevard. Every time I see Francis he says, ‘Spike, you’ve told me this story a million times already!’ But it’s true! That was one of the most exhilarating experiences I’ve ever seen in film.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

# ‘I’m built for this’

Spike Lee talks ‘Da 5 Bloods,’ his role as an artist in tumultuous times



Director Spike Lee, from left, on the set of “Da 5 Bloods,” with Clarke Peters, Delroy Lindo, Jonathan Majors and Norm Lewis.

Netflix

## WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

## Black vets return to Vietnam in 'Da 5 Bloods'

Spike Lee's war drama may be flawed, but it arrives at a time when it feels urgent

By ANN HORNADAY  
The Washington Post

Spike Lee's new movie, "Da 5 Bloods," arrives at a time when the director's singular voice couldn't be more needed.

In a rousing, gorgeously modulated prologue that we've come to expect from a Spike Lee joint — this one offering a whirlwind tour of the protest movements of the 1960s and the violent pushback they received from government and law enforcement — it looks as if the 63-year-old director has made another film that uncannily meets its moment. If the ensuing, relatively conventional drama doesn't always live up to that early promise, its moments of stinging insight and soaring cinematic rhetoric once again prove why Lee might be America's most indispensable filmmaker.

Case in point: The seamlessly graceful transition from that electrifying opening montage to the present day, when four Vietnam veterans gather in a fancy Ho Chi Minh City hotel for a reunion on a mission. Eddie — a wealthy car dealer played by Norm Lewis — is treating his buddies to the trip, on which they intend to recover the remains of their squad leader. As they embrace and give each other the business, snippets of their characters emerge: Otis (Clarke Peters) is watchful and reserved; laid-back Melvin (Isiah Whitlock Jr.) works on keeping it cool; and Paul (Delroy Lindo) possesses the kind of taut, tightly coiled energy that could go off at any minute.

The group obeys all of the conventions of war pictures of yore — the strategist, the quiet one, the clown, the hothead — and that includes the man they are trying to find: "Stormin' Norman," played in flashbacks by Chadwick Boseman, didn't just lead them in battle but elevated their collective consciousness about serving their country, while also disproportionately dying in a war this wasn't their fight. In addition to finding Norman's improvised grave, the friends have a hidden agenda, involving a cache of gold once intended for the U.S. forces' South Vietnamese allies. "Da 5 Bloods" owes much to "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" and "Three Kings" as it does to "Apocalypse Now," which Lee exuberantly invokes in a movie that wears its influences proudly, if not always subtly. Changing up aspect ratios and mixing in 16mm film stock and iPhone footage to delineate time periods, Lee gives "Da 5 Bloods" his usual jolts of visual energy, intersecting still photo-



Netflix

From left, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Norm Lewis, Clarke Peters, Delroy Lindo and Jonathan Majors star in Spike Lee's "Da 5 Bloods."

graphs to illustrate tutorials on everything from the brutality of the My Lai Massacre to the glory of 400-meter hurdles champ Edwin Moses.

In the hands of any other filmmaker, such didactic digressions might drag down the narrative. But Lee's passion and fluency make them far more engaging than the putative drama of "Da 5 Bloods," which is at its least involving when it's at its most generically formulaic. Although he has clearly learned from the mistakes made in his starchy, unfocused World War II film "Miracle at St. Anna," Lee still stumbles here and there when choreographing the action sequences and multiple firefights. Danny Bilson and Paul De Meo's script, which Lee rewrote with Kevin Willmott, is often stilted and overstuffed. One secondary cast of characters in particular has a tendency to pop up with perfunctory, unconvincing convenience.

Lee has cast some of the best character actors in Hollywood to play his title characters; Lindo especially commands

the screen with a scenery-chewing performance that has madness and music at its core. (The rest of the Bloods remain frustratingly under-drawn.) But he reverts to male-gaze cliché when he enlists stunningly beautiful actresses — Melanie Thierry and Le Y Lan — to play the only two women in a movie that interrogates themes of greed, loyalty, self-sacrifice and the racism that led to so many black soldiers serving and dying in Vietnam, as well as masculinity itself.

"Da 5 Bloods" is most invigorating when Lee is most sharply polemical, whether it's during that vibrant prologue, or when he stops to drop some knowledge in interstitial flashes of history, wisdom and exuberant wit. Although Lee's frequent collaborator Terence Blanchard has written an orchestral score that swells with old-school triumphalism during the film's most melodramatic moments, it's the Marvin Gaye songs — all of them culled from "What's Going On" — that serve as "Da 5 Bloods'" most powerful musical motif.

That 1971 album, of course, was a masterpiece, both within the context of postwar and the political upheavals of that era. "Da 5 Bloods" may go over the top in its messianic depiction of Boseman's character, who becomes increasingly — and improbably — more Christ-like as the mysterious circumstances of his death are (unsurprisingly) revealed. But he delivers one of the film's most memorable and powerful moments in a flashback, when he describes living in a police state back home. "Every time I walk out that door," he says, "I can feel how much I ain't worth." Today, that line lands with a potent, dispiritingly prescient thud.

"The American War is over," a character announces early in "Da 5 Bloods," referring to the Vietnamese people's name for the conflict. Spike Lee is here to remind us that the war for America rages on.

"Da 5 Bloods" is now streaming on Netflix. The film is rated R for strong violence, grisly images and pervasive coarse language. Running time: 154 minutes.

## FROM PAGE 20

Lee says that he cast Laurence Fishburne and Albert Hall in "School Daze" and "Malcolm X" on the strength of their supporting performances in "Apocalypse Now." He gives credit to Coppola and Oliver Stone for casting actors of color in their Vietnam movies, which were breakthroughs compared with John Ford's "The Best Years" and other whitewashed histories of the war. He says he has "nothing but love" for both directors, especially Stone, who served in Vietnam. Speculating that Stone may not have felt qualified to tell the black soldiers' story, Lee compares the director to the filmmaker, who had intended to direct "Malcolm X" before Lee took on

the project.

"Malcolm X" was Norman Jewison's film. And he gracefully bowed out. He didn't have to do that," Lee says, adding that, to this day, their conversation has remained private. "Without saying exactly what he said, you know, he kind of acknowledged that maybe he was not the person to direct that film."

Far from being despondent about coronavirus and political unrest, Lee says, he feels he was "built for this." Since New York went into shutdown, he has been isolating at home with his wife, Tonya; their grown children, Sachel and Jackson; and their Yorkshire terrier, Ginger.

When the video emerged of George Floyd dying under the

knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis, he responded almost days later with a breathtaking 94-second short film called "3 Brothers — Radio Raheem, Eric Garner and George Floyd," in which he intercuts the deaths of Garner and Floyd with footage from the 1989 film "Do the Right Thing" in which Radio Raheem, played by Bill Nunn, dies while in a police chokehold.

Reflecting on the devastating parallels of fact and fiction in "3 Brothers," Lee takes a moment to clear up what he says has been a 30-year misunderstanding about "Do the Right Thing," which ends with two quotes about violence, one from Martin Luther King and one from Malcolm X.

"There were some people who were saying that Spike put these quotes in the movie for the audience member to make a choice," Lee says. "That was not the intent at all. Before Malcolm X got assassinated, (he and) Dr. King were trying to find a common ground, where they could unite their different points of view. But they were united in the freedom of black folks. So the end of 'Do the Right Thing' was not saying to the audience, 'Pick one or the other.' I felt that you could put both of them together."

Does Lee feel compelled to make a particular movie in light of these extraordinary times? "No," he says flatly, although he suggests he might be inspired to make another short film. The

position of individual artists and their proper creative response, he says, is a private decision. "As I've gotten older and more mature, I can understand that every artist has their own path," he says. "And there are some artists — and I'm not making any judgments — they think that their gift to God is their talent and to entertain people, and they make a conscious decision to leave politics out of it. And that's their choice.

"But I do think that history has showed us that when times have been rough, they've produced some of the greatest music, movies, plays and whatnot from artists who feel that it's their duty to comment or hold up a window to the evil that's going on."

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

# Destinations opening up, but should you go?

By SUNNY FITZGERALD  
Special to The Washington Post

For travel lovers weary of sheltering in place, the news that popular destinations such as Iceland and Greece and parts of the Caribbean will be reopening to international tourists is encouraging. But before you book any trips, you'll have to examine the policies of each country carefully and answer some important questions. Because Iceland is one of the first countries to announce it will reopen to American travelers (no later than June 15), we'll look at these issues from the perspective of traveling there.

**State of the pandemic in the destination**

Chunhui Chi, director of the Center for Global Health at Oregon State University, says one of the important indicators of whether a destination is truly ready to reopen is the number of daily new novel coronavirus cases. "Before considering a visit (anywhere), look at the statistics from that country," he says. "Make sure the daily new cases for the most recent two weeks are extremely low or close to zero." Iceland has reported a low number of cases—1,806 total, with just four new cases over the past two weeks.

Chi also recommends that travelers assess the quality of the health care facilities and the capability of the destination to treat visitors. A look at the country's coronavirus recovery and fatality rates might help you determine whether you'll find good care there. In Iceland, the recovery



iStock

Iceland's Seljalandsfoss Waterfall should soon be accessible to international tourists.

rate is higher than 99 percent.

If you plan to travel internationally this summer, it's wise to inquire with your travel provider about which activities and accommodations are available before you decide on a destination.

**Border control and space**

Consider how visitors to the country will be screened, and how many people you may be mingling with. Visitors to Iceland, for example, will have three options on arrival: a coronavirus test (children are exempt from testing), quarantine at their own cost for 14 days, or proof of a test taken before boarding their flight

Iceland. It's also a good place for physical distancing and outdoor recreation; it's the least densely populated country in Europe and its main attractions have always been its fire and ice offerings. "People come to Iceland for nature—not theme parks, cinemas or other places where you're confined," says Connolly.

**Getting there**

Your intended destination may have the coronavirus under control, but if a flight is required to reach it, Chi says, "the biggest risk is getting there." Factors that make air travel to Iceland or anywhere else risky include possible exposure in

the airport, prolonged time spent in the enclosed space of a plane, lack of physical distance from other passengers and using the restroom.

If you'll be flying, examine airline policies on passenger spacing (no, they're not all leaving the middle seat empty), mask requirements and disinfection procedures.

**Entry requirements and costs**

Each destination will determine its own entry requirements, and those are subject to change, so look for updates. Be aware that, even within a country, requirements may vary. For example, anyone arriving in Hawaii—including Americans from other states—must quarantine for 14 days.

As noted above, visitors to Iceland will have to quarantine or take a coronavirus test if they haven't already. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs says the Icelandic government will cover the cost of the tests for the first two weeks. Visitors arriving after that will bear the cost, which will likely be less than \$225 per test, according to government sources.

**Your health**

Chi recommends that people with chronic or respiratory conditions postpone travel for now, and he suggests that even those without existing conditions might want to wait a few weeks to see how things play out. "You don't want to be the guinea pig," he says. By the second half of August, Chi believes the travel industry will have had time to test and improve coronavirus-related safety measures.

## An abundance of berries adds flavor to summer in Europe

The crowning glory of many a trip is the chance to sample regional cuisine. As spring in Europe makes way to summer, the first crops of fruits and berries are appearing at produce stands and farmer's markets. Communities often celebrate with festivals (not the ones, of course), at which it's possible to sample the pickings in their freshest form and as part of the drinks, meals and snacks favored by locals.

Even if your travels don't coincide with the harvesting cycle, many culinary specialties showcasing the local source of produce are available year-round.

**Strawberries:** Although the German state of Hesse ranks only fifth in terms of acreage planted with strawberries, one of its cutest towns so loves this sweet and seedy late-spring treat that it holds a festival in each year. Erbach is the largest town of Eltville, lies directly on the Rhine about 10 miles west of Wiesbaden. For more than 100 years, strawberries have been cultivated there and in the surrounding Rheingau region, from which they would make their way to the tables of nobility throughout Europe. Erbach has venerated this tasty red fruit since 1935 with a fest.

While the 75th edition of its annual Strawberry Festival will no longer take place June 12-16, the town still makes for a wonderful place for a stroll—and maybe one of the local cafes will be serving up an Erdbeerbowle,

an alcoholic punch made of local white and sparkling wines and strawberries, or a slice of strawberry cake. Online: erdbeerfest-erbach.de

**Gooseberries:** this bitter-sweet green berry was popular in the England of yore, when many wines and desserts were produced with it.

With a taste reminiscent of Muscat grapes, today it's an inspired choice for crumbles, jams and tarts.

At the Egton Bridge Gooseberry Show, success in competitive gooseberry growing has been celebrated for two centuries and counting. Each year at the start of August (but not this year), the sleepy village of Egton Bridge in North Yorkshire hosts a contest to see who can grow the biggest gooseberry. In a show that was believed to have first been staged in 1800, growers from all corners of England compete for biggest berries in terms of weight. Winners are regaled with prizes in the form of crockery, glassware and gardening equipment. Some of the event's leisurely paced side events include walks and runs, a raffle, and live music. Online: egtongooseberryshow.org.uk



Karen Bradbury

Cheshire (late July) and the Krussbarsfestival is held each year around the start of August.

**Mulberries:** Sicily's history of cultivating mulberries is suspected to date back to the times of the ancient Greeks or Phoenicians. Production really took off with the coming of the Saracens, who grew mulberry trees for their leaves upon which silkworms feed. Sicily is no longer a center of silk production, but the berry continues to thrive there. Moro, or gelso as they're referred to locally, are the stars that shine in the shaved ice drink called the granita, available particularly in the east between Messina and Catania. When made into jam or a liqueur, mulberries can even go home with you.

**Bilberries:** This smaller variation of the blueberry grows in abundance in the wilds of Montenegro. High in antioxidants and vitamin C, their benefits have been touted by doctors and healers of then and now. The dark blue berry proliferates in the far-flung Prokletije mountain massif, particularly around the lakeside town of Plav, located in Montenegro's newest national park.

The Plav Days of Blueberries take place for 10 days at the end of July and early August, and what was once a small rural festival is nowadays accompanied by a full-fledged cultural program including parades of marchers in traditional costume, art exhibitions, sporting competitions, live music and a picking



iStock

competition. Online: tinyurl.com/yctpzwtf

**Black currants:** The taste of one of Europe's favorite berries is barely known to American palates. In 1911, the cultivation of black currants was banned in the U.S. due to their role in the production of a fungus harmful to pines. Although the blanket ban has since been lifted, permission from local authorities is still required in some localities. The berry known as Johannisbeere in German gets its name from the fact that it ripens around the religious and folk holiday Johannisstag, or St. John's Day, on June 24.

While Russia remains the world leader in terms of production of this berry, second place goes to Poland. If passing through, be sure to seek out and sample both black and red currants (porzeczka), either sold

fresh or in the form of juice, wines and liqueurs, or as part of the traditional jelly dessert known as kisel. Online: tinyurl.com/yd3vho8x

**Lingonberries:** This berry grows all over Scandinavia, and is particularly loved in Sweden. Also known as cowberries or whortleberries, they are bitter in their raw state, but once transformed to a sauce, they're an essential accompaniment to many traditional dishes from meatballs to stuffed cabbages to potato pancakes.

Once the berries ripen, which usually isn't until August, they're sold all over the country. Look for them at roadside stands or farmers markets.

Can't get to Sweden? Make way to your nearest IKEA, where lingon sylv (lingonberry jam) is sold by the jar. Online: swedishfood.com/lingonberries

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



PHOTOS BY BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

A display at the end of the tour of the Steinkaulenberg mine in Idar-Oberstein, Germany, shows the types of gems that can be found there.

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

Address: Edelsteinminen Steinkaulenberg, Im Staebel, 55743 Idar-Oberstein

## TIMES

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; last tour 4 p.m.

## COSTS

Between 4-7 euros depending on age for the mine tour; military discounts available. A price list is on their website.

## FOOD

Snacks are available at the gift shop.

## INFORMATION

Translation headsets in English, French, Dutch, Danish, Polish and Chinese are available for free. Phone: 06781 47 400 (for reservations) Online: weiherschleife-steinkaulenbergwerk.de/index.html

— Brian Ferguson

# Uncovering a world of beauty

## Get an up-close look at a working gem site at Steinkaulenberg mine near Baumholder

By BRIAN FERGUSON  
Stars and Stripes

Like a scene from “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” gems line the cave walls in Steinkaulenberg mine in Idar-Oberstein, where visitors can get an up-close look at the only open gem mine in Europe.

About 20 minutes from U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder and an hour from Ramstein Air Base in Germany, the mine includes glittering rock crystals, amethysts, smoky quartz, calcite, and other gems and colorful rocks.

Upon arriving, my oldest daughter and I parked at the lot about 500 meters from the mine site. The walk to the mine takes visitors through a forest lined with wooden birdhouses.

Not having a reservation, we inquired about a tour of the mine. Luckily, they had space, but it's advisable to make reservations.

Donning our hard hats and coronavirus masks, we headed toward the cave. There were only six of us on the tour. A small radio helped us translate the tour in English as we went.

The cave was cold and unfortunately we didn't bring jackets. At one point, my daughter tapped me on the shoulder to inform me that she could see her breath.

The low ceiling and dripping water made me happy to have the hard hat. Gemstones clustered along the walls, and as we navigated our way through, the tour guide provided insight into the mine's creation and excavation.

Spotlights illuminate the visitor tunnels and many of the larger gemstones, so taking photos was easy. The tour lasted about an hour, which was plenty of time to see almost everything in the icebox of a mine.

Visitors to Steinkaulenberg mine can also

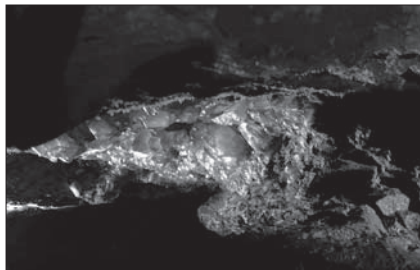


Gates to the Steinkaulenberg mine can be seen on the trail in Idar-Oberstein, Germany.

reserve a time to do a little digging and treasure hunting themselves in the gem field. As I didn't call ahead, all the spaces were full for the day. My daughter was disappointed, but my back was somewhat relieved. A visit to the gift shop and about 40 euros later, all was well. The shop provides an array of stones and jewelry for purchase.

When planning a trip to the mine, don't be like me — call ahead to make a reservation. The mine, which closed for a while due to coronavirus restrictions, reopened May 15 with social distancing measures in place.

ferguson.brian@stripes.com  
Twitter: @BrianFerg57



A large amethyst gem hangs from the ceiling in the Steinkaulenberg mine in Idar-Oberstein, Germany, the only gem mine in Europe that is open for tours.



A tour guide shows the size of the Steinkaulenberg mine.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Uncorking memories

Quarantine offers traveler a chance to taste souvenirs of past vacations

By NATALIE B. COMPTON  
The Washington Post

It was the summer I got my braces off. I'd just graduated from the eighth grade and my family was going on vacation to Europe, our third trip to the continent.

My journal from 2005 noted, "I'm 23 years old trapped in a 14 year old body help!"

Most of that frustration came from being a maniacally boy-crazy 14-year-old, but the sentiment also rang true for some of my other tastes. For example, at 14, I wanted to start a travel wine collection.

The source of the inspiration has been lost in the black hole of the past. Each time we traveled, I took a notebook to document the adventure. And yet while my journal from 2005 included minute details like the scores of my soccer games and what I was reading, they failed to include when, where and why, on our family trip to Barcelona, I asked my parents if I could buy a bottle of wine to save until I was of legal drinking age.

Whatever the catalyst, I ended up leaving Spain that year with a cheap bottle of red I hoped would age well.

The purchase started a new tradition of bringing wine home from vacations as a souvenir. Over the next seven years, my collection grew because I had the incredible privilege of traveling regularly, in large part thanks to my dad's "Million-Miler" status from his frequent business travel, which earned us "free" flights each summer.

I memorialized the trips through photographs, cringe-inducing travel journals and bottles of inexpensive wine I schlepped home for inappropriate, indefinite keeping.

At my childhood home, I took over a shelf in a coat closet near the garage. That closet was sweltering in the Fresno summer heat, and I stored my bottles upright (news to me later: This is a sin in the wine-storing world).

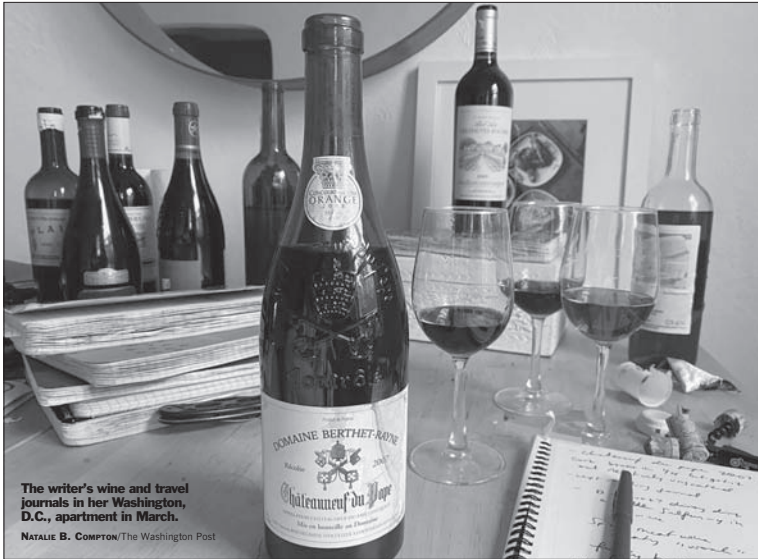
The plan was to save my souvenirs for a special occasion that warranted their opening. Maybe a wedding anniversary, a milestone birthday — something big enough to justify cracking my travel treasures open. Over the years there was plenty to celebrate, and yet nothing sparked the urge to uncork any of the improperly stored wine.

Then 2020 happened.

Life does not look anything like I'd predicted when I bought that first bottle of wine in Barcelona. I'm living alone, recovering from a breakup and hiding from a pandemic.

As my consumption of alcohol went up (apparently with that of the rest of the world), and trips to the grocery store became increasingly stressful, I started eyeing the cabinet of my kitchen where my souvenir wine collection is now stored.

While the wines had been saved for a special occasion, I never said it had to be a happy one. I grabbed an Ikea wine glass and a bottle opener and disassembled the souvenirs. These are the tasting notes and travel memories from six of the bottles, in the order they were purchased.



The writer's wine and travel journals in her Washington, D.C., apartment in March.

NATALIE B. COMPTON/The Washington Post

**Barcelona; 2005**

**The wine:** 2003 Loxarel Ops; organic, unfiltered; cabernet sauvignon, merlot and Ul de Liebre blend

**The trip:** The summer of 2005, my family went to Spain and the South of France where I juggled my interests of seeing the works of Gaudi and eating gnocchi with buying phone cards to call my boyfriend of three days back at home.

Besides spotting Magic Johnson's yacht parked in a Saint Tropez marina and reading "The Catcher in the Rye," this trip was pivotal because it was when I decided to start collecting wine on vacation.

I had absolutely no idea what to look for in a bottle, just that it needed to be cheap and have a cool label.

**The tasting:** It's difficult to focus on the nuanced flavors and aromas of a wine when you are constantly picking cork shards out of your mouth.

I learned this when the cork of my watershed wine crumbled into pieces in my attempt to open it. As crumbled cork wedged itself between my teeth, I searched "is it dangerous to ingest cork?"

Search results said no, so the tasting went on according to schedule. If there wasn't a pandemic making it feel ludicrous to go to the grocery store for something as nonessential as a coffee filter to stop the cork from pouring into my wine glass, this would have gone differently. What I'm saying is I'm now a person who eats cork.

I can also say the muddy brown liquid was tannic. I can say it was definitely red wine. I can say that it tasted a lot

like if you dumped some Tabasco into red wine, and maybe some olive juice, too.

In short, the wine was not good.

**Santorini, Greece; 2007**

**The wine:** Ageri semi-dry rose white wine; no year given

**The trip:** On our family's trip to Greece, 16-year-old me was heavy into indie music and reading Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment." I started reading "stop reviews" in my journal, writing down the place, noting the main highlights and giving the overall experience a star rating. I gave Santorini five stars. The highlights? Our hotel breakfast and visiting black sand beaches. Lowlights: "The cruise crowd" and "bed bugs?"

Somewhere between getting a fake tattoo and swimming in the Aegean, I bought a bottle of rose at a tourist shop, along with a bar of soap, for a total of 10 euros. Solid pick. It had to be good 13 years later.

**The tasting:** Opening it on a pandemic weeknight, the smell was so sweet I could tell it was going to be a syropy situation. Even the color reminded me of marmalade.

The label explained that it was named for "the freshness of the Cycladic summer winds and the long Santorini vinification tradition."

When I bought this bottle of rose, I had no idea what "semi-dry" wines were. At 29 years old, the sugar gave me a headache immediately. I'll drink just about anything, but I couldn't stomach this. I dumped the contents of my glass and moved on to the next experiment.

**Corsica, France; 2008**

**The wine:** 2006 Domaine Saporale, Corse Sartene; Nielluccio and Sciaccarello blend

**The trip:** During the summer of 2008 I was 17 years old and had been working as both a sign holder for a sandwich shop and a lifeguard at a neighborhood pool. In July, we landed, close to midnight, in Corsica, France, for our beach vacation and learned that our luggage had been lost along the way.

Rocky start aside, I fell in love with Corsica for the sun, the beaches, the mountains, the cliffs and, now that my parents were letting me drink a glass or two with them on vacation, the wine.

It was on the French island that my wine collecting took a more serious turn. I started keeping track of all the "zesty" Vermentino, "earthy" Nielluccio and "sweet" muscats that we tried during our trip. I learned French phrases such as "wine for keeping" so I could ask the wine shop owners how to choose a bottle that would be good in the future.

Somewhere during our trip, I bought a 7.15 euro bottle of 2006 Domaine Saporale for my collection, and another to drink on our last night of the trip. We didn't finish the latter, so I tried to see if I could stash it in my carry-on bag.

I wept at the airport when we were heading home to California — partly because the airport security agents made me throw out the opened wine bottle and partly because I felt that Corsica changed my life.

Over the next decade, I'd have many similar moments: feeling myself click

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe

## FROM PAGE 24

into place while on a trip. Travel unearthed clues about who I was supposed to be.

**The tasting:** At 11 p.m. on a Wednesday night nearly 12 years later, I fired up Zoom and called my parents 2,700 miles away. It felt poetic to open a wine from my favorite family vacation destination with them present (virtually, at least).

I broke the cork in half as I wrestled it from the bottle. My parents yelled cheers through their home computer as I sipped the brick-colored wine.

"That's not bad wine!" I yelled. "Wow! That's so nice!"

It was something I'd be happy to drink at a restaurant. The wine had notes of red berries and tobacco, flavors you might predict a wine to have.

The bar had been set so, so low. This win meant a lot.

## Provence, France; 2009

**The wine:** 2007 Domaine Berthet-Rayne, Chateauneuf-du-Pape; organic; red Rhone blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Syrah

**The trip:** At 18 years old and gearing up for college, I was a typical teenage nightmare the summer of 2009. For example, I'd ditched a doctor's appointment during class my senior year of high school and secretly got a tattoo. In cursive French, the permanent token of my youthful angst says "life is hard."

That summer, my family, my French tain and I went to Mallorca, Spain, and Provence, France.

For once, I decided to mention my wine purchase in my travel journal.

"I am SO excited for today's activity," I wrote. "We're going to Avignon then ... Chateauneuf-du-Pape!"

The only reason I knew about the wine region of Chateauneuf-du-Pape was because my sister's boyfriend at the time had told us about it before the trip. Because I idolized him, I took that information as gospel.

We visited a wine shop in Avignon where I bought a couple of bottles for my collection. I wrote in my journal after: "The wine tasting isn't as great as I put it up to be. Oh well."

**The tasting:** I was shocked by the spicy, meaty flavor of the wine immediately.

The wine was funky and beefy. There were maybe some peppercorn flavors in there. I questioned my sanity.

After keeping it open a few days (I don't have a wine stopper, and the cork all but broke), the wine turned thicker, sweeter and more port-like. Not great.

## Hvar, Croatia; 2010

**The wine:** Plavac, "quality table red wine"; no given year

**The trip:** Our Europe trip when I was 20 included five days in Paris and a week in Croatia. In France, we packed in museum visits and drank "LOTS OF NICE WINE," according to my notes. In Croatia, we visited beaches and explored tiny towns.

On the Croatian island of Hvar, I picked up a rustic bottle of Hvar wine with no date or mention of its grape contents.

**The tasting:** The wine was as crystal clear as fruit juice from concentrate and smelled like the bottom of a wet wine cask. Taking a big whiff was like dunking my head into a just-retrieved long-lost barrel at sea. It was musty and vaguely fruity.

The wine tasted wet. I realize wet isn't a flavor, but I couldn't help thinking it was somehow wetter than other wines. I got notes of dripping wet, red Jolly Rancher, plus some lemon juice.

## Rhodes, Greece; 2011

**The wine:** 2006 Villare 100 percent Amoryano/Mantilar

**The trip:** In the summer of 2011, I was 20 years old and really going through it. A journal entry on day 10 of our trip to Halki, Greece, opened with "I'M A MONSTER." I had both ringworm and sun poisoning. Covered in a speckled rash, I still found inspiration to wax poetic about the idyllic ocean views from our apartment rental.

On day 11, we went to Rhodes, an island we visited in 2003 that I'd considered my favorite place in the world for years. The place made such an impression on me that I made Rhodes a part of every digital password for the better part of a decade.

**The tasting:** The first word that came to mind when I tasted this wine was lime. You know, a typical red wine flavor. It was so tart, so spunky, a little peppery. It also reminded me of a cherry-flavored throat lozenge.

I kept the wine open for days to come, and the limey-ness died down. The wine transformed into something good and tasty.

With some air, the wine became my second favorite of the lot.

## Final tasting notes

When I decided to start drinking my souvenir wines during the pandemic, I thought I'd open all 12. It'd be a bacchanal of good and bad wine to pass the time.

The inspiration came from needing wine to drink, but the real joy was reliving priceless travel memories.

I wept reading my mom's entry in my 2009 travel journal when she wrote down thoughtful life advice on my flight to Paris. I laughed out loud or cringed seeing what moments a younger version of myself considered worth writing down.

All of these family trips, and the ones I'd take alone as an adult, molded me into the person I'll be for the rest of my life.

As I went to open the seventh bottle, a pang in my heart gave me pause. The naive, hopeful, deranged teenager who started this collection stopped me from burning through them too fast.

Rise now it's hard to imagine when the pandemic will truly end and we can all go back to doing the things we love. I have to remind myself that the "new normal" of drinking wine at home alone, talking to myself aloud, seeing my flight to Paris through a screen, is temporary.

When that day comes that we can share wine together again, I may want to pour my friends a glass of the 2002 Domaine de Terrebrune I bought in 2006 on our family trip to the south of France. I've waited 14 years to drink it, I can wait a little longer.



David Edge/Stars and Stripes

A head-on prawn, calamari, branzino, salmon and a roasted pike perch fillet, served with rice and roasted vegetables at La Cantinetta in Wiesbaden, Germany.

## A break from boxed pasta

La Cantinetta in Wiesbaden is Italian worth the price

By DAVID EDGE

Stars and Stripes

If you're looking for good Italian food in a pleasant atmosphere, La Cantinetta is worth checking out.

Located in the heart of the Wiesbaden shopping district, about five miles from the Army's Hainerberg area, La Cantinetta is an upscale establishment offering a variety of Italian dishes, including homemade pastas, and an array of proteins like rabbit, veal and several types of seafood.

The drink menu is also extensive, including more than 20 wines from all over Italy. The beer selections are mostly German but there are a few Italian ones to choose from as well. The restaurant has a full bar, so mixed drinks or cocktails are available.

Because of the coronavirus restrictions imposed by the German state of Hessen, seating was outside-only when I went there for lunch with a friend in early June.

I ordered the mixed pasta plate, which consisted of gnocchi gigante, or giant gnocchi, filled with truffles and served with a truffe cream sauce; triangoli — triangular stuffed pasta — filled with asparagus and burrata cheese, in a pistachio pesto with zucchini and roasted almonds; and large, ravioli-like cappellacci, filled with dry aged beef and green asparagus. Those were drizzled with a parmesan sauce and sprinkled with roasted bacon.

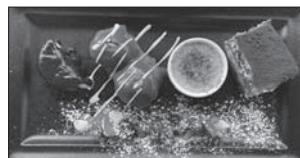
All the pasta was homemade. Apologies if you are new yearning for an Italian meal and have only your average box of dry pasta and a jar of tomato sauce in the kitchen.

My companion ordered the fish plate — a head-on prawn; calamari; branzino; or European sea bass; salmon; and pike perch fillet roasted with the skin on. That came with rice and roasted vegetables.

For dessert we ordered the Dolce Misto, which is a mixed plate of desserts. On the plate was a small creme brulee, tiramisù, panna cotta, zabaglione, and mixed fruit and cream.

The food at La Cantinetta is a little pricey — our meals and wine came to 80 euros — but it was well-prepared and presented by servers who are very attentive without being annoying. The meals were also very tasty, although my companion and I both felt that it could use a little more seasoning.

edge.david@stripes.com  
Twitter: @DavidEdge9678393



La Cantinetta's mixed dessert plate, above, and mixed pasta plate, below.



## LA CANTINETTA

Location: Goldgasse 13, 65183 Wiesbaden

Hours: Open daily from noon to 11 p.m.

Prices: Starters were 8 to 14 euros, main courses were 15 to 40 euros, and desserts were around 7 euros. They accept credit cards.

Menu: German with English description under each item.

More information and to reserve: lacantinetta.com. The website is in German, English and Russian.

— David Edge

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

# Post-COVID adventure awaits

## England lockdown prompts visions of mother-daughter foodie hike through Slovenia

By SARAH FREEMAN  
Bloomberg

For as long as I can remember, my refuge in troubled times has been nature — the wilder, the better. Particularly the mountains, thanks to girlhood adventures with my mum in Austria's Dachstein Group and Italy's Dolomites. Whenever I return home, even almost two decades later, my mud-caked hiking boots are slung in Mom's trunk and our flasks are filled before I can even unpack. Walking is our mother-daughter jam. It's where frustrations are vented, the world is put right, and we can return a bit lighter.

My curtailed, yet still gratifying, strides across Northumberland's empty moors have fostered my own meditation during England's lockdown. Stripped of human connection, I dream not of scaling lonely peaks but of roaming Slovenia's gentler hinterland. It's there, on assignment in 2018, that I discovered its smiling hospitality to be as generous as its home-brewed pear brandy (which packs some serious omph).

Better known as U.S. first lady Melania Trump's homeland, this speck of a country in Central Europe boasts a disproportionate variety of wonders for its size (comparable to that of New Hampshire). Slovenia's 23 gastronomic regions are the fruits of its boutique vintners, alpine dairy farmers and third-generation olive oil growers' hard work. You need only look to the country's 8,000 beekeepers, who maintain an unwritten rule to harvest just 20% of their bees' honey, to realize how closely attuned Slovenians are to their environment. The fact that it's the only EU country to have protected its native bee speaks volumes.

My repurposed jars of chestnut honey, cherry jam and pumpkin seed oil (a surprising hit with vanilla ice cream) testify to my love for Slovenia's cuisine. So when the time is right, with my frustrated-hiker mom in tow and a larder to replenish, I'll be taking a foodie ramble through its Northwestern province.

### Getting there

The best pre-pandemic flight connections from the U.S. to Ljubljana passed through Amsterdam

or Istanbul via KLM and Turkish Airlines, respectively. It's possible to fly there via Lufthansa through Munich to Trieste, Italy, just 35 miles from Slovenia's border. Considering its proximity to Italy, one of Europe's COVID-19 epicenters, Slovenia has suffered a mercifully small outbreak (around 100 deaths among its 2 million population). On May 18, Slovenia reopened its borders to EU citizens, making it the first European nation to declare an end to its COVID-19 epidemic.

### Hiking for our supper

With a mutual aversion to driving abroad, my mother and I would hop on a three-hour bus ride west from the capital, Ljubljana, with its picturesque castle sitting high above the city, to Lake Bohinj. This serene cousin of heavily touristed Lake Bled is blessed with the same scintillating reflections of the Julian Alps — minus crowds. I'd talk my mum into a bracing 64 degrees Fahrenheit dip in its glacial waters. Invigorated, we'll take a two-hour gambol across Dobrava's hummocky meadows, where wildflowers exhale perfumed vapor and bees drone till the sun goes down. Before

it emerged from the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, western Slovenia was known as Carniola, after its prized pollinator.

This is stage seven of a new, 186-mile Julian Alps Hiking Trail that circumnavigates Slovenia's loftiest peaks in Triglav, Europe's second-oldest national park. Ramblers with two weeks to spare can tackle all 16 sections. I'll plan to take a bite out of the circuit, which is serviced, for the most part, by Slovenia's dirt-cheap public transport. On stage eight, we'll spend \$1 trundling from Bohinj'skva Bistrica to Podbrdo on the Habsburg-era Bohinj Railway line, a marvel of engineering that connects the Julian Alps to the Adriatic.

Drunk on alpine air, we'll be ready to hit the hay in our first kmetija, a sustainable, family-run tourist homestead at which farm-to-table is more than a meaningless buzz phrase.

I can still remember my first taste of local sweet buckwheat-rolled dumplings called strukliji at one such kmetija in Tolmin (Tourist Farm Pri Kafolu, at stage 11 of the trail), that's lovingly run by the Leban family and nestled in orchards. We'll eat our weight in tangy Tolmine cheese — a protected designation of origin food used as currency by local peasants to settle taxes in the 1200s.

Onward to the next day's walk, from Podbrdo to Kobarid through valleys freckled with half-timbered houses, winsome church spires and satiated cows that make for a bucolic backdrop. We'll refill our water bottles from medicinal springs and graze on Slovenia's very own trail mix: swollen cherries (sweetest in June) and honey-like persimmons.

Wrapped in craggy peaks and dripping in Alpine-Italianate architecture, Kobarid is famous for the Battle of Caporetto, a World War I battle immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1929 novel "A Farewell to Arms." It's also where beekeeper Tilen runs a charming chalm-cum-domestic apiary, where guests are coaxing to sleep by thousands of humming bees. Tilen is capitalized on apitherapy, a curative cornerstone of Slovenia's growing wellness tourism and something ancient Egyptians were first to harness. Inhaling clouds of sugary air straight from his beehive (safely on view through a glass partition) is deeply relaxing, if you can get over the initial mask-wearing ordeal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Ljubljana Castle stands above the city skyline in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

CHRIS RATCLIFFE/Bloomberg

# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

**FROM PAGE 26**

The final push to Bovec, on Day 3, demands a squirrel's head for heights (and a tight squeeze of mom's hand), as we navigate the Soca Gorge. Its namesake emerald river bubbles with the valley's endemic marble trout — grilled to perfection at Dobra Villa, Bovec's former telephone and telegraph office.

Just down the road, a hazmat-suited Maja gives very hands-on tours of her Crayola-painted hives at Bee Happy. As if tastings of pine and acacia honey aren't indulgence enough, I'll slough off the hiker's tan lines and any residual COVID-19 anxiety with an exfoliating honey massage. (Even with the promise of silken skin, I'm not sure mom will agree to being slathered like a giant piece of toast!)

The next morning, we'll breakfast like queen bees on Slovenian street food par excellence at Kuhinja, a chalet-style hut in Bovec's main square. It serves frika (cheese and potato rosti with herbs and polenta) and forest mushrooms foraged by owner Ojan.

Fueled and inspired, onward we'll go, 40 miles south to the footsteps of the Julian Alps, where we'll earn our foraging stripes with Vesna Velisecek, founder of SLocally. She hosts three-hour herbal walks from her homestay in Goriska Brda, a region that's changed hands five times in the past century and a half.

If the weather obliges, we'll drink in views of Venice, across the sparkling Adriatic Sea from Smartno, a medieval, walled cultural heritage monument primed for idle strolling. Then we'll follow our noses down its labyrinth of lanes to Hisi Kulture's lemon-scented balcony for an olive oil tasting. Mopping up puddles of Slovenia's liquid gold with host Tatjana's freshly baked bread is strangely soothing, the perfect palate warmer for Hisa Marica's nettle-pine nut pasta. And if it's anything like last time, I might not remember to leave room for the bed-and-breakfast's four-year-aged, cherry-wood prosciutto.

As tempting as it would be to steep off a long lunch here, I have a soft spot for Hista Stekar's homespun charms, a five-minute cab ride away. At this working organic winery, a slobbery welcome from the family pooch is paired with liberal pours of Goriska Brda's glory



OLIVER BUNIC/Bloomberg

Shoppers browse fruit and vegetables at an open-air market in 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

grape: rebula. With its stucco-tiled roof, wood-shuttered rooms and soul-gladdening views over vine-terraced hills, one could be forgiven for thinking it's Tuscany.

Drivers on a DIY wine safari of this macro-viewing region can unwittingly slip across the border into Italy. To avoid this rookie error, we'll enlist Vesna again. She arranges tastings to wineries such as Erzetic,

which ages its orange wines in ancient amphora, and biodynamic Klinec, a centenarian estate known for some rich, Bordeaux-style blends and heavily plated wild asparagus. Goriska Brda's scene is all about low-key tastings and low-intervention wines. This is the understated Slovenia that I miss and will loosen my belt for, as soon as travel permits.

## Airports plan for crowding problems

The demand for air travel is still quite low in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, down about 86% to 89% compared to the same time period last year.

So why are airports preparing for the challenges of overcrowding at their respective facilities?

Welcome to social distancing. Right now it might not be an issue, but as the flying public slowly returns to the air, it will become a case of too many people and not enough space. Where once officials were fine with packing in customers like sardines — ticket counters, security checkpoints, seating at the gate — social distancing and the lack of usable space will certainly make things difficult.

"If we can't make a safe, healthy and comfortable passenger experience coming out of this, we are going to end up with a protracted downturn," Chris Oswald, senior vice president of technical and regulatory affairs for the trade group Airports Council International-North America, told Travel Weekly.

U.K.-based company Veovo unveiled a solution last month that enables passengers to book specific arrival times for airport checkpoints. The company says it would adjust available time slots for checkpoint reservations in real time based upon wait times, allowing for even distribution.

Said Miami International Airport's director of information systems Maurice Jenkins: "It's going to be a challenge. There's no magic pill for it."

—TravelPulse

# Germany

## DIRECTORY

### Restaurants

KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	RHEIN MAIN	RHEIN MAIN
<p><b>COCKTAIL CASINO HAPPY HOUR ENCHI HOUR</b></p> <p>Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 <a href="http://www.enchilada-kaiserslautern.de">www.enchilada-kaiserslautern.de</a></p>		<p>Come Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p><a href="http://www.brauhaus-castel.de">www.brauhaus-castel.de</a> Otto Saub Ring 27 55254 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-3099 Open daily from 11:00 – 24:00</p>	<p style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"><b>China Restaurant Mayflower</b></p> <p>Open daily 11:30 – 15:00 &amp; 17:30 – 23:30 USD accepted – Master Card/Visa Tel. 06134-258928 Lithmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim</p>

### Hotels

STAY	<p><b>Hotel Villa</b> </p> <p>Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks Amberger Str. 9 - 52249 Völk E-Mail: <a href="mailto:hotel-villa@vmail.de">hotel-villa@vmail.de</a> Tel.: +49 (0) 9662/42070 <a href="http://www.hotel-villa-voelck.de">www.hotel-villa-voelck.de</a></p>	<p><b>pullman</b> HOTELS AND RESORTS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">COURTESY PULLMAN</p> <p>Vollmoellerstrasse 5 • 70563 VAHINGEN • STUTTGART T +49 71 350 1-1 • F +49 71 390 205 • E <a href="mailto:info@pullman.com">info@pullman.com</a> <b>BOOK TODAY 0711 750 2300</b></p>
------	---	--

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific



## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

Drive toward Tarague Beach on Perimeter Road on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. There's a small sign advertising the B-52 relic on the roadside.

## TIMES

Open at all hours

## COSTS

No entry fee

— Seth Robson

# Ghostly ruins

## B-52 relic calls to aircraft buffs at Andersen AFB on Guam

By **SETH ROBSON**  
Stars and Stripes

If you're stuck on base at the home of the 36th Wing on Guam, it's worth a short jaunt to check out the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress that was blown into the jungle during a super typhoon in 1976.

It's only a short walk into the trees beside Perimeter Road near Tarague Beach to reach the relic, which looks a bit like a crashed flying saucer.

When the relic was discovered in the jungle in 1997, people initially thought it was part of a famous plane known as the "Old 100," which was displayed at the base's Arc Light Memorial from 1974 to 1983, the sign states.

In fact, the tail is from a Grey Ghost, as aircraft with an aluminum and white anti-flash paint scheme were known on the island.

"This contrasted with the operational ARC LIGHT B-52Ds that were painted camouflage and black," an information panel next to the relic states.

The Grey Ghosts were used as ground instruction training airframes and then for firefighting and rescue training.

The tail, which had been cut off the aircraft after it was scrapped, was blown into the jungle by Super Typhoon Pamela when it struck Guam in 1976 with 150 mph winds.

"Later the encroaching jungle concealed it until rediscovered in 1997 after Super

Typhoon Paka," the panel states.

B-52s have been flying out of Andersen Air Force Base since March 29, 1964, according to the Air Force.

During the Vietnam War, they launched from there as part of Operation Arc Light. Each was capable of carrying more than 100,000 pounds of bombs to provide air support to ground troops fighting the communists, 36th Wing historian Jeffrey Meyer wrote in an April 25, 2012, article on Andersen's official website.

During the 1970s and 1980s, B-52s flew out of Guam during Operation Bullet Shot and Linebacker I and II.

"With 153 B-52s on the ramp, Andersen AFB became the single largest source of combat airpower the world has ever seen," he wrote.

Since 2004, Air Force bombers such as the B-1B Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress and B-2 Spirit have been frequent visitors to Guam.

On July 21, 2008, six crewmembers of a B-52H, call sign Raider 21, died when their aircraft went down about 30 miles northwest of Guam, Meyer wrote.

"Raider 21 is one of five B-52s lost from accidents in the waters around Guam over the aircraft's history here. Additionally, during the Vietnam War a dozen B-52s left Andersen AFB for ARC LIGHT missions and never came back," he wrote.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter@SethRobson1



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

It's worth the short trip on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to check out the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress, top and above, that was blown into the jungle during a super typhoon in 1976. The remains look like something out of a science-fiction movie.



A sign on Perimeter Road near Tarague Beach at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, marks the resting place of the tail section of a B-52E Stratofortress.

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

The ribs and brisket platter from La Mesa Flying Geckos in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, is a combo worth sharing with friends or family.

# A flavorful celebration

Delicious barbecue awaits at Flying Geckos in South Korea

BY MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes



AFTER  
HOURS  
SOUTH KOREA

For those living on or near Camp Humphreys, it's difficult to overlook the large building outside the pedestrian gate that belongs to the La Mesa Mexican restaurant.

The popular sit-down restaurant had its name plastered on nearly every exterior wall. Unfortunately, as restrictions were enforced to protect personnel from the spread of the coronavirus in March, the restaurant closed its doors for good when its lease expired.

The good news is that all is not lost. La Mesa's owners merged its Mexican-inspired menu, along with its staff, with Flying Geckos, another restaurant they own nearby, closer to the Dongchang-ri gate.

Established about a year ago and becoming a success for its smoked ribs and brisket, Flying Geckos absorbed what remained of La Mesa, said manager Hong Jae-sun, and has since rebranded as La Mesa Flying Geckos.

The restaurant is open year-round, doors open every day at 11 a.m. and food orders are accepted until 9:30 p.m. The bar, which serves a wide variety of beer and cocktails, will remain open until the last customer leaves, Hong said.

The idea of a Mexican-style menu merged with an assortment of smoked barbecue initially posed a personal quandary: Which item to choose? But I came for the smoked meat and forced myself to look past the chicken tacos, my favorite dish.

Geckos' options for smoked meats consist of ribs and brisket, each starting at 20,000 won (about \$15), and pulled pork and chicken for 16,000 won each.

Sharing a meal with my wife, we agreed on the ribs and brisket platter for two for 35,000 won. The meal came with multiple sides, including fries, pork bones, coleslaw and buttered toast, enough to satisfy us both and bring a few scraps home to our favorite pup.

The meats were extremely tender, as you



The brisket fries appetizer from La Mesa Flying Geckos offers a taste of both sides of the menu: Mexican and smoked meat.

might hope for from a smokehouse. The ribs and pulled pork are smoked for four hours, the brisket is smoked for 11 hours and the chicken entree is smoked for two hours, according to the chef.

The house sauce smothering the ribs, while tasty, has a slight Asian inspiration. A very small amount of spices was detectable, but not overpowering.

The establishment has plenty of space and an additional building to host larger parties just next door. The patio provides outdoor seating with large umbrellas, a flower garden, a swing and an open view to watch the sun set over Camp Humphreys.

Bring your friends, family or co-workers as their English menu has something to potentially satisfy anyone, even the kids. Flying Geckos' menu includes various pizzas, pastas, salads and calzones, each for roughly 15,000 won.

keeler.matthew@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MattKeeler1231



The tender ribs and brisket from La Mesa Flying Geckos are smoked for four and 11 hours, respectively.



La Mesa Flying Geckos is convenient to Camp Humphreys and has ample parking.

## LA MESA FLYING GECKOS

Location: 53-1 Wonjeong-ri, Paengseong-eup, Pyeongtaek-si, Gyeonggi-do, or GPS 36.970714, 127.041087  
Hours: Open daily at 11 a.m.; last food order 9:30 p.m.

Prices: Mexican entrees range from 13,000-20,000 won; smoked entrees range from 16,000-19,000 won per serving

Dress: Casual

Directions: Roughly half-mile from Camp Humphreys' Dongchang-ri gate;

walking or a taxi recommended.

Information: Phone: 031-691-6699

— Matthew Keeler

# Making the most of herbs

BY BECKY KRVALT  
The Washington Post

As I write this, I'm sitting on my patio sipping at my herbs. The basil, parsley, thyme, rosemary, cilantro and oregano (back from a one-year hiatus!) are polite and restrained, for now. In a pot of its own, the sage, so large it's practically a tree at this point, threatens to take over, well, everything. Soon the others will start to catch up, and I'm going to need to use a lot of them, pronto.

The need to burn through a ton of herbs is a conundrum many of us face whether we are growing our own or had to buy bunches for a recipe that only used a little bit. Thankfully, herbs are delicious, versatile and prime for long-term preservation. Here are some ideas to use the bounty.

■ **Make pesto, or other herb-heavy sauces**

Pesto is the most obvious, so we might as well get it out of the way first. Basil reigns at the top of the list, but cilantro, mint, dill and parsley are all fair game. Don't be limited by thinking you must do a single-herb pesto, either. Mix and match based on your supplies or taste. Thankfully, it's pretty easy to adapt pesto on the fly, tasting in between additions in your food processor.

■ **Preserve them for the long term**

The good thing about herbs is you don't have to use them right now if you don't want to. There are ways to hang on to them for cooler times ahead. I find that pesto freezes extraordinarily well (I leave out the cheese and typically use pecans or walnuts instead of pine nuts), so if that's the only thing you choose to do, you'll be more than pleased.

Drying herbs is another possibility. Tie them together in small bunches with twine or string and hang them in a dry spot with good air circulation. You want to check them daily, according to "Cooking With Herbs" by Susan Belsinger and Carolyn Dille, and you'll know when they're ready if they crackle and crumble when rubbed between your fingers.

You can extract further moisture by drying them on a baking sheet at 200 degrees oven for 3 to 5 minutes. Then you can store them — off the stem but still as whole leaves — in a clean jar with a tight-fitting lid.

■ **Steep them**

Herbs can be used to flavor a variety of liquids, for enjoyment now or later. One of the most straightforward is an herbal tea (or tisane), whether you decide to steep fresh or dried herbs.

Another option is to make an aromatic simple syrup, the standard 1-to-1 mix of sugar and water.

Of course, there's always ice cream. Steep fresh herbs in your cooled, or cooling, ice cream base. Mint naturally goes with chocolate chunks or fleckles, though you can expand your horizons to think about pairing thyme with lemon and/or honey and basil with blueberry.

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



iStock

## 5 simple ways to improve your health in a world of coronavirus

By SPENCER MCKEE

*The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)*

As the world starts to reopen, many changes related to the presence of COVID-19 are likely still impacting your life. There's a chance you've got more time on your hands and fewer options regarding how you spend it. By adding simple health-focused habits to your daily routine, you'll be using this time to better yourself, likely boosting your immune system in the meantime.

Here are a few things I've done during the past couple of months that I feel have benefited me from a physical and mental health standpoint. To be clear, I've got no medical training and have no experience with nutrition. The following recommendations are solely based on what has seemed to help me, and I hope they help you, too.

**Author's Note:** I'm just some guy on the internet. It's recommended that you consult a medical professional before making any changes to your diet, vitamin intake or exercise routine.

### Set bigger exercise goals, stick to them

My personal goal has been to run 100 miles a month. That might sound like a lot, but consistency has been the biggest contributor for me successfully reaching that benchmark each month. I've never been a runner and I've got some minor knee problems, but simply getting out there and moving at my own pace has helped me stay on track.

Whatever your goal is, make it seem like a stretch goal. If you miss your goal the first month, adjust the goal accordingly. You'll see benefits from staying consistently active, whether it's swimming miles a day or simply walking around the block.

One goal that I've found success with in the past is to hike at least once a week on a new trail. Plot out your trail a month ahead of time and pick something you can look forward to.

### Drink water

One side effect of working from home is that I've been crushing flavored seltzers. The variety keeps me from getting bored and some products, like Coca-Cola's 'Aha!' line, offer added benefits like 30 MG of caffeine derived from coffee or green tea.

Drinking an adequate amount of water benefits almost every organ in your body.

### Add a simple exercise to your day, every day

I've never been one for a traditional or long workout routine; however, by focusing on something easy and simple, I've found that 10-15 minutes can make a big difference.

I do at least 100 pushups a day and have found that the time between sets has gotten shorter over time. For me, this seems to give me a quick full-body workout at a level that at least maintains muscle mass. Another daily workout I've done in the past is the '8-minute abs' routine from decades ago. The video is free on YouTube. Jump rope routines are a great option.

This step takes 10 minutes a day. Everyone can make time for that. I'd recommend doing the exercise earlier rather than later to get the benefits of increased blood flow to start your morning.

### Carefully pick vitamins and actually take them

I've tried taking vitamins in the past. I'd get a bottle, pop them for a day or two, and then forget about them.

By adding vitamins to my quarantine routine, taking them right after my 10-minute daily workout with a protein-heavy snack, I've finally been able to take them consistently enough to actually see the benefits. I take a multivitamin, a vitamin B complex, extra B-12, and a supplement with omega 3, 6, and 9. That specific mix was built around what the internet said would give me more energy and boost my mood, and it seems to work.

Again, I'm not a nutritionist and have no medical background, but this mix seems to work for my personal goals. Consider your own goals and consult a nutritionist to come up with a plan that works for you.

### Find a hobby that also serves as a social outlet

In times where social interaction has been so limited, it can be easy to feel alone.

By making sure I work rock climbing into my routine frequently, I'm able to participate in a healthy activity that also involves being around one or two other people in a controlled, non-invasive way. Granted, that particular activity might be easier for me, as a Colorado resident, than for you in your location. Whether you're running with a friend or playing video games with a buddy from your couch, a social hobby is important to maintain in some capacity.

For an added mental boost, pick a hobby that you can improve in. This improvement will have you feeling productive as your skills improve.

## Other tips

■ **No days off:** While it's sometimes easy to think you "deserve a break," keep in mind that a break day can disrupt your healthy habits and routine. Obviously, some workouts and practices do require breaks — for example, I'll run every other day or every third day because I feel this time is needed for my recovery. That being said, living an active and healthy lifestyle is much easier if you try to view that as simply "how it is" instead of viewing it as a chore. Living healthy is an investment.

■ **Do things you enjoy:** It's hard to stick to a workout you hate. Try a few different things and find something that works for you.

■ **Cut bad habits:** Things like excessive drinking, unhealthy eating, and smoking can set you back from seeing improvement. Try to limit these things in your daily life. Cold turkey is one method, but even moderation can lead to benefits.

■ **Track your success:** Keep a notebook that tracks your pushups, use an application like Strava to compete with yourself when running, stand in front of the mirror and flex your muscles — do whatever you can to remind yourself that the hard work you're putting in is working. You're getting healthier, stronger and faster.

■ **Remind yourself so that you can stay motivated.**

■ **Don't let diet hold you back:** I'm by no means a 'healthy eater,' but I am conscious of a few things that I need to get every day. One thing I focus on is protein for the sake of recovery, so much so that I've built eating high-protein snacks, like yogurt, into my daily routine. Between a \$2 pre-made Oikos Pro Full smoothie and an Oikos Triple Zero yogurt (plus some healthy cereal on top), I know I'm getting 30% of the protein the average person needs to get throughout the day before noon.

■ **Do it for a week:** A habit can't be formed overnight. Anything new I'm trying, I'll generally try to add to my daily routine for about a week. If I still don't like it at that point or haven't seen any benefits, I'll move on.

■ **Listen to podcasts:** Your brain needs a workout, too. The right podcast is a great way to stimulate thought. It also helps me pass the time while performing a simple workout task. I also really like to listen to a podcast that involves conversation, as I find this fills a social purpose, as well.

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



TRIPWIRE INTERACTIVE/TNS

# Hard to swallow

Shark RPG's clumsy controls diminish Maneater hype of being the apex predator of the sea

By GIESON CACHO  
The Mercury News

**N**o matter if it's "Jaws," "The Meg" or "Deep Blue Sea," we secretly root for the sharks. Sure, the humans are the heroes who eventually slay the primal creatures, but it's the monsters of the deep that catch our eye. All teeth and muscle, they fascinate us. The fins nudge along the water grab our attention like a train horn.

Their breaching above the water is like a fireworks show blasting out of the sea. Maneater takes that innate attraction to sharks and lets players live out a power fantasy as the predator.

In this open-world shARKPG — that's publisher Tripwire Interactive's reference, not mine — players take on the role of a female bull shark. A hunter named Scaly Pete kills her mother and scars it. In retaliation, the bull shark pup bites off Pete's hand and escapes into the bayou.

From there, players control the fish as she survives in the wild. The bull shark has to constantly eat. Her initial prey are catfish, grouper and box turtles, and this diet provides nutrients, fueling the shark's growth. Chowing down on the wildlife is how the pup matures into a teenager. From there, she can attack bigger animals such as alligators that would have given her problems in the beginning.

The whole process makes Maneater feel like a fishy answer to Pac-Man. The developers, Blindside Interactive and Tripwire, block off early areas behind this

idea of growth. Players need to level up their shark into adulthood before she can destroy grates and other obstacles to explore the wider city of Port Clovis.

The bull shark's goals are twofold. The first is that she wants to be the ultimate apex predator of the sea. That means growing into a megashark that is feared by sperm whales and orcas in the gulf. The other driving factor is revenge. The bull shark has one target in mind — Scaly Pete, the larger-than-life fisherman who gutted her mother.

Despite its intriguing premise, Maneater will have problems keeping players' interest beyond the novel first hours. It's fun to be a shark and watch the animal's growth, but the mission design is pedestrian and monotonous. Most of the time, players have to either devour humans, a fearsome rival or the favorite food of an apex predator. In addition, players will come across collectibles such as license plates, nutrient caches or landmark signs.

Some of these side quests have upgrades that give the bull shark such essential evolutions as shadow fins and bone tails. These act like pieces of armor and gear that the shark dons while in different grottoes, which are safe zones in each region of Port Clovis. The bone set is geared toward defense while the shadow series is all about attack power and speed. The bioelectric gear excels at stunning enemies that swarm players.

The bull shark can mix and match the evolutions or it can use a full set for a bonus that makes it unstoppable in certain scenarios. When paired with three of the right organ upgrades, players can overcome any adversary on the seas. The bull shark can even tumble across land, chowing down on humans who venture too close to shore.

Another problem with Maneater is the controls,

which are clumsy at best and frustrating at worst. Controlling the shark feels cumbersome, as players change the shark's swimming angles by looking in a particular direction. It's comparable to the controls system of Air Combat titles, but clumsier and with the added dimension of fighting on the water's surface. That's evident in the chaotic battles against hunters who go after the bull shark after she dines on enough humans. Trying to breach and slam atop boats isn't the smoothest of moves, and diving down into the depths for safety and another attempted breach is awkward.

The locomotion and traversal lacks fluidity, and those issues spill over into ocean life combat. Battling cetaceans, other sharks and gators involves dodging attacks when enemies blink yellow and then counter-attacking. It's not the most complex system and can be unwieldy, especially with the lack of a hard lock-on.

Maneater's flaws are smoothed over partly thanks to the narration of comedian Chris Parnell. The narrative is framed as a Discovery Channel-type nature show, and as the game follows the bull shark through her adventures, Parnell chimes in with nautical facts and biting critiques on humanity's relationship with nature.

This smart commentary is partly carried over to the locale of Port Clovis, which is a fictional gulf city that's part Louisiana and part Florida. The opinionated narrator stabs at the excess and weirdness of both states. It's almost enough to make players look over the control issues and mission design that hold Maneater back from being a great open-world title.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC, Nintendo Switch

Online: [tripwireinteractive.com/maneatergame](http://tripwireinteractive.com/maneatergame)

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

# Master of May Heim

The 1975's Matty Healy has an adorable new puppy and a bonkers new album

By MIKAEL WOOD  
*Los Angeles Times*

**M**atty Healy ruffled his grown-out Mohawk and took a drag from a cigarette as he gazed through a window at the spring-green English countryside.

"I suppose I think of this as my second rehab stint," said the 1975's frontman, who spent several weeks in a Barbados facility in 2017 addressing his heroin addiction. This time, of course, he was referring to quarantine amid the COVID-19 pandemic, for which he's holed up in a remote studio complex north of Oxford.

"At the beginning, the news was rolling in 24/7 and you're watching it like it's a disaster movie. Then it kind of faded into something ... else. But familiar."

Healy, 31, was meant to be touring arenas in the U.S. right now behind "Notes on a Conditional Form," the 1975's follow-up to 2018's "A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships," which topped the U.K. album chart and was named album of the year at the Grammy-equivalent Brit Awards.

Instead, he's been sitting around thinking about himself — about his tendency toward narcissism, his comfort with being depressed, his determination to continue the work of mindfulness that he began three years ago in rehab.

"I needed to upgrade my iCloud storage today on my iPad, so I was going through old pictures, and every time I saw one of me where I've got this certain face on, it was like there was someone else there," he said over FaceTime from the studio. "That inability to be present in the moment — it was like a ghost in the photo." He laughed.

"Sorry, man, I don't know why I'm telling you all this," he said. "I think it's because I just don't know how to promote this record."

How could he?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

## Rage, yes, but also empathy on 'RTJ4'

By MIKAEL WOOD  
Los Angeles Times

Run the Jewels was supposed to be on the road right now with *Rage Against the Machine*—two of music's most politically engaged groups barnstorming the country in the run-up to a presidential election that feels more consequential every day.

Alas, the tour was delayed until 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet America's other emergency speed up *Run the Jewels*' plans: On June 3, amid nationwide protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, EL-P and Killer Mike announced they were releasing their new album two days early.

"F. U. it, why wait," the rappers write in a statement. "The world is infested, so we're something raw to listen to while you deal with it all."

The duo's fourth LP since de-

buting in 2013, "RTJ4" delivers on its promise of timeliness with lyrics about someone texting "Stay safe" (as 2 Chainz puts it in a guest verse in "Out of Sight") and about the police brutality that Killer Mike describes in "Walking in the Snow."

"You so numb you watch the cops choke out a man like me / Until my voice goes from a shriek to whisper, I can't breathe," he raps, "And you sit there in house on couch and watch it on TV / The most you give is a Twitter rant and call it a tragedy."

Then again, when in the past decade would those lines not have seemed timely? By saying "I can't breathe" in a song recorded months ago, Killer Mike appears somehow to have anticipated one of Floyd's final sentences; he's also quoting Eric Garner, who died in similar circumstances in New York in 2014.

Run the Jewels' music is all about the collision of then and

now. The bleak but muscular production, much of it by EL-P (with help from Little Shalimar and Wilder Zoby), layers scorching synths over fractured beats in a way that never quite allows you to decide what was programmed and what was played by hand.

Yet the men rap in the kind of crisp, booming cadences that have all but disappeared from hip-hop in the age of Drake and his countless sing-rapping inheritors. Killer Mike and EL-P, in their mid-40s, come by their old-school flows honestly: Each was active for years before he was part of *Run the Jewels*—EL-P as former of New York's Company Flow and as a solo artist running his own indie label, Definitive Jux; Killer Mike as a member of Atlanta's Dungeon Family collective who scored a hit in 2001 with his cameo on OutKast's "The Whole World."

Lyrically, the two seek to lay out how systems put in place

yesterday—from redlining to mandatory sentencing to imbalanced access to health care—helped create the injustices we see today. (Like *Run the Jewels*' earlier albums, "RTJ4" is available to download for free from the duo's website, though it has already encouraged more than \$100,000 in pay-what-you-want donations to the National Lawyers Guild's Mass Defense Program.)

The result is hardly dry or caustic: The palpable anger coursing through tracks like "Yankee and the Brave" and "JUST" feels as cleansing as an acid bath.

Fury isn't the only sensation the group articulates on its most emotionally complex album so far. In "Goonies vs. E.T.," EL-P raps about the pressures city life can exert on a romance; an additional track with an unprintable title has Killer Mike pondering the residual effects of casual violence: "I still can't seem to escape the pain / PTSD, streets



## Run the Jewels

RTJ4 (BMG/Us)

did the damage."

The vulnerability in that line calls to mind Killer Mike's recent speech at a news conference alongside Atlanta's mayor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, in which he told demonstrators that he understood their rage over Floyd's death yet fearfully urged them "not to burn your own house down for anger with an enemy."

His appeal went viral online even as some condemned it as an accommodationist's message. That Mike himself seemed torn was what gave him the air of a true leader.

## FROM PAGE 32

Even minus the global health crisis leading countless artists to reconsider the machinery of pop stardom, "Notes on a Conditional Form" would be hard for anyone to get his arms around. The 1975's music, not unlike Healy's thoughts in an interview, has always been something of a data dump, with sounds and styles and textures pulled from an array of sources and eras.

The band's fourth LP is even more sprawling than usual, with 22 tracks (counting interludes) totaling 80 minutes, including an ecstatic '80s-soul number ("If You're Too Shy (Let Me Know)," a bruising post-hardcore rant ("People"), a tender acoustic duet with Phoebe Bridgers ("Jesus Christ 2005 God Bless America") and a jangly '90s-guitar jam with some big "Empire Records" energy ("Me & You Together Song").

Oh, and an opening cut that sets an original monologue by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg over twinky ambient music inspired by Healy's hero, Brian Eno.

"To be a type of band that plays a type of music — I just see it as cosplay," said the singer, dressed in a long-sleeved Obituary T-shirt, as he leaned down to pick up the 10-week-old puppy he's been training while in quarantine. (The dog's name, Mayhem, nods to a Norwegian black-metal band even more extreme than Obituary.)

As the mastermind of one of the key acts of the streaming age, in which the idea of genre means less than it ever has, Healy says he's just trying to catch the anything-goes spirit of the day. Lyrically, too, he fills his songs—about sex and religion and celebrity and the internet—with the preoccupations of now, though he insisted, "I don't like time-stamping my work too much. If you're putting it too much in the zeitgeist, then you can't get away from it."

"Like when Katy Perry said 'epic fail,'" he added with a theatrical squirm, in her hit "Last Friday Night." "I'm like, 'Wow, I hate that so much.'"

"Love Katy Perry, though."

For "Notes on a Conditional Form"—which Healy co-produced with the 1975's drummer, George Daniel—the singer said he'll weave his ego from the music and just ask questions that amount to: "Is the current set of circumstances, in terms of society and the way it's impacting the individual, sustainable? Can the center hold?"

"The economy's a goner / Republic's a banana / Ignore it if you wanna," he sneers in "People," which also rhymes "Barack Obama" with "living in a sauna with legal marijuana."

But it's quite the case that Healy's new songs don't reflect the particulars. On the band's breakthrough album, 2016's "I Like It When You Sleep, for You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware of It," Healy was doing a kind of postmodern riff on the self-centered rock star—best exemplified in "Love Me," which he went on to perform on "Saturday Night Live" in a willfully grotesque display that triggered countless variations on "Who does this guy think he is?" from online commentators.

Yet the 1975's members—the others are guitarist Adam Hann and bassist Ross MacDonald—quickly became

## The 1975

Notes on a Conditional Form (Dirty Hit/Interscope)

Do you have time on your hands? Of course you do. Then there's no excuse but to dive into the new 22-track album from the 1975. Each time you think you've found the best song, another comes along.

The British quartet's "Notes on a Conditional Form" is a typically ambitious fizzy affair, going from the screaming punk of "People"

—urging us to "Wake up! Wake up!"—to the almost sappy pop love letter to the band, "Guys," that closes the album.

It's not too far from their last collection—2018's "A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships"—with familiar touches, like dubstep, orchestral swerves, earnest ballads, a random sax solo and even a song about America (this time the sly send-up of the religious right in "Jesus Christ 2005 God Bless America"). But the new album is far stronger.

As always, frontman and lyricist Matty Healy alternates between being utterly sincere and sarcastic. He knows some people don't find him their cup of tea—"mugging me off all across the nation"—but he's not going to stop the painful introspection.

"Me & You Together Song" has a gorgeous, strummy, Manchester feel and perhaps the best opening line they've ever written: "I can't remember when we met / Because she didn't have a top on." That vice continues with the drums on fire in "I Think There's Something You Should Know."

Not all of it works, like the flat "Don't Worry" despite the vocal addition of Healy's dad, Tim. And "Yeah I Know" is downright irritating.

But on the superb, gospel-tinged "Nothing Revealed/Everything Denied," Healy messes with his fans, admitting he was lying when he said he once made love in a car, thereby undermining the band's totemic "Love It If We Made It" from the last album.

He can lie to us however he wants as long as there is music like this.

—Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

actual rock stars with devoted fans and a clear influence on pop music. Jamie Osborne, who manages the band and runs its label, Dirty Hit, said he can detect the 1975's impact in the new artists he meets.

"Though I've been very cautious not to sign another 1975, only because I don't think my mental health could take it," he said with a laugh.

You feel Healy's recognition of his visibility on the new album; even the songs narrated by characters that aren't him, like the fan-fearing gay kid in "Jesus Christ 2005 God Bless America," seem shaped by the singer's understanding that when he takes a position, people listen. (The son of two television actors well known in Britain, he comes naturally, perhaps, to the role.)

In quarantine, Healy—said to be dating FKA Twigs, who appears on "Notes"—says he's been pondering the dangers of his celebrity. "Doing what I do, self-obsession is the fuel of the engine, and of course people don't challenge you on it," he said. "I mean, if I'm on smack, the guys will call me out, as they did. But if it's just being selfish, and that's part of my process"—here he grimaced as he made air quotes—"then everybody just leaves it."

True to his reportedly analytical mind, Healy then wondered aloud if knowing you're a narcissist makes you better or worse than someone more oblivious. And though that's precisely the type of question that drives the 1975's deeply layered music, the singer sometimes wishes he could shake the impulse to double back on himself.

One reason he's drawn to the gleaming surfaces in "If You're Too Shy (Let Me Know)"—also a hallmark of "ear-fun" 1975 hits such as the Whitney Houston-ish "The Sound"—is because they remind him of music from the '80s, he said, "when pop stars weren't so encumbered with self-awareness. I know that time had its decadence, but there's a real freedom in those records."

His approach to songwriting basically amounts to trying to create the same sensation he gets out of the music he loves. "I'll hear a song and say, 'Oh, we should do a song that makes us feel like that,'" he said. "Then George makes a piece of music and I emotionally react to it."

With Daniel, who's also quarantining at the studio, Healy's already started work on new 1975 music—a product of his "weird compulsion to make stuff," as he put it, as well as the knowledge that the modern pop environment demands constant engagement.

"The days of the NME being like, 'This is your new favorite band, and here's one song'—that's over," he said, referring to the taskmaster British magazine. "People want a real-time relationship now. When I saw Cardi B communicating with her audience on Instagram with zero mediation, I knew everything had changed."

As he spoke, Mayhem let out a little squeak, evidently wanting to be cuddled again.

"He's a proper quarantine pup, this one," Healy said as he resettled the dog on his lap. "Somebody I'll tell my kids, 'You don't even know what this dog's been through. You want 20 pounds for the shops?' He didn't even have a shop to go to when he was your age."

## WEEKEND: BOOKS

# A tall tale, but it's true

## 'Lincoln Conspiracy' recounts plot to kill president-elect en route to inauguration

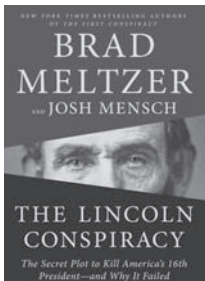
By JOE HEM

The Washington Post

**S**o entrenched and revered is Abraham Lincoln in America's national myth that it is almost impossible to imagine what the country would look like without his presidency. There's the real possibility it wouldn't exist at all — at least not as the still functioning, if admittedly strained and battered, United States. It is startling to read, then, how close the nation came to losing its most consequential and important president before he was even sworn in.

In "The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President — and Why It Failed," Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch provide a remarkable and often riveting account of an alleged plot to kill Lincoln in Baltimore on the way to his inauguration in Washington in February 1861. Historians still disagree on the details of the plan, including how many conspirators were involved and how great a threat it presented to the president-elect. But as the authors recount in the book's opening scene, the threat was taken seriously enough that Lincoln was disguised as the "invalid" brother of a young woman and sneaked into Washington early on an overnight train to thwart the anticipated attempt on his life.

The young woman accompanying Lincoln, it turns out, was Kate Warne, an undercover



agent working for Allen Pinkerton, whose nascent detective agency had been charged with ferreting out the threat against Lincoln and delivering him safely to Washington. The description of the subterfuge required to smuggle him to the nation's capital can seem almost unfathomable to Americans who uphold the peaceful exchange of power as one of the country's greatest political achievements.

"When he first entered the passenger car and she guided him to his seat, he pulled the brim of his low felt hat down over his face so that no one could see it," the authors write about Lincoln as he boarded the train in Philadelphia. "Now, he lies behind a curtain in one of the sleeper berths, hidden from view. Because of his unusual height, he cannot stretch out his legs, so he keeps them



MICHELLE WATSON/Catchlight Group

In "The Lincoln Conspiracy," co-author Brad Meltzer tells of another time when the country was divided.

bent ... The engineer, conductor, staff, and other passengers have no idea he's aboard. But there he is — hiding in their midst."

How did it reach the point that Lincoln was so desponded that his life was in jeopardy even before he took office? Why had such antipathy toward him built up in Baltimore? And who were the men who meant to kill him?

In their briskly paced telling — each of the book's 81 chapters is just a few pages long — the authors provide a robust historical framework and explain how a figure named Cyprino Ferrandini, a barber to Baltimore's elite and a staunch supporter of the slaveholding South, would come to be seen as the lead organizer of this murderous plot. While Lincoln is waving to whistle-stop well-wishers in the North, Pinkerton and his detectives operate undercover in proslavery Baltimore and join secret Confederate societies to learn more about the threat.

Meltzer, a bestselling thriller author, and Mensch, a documentarist and producer, have been

down the conspiracy path of American history before. Their 2019 bestseller, "The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington," recounted the 1776 attempt by the Tory-supporting New York governor and New York City mayor to enlist Washington's bodyguards in an effort to take him down.

While their Washington book explored the divisions in colonial America between loyalists to the crown and revolutionaries, the focus of the Lincoln book is how deeply driven the nation is by the slavery question.

Despite the attempts of some revisionist historians to play down slavery as the root cause of the Civil War, what Southern states feared most about Lincoln's election was that he would push for an end to the institution. Just three days after his victory, the South Carolina legislature convened to vote on a measure titled "Resolution to Call the Election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. President a Hostile Act."

Meltzer and Mensch remind readers that in much of the

South, Lincoln was so unpopular that ballots were not distributed for him. As a result, in the election of 1860 not a single vote was cast for Lincoln in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. On Dec. 20, six weeks after Lincoln's victory, South Carolina would secede from the United States, citing in part "an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding states to the Institution of Slavery."

That is the cauldron in which Lincoln's election took place.

After his victory, letters arrived threatening him with hanging, flogging, burning, decapitation.

The hate-filled enemies of Lincoln would exact their revenge when another Baltimorean, John Wilkes Booth, shot him on April 14, 1865; he died early the next day. But by then Lincoln had succeeded in bringing an end to slavery and saving the nation. It can still bring a shudder to think what might have resulted if the first assassination plot had taken him before his work began.

## Historical battle between word, image recapped in 'Poster'

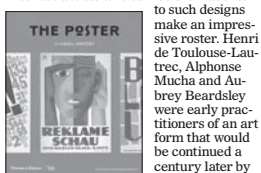
By REAGAN UPSHAW

Special to The Washington Post

**W**ho takes the eye takes all," said Mary Lownds of the Artists' Suffrage League in the early 1900s, neatly summarizing the need for striking graphics on the banners that suffragists were making for their marches. Lownds' statement could serve as the motto for all those who attempt to persuade by visual means, be they propagandists for political parties or advertisers selling soap. "The Poster," edited by Gill Saunders and Margaret Timmers of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, is a beautiful and entertaining account of the history of the medium, illustrated with examples drawn from the museum's extensive collection.

While handbill-sized fliers affixed to surfaces had long been in existence, it was the development of the large-scale color lithographic technique, with images composed of several pieces that could

be pasted together into one picture, that made possible the explosion of graphic media campaigns in the 19th century. The first-rate artists who turned their talents



Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg. The history of posters has been a continuing battle between word and image and between simplicity and complexity. How detailed should a visual image be? How much of the space should be allotted to picture and how much to lettering? "Maximum meaning, Minimum means," was the byword of influential

20th-century designer Abram Games. On the other hand, "The Poster" tells us that during San Francisco's psychedelic era, designers often "deliberately ignored traditional rules of poster design — that lettering should be legible, the message communicated immediately and disturbing colors avoided." Those of us, stoned or not, who tried to decipher one of Victor Moscoso's trippy rock concert posters would agree with the assessment.

The essays in "The Poster" detail the change in images, methods and public response over the years, sometimes looking back at "humorous" imagery that would now seem problematic, as in a poster showing a suffragist abandoning her hunger strike to sample a bowl of delicious Plasmon Oats.

By the "Mad Men" era, poster advertising had shifted from original artwork to a reliance on photography. The commercial artist had been replaced by the graphic designer working with a creative team within an ad agency.

While money spent on poster adver-

tising dropped drastically as television advertising became ascendant, some poster campaigns still broke through. The shock value of the United Colors of Benetton campaigns during the 1980s and '90s, with images of a priest and nun kissing or a man dying of AIDS, drew plenty of attention to the brand.

A chapter titled "The Poster in the Digital Age" is a fascinating look at the current scene, as posters composed of paper or vinyl are being replaced by digital billboards, with images that are visible for a few seconds before the next image appears. Yet the fleeting image is not the only survivor of the poster today. Social media platforms have added a new, smaller dimension. Homemade posters, photographed at rallies, go viral, being shared, adapted and answered as they spread across Facebook and Twitter. In the end, what compels us to take note of such a poster — a witty slogan, or a harmonious blend of line and color.

Nineteenth-century poster artists would recognize the question as a familiar one.

## WEEKEND: BOOKS

## ‘Sandblast’ crafts engaging special ops mission

By ROBERT H. REID  
Stars and Stripes

In the new military thriller “Sandblast,” the secretary of defense is assassinated when terrorist bombers blow his plane out of the skies. The attack is claimed by a charismatic Taliban leader in Afghanistan known only as Ibn Jihad.

With the SecDef, his wife and much of his staff dead, the White House is in full panic mode, eager for revenge and terrified that Ibn Jihad is planning an even bigger terrorist attack on the scale of 9/11.

Veteran broadcast journalist Al Pessin, whose nearly four-decade career took him from conflict zones in Iraq and Afghanistan to the Pentagon and the White House, has crafted a page-turner about the world of spooks, special ops and jihad.

His characters, ranging from D.C. bureaucrats to Afghan dirt farmers, are believable, even to readers who have brushed shoulders with such people in the flesh.

In wake of the SecDef’s murder and with jihadi chatter pointing to a new attack, the Defense Intelligence Agency dusts off a once-rejected plan — Operation Sandblast



— and convince the Taliban that he is a simple Afghan village youth named Hamed who is willing to serve as a terrorist while remaining focused on his high-risk mission.

The basic plot line might seem as far-fetched as “Ho-

— to infiltrate the Taliban and stop Ibn Jihad by any means necessary.

A young Pentagon covert operations officer, Bridget Davenport, finds an Afghan-American Army lieutenant, Faraz Abdallah, to attempt the mission. The only child of Afghan immigrant parents, Lt. Abdallah is fluent in the Pashto language and possesses the physical and mental skills necessary for such a high-risk assignment.

Abdallah must shed his California upbringing — the Army even tells his parents he was killed in a training accident in the Pashto language and possesses the physical and mental skills necessary for such a high-risk assignment.

gan’s Heroes,” but Pessin makes it real through attention to detail and skillful storytelling.

His narrative slides effortlessly from the bureaucratic battles faced by Davenport to keep the mission alive and fend off skeptics in rival agencies to the emotional toll on Lt. Abdallah as he befriends men he may later have to kill. As Hamed the village youth, he must carry out orders that weigh heavily on the conscience of his alter ego.

Pessin is at his best when he describes the complex relationship between Lt. Abdallah and his Taliban comrades, including his boss, Commander al-Souri, a Syrian jihadi who has fought in Afghanistan for decades.

“He knew al-Souri was a terrorist, a ruthless murderer of foreigners and Afghans alike, a man who would stop at nothing, including making him into a suicide bomber, in pursuit of his apocalyptic vision. At the same time, Faraz had to acknowledge that al-Souri was a soldier/scholar — the kind of wise, committed leader of the U.S. military tried to build in its ranks,” Pessin writes.

As the story reaches its climax, Pessin builds the suspense to an ending which — like the Afghan War itself — is on one level a success, but on another, incomplete. That’s a good jumping-off point for a sequel.



### The Vanishing Half

Brit Bennett

A new novel explores the construct of race in the diverging lives of light-skinned black twins, one of whom transitions into a life as a white woman.

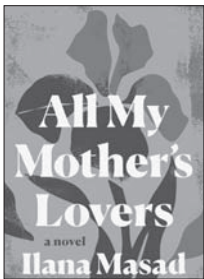
The older, wider twin, Desiree, has little patience for their townspeople’s obsession with lightness. “Her father had been so light that, on a cold morning, she could turn his arm over to see the blue of his veins. But none of that mattered when the white men came for him, so how could she care about lightness after that?”

Even as Stella, the twin who transitions after leaving their hometown, sheds some of the burdens of being seen as black, she gets in its place the psychological toll of passing as white, of lying to those closest to her.

“At first, passing seemed so simple, she couldn’t understand why her parents hadn’t done it,” Bennett writes. “But she was young then. She hadn’t realized how long it takes to become someone else, or how lonely it can be living in a world not meant for you.

Issues of privilege, inter-generational trauma, the randomness and unfairness of it all, are teased apart in all their complexity, within a story that also touches on universal themes of love, identity and belonging.

— Rasha Madkour/AP



### All My Mother's Lovers

Ilana Masad

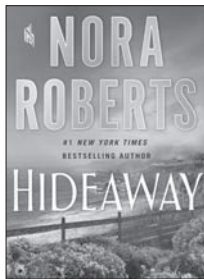
“All My Mother’s Lovers” is a story of queerness, love and family like you’ve never seen it before. After the unexpected death of her mother, Iris, 27-year-old Maggie discovers five letters tucked into Iris’ will. The letters are addressed to five men that Maggie has never once heard Iris mention.

Desperate to find out who these men could possibly be, Maggie leaves behind her grieving father and brother (as well as her new girlfriend with whom she is falling madly in love) and embarks on a quest to hand deliver each letter.

Along her journey, Maggie learns she knew far less about both her mother and her father than she ever thought possible. Maggie’s relationship with Iris had always been strained, in part due to Iris’ inability to accept Maggie’s sexuality. The men Maggie meets challenge her to see Iris not only as her flawed mother, but also as a human being filled with her own complex emotions and desires.

“All My Mother’s Lovers” is a wholly unique exploration of identity, sexuality and the all-consuming power of love. Masad is a masterful storyteller who offers complex, dynamic characters that continue to surprise us until the very end.

— Molly Sprayregen/AP



### Hideaway

Nora Roberts

Roberts’ latest thriller pulls you in from the first page, and keeps you curled up with it during any moment of free time you have until the very last page.

Drama was in Caitlyn Sullivan’s veins. She was born into the legendary Sullivan family, which churned out generation after generation of stars.

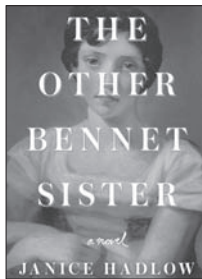
During a family gathering at her grandfather’s sprawling home in California’s Big Sur, Caitlyn played a game of hide and seek that was supposed to be forgetful, but wound up changing her life. The perfect hiding place was actually a trap.

Caitlyn’s kidnapping is a riveting and suspenseful ordeal. But its aftermath and the long-term hold it has on her life impacts everything: what family means to her and her relationship with her loved ones, where she lives, her career, who she loves.

Reading “Hideaway” is like a mini vacation, as Roberts transports you from the sun-drenched mountains of Big Sur to the rolling hills of Ireland to the bustling streets of New York City.

The romance-suspense hybrid, one of Roberts’ specialties, will make you think hard about the small and big moments that make a person’s life zig or zag. And how some things are just meant to be.

— Sophia Rosenbaum/AP



### The Other Bennet Sister

Janice Hadlow

Jane Austen was most ungenerous to Mary Bennet. The middle of five sisters Austen created for “Pride and Prejudice” was confined to tedious speeches from Fordyce’s Sermons and mortifying piano solos.

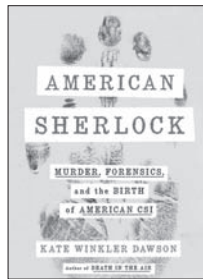
In “The Other Bennet Sister,” Hadlow gives Mary a starring role, a spirited character and a story sure to please a market hungry for all things Austen.

Hadlow’s debut novel opens much like the original. She follows Austen’s story at a respectful distance until the happy ending, then strikes out on her own. A life at Longbourn takes a turn that sends Mary shifting among family households like other unmarried women of the era. Rescue comes with her Aunt Gardiner in London.

There, she begins to blossom, then meets the earnest Tom Hayward and the insouciant Will Ryder, young men who seem eager for her attention. But are they really?

Austen fans have long been happy to reap the benefits of such misunderstandings, and Hadlow proves adept at delivering plot twists and social commentary. The echoes of beloved passages gives the reader the pleasure of rereading an old favorite along with the discovery of a new one.

— Maureen McCarthy  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



### American Sherlock

Kate Winkler Dawson

Dawson’s latest nonfiction page-turner is really two books, one of which is great. Dawson — whose riveting “Death in the Air” tracked a deadly fog that cloaked London in 1952 — looks at Edward Oscar Heinrich, the Californian who pioneered crime investigation techniques that police still use today.

Blood spatter patterns, fingerprinting, stomach content analysis, specifics of decomposition — Heinrich seems to have been at the forefront of all of it, which Dawson demonstrates in case studies that focus on his splashier work, including failed efforts to nail comic actor Fatty Arbuckle for the death of a starlet. (The journalism professor gets credit for acknowledging the times Heinrich fell short.)

Less successful are the biographical details Dawson uses in an attempt to explain why Heinrich was driven to bring criminals to justice. As too many stories pile up about, for instance, Heinrich’s spendthrift son, one can almost hear Dawson’s students at the University of Texas parroting her advice: Edit, edit, edit.

— Chris Hewitt  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Saint Frances”: Embarrassed and frustrated with her job as a server, Bridget (Kelly O’Sullivan), a 34-year-old woman, lands a nanny position to 6-year-old Frances, despite lacking experience and a general interest in kids. Meanwhile, after hooking up with a sweet, some-what hapless 26-year-old man, Jace (Max Lipitz), Bridget gets pregnant and has an abortion. After being exposed mostly to peers who look down on her, well-meaning parents who don’t understand her and men she finds ambivalent toward, Bridget finds a community with Frances and Frances’ moms and through them, with herself.

Also available on DVD: “2 Minutes of Fame”: After going viral, an aspiring stand-up heads to Los Angeles to make it big. Jay Pharoah, Kurt Williams, Andy Allo, Keke Palmer and Valery M. Ortiz star.

“Bad Therapy”: A therapist (Michaela Watkins) wreaks havoc on a couple’s (Alicia Silverstone and Rob Corddry) relationship.

“The Kruasan Smile”: An elderly Scotsman stuck in his ways (Brian Cox) heads to San Francisco to seek medical treatment and a relationship with his estranged son. In English and Scottish Gaelic.

“Impractical Jokers: The Movie”: Based on the truTV reality comedy series, The Tenderloins (Brian Quinn, James Murray, Sal Vulcano and Joe Gatto) participate in hidden camera challenges for a shot at redemption.

“Kill Mode”: An ex-freedom fighter (Dave Mantel) returns after uncovering a scandal regarding the world’s biggest company.

“LEGO DC Shazam: Magic and Monsters”: In this computer-animated film, Shazam (voiced by Sean Astin) must save the Justice League from the evil Monster Society.

“The Marshes”: A team of biologists (Dafna Kronental, Sarah Armanious, Matthew Cooper) discover a sinister presence while doing field work.

“Project Blue Book Season 2”: The History network’s sci-fi series follows Dr. J. Allen Hynek (Aidan Gillen) and Air Force Capt. Michael Quinn (Michael Malarkey) as they travel around the United States in search of the truth behind possible UFO sightings.

“The Quarry”: A fugitive takes over a small-town preacher’s identity after killing him. Stars Shea Whigham, Michael Shannon and Catalina Sandino Moreno.

“Sniper: Assassin’s End”: Father-son sniper team Thomas and Brandon Beckett (Tom Berenger and Chad Michael Collins) face threats from Russian mercenaries, a yakuza-trained assassin and the CIA.

“A Soldier’s Revenge”: A bounty hunter (Neal Bledsoe) searches for a missing mother (AnnaLynne McCord) while looking to destroy a Civil War major (Rob Mayes).

— Katie Foran-McHale/TNS

# Evolution of leadership

## In ‘Strange New Worlds,’ Capt. Pike models humility as head of Enterprise

By TED ANTHONY  
Associated Press

In the beginning, in the Star Trek universe, there was only Captain Kirk. At least to the general public. When the Starship Enterprise first whooshed across American television screens on Sept. 8, 1966, William Shatner’s James T. Kirk was the smart leader sitting in the captain’s chair. He was stouthearted, eloquent, curious, fair: Kennedy-like, even. He was a principled explorer committed to spreading New Frontier values to the 23rd-century stars.

And yet Kirk could also be something of an interstellar Don Draper — brooding, arrogant, a top-down manager who earned his privilege but also often presumed it. Despite being progressive for his era, he could be condescending to anyone but his top right-hand men — and sometimes creepily appreciative of the women he encountered.

But Kirk had actually been preceded as captain of the Enterprise by Christopher Pike — a stoic, vague figure played by Jeffrey Hunter in a rejected 1964 Trek pilot, who made only a fleeting appearance in the original series, mainly so the pilot footage could be recycled. The character reappeared in two recent movie reboots, portrayed ably by Bruce Greenwood, but was never a foundational fixture of Star Trek lore.

Until now. Trek aficionados were thrilled last month to learn that Pike (now played by Anson Mount), his first officer “Number One” (Rebecca Romijn) and the still-evolving, pre-Kirk version of Spock (Ethan Peck), would be following up their seasonal stunts on “Star Trek: Discovery” with a brand-new show on CBS-All Access. Called “Star Trek: Strange New Worlds,” it is set in the decade before Kirk takes command. And as played today by Mount,

Captain Pike — now framed through a creative lens that has captured 54 years of captaining by Kirks, Picards, Siskos, Janeways and Archers — may be the finest, most intuitive leader that the Star Trek universe has ever produced.

“Both within the show’s world and our own, Captain Pike is a breath of fresh air,” Jessie Earl, whose Trek-focused “Jessie Gender” YouTube videos explore social and political issues, said in an episode about Pike last year.

“Pike’s lack of ego makes him a perfect model of leadership worth aspiring to,” Earl said. “Pike represents what Star Trek has always been about: showing us what we could be if we strove to actively pursue and cultivate the best parts of ourselves.”

It’s not accidental that Pike is the son of a father who taught science AND comparative religion — an embodiment of the empiricist-faith equation that Star Trek and its captains have always espoused. In many ways, in fact — even more so than Chris Pine in the movie reboots — Pike functions as James T. Kirk 2.0.

Both are utterly principled and committed to their missions. But where Kirk could be arrogant, Pike is steadfast. Where Kirk was expansive and welcomed attention, Pike is wary of it — but seamlessly claims center stage when needed.

Most of all, where Kirk was deeply committed to his responsibility to ship and crew — crippled by it, even — Mount’s Pike adds the view of himself as a humble servant-leader who derives his sense of command not only from the success of his mission but directly from the successes of his crew.

This is very much in line with how the captains, who came after Kirk,

evolved the notion of command in Star Trek through changing times.

And while television storytelling has come many light years since the original series’ era, to hear the producers and actors tell it, “Star Trek New Worlds” will strive for the sensibility of the original — a spirit of exploration and optimism, and even non-rationalized, single-episode arcs.

“We’re going to get to work on a classic Star Trek show that deals with optimism and the future,” Mount said from quarantine last month in a YouTube video revealing the show.

They’ll also be exploring the rich history of the original Enterprise itself, a ship so storied that a mail-in campaign by fans in the mid-1970s led NASA to rename the first space shuttle after it. Lovingly reconceived to appear in the second season of “Discovery,” it is sleek and moody and rich with the colors and layout that made it so compelling in the 1960s — updated for today’s HD audiences but holding onto the soul of its low-budget predecessor.

And smack in the middle, in a chair familiar to generations of fans, will sit Christopher Pike, charged with embodying everything in a half-century of Trek that made captains effective and memorable.

James T. Kirk was a master class in leadership for the 1960s, just as Jean-Luc Picard was a thoughtful, more introspective model for the carpeted, richly paneled bridge of the late-1980s Enterprise-D.

But yanking a thinly developed character from the beginning of Star Trek lore and offering him up as a model of leadership for the 2020s — well, that’s not an easy task. “Star Trek: Strange New Worlds,” expected in 2021, will be doing that every week.

In first developing the character that would evolve into Captain Pike, Trek creator Gene Roddenberry described him this way: “He is a complex personality with a sensitivity and warmth which the responsibilities of command often forces him to hide.”

That was 1964. Today, for this latest captain of the Enterprise, sensitivity and warmth are no longer hidden. They’re right there front and center, along with all the complexity. And Star Trek — which even in its darkest hours is about building a brighter future — is better off for it.

Anson Mount plays Capt. Christopher Pike, a once-obscure character in the Star Trek universe who is getting a deeper examination in the upcoming series “Strange New Worlds.”

INVISION/AP



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## The teachable moment

How to talk to children about race amid unrest

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

As an African American parent, Cassandre Dunbar in Charlotte, N.C., always knew she and her husband would have “the talk” with their son, the one preparing him for interactions with law enforcement.

But she never dreamed it would be necessary at 5 years old.

“I thought the cops were supposed to help us? Are they only helpful to white people?” he asked after taking in TV coverage of protests and overhearing his parents discuss the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

Dunbar explained to her eldest child: “Some people have a hard time understanding that skin color doesn’t have anything to do with what kind of person you are. I said that, yes, cops are meant to help us all, but some cops aren’t good cops and the bad ones really aren’t helpful to people who look like us.”

Many parents of all races are struggling with similar conversations after a week of outrage and sadness that spilled into streets worldwide after video of Floyd’s death emerged. It came after months of family togetherness in coronavirus lockdown, a time when kids have been cut off from schools and peers.

To help her kids going forward, Dunbar has been reaching out for guidance from child therapists, early childhood educators and seasoned parents.

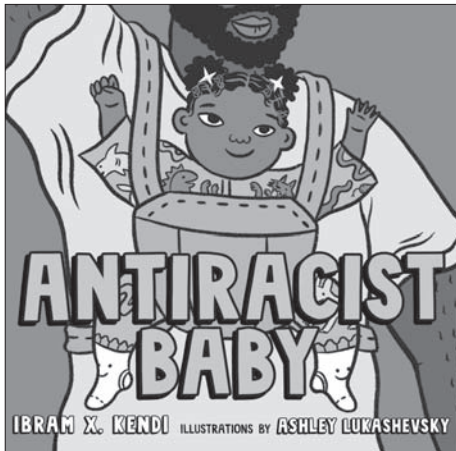
How conversations with kids about race and racism play out can be intensely personal for parents. Many white parents in particular believe children are too young for such discussions at age 10 or 11, said Andrew Grant-Thornton, co-founder of Embrace Race, a nonprofit that provides resources for parents and educators.

“They think that kids are too naive and fragile and will crumble the moment you even mention the word,” he said. “By not engaging kids explicitly, essentially you’re leaving them to flounder in this tidal wave of communication about race that they are receiving from a very early age, but without you there to deliberately mediate how they make sense of what they get.”

Howard Stevenson, a clinical psychologist in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, works with educators and families to understand the trauma and stress of race-based hate. Insights that he offered online in 2016 have been shared by school districts around the country in the past week with parents.

Both verbal and non-verbal approaches influence what children not only know about race but whether they should speak to it or how they should manage the stress of it,” Stevenson told The Associated Press. “Children want their parents don’t do during racial moments as much as what they already have to teach.”

He said research shows that the



The cover of “Antiracist Baby,” a book by Ibram X. Kendi, teaches children as young as 5 or 6 months about racism.

more parents talk to children about race, the more those children “tend to be less overwhelmed by the politics.”

For African American mom Sonya Horton in Brooklyn, N.Y., that means putting it all on the line for her 11-year-old daughter, Samirah, a budding DJ and anti-bullying activist who attends a predominantly white private school.

The sixth grader belongs to a school club for black and brown students where they feel free to discuss slights from classmates over things like how they wear their hair, certain foods they particularly like and family traditions.

Of her white classmates, Samirah said: “I feel like they know what racism is but not to the full extent of the meaning of it. I feel like they might think making an inappropriate joke could be racist, but racist could be intimidating someone or saying a comment that’s not particularly nice.”

Horton, whose husband is a retired police officer, said they have never “sugar-coated things” for their child.

“I never feel that she’s too young to know or to understand,” Horton said. “We live in a world where it’s out there, and if you’re not open and you’re not talking about it then they may come away with misinformation and miseducation.”

For parents, the first step is checking their own feelings, Stevenson and other experts said. A good second step is listening to the experiences of parents and children of color without judgment, and accept that racism does exist.

In Myrtle Beach, S.C., Traci Sumter wouldn’t allow her black 15-year-old son to participate in protests.

“I’ve read threats and horrible comments online by neighbors, teachers and people I had considered friends,” she said. “I cried when I saw the George Floyd video. I cried again when I watched my son watch it. The look of disappointment on his face let me know that he felt the world had failed him. Again.”

Ibram X. Kendi is a National Book Award winner, activist, history professor and founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University.

He’s also dad to 4-year-old Imani. When his daughter was born, Kendi found few books on race and racism for the very young. He wrote his own, a board book in rhyme out this month from the Penguin Young Readers imprint Kokila Books.

“Titled ‘Antiracist Baby,’ it’s one of a surge of titles on racism making their way up the Amazon bestseller list.

“The data points to the fact that children as young as 5 or 6 months begin recognizing race, and children as young as 2 to 3 years old start recognizing or even believing in racist ideas,” Kendi said. “Typically, parents don’t even know how to begin to have these conversations with these very, very young people, let alone recognizing the importance of having these conversations.”

Through illustrations by Ashley Lukashevsky, Kendi shows that the first step toward making racial equity a reality is opening your eyes to all skin colors.

“Antiracist Baby learns all the colors, not because race is true,” he writes. “If you claim to be color-blind, you deny their right in front of you.”

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Recruiters apply wise lessons to today’s crisis

Riding in a V-22 Osprey over the jungles of Liberia in search of suitable terrain to build treatment camps during the 2014 Ebola epidemic, young Army engineer Major Anthony Barbina had no idea that he was preparing for a job he would years later. All he knew was that his skills as a burgeoning military leader were being tested.

“People were in rough shape, gaunt and haggard, throwing up all the time,” Lieutenant Colonel Barbina, now the Commander for the U.S. Army New England Recruiting Battalion, described the Ebola patients treated in camps that his team built during Operation United Assistance in 2014.

The Ebola Treatment Units were constructed where they were needed most — outside affected villages, in the city of Monrovia, near an abandoned mine. The makeshift facilities had space for beds and a cleaning area for medical personnel to change into protective gear.

“No visitors were allowed. Family members would stand outside the fences trying to catch sight of their loved ones,” Barbina recalled that Ebola differed from the novel coronavirus in that it was more difficult to contract, but far more deadly. “Most loved ones went in and did not come back out.”

After completing his engineering duties and spending 21 days in quarantine, Barbina was asked to write up an After Action Review for the Center for Army Lessons Learned. Barbina wrote his “Top 10 Lessons Learned” and submitted them, believing that his job was done.

“Never in a million years would I have thought that I would go back to that slide,” Barbina told me in a recent interview. I had reached out to ask him how Army recruitment has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. He told me his story in the weeks before the crisis.

Back in early March, Barbina was flying back from a training exercise with a colleague. “We talked about the coronavirus, how it could affect recruiting and our recruiters,” he said. “I decided on that flight, we need to change the way we do business.”

Back at the battalion, Barbina dug deep into his personal archives to review the “Top 10 Lessons Learned” PowerPoint slide he created after his Liberia experience 2014. “1. Leadership Matters — When in charge, take charge. Leaders must be the calm within the storm,” the six-year-old slide read. He channeled the quiet, determined strength of Lieutenant General Darrell Williams who led U.S. Army Africa Command through the Ebola Crisis and is now the 60th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

“I wanted to model my leadership after Lieutenant General Williams,” Barbina said. “He was calm, collected, strong, clear and concise in crisis.”

Although face-to-face recruitment has been used for the past 30 years, on March 16th, Barbina instituted “Operation Patriot Shield,” transitioning all New England Battalion recruiting stations to online-only recruiting and virtual prospecting.

Two days later, the U.S. Army closed all 1,400 recruiting stations across the U.S. The other services followed the Army’s lead, and by March 25, all 20,100 members of the military recruiting force were teleworking. These unprecedented decisions have been effective force protection measures, but this did slow recruiting from March through May.

How will the military attract the 150,000 annual recruits it needs to sustain the all-volunteer force over the months and years to come?

Barbina says social media prospecting is here to stay. His battalion had already begun recruiting through social media, online job platforms, eSports tournaments, and other virtual communities prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Barbina said that recruiters are discovering that participants in online eSports and social communities are excellent military prospects. “They are technically savvy. They are digital natives. They are interested in becoming drone pilots, cyber professionals and engineers.

“They are the Army of the future.”

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](mailto:themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

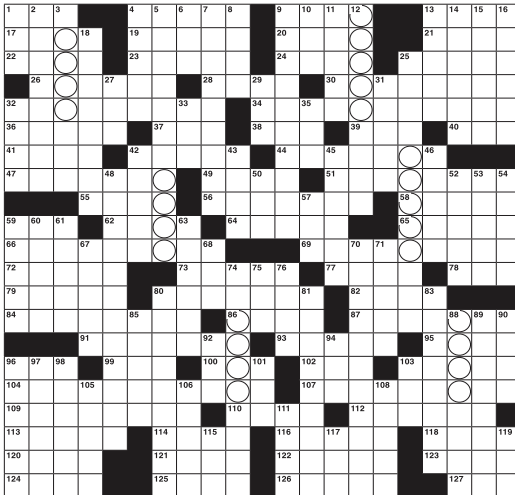
## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

BY LEWIS ROTHLEIN AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Lewis Rothlein is a yoga instructor and onetime journalist in Asheville, N.C. He teaches a popular course on "The Art of Solving Crosswords" for senior citizens at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Jeff Chen is a writer in Seattle. They exchanged over 100 emails, back and forth, just brainstorming this puzzle's theme. Lewis has had five previous puzzles in The Times, all Thursdays. Jeff is a regular contributor here — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 ... and the rest: Abbr.
  - 4 Small bit
  - 9 Chilled
  - 13 Fing \_\_\_\_
  - 17 Takes off
  - 19 Word whose rise in popularity coincided with the spread of the telephone
  - 20 It's shorter on land than at sea
  - 21 Bit of change
  - 22 Traditional Hanukkah gift for kids
  - 23 Computing machine displayed in part at the Smithsonian
  - 24 Beachgoer's item
  - 25 Instrument heard in "Eleanor Rigby"
  - 26 Bits of regalia
  - 28 "Git!"
  - 30 Get hammered
  - 32 Providers of books to remote locations
  - 34 Unlawful activity by a minor
  - 36 Land of the Po (not Poland)
  - 37 Special \_\_\_\_
  - 38 \_\_\_\_-cone
  - 39 Home of the world's smallest country: Abbr.
  - 40 Alias letters
  - 41 Denouncing words
  - 42 Member of the genus Helix
  - 44 Marcel Duchamp, e.g.
  - 47 Genre for the Spice Girls or Backstreet Boys
  - 49 Passion
  - 51 Bug experts, informally
  - 55 Breathtaking sight in the ocean?
  - 56 Back
  - 58 This and others
  - 59 Downed
  - 62 GPS's guesses
  - 64 Montezuma, for one
  - 65 Assign new functions to, as keyboard keys
  - 66 Some natural remedies
  - 69 Cabinet position once held by Herbert Hoover
  - 72 Give one's take
  - 73 Basic knowledge, with "the"
  - 77 Went after, in a way
  - 78 \_\_\_\_ admin
  - 79 Classic brand of candy wafers
  - 80 Magical teen of Archie Comics
  - 82 Give kudos to
  - 84 Pop a wheehee?
  - 86 "I've got that covered": Abbr.
  - 91 Work requiring some intelligence?
  - 93 \_\_\_\_ Bahama (clothing label)
  - 95 DNA carrier
  - 96 Word after "so" or "go"
  - 99 Middle of many similes
  - 100 1%+er in D.C.: Abbr.
  - 102 '60s war zone
  - 103 Not reflective
  - 104 Untimely time
  - 107 Great depth
  - 109 Myth propagated to promote social harmony, in Plato's "Republic"
  - 110 Faux cough
  - 112 "Aw, hell!"
  - 113 Shady outdoor area
  - 114 Collection of stock
  - 116 4x100, e.g.
  - 118 Sole
  - 120 Put down
  - 121 Opposite of one adverse
  - 122 Selfie taker's concern
  - 123 Liberal arts college in Portland, Ore.
  - 124 Just makes, with "out"
  - 125 Recipe amts.
  - 126 Serious-minded
  - 127 Cavity filler's deg.
- DOWN**
- 1 Mayonnaise ingredient
  - 2 Directly opposed
  - 3 Like a virgin
  - 4 Cut
  - 5 Good thing to have after work
  - 6 QB Manning
  - 7 Number of concern to a teacher
  - 8 Former New York City mayor with the autobiography "Mayor"
  - 9 Tow truck's destination
  - 10 Org. in "Argo"
  - 11 Jet set
  - 12 Precisely describe
  - 13 It's made up of lines
  - 14 State capital in Lewis and Clark County
  - 15 Crack
  - 16 2017 hit movie about an Olympic skater
  - 18 Songbird with dark, iridescent plumage
  - 19 What A.P. exams grant incoming freshmen
  - 20 Unit of hope
  - 21 IHOP beverages
  - 31 Supply
  - 32 Make, as money
  - 33 Water-safety org.
  - 35 U.S. broadcasting service
  - 42 Conductor Georg
  - 43 Long river of Siberia
  - 45 Places for hustlers?
  - 46 "Rent me" sign
  - 48 What marriage merely is, to some
  - 68 Bawl
  - 70 Sports Illustrated named him
  - 71 Villain
  - 74 Places for strollers
  - 75 German article
  - 76 Something a crab might be found in
  - 80 Coverage in Africa?
  - 81 Penance
  - 83 Shin guards of old
  - 85 Disinfectant brand
  - 88 Held up
  - 89 Like most haikus
  - 90 Source of zest
  - 92 Fighting Tigers' sch.
  - 94 Evil: Fr.
  - 96 Pilot's opposite
  - 97 Heavy winter wear
  - 98 Margot who played the titular role in 16-Down
  - 101 Utmost degree
  - 103 Stage \_\_\_\_
  - 105 Moves like an elephant
  - 108 Howled like (with)
  - 111 Museum sections, perhaps
  - 115 Criticize in no uncertain terms
  - 117 JFK alternative
  - 119 Amts. "gained" or "lost"



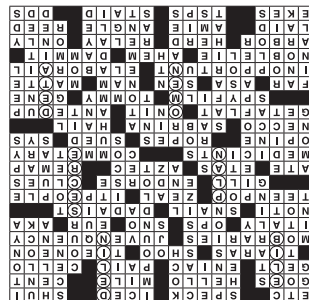
- 50 Cutting tool
- 52 Catacombs, by another name
- 53 1960s counterculture figure
- 54 Play awards
- 57 Remote-control button
- 59 A part of
- 60 Plains structure
- 61 Order from above
- 63 Low-hanging clouds
- 67 Atahualpa's subjects
- 68 Bawl
- 70 Sports Illustrated named him
- 71 Villain
- 74 Places for strollers
- 75 German article
- 76 Something a crab might be found in
- 80 Coverage in Africa?
- 81 Penance
- 83 Shin guards of old
- 85 Disinfectant brand
- 88 Held up
- 89 Like most haikus
- 90 Source of zest
- 92 Fighting Tigers' sch.
- 94 Evil: Fr.
- 96 Pilot's opposite
- 97 Heavy winter wear
- 98 Margot who played the titular role in 16-Down
- 101 Utmost degree
- 103 Stage \_\_\_\_
- 105 Moves like an elephant
- 108 Howled like (with)
- 111 Museum sections, perhaps
- 115 Criticize in no uncertain terms
- 117 JFK alternative
- 119 Amts. "gained" or "lost"

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



**STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN**

The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Over 100 pages of stunning images and stories from the front lines

Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

**ORDER NOW at [www.stripesstore.com](http://www.stripesstore.com)**

## FACES

## Reality TV takes on life after 40

'Labor of Love' breaks dating show mold with older woman, sperm samples

By LISA BONOS

The Washington Post

Reality dating shows often test contestants' strength, bravery or confidence. In a quest for love, they run through obstacle courses, scream through bungee-jumps and get up onstage to tell stories, make jokes or model.

Rarely do these challenges include fertility tests. But "Labor of Love," a new reality show on Fox, isn't your typical dating show. On its premiere episode last month, the show's producer and host Kristin Davis invited the 15 male contestants to climb into a trailer and emerge with a sperm sample, which would be analyzed to determine whether these men could give the leading lady, Kristy Katzmann, one very important thing she's looking for: a baby.

"We thought the men were just going to leave over what was going to happen," Davis says in a phone interview, recalling that first challenge. "We just thought they were going to run away down the driveway."

The men did not, in fact, run away. They submitted their samples, and Alan, a 39-year-old writer from South Africa, was crowned the most fertile.

Katzmann isn't just looking for a sperm donor. She wants it all: a loving husband who wants to have children. She's realistic, too — if she doesn't fall in love on this reality show, she's open to being a platonic co-parent with one of her contestants, or passing over all of them and becoming a single mother.

Unlike other dating shows that often treat one's 30s as nearly too late to fall in love and start a family — and ending up alone at the end of such a journey as a failure — "Labor of Love" is straightforward about the fact that many people are pairing off and having children later in life. At age 41, Katzmann isn't cast as a sad woman, desperate to settle down. She's portrayed as a woman who knows what she wants. And if she doesn't find it at the end of a reality TV show, she'll make it happen on her own.

Katzmann went "The Bachelor" route one before. She was a contestant on Brad Womack's 2007 season, making it to Week



Jace Downs/2020 Fox Media

Kristin Davis, left, hosts "Labor of Love," a Fox reality show starring Kristy Katzmann, a single woman looking to start a family, with or without a partner.

5, when Womack eliminated her, saying she was "mature and composed," and perhaps "too refined" for him. Well, now Katzmann has found a more refined way to look for love on television. Though, yes, the show is still a bit silly and lighthearted.

In Davis, who played Charlotte York Goldblatt on "Sex and the City," Katzmann has a wise guide. Davis, 55, knows what it's like to build a family on your own — she's unmarried and adopted two children. Davis notes that she and her friends would privately discuss the fact that they wanted children and didn't have them yet, but "it seemed like there wasn't necessarily the freedom to talk about it in a larger cultural sense."

"Labor of Love" is an attempt to do that. Davis reveals that, during filming, she would often retreat to the garage where producers could watch the show's raw footage roll in real time, just to get a sense of what the male contestants, ages 36 to 46, were saying about how their lives had gone and what they still wanted to accomplish. "They had a lot of really deep and interesting conversations about the subject of feeling regret that they didn't think of this earlier, that they were so focused on career," Davis says. She added that she was "impressed and illuminated"

to hear how deeply the men yearned to have families, conversations they might not generally have in front of women.

"Some of them would say: 'I feel embarrassed. All my co-workers have all these weekend plans about kids, and what they're going to do, and they invite me along and I'm like the uncle, which is fine for a while. But after a while, I feel sad and embarrassed,'" Davis recalls. "Men are socialized not to talk about their feelings out in the open, I get that. That's our culture in a lot of ways, and I feel for them that they're holding all this in."

Unlike "The Bachelor," which is hyper-focused on getting the lead engaged by the end of the season, Davis says she isn't attached to a specific outcome for Katzmann. "I have no investment in Kristy getting married," Davis says. "I have an investment in Kristy getting happy, being happy, being satisfied with her choices, having a baby, getting the things that she wants. And whatever way that works out for her is whatever way that works out ... You have choices. I'm there to represent that."

Katzmann won't offer spoilers about how the season ends, but she will say that she's happy. "I am as happy as I've ever been," she says, adding that she's continued on the path toward motherhood since the show wrapped last year.

## Black Lives Matter added as Netflix genre

Netflix added a Black Lives Matter section to its genre tab on Wednesday, responding to viewers' interest in titles related to racial injustice, discrimination and systemic racism.

Even though the collection is new, its title tag insists that it's "more than a moment." The streaming giant's main Twitter account has also been posting messages of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

"When we say 'Black Lives Matter,' we also mean 'Black storytelling matters,'" read a Netflix tweet Wednesday morning. "With an understanding that our commitment to true, systemic change will take time, we're starting by highlighting powerful and complex narratives about the Black experience."

A Netflix spokesperson says the company has no plans to remove the Black Lives Matter genre tab.

## Coachella, Stagecoach canceled for 2020

The Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals have been canceled this year due to coronavirus concerns.

Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County, Calif.'s public health officer, penned an order Wednesday canceling the popular festivals outside Palm Springs, Calif. Health officials are concerned about a possible surge in coronavirus cases in the fall.

Coachella, a massive music and arts festival, and Stagecoach, a country music event, are typically held in April but were previously postponed until October.

Now, "given the projected circumstances and potential, I would not be comfortable moving forward," Kaiser said.

## Lady Antebellum changes name to Lady A

Grammy-winning country group Lady Antebellum is changing its name to Lady A, with members saying they are regretful and embarrassed for not taking into consideration the word's associations with slavery.

In a statement Thursday on their social media, the band said that they chose the name after the antebellum-style home where they shot their first band photos, and it reminded them of Southern styles of music.

But they said in recent weeks, their eyes have been opened to "blindspots we didn't even know existed" and "the injustices, inequality and biases black women and men have always faced."

The band said it is deeply sorry for the hurt this has caused and for anyone who felt unsafe, unseen or undervalued.

## Other news

Italian authorities on Thursday unveiled a stolen artwork by British artist Banksy that was painted as a tribute to the victims of the 2015 terror attacks at the Bataclan music hall in Paris. It had been "hidden hand" in the attic, prosecutors said. No arrests have been made.

Compiled from wire reports

## 'Watchmen', 'When They See Us' among Peabody winners

By ASHLEY LEE

Los Angeles Times

HBO's "Watchmen" and Netflix's "When They See Us," two acclaimed TV dramas that tackle racism and police brutality against black people, are among the recipients of the 2020 Peabody Awards.

"This year's winners are a vibrant collective of inspiring, innovative and powerful stories. True to the spirit and legacy of Peabody, our winners are also distinguished by the presence and resilience of many emerging and diverse voices," said Jeffrey P. Jones, executive director of Peabody, in a statement accompanying Wednesday's announcement.

This year's Peabody honorees stand out for the range of important social issues they address — a habitual blind spot for other Hollywood awards bodies. Along with "Watchmen" and "When They See Us" — both of which were shut out of the Golden Globes, for example — the documentary "True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality" and the podcast "In The Dark: The Path Home"

are among the winners that zoom in on systemic racism in policing and the criminal justice system.

"If you watched their story and you felt something, I invite you to consider doing something," said "When They See Us" creator and director Ava DuVernay in her acceptance speech, referring to the five exonerated men portrayed in the series.

"There's no right way," she continued. "Do what you feel where you are, but don't let your anger and sadness after watching the series be all. Cases like this are happening on our watch. People who are poor and innocent are behind bars, while the rich and guilty walk free and gain power. Some even sit in the Oval Office."

"There are so many problems in the world that have been sustained by narratives of fear and anger ... [which] are the essential ingredients of injustice and oppression," said Stevenson in his speech. "To fight against that narrative, we need other narratives. Our filmmakers, our storytellers, our writers

create that."

"The legacy of racial injustice has burdened so many," he continued. "I'm honored that our narrative, our work of trying to respond to that burden, to respond to the presumption of dangers and guilt that continues to plague black and brown people, to respond to the absence of truth-telling of our history, was the subject of this film."

Other winners highlight the persistence of rape culture, the importance of immigrant rights, the urgency of the climate change crisis and authoritarian threats to democracy, among other pressing subjects.

Additionally, PBS' "Frontline" and Fox's "The Simpsons" were named recipients of Institutional Awards, honoring programs that have made a significant impact on media programming and the cultural landscape. Cicely Tyson was named winner of the Peabody Career Achievement Award on Monday. The in-person awards ceremony, originally scheduled for June 18, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Fireworks exploding kills 1, injures another

**PA COOPERSBURG** — Federal and state authorities on Wednesday were trying to determine what caused two tractor-trailers filled with fireworks to explode in eastern Pennsylvania, killing one person and injuring another.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents joined state investigators at the scene in Lower Milford Township to comb through the trailers and a building that were destroyed by the series of blasts Tuesday.

Neighbors reported the blasts shook their homes and black smoke rose from the scene.

The Lehigh County coroner has not released the name of the victim.

## Police probing car dealership break-ins

**MI PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP** — Burglars have targeted another western Michigan car dealership.

The Kent County sheriff's office was investigating a Wednesday morning break-in at a Kia dealership in Plainfield Township after the lobby door was shattered, WOOD-TV reported.

It wasn't immediately clear if anything was stolen.

An Infiniti dealership and a Chevrolet and Toyota dealership were broken into overnight Monday. Both are in Grand Rapids.

At least six dealerships in Plainfield Township, Grand Rapids and Kentwood were broken into over the weekend, according to the television station. One person has been arrested.

## 8 months for smuggler of sea cucumbers

**CA SAN DIEGO** — A Mexican woman who smuggled endangered sea cucumbers into the U.S. was sentenced Tuesday to eight months in prison.

A federal judge in San Diego sentenced Claudia Castillo, 49, of Tijuana, who previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import merchandise contrary to law. She also was ordered to pay \$12,000 in restitution to the Mexican government.

Castillo acknowledged that in 2018 and 2019 she conspired to smuggle or have others smuggle bags containing the sea animals from Mexico to a self-storage unit in San Ysidro, according to the U.S. attorney's office in San Diego. From there, the animals could be transported for sale.

The worm-like sea cucumbers are a delicacy, especially in China. Authorities estimated the smuggled animals had a market value of \$40,000 to \$95,000.

## Ex-VA worker admits role in bioweapons hoax

**NV LAS VEGAS** — A former VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System employee has pleaded guilty to placing envelopes containing a white powdery substance on co-



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

## Field flows with praise for grads

**Tyler Leighton trims grass around a field of signs in a park honoring the graduates of four high schools in the Camden-Rockland region on Tuesday in Rockport, Maine. Schools around the state changed their traditional graduation ceremonies due to the coronavirus pandemic.**

workers' desks almost a year ago, authorities said Tuesday.

Phuong Tang, 40, of Las Vegas, could face a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at sentencing June 23, U.S. Attorney Nicholas Trutanich said.

Court documents say Tang was a podiatry clinic technician at the Department of Veterans Affairs facility in North Las Vegas, where police hazardous materials and counterterrorism teams were summoned on July 12 after two envelopes were found containing a white powdery substance. The powder was later determined to be baking soda and smelling salts, and Tang admitted to investigators that he put the envelopes on the desks.

Prosecutors noted that Tang had been due to meet with supervisors that day about unexplained absences from work, and he had spoken earlier about employees getting a day off if someone left powder-filled envelopes at the clinic.

## Scientists teaming up for juvenile shark study

**RI PROVIDENCE** — Shark researchers from three states are launching a five-year study of juvenile great white sharks off the coast of southern New England and New York's Long Island to better understand their life cycle, according to a published report.

"A better understanding of these younger sharks is critical for their conservation and long-

## THE CENSUS

# \$2M

The amount of money Florida will give to Clifford Williams to compensate him for spending 43 years in prison for a murder authorities now say he didn't commit. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the bill Tuesday. Williams and his nephew, Nathan Myers, were convicted of the 1976 fatal shooting of Jeanette Williams and the attempted murder of Nina Marshall in Jacksonville. Clifford Williams was at first sentenced to death and spent four years on death row before being resentenced to life in prison. No physical evidence linked the men to the crime. Marshall, who has since died, was the only witness and her testimony contradicted evidence gathered by investigators that has since called her credibility into question.

term health." Jon Dodd, executive director of the Atlantic Shark Institute in Wakefield, R.I., said in a statement to The Providence Journal on Tuesday.

Dodd is teaming with Greg Skomal, a shark biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and Craig O'Connell, director of the O'Seas Conservation Foundation in Montauk, N.Y.

## Endangered wolves welcome 7 pups at zoo

**NM ALBUQUERQUE** — Two endangered Mexican gray wolves housed at the Albuquerque zoo are the proud parents of seven pups, officials announced Tuesday.

"The pups recently came out of their den for the first time.

The ABQ BioPark is part of a nationwide captive-breeding network that supports the recovery of the endangered predators in the Southwest. The goal of the program is to make the most genetically diverse matches to improve the health of Mexican wolves.

police and accused Capitano of ramming into her vehicle, but Capitano said Ramsey slammed on her brakes, police said.

## US challenges planned Titanic expedition

**VA NORFOLK** — The U.S. government will try to stop a company's planned salvage mission to retrieve the Titanic's wireless telegraph machine, arguing the expedition would break federal law and a pact with Britain to leave the iconic shipwreck undisturbed.

U.S. attorneys filed a legal challenge before a federal judge in Norfolk late Monday. The expedition is expected to occur by the end of August.

The Atlanta-based salvage firm RMS Titanic Inc. plans to recover the radio equipment from a deck house near the ship's grand staircase. The operation could require a submersible to cut into the rapidly deteriorating roof if the vehicle is unable to slip through a skylight.

U.S. attorneys argue that federal law requires the firm to get authorization from the secretary of commerce before conducting research or salvage expeditions "that would physically alter or disturb the wreck."

The Titanic was traveling from England to New York when it struck an iceberg and sank in 1912. About 1,500 people died when the ship sank about 400 miles off the Canadian province of Newfoundland.

From wire reports

## Police: Ex-mayor charged with ramming car

**LA LOUISIANA** — A former Kenner police spokesman Lt. Michael Cunningham said Capitano's nephew called Capitano and said Ramsey was stealing "disputed community property" from his home.

Ramsey, 39, tried to leave the apartment parking lot but Capitano used his vehicle to block her in and stop her from leaving with the property, Cunningham said.

Ramsey maneuvered around Capitano's car and drove off, Cunningham said. Ramsey called

# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation

944

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

### For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY	UNITED KINGDOM	U.S.A
Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730	+44-(0)1638-515714	+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)		+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	www.tgal.us

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

**Trans Global**  
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)  
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de  
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

### Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

# STARS AND STRIPES Relocation Guide

To advertise in the next Relocation Guide, reach out to Doug Dougherty at [dougherty.doug@stripes.com](mailto:dougherty.doug@stripes.com)



### RELOCATING TO FORT HOOD

## LONGHORN PROPERTIES

www.LONGHORNPROPERTIES.sale  
READY TO BUY? LET US BE YOUR GUIDE!



Nicky Therape  
Sales Manager/Lease Officer  
NMLS SA 466019  
254-912-2020  
[nicky@fairwaym.com](mailto:nicky@fairwaym.com)

- FREE Prequalification
  - SALES
  - RENTALS
  - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- EXPECT THE BEST!



Lennox Alfred  
Broker/Owner  
ABR, TRP, TRES  
254-526-0362  
[Lennox.alfred@longhornproperties.net](mailto:Lennox.alfred@longhornproperties.net)



Do you need help renting or managing your home in Jacksonville FL? If so we can help. Our broker has over 15 years of property management experience. We are located in Jacksonville FL 32225.

We can help you buy and sell homes too!  
Military discount for property management and Tenant placement.

Experienced Property Management of Jax, LLC

**Matt MacDonald**  
Lic. Florida Real Estate Broker

PHONE: 1-904-257-3303  
EMAIL: [mattexpm@gmail.com](mailto:mattexpm@gmail.com)

### Want a better picture?

You'll get one - just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.

In print • Online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) •  
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad  
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

## Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Midwest, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and in a Tablet Edition for iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

Frazz

IS CUTTING THE GRASS FUN?  
FUN? HM. IT'S MORE OF A ZEN THING.

BECAUSE IT'S PEACEFUL?  
BECAUSE IT'S TEMPORARY.

Dilbert

I HAVE A GREAT IDEA. LET'S CREATE A GOOGLE DOCUMENT THAT WE CAN ALL UPDATE.

THAT IS EXACTLY THE IDEA I SUGGESTED TO YOU YESTERDAY.

THAT WAS ONLY TRUE UNTIL I LEARNED TO WEAR A WIRE.

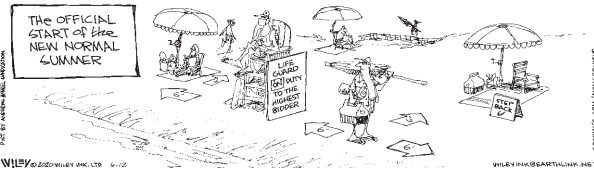
Pearls Before Swine

HI. CAN I HELP YOU?  
RETURNS

YES, I'D LIKE TO RETURN THE YEAR 2020. IT'S REALLY SUCKED.

WE'RE STUCK WITH IT.

Non Sequitur



Candorville

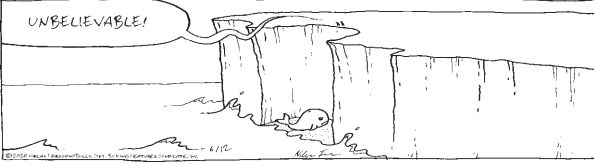
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?  
ARE YOU ON INSTAGRAM?

WHEN YOU'RE SCROLLING THROUGH YOUR FEED, DO YOU EVER SEE ADS FOR NEW INVENTIONS?

AND DO YOU EVER STUPIDLY BUY SOMETHING ON IMPULSE JUST BECAUSE IT SAYS "ONLY TWO LEFT IN STOCK"?

I DO ADVERTISING FOR A LIVING, LEMMON. SO... NO.  
DO YOU EVER USE SOMETHING DUMB YOU IMPULSIBLY BOUGHT JUST SO YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH?

Carpe Diem

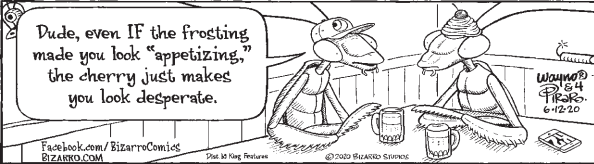


Beetle Bailey

WITH ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AND ONLINE GAMBLING...  
CLICKETY CLACKETY CLICK

I CAN BLOW MY PAYCHECK AS SOON AS IT'S DEPOSITED.

Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
15			16						17				
18							19	20					
26	27	28					29			30			
31						32				33			
34						35				36			
37								39					
								41			42	43	44
45	46	47					48	49					
50								51			52		
53											54		55

ACROSS

- 1 Night flier
- 4 Bake sale orgs.
- 8 Big knife
- 12 Sugary suffix
- 13 New York canal
- 14 Take a gander
- 15 Sowing season
- 17 "I'm a klutz!"
- 18 Area of ancient Palestine
- 19 Droop
- 21 Roman 1051
- 22 —Lorraine
- 26 Tupperware sounds
- 29 Farm female
- 30 Pester
- 31 Greek vowels
- 32 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 33 Facts and figures
- 34 Sportscaster

DOWN

- 1 Pear type
- 2 On the Baltic, say
- 3 Adolescent
- 4 Rose parts
- 5 Singer Lopez
- 6 Goal
- 7 Playground sights
- 8 Online journals
- 9 Tic-tac-toe win
- 10 Prune
- 11 Agrees to
- 16 Muffles
- 20 Pub pint
- 23 Body sci.
- 24 Blanchett of "The Aviator"
- 25 "Zounds!"
- 26 Composer Bartok
- 27 Western tribe
- 28 Hindu royal
- 29 Ambulance letters
- 32 Client
- 33 Station
- 35 Calendar abbr.
- 36 Powerful
- 38 Pondered
- 39 Painter of ballerinas
- 42 Doctrines
- 43 Lily variety
- 44 Office part-timer
- 45 Super Bowl VIP
- 46 "You've got mail" co.
- 47 Numbered rd.
- 49 Nest egg

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-12

CRYPTOQUIP

XRZD ARZ KPYECI POAFZII

BHPJZV P IRWB OPFUE HEPVZF

WD KWHY, W UCZII IRZ XPI

ARZ HPVWU HPVJ.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: RUSTIC WOOD HOUSE THAT PEOPLE CONSIDER A NICE REFUGE FOR WRITING ONLINE DIARIES: A BLOG CABIN.

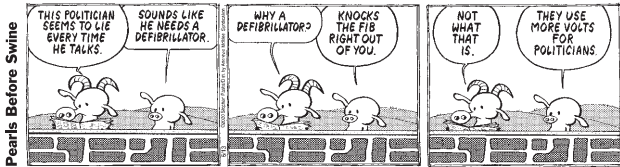
Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals N



Frazz



Dilbert



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			
	38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45			46	47	48	49
50							52	53			
54								55			
56								57			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kama —
  - 6 Egyptian pharaoh
  - 12 Tile art
  - 13 "No need to explain!"
  - 14 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"
  - 15 Lustrous
  - 16 Optimistic
  - 17 Chief exec
  - 19 Tex- cuisine
  - 20 Together, in music
  - 22 Outback bird
  - 24 Chest-beating beast
  - 27 Building wings
  - 29 High-five sound
  - 32 Dave Ramsey or Suze Orman, e.g.
  - 35 Guns the engine
  - 36 Rowboat needs
  - 37 Command to Fido
  - 38 "This — stickup!"
  - 40 Zilch
  - 42 Sit-up targets
  - 44 Bulb measure
  - 46 Trade
  - 50 Rum cocktail
  - 52 Making a choice
  - 54 On a ship
  - 55 Protects
  - 56 Past and present
  - 57 —ski
- DOWN**
- 1 Alone
  - 2 Exploits
  - 3 Country music's Tucker
  - 4 Free (of)
  - 5 Mexican resort
  - 6 Get up
  - 7 Staring
  - 8 Bumped into
  - 9 Inceptive
  - 10 Aachen article
  - 11 Charon's river
  - 12 Store boss (Abb.)
  - 18 Dependent
  - 21 Lion's home
  - 23 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 24 Egypt's cont.
  - 25 Thanksgiving dessert
  - 26 Imagine
  - 28 Revolutionary War battle
  - 30 "Entourage" role
  - 31 Place
  - 33 Donkey
  - 34 Leary's drug
  - 39 Cognizant
  - 41 "Is Born"
  - 42 Latin 101 word
  - 43 Innocent one
  - 45 Helps
  - 47 Current carrier
  - 48 &&&
  - 49 Film ratings
  - 51 Prof's helpers
  - 53 Young dog

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-13

CRYPTOQUIP

JMSG TLNUO VG IH TSUHO  
 JMHC QHBOHCGB LD  
 ZSQVB LQ FSQBHVUHB  
 IHTLFH TULBH TMNFB?  
 DQHCTM-BMVZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE FAMOUS ACTRESS PLAYED A SHIP CARGO LOADER IN FILM, I GUESS SHE WAS THE LADING LADY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

# STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffmann, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations  
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

## EDITORIAL

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

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Eli Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.eli@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

**Washington**  
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com  
(411)202.886-0031  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CONTRIBUTOR

**Mideast**  
Robert Reismann, Mideast/Cross-Country Manager  
reismann.robert.naf@gmail.com  
xscussion@stripes.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

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

**Pacific**  
Mari Mori, Customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3711; 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

## OMBSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96302-0502. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96302-0502.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations which overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2020

stripes.com

# OPINION

## Amateur epidemiology hurts COVID-19 fight

By Tom Frieden  
The Washington Post

Although it's wonderful to see widespread interest in epidemiological principles that just a few months ago were obscure, it's alarming to see the exponential rise of not only the new coronavirus but also of clueless opinions about how to track and halt the spread of disease. This endangers our efforts to get the epidemic under control while we reopen our economy. Here are six of the most egregious amateur epidemiology errors and five places we should focus our attention instead.

■ **Cases.** Obsession with case counts is misleading; we estimate that only about 10% to 15% of U.S. infections are diagnosed. Attempts to estimate the size of this small fraction of cases without considering the distribution of cases within a community, who get tested and how intensively testing is done is pointless.

■ **Tests.** Tracking the number of tests done also provides little useful information. It's more useful to track the percent of tests that are positive. More useful still to monitor trends in test numbers and positivity rates. But most important is whether testing is done the right way: soon after patients feel sick; intensively in nursing homes and other congregate facilities; and followed by prompt isolation, contact tracing and quarantine.

■ **Models.** The many published models of how COVID-19 might progress are based on varied assumptions and can change radically. Models can goad leaders into action and steer specific responses, but the appropriate use is to change the future course of how many people will die. It's not predictive.

■ **Reproductive number.** The basic re-

productive rate is a deceptively simple concept — how many people each case infects — and it can suggest whether control measures are working. But it is a rough estimate, based on untestable assumptions, and lags by at least a week; it is of limited utility for day-to-day monitoring or action.

■ **Shifts in recommendations.** When experts change their advice, they draw criticism. Although some changes reflect errors, many are responses to new, better information. Wearing masks is an example. As evidence of asymptomatic spread emerged, it became clear that infections can be reduced if people wear masks when they are within six feet of one another, particularly indoors. The changed recommendation was progress, not correction of a mistake.

A number of staff doing contact tracing. Tracing the contact of infected people is crucial to stopping spread; focus on the number of contact tracers needed has become a distraction. I accept some blame for this: To indicate the scale of effort needed, I noted that for the United States to have, proportionally, the same tracing force as Wuhan, we'd need up to 400,000. But far more than the number of staff, it's the quality of the program that matters.

Here are five of the most important things we do need to track closely to understand the pandemic and improve our control measures:

■ **Number of unlinked infections.** These are rarely reported in the United States; countries with effective programs track them closely. Tracking the number of infections without an identified source case or event reveals the effectiveness of the contact tracing process. Areas with unlinked infections can continue to improve contact tracing and physical distancing.

■ **Speed of isolating infected people.** Testing the right people, getting results fast and finding and isolating patients immediately helps spread.

■ **Proportion of cases arising among quarantined contacts.** This is the fundamental outcome indicator of a contact tracing program. If all new cases arise from among known, quarantined contacts, spread of disease stops.

■ **Number of health care worker infections.** In the United States, more than 72,000 health care workers have been infected and 400 have died. We must track and reduce this number to improve care of COVID-19 and other health problems and to protect the people willing to risk their own health for the health of others.

■ **Trend in excess mortality.** Information on total deaths, compared weekly with historical trends and analyzed by age, race and ethnicity, gives essential information on what's happened with both coronavirus (including undetected cases) and non-coronavirus health problems and helps target interventions.

The art and science of field epidemiology identifies where and how the virus is spreading and how to stop it. Overburdened public health staff have been distracted by having to generate numbers that have little meaning and less utility. If public health is allowed to focus on doing the hard, meticulous work of field epidemiology and tracking meaningful indicators such as the five above, we will better understand and stop the virus. That will save lives and will restore livelihoods faster.

Tom Frieden was director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2009 to 2017. He is president and chief executive of Resolve to Save Lives, part of the Public Health organization that's coordinating federal efforts to global health at the Council on Foreign Relations.

## Trump may be down, but he's not out. At least not yet.

By Henry Olsen  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's poll numbers are down and drooping, leading many pundits to speculate that he's finally out. He's not. But he soon will be if he doesn't change course.

The decline is real and sharp. Trump's job approval rating on the RealClearPolitics average has dropped from a high-water mark of 47.4% in April 1 to mere 42.2% as of Wednesday morning. His standing in head-to-head matchups against presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden has also decayed. He was only 4.4 percentage points behind Biden in early May; now he trails by 8.1 percentage points. If these numbers hold until Election Day, Trump and the Republicans will get clobbered.

Conventional analysis would say that Trump's goose is probably cooked. Presidents who polled this poorly less than five months before Election Day have always lost. The continuing furor over George Floyd's killing, the ongoing fight about the economy, and the rising tide of discontent despite the comparatively fabulous May jobs report. Biden remains off the stump, preventing him from committing the unforced errors for which the former vice president is famous. The lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic is also making Trump's odds look dim. Put all of the factors together, and Biden looks like a shoo-in.

That, however, would be too hasty. Trump's polling has displayed a strong pattern of decline and jump ever since he became the de facto Republican nominee in May. He's often or says something objectionable, his numbers drop, and then

they bounce right back close to where they were before the event. That happened three times during the 2016 race, most notably after the release of the "Access Hollywood" tape that many thought ruined his candidacy. It's also happened four notable times since January 2018: when he floated pardoning his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort; during the government shutdown; during the summer months of 2019 as he took on "the Squad"; and then later in the fall as impeachment became a real possibility. It's happened, and it's bounced back as strong or stronger than he had previously been.

This pattern indicates that a small but crucial part of his coalition wavers when controversy hits. Presumably these people are reluctant Trump voters who generally like GOP policies but have strong misgivings about Trump. When his character flaws become the news, they shy away from him. When those flaws aren't as present on a daily basis, they come right back.

The one exception to this rule actually proves the point. Trump's job approval ratings were in a continuous slide throughout 2017. This was the period with Trump's flaws and aggressive and obnoxious tweets were on full display. It was time of the failed Obamacare repeal, Trump's tweets against Republican congressional leadership under then-House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. It was the period with Trump's flaws and Mike Brzezinski's alleged feckling, the attacks against Colin Kaepernick and NFL players taking a knee on the field. The year ended with Trump's embrace of Roy Moore, the disgraced Republican nominee for the Senate seat once held by then-Attorney General Eric Sessions. Trump's all-time low job approval rating, 37.0%, on

Dec. 13, 2017, the day after Moore lost in Alabama to Democrat Doug Jones.

Trump caused that near-continuous drop by making his bizarre and offensive behavior the focus of daily political news. Half a day passes by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed by without a Biden, often hyperpersonal, attack or screed coming from the president. Perhaps the most bizarre was his November 2017 tweet attacking three black men who played basketball for UCLA for failing to sufficiently thank him for purportedly arranging their release a day passed

# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors are provided in the text as associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### 'Defund the police' call should instead start wider discussion

**The Washington Post**  
Weeks of sustained anger and grief after the police killing of George Floyd have reignited a public debate over police brutality in the United States. Alongside demands for police reform, another demand has surfaced: Defund the police. This provocative slogan at its most constructive represents a call to reimagine public safety in the United States.

As peaceful, impassioned protests show no signs of receding and polls show high levels of approval for police reform, the moment feels ripe to overhaul police departments and procedures. On Monday, congressional Democrats introduced a police reform bill, and several state and local bills are being considered throughout the country. Advocates and political leaders are right to focus on concrete reforms — especially those that don't require massive spending increases, such as updating standards on the use of force and increasing transparency around police misconduct.

But while pursuing such reforms, we also should take on the more fundamental questions posed by the "defund" movement. Police reformists and defunding advocates agree on plenty, but where the reformers differ is on what they are seeking to improve. Do we want there to be no policing solutions to society's problems? Is this the safest America we could have?

The pandemic is prompting reimagining on many fronts, from education to health care to support for the unemployed. In this context, it makes sense to reconsider our role as police and the kinds of institutions we think would best achieve them. It makes sense to consider changes to ways of doing things that were never optimal but have seemed, until now, so baked-in as to be beyond questioning.

Are we really safer in a world where armed police respond to mental health emergencies, or can we imagine communities in which those struggling with mental illness are met with expert and reliable services? Are we safer when homelessness is met with criminalization, not compassion and housing? Are there ways to fund local governments so that they are less financially dependent on extracting fees from citizens? Asking these fundamental questions — and not being anchored in existing institutions for answers — is what the moment requires.

This conversation, in other words, is not just about budgets. It is true that, as the pandemic-inflicted economic crisis has pulled cuts in state and local spending, onlookers are rightly alarmed at plans to slash social services while sparing police budgets. Outrage over such priorities led the mayors of Los Angeles and New York City to pledge to shift some funding from law enforcement to social services. But it would make sense in many cases to invest in constructive alternatives at the same time or before existing institutions are downsized. The process should be led at the community level, because every community's strengths and needs are different. And a community conversation can expand our ideas of what is possible and what we deserve.

Ultimately, the call to defund the police should be understood as a call to reinvest in communities and explore new solutions. It asks us to draw on our resources and creativity to find ways to address the most problematic and painful parts of our police



STEVE HELDNER/AP

The Moon illuminates the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va. The 60-foot-tall monument has been at the site for 130 years.

ing history. At its core, it is an expression of relentless optimism — in response to the suggestion that things could be a little less bad, it says: We can do so much better.

### Removing Confederate statues returns squares to the public

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**  
Suppose you were strolling through Forest Park and came across a flattering statue of Adolf Hitler. Or Fidel Castro. Or Osama bin Laden. Of course, nations don't generally bestow statuary upon enemies — unless those enemies happen to be Confederate leaders in the Civil War.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's call to remove a statue in the state capital, Richmond, of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee should be only the beginning. These monuments to slavery and treason don't belong in positions of honor in public spaces.

For 130 years, the 60-foot-tall monument, topped with the bronze statue of Lee on horseback, has towered over downtown Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy and now a majority-black city. For modern African American citizens to have to walk in the shadow of the man who led the crusade to preserve slavery is a daily slap in the face — indeed, to any American supportive of racial justice amid recent reminders of how elusive it still is.

Northam's move followed protests that have swept Virginia, as in Missouri and around the nation, over the death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police. Northam's announcement noted the "false version of history" that "pretends the Civil War was about 'state rights' and not the ethics of slavery."

It's not only the history of the Civil War that's too often falsified but also the history of the statues, Confederate flags and other Civil War symbolism. While the 1890 Lee statue is an exception, much of that symbolism around America arose in the early- to mid-20th century, when the war itself was a distant memory — but Jim Crow oppression of black citizens was in full swing. Those symbols were looming reminders to African Americans of where they stood, even generations after emancipation.

St. Louis knows something about this. Three years ago, a 32-foot-tall, 40-ton monument that stood in Jefferson Park since 1914, idealizing a Confederate soldier going off to war, became the center of controversy in light of modern racial strife. Mayor Lyda Krewson ultimately had the monument dismantled and taken away by the Missouri Civil War Museum in Jefferson Barracks, with the agreement that any future display of it would be in a museum or other appropriate setting.

A federal judge this week temporarily halted the removal of the Lee statue to consider a lawsuit claiming Virginia is contractually obligated to "affectionately protect" it in perpetuity. That promise, made at the

dawn of the Jim Crow era, should hold no weight today when even the U.S. military is, at last, considering removing the names of Confederate leaders from its bases.

This isn't, as some wrongly claim, an attempt to purge the Confederacy from history, but to keep that history where it belongs: in history books and museums, not to be celebrated in the public square.

### Liberal institutions snuff out any opinions that don't fit

**The Wall Street Journal**  
The purge of senior editors at progressive newspapers this weekend is no cause for cheering. Their resignations are another milestone in the march of identity politics and cancel culture through our liberal institutions, and American journalism and democracy will be worse for it.

The long-time editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer, who'd seen the publication through difficult times, was pushed out over a headline, "Buildings Matter, Too." It was atop a piece by architecture critic Inga Saffron, who worried that buildings damaged by violence could "leave a gaping hole in the heart of Philadelphia." Staff members deemed the headline an offense to Black Lives Matter. They protested, and no amount of apologizing or changes to the headline were enough. Editor Stan Wischnowski didn't last the week.

At The New York Times, editorial page editor James Bennet resigned Sunday after a staff uproar over an op-ed by a U.S. senator. Arkansas Republican Tom Cotton wrote that military troops should be sent to restore public order in American cities when the police are overwhelmed. A staff revolt deemed the piece fascist, unconstitutional, and too offensive for adults to read and decide for themselves.

Our editorial last week opposed deploying active-duty troops, but the idea is legal under the Insurrection Act. George H.W. Bush deployed troops in 1992 to quell riots in Los Angeles after the Rodney King verdict, and other presidents have done it too.

Bennet defended the op-ed last Friday as part of his attempt to broaden debate in his pages, and at first so did publisher A.G. Sulzberger. But Sulzberger changed his mind the same day, suddenly declaring that the op-ed he had defended had not received proper editing and should not be published. By Sunday, Bennet, as true-blue a progressive as you can find, was out the door. James Dao, the opinion editor who had signed off on the Cotton op-ed, was also gone.

An ostensibly independent opinion section was ransacked because the social-justice warriors in the newsroom opposed a single column espousing a view that polls show tens of millions of Americans support if the police can't handle rioting and violence. The publisher failed to back up his editors, which means the editors no lon-

ger run the place. The struggle sessions on Twitter and Slack channels rule.

All of this shows the extent to which American journalism is now dominated by the same moral denunciation, "safe space" demands, and identity-politics dogmas that began in the universities. The agents of this politics now dominate nearly all of America's leading cultural institutions — museums, philanthropy, Hollywood, book publishers, even late-night talk shows.

On matters deemed sacrosanct — and today that includes the view that America is root-and-branch racist — there is no room for debate. You must admit your failure to appreciate this orthodoxy and do penance, or you're out of the job.

Some of our friends on the right are pleased because they say all of this merely exposes what has long been true. But this takeover of the Times and other liberal bastions means that there are ever fewer institutions that will defend free inquiry and free speech. It means that once defined American liberalism.

### Don't bung the ending of America's longest war

**Bloomberg Opinion**  
America's war in Afghanistan has dragged on too long. But the U.S. domestic political calendar shouldn't dictate when to end it.

Under the peace agreement signed with the Taliban in February, the U.S. promised to withdraw all its troops within 14 months if the Taliban adhered to their pledge to cut all ties with al-Qaida. Yet the Pentagon is reportedly drafting plans that could bring the last 8,600 U.S. troops home before November's election. Judging by recent tweets, that seems likely to be President Donald Trump's preference.

Even if an expedited withdrawal doesn't drag out into al-Qaida. Yet that's not what's happening. The Taliban and the Afghan government are edging closer to their first direct talks. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah have struck a power-sharing agreement; Abdullah now heads peace efforts. A reduction in violence is also a possibility. But it could take a week. A logjam over prisoner exchanges may be easing. A U.S. dash for the exit could stall this progress. It would deny the U.S. leverage — even as evidence suggests the Taliban have maintained their links to al-Qaida. The Taliban would have reason to drag out intra-Afghan talks, then seek to defeat government forces once the Americans leave. Trump's promise that the U.S. would "strike with a thunder like never before" if that happened isn't credible.

The departure of U.S. troops might not open the gates of Kabul to the Taliban, but it would end the 20-year war. It would be the prelude to more years of bloodshed and stalemate. Afghan forces still depend on the U.S. for air support and funding; foreign contributions account for about 90% of their budget. It's unlikely the U.S. would keep spending at the current level, or that foreign military contractors performing critical tasks would stay. If the U.S. leaves, it would mean the end of U.S. troops weren't there. And a chaotic scramble for power would jeopardize aid and commercial projects.

After nearly two decades of war, politics shouldn't dictate a decision as important as this. The U.S. should abide by the terms of the peace agreement. It should not demand that U.S. troops leave sooner, they can fully disavow al-Qaida and accelerate the peace talks. At the same time, the U.S. should continue to engage diplomatically with both sides and with regional powers to nudge those negotiations forward. It should also continue to offer humanitarian aid to the Afghan government and civil society groups, and make clear that any Taliban attempt to seize power by force will threaten that funding.

Achieving anything like success in Afghanistan with next spring will be a Herculean task. The U.S. shouldn't make it even harder.

# STARS AND STRIPES®

## Unlimited Digital Access

### INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH  
FREE TRIAL

#### When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



#### Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

#### Subscribe Today!



[stripes.com/subscribe](https://stripes.com/subscribe)



# MILITARY MATTERS



A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST



Every controversial topic has two sides. We look into the ones that matter to you.

New episodes available now



Available on



at [Stripes.com/podcasts](https://www.stripes.com/podcasts)



MLB



Rick Scuteri/AP

The Detroit Tigers plan to move Arizona State's Spencer Torkelson him to third base after taking him with the first pick Wednesday in baseball's amateur draft. Torkelson played first base at Arizona State.

# Tigers select Torkelson with No. 1 pick of draft

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spencer Torkelson slugged his way through college, bashing baseballs all around the country with eye-popping power.

All those impressive drives made the decision easy for the Detroit Tigers, who selected the Arizona State star with the No. 1 pick in the Major League Baseball amateur draft Wednesday night.

But while Torkelson was long considered the favorite to go first overall, the surprise came when he was announced as a third baseman by Commissioner Rob Manfred. Detroit plans to move Torkelson to the hot corner from first base, where he played for the Sun Devils.

"It shows the amount of respect they have for me as an athlete," a smiling Torkelson said on the MLB Network broadcast. "I'll take it and run with it. I like to label myself as a baseball player, and you give me a bat, a ball and a glove, and you know what? I'm just going to want to win."

Arkansas outfielder Heston Kjerstad went No. 2 to Baltimore, which took Oregon State catcher Adley Rutschman with the top pick a year ago.

Shortened dramatically because of the coronavirus, the draft gave fans the closest thing they've had to a live big league baseball event since spring training was stopped in March. It came as owners and players continue contentious labor negotiations aimed at starting an abbreviated, pandemic-delayed season this

## Scoreboard

### Baseball draft selections Wednesday, June 10 First Round

1. Detroit Tigers, Spencer Torkelson, 1B, Arizona St.
2. Baltimore Orioles, Heston Kjerstad, OF, Arkansas.
3. Miami Marlins, Max Meyer, RHP, Minnesota.
4. Kansas City Royals, Asa Lyle, LHP, Texas A&M.
5. Toronto Blue Jays, Austin Martin, SS, Vanderbilt.
6. Seattle Mariners, Emerson Hancock, RHP, Georgia.
7. Pittsburgh Pirates, Nick Gonzales, SS, New Mexico St.
8. San Diego Padres, Robert Hassell III, OF, Independence H.S., Thompson Station, Tenn.
9. Colorado Rockies, Zac Veen, OF, Spruce Creek H.S., Port Orange, Fla.
10. Los Angeles Angels, Reid Detmers, LHP, Louisville.
11. Chicago White Sox, Garrett Crochet, LHP, Tennessee.
12. Cincinnati Reds, Austin Hendrick, OF, William H.S., Imperial, Pa.
13. San Francisco Giants, Patrick Bailey, C, NC State.
14. Texas Rangers, Justin Foscue, 2B, Mississippi St.
15. Philadelphia Phillies, Mick Abel, RHP, Jesuit H.S., Portland, Ore.
16. Chicago Cubs, Ed Howard, SS, Mt. Carmel H.S., Chicago, Ill.
17. Boston Red Sox, Nick York, 2B, Archbishop Mitry H.S., San Jose, Calif.
18. Arizona Diamondbacks, Bryce Jarvis, RHP, Duke.

19. New York Mets, Pete Crow-Armstrong, OF, Harvard-Westlake H.S., Studio City, Calif.
20. Milwaukee Brewers, Garrett Mitchell, OF, UCLA.
21. St. Louis Cardinals, Jordan Walker, 3B, Decatur H.S., Decatur, Ga.
22. Washington Nationals, Cade Cavalli, RHP, Oklahoma.
23. Cleveland Indians, Carson Tucker, SS, Mountain Pointe H.S., Phoenix, Ariz.
24. Tampa Bay Rays, Nick Bitisko, RHP, Central Bucks East H.S., Doylestown, Pa.
25. Atlanta Braves, Jared Shuster, LHP, Wake Forest.
26. Oakland Athletics, Tyler Soderstrom, C, Turlock H.S., Calif.
27. Minnesota Twins, Aaron Sabato, 1B, North Carolina.
28. New York Yankees, Austin Wells, C, Arizona.
29. Los Angeles Dodgers, Bobby Miller, RHP, Louisville.

### Competitive Balance Round A

30. Baltimore Orioles, Jordan Westburg, SS, Mississippi St.
31. Pittsburgh Pirates, Carmen Mlodzinski, RHP, South Carolina.
32. Kansas City Royals, Nick Loftin, SS, Baylor.
33. Arizona Diamondbacks, Lade Cecconi, RHP, Miami.
34. San Diego Padres, Justin Lange, RHP, Liano H.S., Texas.
35. Colorado Rockies, Drew Fromo, C, The Woodlands H.S., Texas.
36. Cleveland Indians, Tanner Burns, RHP, Auburn.
37. Tampa Bay Rays, Aika Williams, SS, Arizona St.

summer — likely with no crowds in ballparks.

Not long before the first pick, Manfred said there is a "100%" chance MLB will play this year.

After having the worst record in the majors last season, Detroit opened the draft for the second time in three years. The Tigers took Auburn right-hander Casey Mize in 2018, and now they've got a powerful bat that could anchor their lineup for years to go along with an arm they hope is a future ace.

# Manfred: '100%' chance season will be played

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred says there is a "100%" chance of big league ball this year.

Major League Baseball will make another proposal to start the pandemic-delayed season in empty ballparks, but Manfred vowed Wednesday to unilaterally order opening day if an agreement is not reached.

"I can tell you unequivocally we are going to play Major League Baseball this year," he said.

Manfred insisted the chance of playing this year was "100%."

The players' association made its second proposal Tuesday, asking for an 89-game regular season and 100% of prorated salaries. MLB's plan a day earlier was for a 76-game season, would guarantee 50% of prorated salaries and hinge 25% in additional money on the postseason's completion.

"It will be another significant move in the players' direction in terms of the salary issue that has kept us apart," Manfred said during an interview with ESPN before the network's coverage of the amateur draft.

"We're hopeful that it will produce reciprocal movement from the players' association, that we'll see a number other than 100% on salary and some recognition that 89 games, given where we are in the calendar in the course of the pandemic is not realistic," he said.

MLB has threatened a shorter schedule if players insist on 100% of their prorated salaries. The union likely would file a grievance, contending a longer schedule was economically feasible and asking arbitrator Mark Irving to award damages.

There has not been a big league schedule of fewer than 80 games since 1879. Both MLB and the union have proposed expanding the playoffs from 10 teams to as many as 16 this year and next.

but that enlarged postseason is contingent on a deal.

"I would prefer to negotiate a new agreement with the MLBPA that gets us more games and resolves the issues that have separated us amicably," Manfred said. "But at the end of the day, we negotiated for the right in March to start the season on a number of games that we select in these particular circumstances. And if we have to, we'll exercise that right."

A March 26 agreement called for prorated salaries in exchange for \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of service time even if no games were played.

Manfred wouldn't divulge when he would order a shorter schedule. MLB initially proposed 82 games and the union responded with 114. While players want to extend the postseason deep into November, teams fear a second wave of the coronavirus would jeopardize the postseason. The playoffs alone generate \$787 million in broadcast revenue — before selling any games caused by an expansion.

"Each and every day that goes by, we lose the capacity to play at least one game, and that's really the time pressure that's significant at this point in time," Manfred said.

The players' association declined to comment on Manfred's remarks.

MLB claims each additional regular-season game in empty ballparks causes a \$640,000 loss because 40% of revenue is tied to gate. The union has disputed MLB's figures but claims it has not been given the data it needs to make a full evaluation.

"Some owners have mentioned that owning a team isn't very NET profitable. You know what other company isn't very NET profitable? Amazon," tweeted Washington pitcher Max Scherzer, a member of the union's eight-player executive subcommittee.

Manfred told MLB Network the sides were "very, very close" to agreement on health protocols.



LM OTERO/AP

Commissioner Rob Manfred said Wednesday "I can tell you unequivocally we are going to play Major League Baseball this year."

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SOCCER



PHOTOS BY NATHAN HARRIN/AP

Nebraska's Memorial Stadium has been sold out for every home football game since 1962.

# Who gets to attend?

## Reduced capacity will penalize some fans

By ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

**A**thletic administrators at schools with high ticket demand for college football are making plans to determine who gets a seat if stadium capacities are reduced because of concerns about the coronavirus.

This is a particularly painful task for athletic director Bill Moos of Nebraska, which has sold out every home football game since 1962. The Cornhuskers are a year-round passion in his state and the season ticket renewal rate for the 2020 season is a robust 93%.

So which fans will gain entry to 85,000-seat Memorial Stadium if capacity is reduced by half or even 75%?

Moos and staff are weighing a number of variables, including whether all or some of the seven scheduled home games are played. How much money the season-ticket holder donates annually and how long he or she has owned the season tickets are also factors to determine priority. Moos is quick to point out that doesn't mean people down the list would get shut out.

"If they haven't been with us for 40 years and given us a generous amount of money, they're still fans and there should be a place for them as well," he said.

Moos said it's possible some Huskers fans would be allowed to attend five games, some four, some three and others two.

The ticketing dilemma is just one wrinkle schools are working through as college football pushes toward some kind of season. The complications of bringing students back to school and ensuring they are safe vary from state to state and from campus to campus. But most schools are planning for games — and putting fans in the seats if they can.

"I've been in this industry 50 years and dealt with a lot of stuff, but nothing like this," said Fred Magliano, a Philadelphia-area consultant in the sports and live entertainment industry. "Everybody's trying to figure this out. The real challenge is that you don't just have a Plan A and a Plan B. You're down to Plan Z. You have so many different scenarios you run through your mind every day because the playing table changes every day."

At Alabama, the ticket renewal rate was 90% for



Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Moos is faced with the particularly painful task of deciding which fans will have to stay home this fall if the Cornhuskers have to play in a reduced capacity stadium.

102,000-seat Bryant-Denny Stadium. Spokeswoman Jessica Pare didn't disclose how Alabama would determine which fans can attend other than to say different models are being looked at and "our hope is not to have to use those models."

At Ohio State, where the renewal rate was 89%, athletic director Gene Smith has said he could envision games played with no more than 40,000 to 50,000 in 102,000-seat Ohio Stadium. Consideration would be given to parents and guests of players, students and faculty.

A priority points system likely would determine who else gets in. That system awards points for, among other things, amount of money donated, consecutive years as a season-ticket holder, and whether the ticket holder is an alumnus or letter winner in a varsity sport.

Clemson athletic director Dan Radakovich said there have been orders for 60,000 season tickets at 81,500-seat Memorial Stadium, and no priority system has been finalized. Arkansas has sold 31,000 season tickets and stopped single-game sales until it's known how many fans will be allowed in 70,000-seat Razorback Stadium.

Moos said he expects to know by mid July how many Nebraska games will be played and if the season will start as scheduled. Then, once the stadium capacity is established, he'll set into motion the plan for how holders of the 70,000 season tickets will be accommodated.

AP sports writers Cliff Brunt, Pete Jacobelli, Mitch Stacy and John Zener contributed.

# Three European soccer hotbeds ready to resume

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
Associated Press

When the coronavirus gripped Europe in early April, the prospect of professional soccer resuming this season felt unfeasible and even unethical.

Yet, over the next seven days, the sport will make its return in three powerhouse countries that were among the hardest hit by the pandemic — Italy, Spain and England.

This will be soccer in a very different form, though, as already demonstrated in countries such as Germany, Denmark and Poland, which were among the first to restart.

With spectators not allowed in stadiums, Zoon walls and cardboard cutouts have replaced fans in the stands. A swab test for COVID-19 is as much part of the pre-match routine for players as stretching their muscles. Artificial crowd noise is now the soundtrack for matches for TV viewers, with soccer now essentially an armchair sport for the next few months.

So when the Spanish league resumed on Thursday with a match between Andalusian rivals Sevilla and Real Betis, what is usually one of the most colorful and passionate derbies in soccer will likely lose some of its appeal.

Italian soccer restarts Friday with a semifinal match in the Coppa Italia between Juventus and AC Milan, two of the most storied clubs in Europe, in an empty stadium.

Then, on June 17, the most lucrative and popular league in the world — the English Premier League — is back with two games, including Manchester City against Arsenal. This despite many schools still being closed, including passengers at airports being asked to quarantine for two weeks, and many deaths still being reported each day.

It will be sanitized and soulless, but soccer will still be back.

"We're nearly there ... and I can't wait," said Inter Milan midfielder Antonio Candreva, whose team plays in the cup on Saturday against Napoli. "The green grass, my teammates, the emotions that only this sport gives us."

Ronan Evain, the director at the Football Supporters Europe network that has members in 48 countries around the continent, said there hasn't been a widespread desire for soccer's return among match-going fans.

"Southern European countries feel very strongly against it," Evain told The Associated Press. "There's a feeling that it's somehow rushed, it lacks decency in countries that have been seriously hit by the virus, and that football behind closed doors is not football."

## Did you know?

Three European soccer leagues are renewing play this week and next. The Spanish league resumed Thursday, Italian soccer restarts Friday and the English Premier League is back June 17.

SOURCE: Associated Press

"So it is very rejected in countries like Spain, Italy, Portugal and France, and more accepted in England and the Scandinavian countries. In England, for example, there is a stronger acceptance of the economic argument that football needs to return to remain financially sustainable."

Evain lives in France, where all levels of the game were called off for the season on April 28 after the government banned sports events until September. Leagues in the Netherlands and Belgium had already made that move, while Scotland would do it later.

"Maybe some TV fans were upset to not be able to watch football," Evain said of the situation in France, "but the vast, vast majority of match-going fans supported the fact that the government decided to bring an end to the season. There was also the same feeling among players."

The first major soccer country to get back playing was Germany — much to the chagrin of some "ultras" among the fan base of clubs who were against games without spectators — and it invariably acted as a test case for other European leagues.

There was strict testing of players and officials — no positive cases have been announced among the first-division clubs since the first ball was kicked on May 16 — and some creative thinking to introduce atmosphere in stadiums. Fear about gatherings outside stadiums has abated.

Soccer's return has widely been viewed as a success, albeit in a nation that wasn't hit as hard as many others by the virus outbreak because of its greater testing capacity.

In Spain, where on June 1 no official deaths from the coronavirus were reported in a 24-hour period for the first time since March, league president Javier Tebas hasn't ruled out the return of fans to stadiums provided the measure is cleared by health authorities.

Until then, fans will be able to either watch the original feed from the empty stadiums or an alternative one with crowds superimposed on the stands and pre-recorded chants from supporters, similar to video games. New camera angles can be used in positions which would previously have affected fans.

## TENNIS/OLYMPICS

# Would players go to the US Open?

Djokovic, Nadal aren't keen on restrictions

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

Novak Djokovic is fretting about "harsh" restrictions on players' entourages and other "extreme" changes proposed for the U.S. Open — and saying he might not participate if it is played.

As of now, defending champion Rafael Nadal would not want to be in Flushing Meadows at all, either.

While the tennis world awaits a decision, which could come as soon as next week, from the U.S. Tennis Association's board about whether to hold the Grand Slam tournament in New York in August amid the coronavirus pandemic — and if so, with what precautions — there are plenty of questions surrounding the event.

A look at some of the issues:

## Would players go?

The top two men in the rankings, No. 1 Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal, winners of the last eight major titles, expressed ambivalence. Djokovic went so far as to tell Serbia's state broadcaster RTS on Tuesday that most players he's talked to "were quite negative" about entering the U.S. Open and that for him, "as things stand, most probably the season will continue on clay at the beginning of September." The hard-court U.S. Open is scheduled to begin main-draw play Aug. 31, the clay-court French Open was moved from a May start to late September because of the COVID-19 outbreak. "The rules and regulations they informed us about, that we would have to follow in case we play in the U.S. Open, are really extreme," Djokovic said. Last week, Nadal was asked whether he would be at the U.S. Open. "Today," he said, "I will say, 'No.' In a couple of months? I don't know."

## Would fans be allowed?

It sounds unlikely that spectators would be able to attend. Stacy Allaster, the USTA's chief

executive for professional tennis, said her group has been trying to figure out how to "engage fans virtually." Last year, about 850,000 people went to the National Tennis Center for the Open.

## What about their entourages?

"A player coming with an entourage of five, six, seven, eight is not something that's in the plan," Allaster said. Djokovic called that policy "simply unthinkable, because you need a tennis coach, fitness trainer, then a physiotherapist, a great team of people." Dan Evans, who is ranked 28th, disagreed, saying having a one-person-per-player restriction is not "such a big deal." "Not everyone's traveling with physios and fitness trainers like Novak said," Evans told the BBC.

## How would health be protected?

Players would need to prove they had tested negative for COVID-19 before traveling on charter flights the USTA would organize from a handful of cities. There would likely be daily health questionnaires and temperature checks, along with occasional nasal, saliva or antibody testing; Djokovic said he was told there would be two or three tests per week. Djokovic said players would not be allowed to go into Manhattan; Allaster spoke about "centralized" housing.

## Will there be format changes?

The USTA won't change the scoring system, some unsanctioned exhibitions taking place have used a first-to-4-games format — and wouldn't shorten men's matches to best-of-three-sets unless players lobbied for that. But it's possible the total number of events — which usually includes qualifying, doubles, juniors and wheelchair tennis — could be reduced.



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic is concerned about "harsh" restrictions on players' entourages and other "extreme" changes proposed for the U.S. Open, if it is played starting in August.



NELL REDMOND/AP

Toronto Raptors coach Nick Nurse, center, is supposed to coach Canada in an Olympic qualifying tournament that was scheduled for next summer. For now, he has no idea if that will happen, particularly since the NBA is not scheduled to restart its next season until at least December.

# NBA coaches have questions about Olympic scheduling

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

Golden State coach Steve Kerr was supposed to be in Tokyo for the Olympics this summer. And now he's supposed to be there for the rescheduled version next summer.

Then again, Kerr isn't certain if he — or anyone else from the NBA — will be there at all.

With the next NBA season not expected to start until at least Dec. 1, that calls into some serious question whether that could overlap with Olympic qualifying tournaments that some nations will need to endure in June 2021 and the Tokyo Games themselves the following month. And Kerr, who is slated to be an assistant under San Antonio's Gregg Popovich for USA Basketball in Tokyo, said Tuesday that he doesn't have any idea how the schedule will work.

"Believe it or not, I haven't had a single conversation with Pop about that," Kerr said. "And the reason is because we don't know. We've been talking almost daily now for the last couple of weeks and before that we were speaking once every few weeks. So, we haven't even had a single conversation because there's nothing to report."

The U.S. is among eight teams who have already qualified for the 12-team men's tournament at the Tokyo Olympics, which were pushed back a year because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Americans had a ton of interest from top NBA stars for this summer, now with things delayed a year, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo has said he and Popovich will wait until the NBA schedule plans for 2020-



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Gregg Popovich, who will coach Team USA in the Tokyo Olympics, has a lot of uncertainties before he can start building his team's roster. The U.S. is among eight teams that have already qualified.

21 become certain before mapping out an exact plan to build the roster.

FIBA pushed back the dates for the four remaining qualifying tournaments to June 29 through July 4, 2021, meaning they would end 19 days before the rescheduled start of the delayed Tokyo Olympics. There will be four different six-team, winner-goes-to-the-Olympics tournaments hosted by Canada, Croatia, Lithuania and Serbia.

Toronto coach Nick Nurse is scheduled to coach Canada in that qualifying tournament and, he hopes, the Olympics. But he expects that international travel is one of the last things that will return to normal, or whatever the new normal will be in a world dealing with COVID-19.

So, he's like Kerr and left wondering what'll happen.

"It's complicated, is my best thought," Nurse said. "I just don't know enough to tell you what next season is going to look like. I don't know. When's it going to start? I

think they're talking about pushing it back, but I don't know if they're going to play games closer together. I don't think so, that's kind of a thing that everybody's been happy that they continue to spread them out and lessen the back-to-backs and all those things."

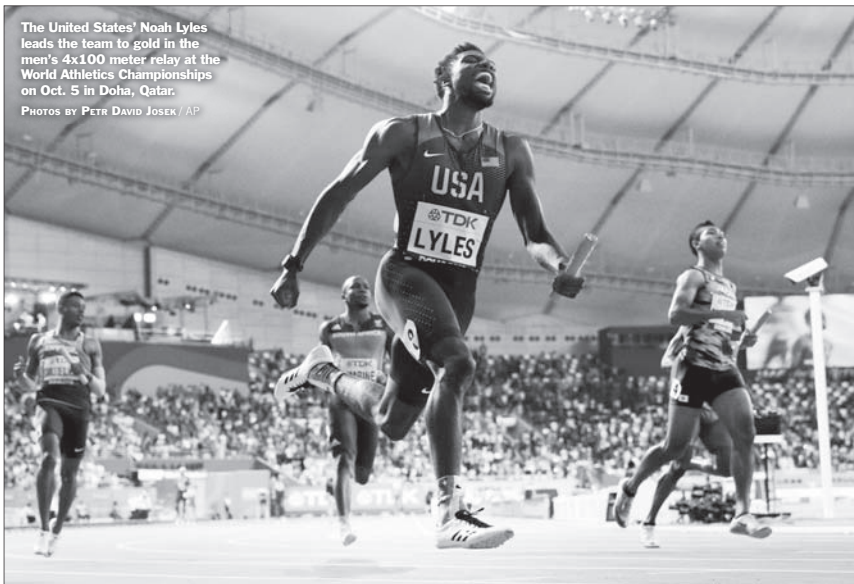
Nurse, Popovich and Kerr surely aren't the only coaches wondering. Golden State associate head coach Mike Brown is set to coach Nigeria in Tokyo, Toronto assistant Sergio Scariolo will coach Spain and Philadelphia coach Brett Brown will coach Australia. Nigeria, Australia and Spain have joined the U.S. as having earned Olympic berths already, along with host Japan, Argentina, Iran and France.

And at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, a record 46 players from the NBA participated. Had the Olympics come off this summer as planned, even more NBA players could have been there depending on which teams won the final four qualifying spots.

## OLYMPICS

The United States' Noah Lyles leads the team to gold in the men's 4x100 meter relay at the World Athletics Championships on Oct. 5 in Doha, Qatar.

PHOTOS BY PETR DAVID JOSEK / AP



## Protest ban to be discussed

By GRAHAM DUNBAR  
Associated Press

GENEVA — Amid a global wave of demonstrations against racism, the IOC said Wednesday it would open talks that could let athletes make stronger protests at the Olympic Games.

Only five months ago, the Olympic body strengthened its ban on political statements by specifying that gestures such as taking a knee or raising a fist on a medal podium remain prohibited.

But the IOC's public stance eased slightly on Wednesday when its president Thomas Bach said the in-house athlete committee would "explore different ways" opinions could be expressed during the games — while still "respecting the Olympic spirit."

"The Olympic aims are a very powerful global demonstration against racism and for inclusivity," Bach said at a news conference after an executive board meeting.

Still, he sought to separate "support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and potentially divisive demonstrations."

The current rule 50 of the charter tries to uphold political neutrality for the Olympics but allows athletes to express opinions in interviews after their events.

However, gestures made on the field of play or at medal ceremonies were classed in January as "divisive disruption."

According to the current stance, athletes copying the iconic raised fist salutes by American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics could still be sent home from the Olympics. They also would face disciplinary action by their national Olympic team, their sport's governing body, and the IOC.

It was unclear if the new talks could lead to those kinds of gestures being tolerated in the future. Bach twice referred to "dignified" gestures, but wouldn't specify what he wants to see from the upcoming talks.

"I will not preempt in any way these consultations," Bach said.

No details or time scale were given for the process, which Bach said would be led by the athletes panel that includes IOC members elected by their peers, and others who are appointed by the IOC. The panel led by Kirsty Coventry, an Olympic gold medalist swimmer from Zimbabwe, has typically followed the views of the Bach-chaired IOC board of which she is a member.

A push by activist athletes for the IOC to relax an Olympic charter rule limiting their commercial opportunities during the games has broadly been resisted by Coventry's group.

"I really think the athletes' commission is taking the pulse of the opinions of the athletes and is reflecting very well the opinion of the majority of the athletes," Bach said.

# Race in all its forms

## Star US sprinter ponders next year in roiled nation

By EDDIE PELLIS  
Associated Press

Noah Lyles could be a year away from occupying a uniquely symbolic position in sports: an African American sprinter wearing the letters "USA" on a medals stand at the Olympics.

Instead of contemplating how he might use that platform, Lyles is spending time these days trying to make sense of what's happening in his country — a land riven by protests, pain and questions in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd.

"All you're seeing is your own people getting hurt and basically killed every day," Lyles said in an interview with The Associated Press. "You can't get it out of your mind. And eventually, that starts to wander into your mind: 'Am I going to be next?'"

It's hardly the sort of life-and-death question that Lyles, or anyone, thought they'd be confronting in the lead-in to a summer of 2020 that is shaping up to be radically different than once expected.

Had sports not been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic, he'd be preparing for the beginning of Olympic trials next week. Come July, he would have been at

the Olympics, the worldwide beehemoth at which sprinters Jesse Owens, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, to name a few, ascended the broadest platform in sports and shone a bright, often unflattering, light on race — and the way the world and America think about it.

Instead, Lyles is shuttling between home and training in Florida, keeping a wary eye on the news, trying to figure out what to say and when to say it — in short, how to make a difference.

"I've definitely pondered it quite a few times, for many years, in fact," Lyles says. "You feel like there's change, but not enough change, and then you're thinking, 'Well, shoot, it's almost getting to be my turn, where I have to make a decision.'"

The process, which included a few to-the-point tweets earlier this week encouraging people to vote, is shedding light on a more serious side of the 22-year-old sprint star than has been seen so far. Until now, Lyles has mostly been portrayed as the free-spirited, effervescent speedster who is more than happy to take up where Usain Bolt left off when it comes to keeping his sport fun and eminently watchable.



Lyles is spending his time these days trying to process what's happening in his country — a land divided with protests, pain and questions in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd.

A sometimes rapper with an eye for fashion, he ran, and won, the 200 meters at last year's world championships with his hair dyed silver. There was supposed to be more in store for this summer at the Olympics, where he and 100-meter world champion Christian Coleman were headed for a sprint showdown at both distances.

Lyles' outgoing nature has made it easy to overlook some of the challenges he faced growing up in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia: a sometimes debilitating struggle with asthma; diagnoses of attention-deficit disorder and dyslexia that complicated his schooling, especially in the early days.

He also faced the same issues

as any African American boy — learning the harsh realities of what it means to be a black male in the U.S. The message Lyles' mom, Keisha Caine Bishop, sent continually: Dress nice, no baggy pants. Don't do anything that makes people perceive you as a threat.

"But the sad part is that no matter how nonthreatening you appear, you can still be a victim," Bishop said. "You're just trying to think of anything to get your kids home safely."

Of the lifetime of slights and abuse that African Americans absorb, Lyles said: "I think a lot of people think it happens as a one-moment situation, which it doesn't. It's more a buildup."

# GOLF/SOCCER/VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Golf back in action but not to normal

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The PGA Tour is not simply picking up where it left off.

Very little about the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial resembles the opening round of The Players Championship on March 12, the last professional golf played before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down golf and most everything else.

Players return to a new set of rules, starting with mandatory tests for the coronavirus when they first arrive and having their temperatures taken before they get to the parking lot.

The tour said all 487 tests of players, caddies and essential personnel were negative.

On the course, players are to make every effort to practice social distancing and “show best practices for playing golf to our fans watching the telecast.”

Good thing Wednesday’s activity wasn’t shown on TV.

Players and caddies exchanged clubs (players are supposed to

handle the clubs themselves). Caddies were not wiping down the flagsticks or bunker rakes after use. Social distancing felt more like a guideline.

It was just like normal in a return that is supposed to be anything but that.

“It’s going to be very easy to fall back into old habits because it’s just what we’ve done,” Rory McIlroy said Wednesday. “I’d say for the viewing public, just to give the players and caddies a little bit of leeway if they see something on TV that isn’t quite right. We’re having to figure it out as we go along, as well.”

Of equal concern is what they do off the golf course, even with a designated hotel. Some are staying in houses. Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler and Jason Dufner have their own chef.

The most obvious difference is no spectators on the course, making Colonial look like it does for the members except for carpets lining the fairway to give carts and mowers some guidance on where to drive.

Another difference is likely to



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Phil Mickelson, right, Kevin Na, center, and their caddie observe a moment of silence during the first round of the Charles Schwab Challenge on Thursday to pay their respects to George Floyd.

be the number of people watching from home.

Golf is only the second major sport to return in the U.S. (motor sports are back in action), and a field featuring McIlroy, Thomas, Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka is appealing.

There also is the underlying responsibility to show that returning at this time was the right move, and that golf can live up to its reputation as one of the safer sports.

“I think this week is very important because golf will be the center of the sports world, which it usually a few weeks a year is,” McIlroy said. “But for people to have something to watch on TV where they actually don’t know

the outcome I think is going to be nice for them. So I think that’ll be a good thing.”

“And I think it’s an important week because golf can show that we can play in a socially distant manner,” he said. “We can conduct a tournament and adhere to all the safety protocols that have been put in place.”

Koepka made no apologies for working with caddie Ricky Elliott the way he always does, mainly because his caddie is staying with him this week and both have been tested.

“I think it’s important to make sure that we go through all these things because I want to play,” Koepka said.

## US Soccer will allow kneeling

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

U.S. Soccer’s board of directors has voted to repeal a 2017 policy that required national team players to stand during the national anthem, a rule adopted after Megan Rapinoe knelt in support of Colin Kaepernick.

The board made the decision during a conference call. U.S. Soccer announced Wednesday. Policy 604-1 states: “All persons representing a Federation national team shall stand respectfully during the playing of national anthems at any event in which the Federation is represented.” The board passed the rule on Feb. 9, 2017.

A person with knowledge of the discussions regarding the policy said new President Cindy Parlow Cone first broached repeating the rule last week, calling for the special meeting of the board. The person asked to remain anonymous because the process was not made public. Three players were invited on the call to share their opinions.

“We have not done enough to listen — especially to our players — to understand and acknowledge the very real and meaningful experiences of Black and other minority communities in our country. We apologize to our players — especially our Black players — staff, fans, and all who support eradicating racism,” U.S. Soccer said in a statement Wednesday. “Sports are a powerful platform for good, and we have not used our platform as effectively as we should have. We can do more on these specific issues and we will.”

The U.S. Soccer Athletes’ Council, which includes current national team players Alex Morgan and Ali Krieger, as well as former players such as Landon Donovan, called on U.S. Soccer to also apologize for the policy to foster a “positive relationship to exist going forward.”

“Then and only then do we feel a new chapter between the USSF and its athletes can begin. Additionally, we urge U.S. Soccer to develop a plan with action items focused on anti-racism that will be shared publicly with its athletes, key stakeholders, and fans,” the council said in a statement earlier this week.

Rapinoe took a knee during the anthem at a pair of national team matches in 2016. She said she wanted to express solidarity with Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who silently took a knee during the national anthem before NFL games to raise awareness of police brutality and racial injustice.

Kaepernick and Rapinoe faced sharp criticism for the protest for years. But sentiment among the public has changed since George Floyd’s death last month and the subsequent protests.

## Fan: Leagues look to enhance experience knowing seats will be hard to fill

### FROM BACK PAGE

Count her family among those who would pause before heading to the ballpark.

“For me personally, I’m not sure I would feel comfortable attending a live sporting event until there is a known treatment or widely available vaccine,” Lucy said. “I trust the institutions to put the proper measures in place; however, making sure that they are enforced is another matter.”

Many college and pro sports teams already were dealing with declining ticket sales. Watching at home or streaming games are factors, as is the changing social makeup of fan bases. Dynamic pricing, increases in parking and concession prices, and a push toward luxury seating have exacerbated the problem.

Major league baseball attendance has declined six of the past seven seasons. In college football, 13 of the 130 schools that played in the Football Bowl Subdivision reported average crowd sizes of 50% or less last season. Even NFL stadiums are seeing increases in empty seats despite its generally rock-solid popularity.

So as coronavirus concerns linger, how are teams going to lure fans back when stadiums do reopen?

Loyalty and engagement apps, widely available on smartphones, leagues and colleges even before the pandemic, will become even more common and interactive as teams try to recapture lost revenue. There also will be more behind-the-scenes content and enhanced available via smartphones that will only be available



MARTIN MEISSNER, POOL/AP

Schalke’s Daniel Caligiuri takes a corner kick in front of empty seats during the German Bundesliga match against FC Augsburg on May 24 at the Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

to those in the stadium or arena, offering fans something unique over fans watching at home.

“Fans want that experience to be top-notch, period. That’s why teams are thinking about this,” said Britton Stackhouse Miller, senior vice president at Fortress U.S., a developer of engagement and integration systems with clients in European soccer, baseball, the NBA, NFL and NHL.

Temperature checks, hand sanitizer distribution stations and touchless vending will become the norm for a while. Even concessions will change, though one big difference — gulp — could lead to a lot of grumbling.

“If you don’t sell beer, the number of visits to the bathroom drops dramatically,” said Marc Ganis, the director of sports consulting firm SportsCorp. “So for a time we may have to think about not selling beer.”

It won’t just be the vast oceans of bench seats left open, either. Many experts believe those hardy fans will be the first to return. It’s the corporate suites from which many colleges and pro franchises derive so much of their gameday revenue that may end up being empty until long after games have resumed. Economic woes may last for some time.

For fans who stay home, leagues are looking for ways to keep them engaged, too.

When Germany’s top soccer league returned without fans, broadcaster Sky knew it had a problem with its science coming through the TV. Engineers created “carpet audio” from previous games between the same teams, then teased out roars for specific events such as goals and red cards, giving those watching at home the option of a more realistic experience.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK/NHL



TONY AVELLAR/AP

A fan uses a smart phone to scan his ticket at Levi's Stadium before an NFL preseason game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Denver Broncos on Aug. 17, 2014 in Santa Clara, Calif. Tickets have widely transitioned from paper to smartphone screens, an important piece of the reopening puzzle.

# Prevention: Fans likely face bevy of measures

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

The metal detectors every sports fan has become accustomed to at the gate might soon be accompanied by thermal body scanners as part of the gargantuan task of preventing the spread of the new coronavirus and other airborne diseases.

And that might be just one thing the public will need to be comfortable with in order to bring games back for in-person viewing.

Tickets have widely transitioned from paper souvenirs to smartphone screens, but how about using your face as your proof of purchase? Nascent forms of crowd monitoring — such as laser-driven density detection and camera-based calculations of line length — will likely grow faster in an era of live sports that must highlight hygiene.

"The pandemic really ups the need for greater assurance of stadium safety," said Bob Boland, an athletics official who teaches at Penn State and has more than two decades of experience in sports and law as an instructor, consultant and agent. "Vaccine treatments, containment, they all could be game-changers, but people will need to be comfortable with mass body temperature screening and other technology that might be in play."

Not unlike the aftermath from the 2001 terrorist attacks, when long waits to pass through magnetometers and have a security



PAUL SANCY/AP

Jacquelyn Klmsza, of Fruitport, Mich., scans her fingerprints at a CLEAR biometric system outside Comerica Park in Detroit.

guard wave a wand over pants pockets became the norm.

"After 9/11 we overdid it, meaning we were so intent on making every building be safe and everyone safe that we made it extremely inconvenient to go to games and events. But we said that it would get better over time, and it did," said Marc Ganis, co-founder of the Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp. "Now how do you do that?"

Technology will be a vital piece of the puzzle. It will also further test a fan's willingness to potentially sacrifice a little more privacy in exchange for the opportunity to sit courtside or behind the plate again.

"Can I say both?" said Jim Mueller, a Milwaukee Bucks season ticket holder who also buys partial packages to Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers games. "I understand it from the Bucks' perspective and the NBA perspective, but as an American I don't want to be traced."

Dave Karls has Bucks season tickets too, eager enough for his next visit to Fiserv Forum that having his location trackable in the arena would not interfere with the enjoyment.

"I'd much rather have that than not be able to attend the game at all," Karls said.

AP sports writers Larry Lage, Steve Megargee and Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

## Pause opens door for Pens' Guentzel

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jake Guentzel's roller-coaster season is about to take another unlikely turn: postseason participant.

The Penguins All-Star forward has joined a handful of teammates on the ice as part of Phase 2 of the NHL's Return to Play program and figures to be ready when Pittsburgh faces Montreal in the opening round of the playoffs sometime this summer.

Guentzel's breakout year appeared to be over when he took an awkward spill on Dec. 30 following his 20th goal of the season. He crashed into the end boards a split-second after collecting his 20th career point when he accidentally tripped over the stick of Senators defenseman Thomas Chabot.

The 25-year-old — whose play during the opening months kept Pittsburgh afloat amid myriad injuries to high-profile players — clutched his side as he skated to the bench and underwent surgery the following day. With his rehab expected to last until late April or early May, Guentzel feared he might not be back until 2020-21.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing the NHL to pause its season in mid-March and giving Guentzel an unexpected window to return.

"Not sure what would have happened if the season would have played out," Guentzel said Wednesday.

Under normal conditions, Guentzel would have needed the Penguins to advance at least one round and maybe two in the playoffs if he wanted to have a shot at rejoining the club. This season, however, has been anything but normal.

His availability gives Pittsburgh another proven postseason performer. His innate hockey sense and instant rapport with

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby helped Guentzel score 13 goals during the 2017 playoffs as Pittsburgh captured its second straight Stanley Cup.

The team Guentzel returns to could look a bit like the one that defeated Nashville in six games in the finals three years ago. During Guentzel's absence, the team brought back winger Conor Sheary, who played on the "Sid and the Kids" line in the 2016-17 season.

"We feed off each other, we know each other," Guentzel said. "If we have that opportunity, hopefully we have time to get that chemistry back."

There's still a long way to go to get to that point. Then again, the fact that it's even on the table for Guentzel is promising. The joy of being named to the All-Star team on Dec. 30 for the first time was replaced hours later by pain and doubt as he skated to the bench clutching his right shoulder after smacking into the boards.

"You're not really sure what the severity of the injury is," Guentzel said. "Just tried to get off the ice and get back to the locker room as fast as I can, because I knew something wasn't good. In my head, it was a blur. It was hard to go through something like that."

He is still reticent to get into specifics surrounding the nature of the injury, saying only "from what I heard, it was pretty significant" while remaining thankful he was able to get his head and neck out of harm's way before the crash.

While listed at 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, Guentzel is comfortable putting his body in harm's way against bigger defenders. He is not sure if he'll be hesitant to mix it up whenever contact is allowed.

"It might be there, it's just hard to think about right now and hard to process," Guentzel said.



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

The Pittsburgh Penguins' Jake Guentzel feared his season was over thanks to a shoulder injury in December. The "pause" caused by the pandemic has given him renewed optimism that he will be ready when the playoffs hopefully begin this summer.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Events minus fans come at high cost for tennis, golf

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

When he first contemplated the prospect of a U.S. Open without fans because of the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Tennis Association's chief revenue officer figured there was no way it could work.

Low Sherr eventually came around to embracing the idea of a closed-door Grand Slam tournament — if it's held at all; a decision is expected as soon as next week — because it still could make money even if millions were forfeited with zero on-site receipts from tickets, hospitality, food and beverage or merchandise sales.

"Certainly better than not playing. It still makes sense financially and as a way to keep the sport vibrant and engage fans," Sherr said. "As you get to lower-level tournaments, it becomes a much harder conversation."

Golf, which resumed Thursday in Fort Worth, Texas, also could take a real hit because of the virus and the recession.

Week-in, week-out events in tennis, where the pro tours are suspended at least until late July, do not bring in TV rights fees like the U.S. Open, which averages \$70 million per year in the host country alone. Some of the smallest tour stops even need to buy air time.

Tennis and golf rely to a much greater degree on income generated from having people on-hand, especially for high-end tickets and hospitality. The economic framework for each tourney varies in both spots; smaller events, especially, would suffer financially if live audiences are eliminated or restricted.

One possible fallout of reduced revenue around tennis could be reduced prize money, even at a major championship such as the U.S. Open. Another: Some tournaments simply could disappear.

"Will a 15,000-seat stadium need to seat only 5,000 because

of social distancing? Will that be tennis' future? If so, will the sport survive?" said James Blake, a former top-five player and tournament director at the Miami Open, one of more than 40 tennis events scrapped since March because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"You either cut the prize money a little bit," Blake said, "or you have one or two more years where these companies and tournaments can remain financially solvent, and then they can't do it anymore."

Here is a look at how economic structures of the two sports mean they will be affected by the pandemic:

### PGA Tour

Eliminating spectators means eliminating significant chunks of a tournament's revenue. That starts with big-earning hospitality tents and pro-ams that can bring in upward of \$1 million, and includes other revenue sources like merchandise and ticket sales. Tournaments rely heavily on title sponsors — "We wouldn't be able to return" without them, Commissioner Jay Monahan said. But it's the local sponsorship that sustains each tournament. And if discretionary spending by corporations dries up, the effects could be greater in 2021.

### Tennis

The U.S. Open — as of now, scheduled to begin in late August — gets about a third of its roughly \$400 million in annual revenue from various American and international TV rights deals. About a quarter is from sponsorship deals, some of which would be renegotiated if there were no on-site fans. Another 35% or so comes from tickets and hospitality, with less than 10% from food and beverage, merchandise, etc. — all of which would vanish without the hundreds of thousands who normally attend.



Jon Super/AP

A closed ticket office at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. While some professional sports leagues, such as the NFL and European soccer leagues, have lucrative television contracts and big-money corporate sponsors that fill their substantial coffers, other sports rely heavily on their gate.

## Leagues, teams wary of rising stadium expenses in pandemic

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

Sporting Kansas City had just packed Children's Mercy Park to the brim for a 4-0 blowout of the Houston Dynamo when the coronavirus pandemic brought not just the Major League Soccer season but the entire sporting world to a standstill.

Suddenly, what looked like such a dream start for the club — on the pitch and off — had the makings of a nightmare.

Many professional sports leagues, such as the NFL and European soccer leagues, have lucrative television contracts and big-money corporate sponsors that fill their substantial coffers. But the domestic soccer league in the U.S. still relies heavily on ticket sales, merchandising and concessions, much like many university athletic departments.

Without games, their very ability to make ends meet would stretch the abilities of even the savviest of accountants.

"The economic impact is significant, borderline catastrophic, and not just for us," said Sporting KC President Jake Reid, whose club returned to full team training Monday. "If you cut off revenue streams and we still have the expenses of running buildings and paying players and staff, it's a challenge."

Most teams and leagues are reticent to discuss the fallout, but during a conference call with players, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said 40% of league revenue comes from ticket sales and in-arena purchases. So while the NBA has joined the NHL and MLS in crafting return-to-play plans, they are designed with safety in mind and that means centralized games away from their home stadiums.



BRANIMIR KVARTIC/AP

Without fans, people such as peanut vendor Richard Allen, shown at a Dodgers game in 2007, would not be employed at stadiums.

The financial impact of that decision is no small one: The NBA makes about \$1.2 million in gate revenue for each regular-season game played with fans, and there were 259 games remaining when the season was suspended.

"There's a loss that's going to take place industry-wide. It's simply unavoidable," said Marc Ganis, the co-founder of Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp. "If they can come back, they can reduce the loss for the players, the coaches, the people who work the ticket booths."

It takes about 3,000 workers to make U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis hum for a Vikings game. And even when they go back to work, the cost of ensuring they are safe — and keeping patrons safe, however many that may be — will grow by a significant

amount.

ASU Global, the stadium's operator, already has announced new guidelines for its approximately 325 facilities around the world. They include the way food is prepared and presented, the way crowds are filtered through gates and concourses, and even the way stadiums must be cleaned between events.

Then there are the new innovations that are helping to ensure they are safe, apps and other technology that monitor crowd density and wait lines at restrooms and concessions, high-efficiency air circulation systems and touchless payment methods.

It costs to implement. MLS acknowledges that most of its clubs do not turn a profit, and many baseball clubs struggle to make ends meet. Forty two of the 130 schools playing the highest level of college football had expenses exceed revenues last season, according to a Knight Commission database.

Many organizations are trying to bridge the budget gap through enhanced sponsorship sales, such as temporary billboards that could be stretched over unsold sections of seats. Teams and leagues are selling branded face masks and other personal protective equipment. Almost all of them are trying to engage fans in new ways.

"I think everybody who is in it for the long term will think long term," said Eric Grubman, a former NFL vice president for business operations. "They know that that's going to be life on the other side, so you have to keep playing, and you've got to find a way to do it safely. When it comes to the revenue shortfall and expenses going up, the players and the owners really are all in this together."



PETER MORGAN/AP

While majors such as the U.S. Open could still make money without fans, much smaller tennis and golf tournaments would struggle.

AUTO RACING

# Banner decision: Confederate flags banned by NASCAR

By DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

For more than 70 years, the Confederate flag was a common and complicated sight at NASCAR races. Through the civil rights era right on through the season opener at Daytona in February, the flag dotted infield campsites and was waved in grandstands by fans young and old.

As the nation — and at last, NASCAR — comes to grips with race relations in the wake of the death of George Floyd, it was time: The flag is no longer welcome in the stock car series.

NASCAR banned the flag at its races and all its venues Wednesday, a dramatic step by a series steeped in Southern tradition and proud of its good 'ol boy roots. It must now convince some of its most ardent fans that it is truly time to keep the flag at home, leave those T-shirts in the drawer, take off the bumper stickers and hit the track without a trace of the longtime symbol to many of racism and slavery. Policing the policy may prove challenging and NASCAR did not offer details.

The issue was pushed to the forefront this week by Bubba Wallace, NASCAR's lone black driver and an Alabama native who called for the banishment of the Confederate flag and said there was "no place" for it in the sport.

The ban was announced before Wednesday night's race at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia, where Wallace drove Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 43 Chevrolet with a #BlackLivesMatter paint scheme. Wallace, wearing an American flag mask, clasped his hands when asked about the decision before the start of the race.

"It's been a stressful couple of weeks," Wallace said on FS1. "This is no doubt the biggest race of my career tonight. I'm excited about tonight. There's a lot of emotions on the race track."

He finished 11th and shifted straight to an interview on ESPN's "SportsCenter."

His Chevy had "Compassion, Love, Understanding" emblazoned on the hood. Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., tweeted "#NASCAR, family" after the announcement, and scores of athletes followed the race on social media. The NAACP applauded NASCAR for taking the necessary step to "remove symbols of hate, racism, and discrimination from their events."

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that



DAVE MARTIN/AP

**Race fans fly a Confederate flag at the 1997 Talladega Superspeedway during a race. On Wednesday NASCAR banned the flag at its races and venues.**

he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests that have roiled the nation for days, and Confederate monuments are being taken down across the South — the traditional fan base for NASCAR.

"The presence of the Confederate flag at NASCAR events runs contrary to our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all fans, our competitors and our industry," NASCAR said. "Bringing people together around a love for racing and the community that it creates is what makes our fans and sport special. The display of the Confederate flag will be prohibited from all NASCAR events and properties."

Enforcing the ban could require added security in the often rowdy, booze-fueled infield filled with fans who may be intent on thumbing their nose at NASCAR. The series declined additional comment.

Fans have not been allowed back at races yet amid the coronavirus pandemic. It won't be long: NASCAR plans to welcome a small number of fans at a race Sunday near Miami and more later this month in Alabama.

The decision had Confederate flag loyalists howling in protest and vowing to swear off the sport.

NASCAR series driver Ray Ciccarelli posted on Facebook he would quit the sport, writing: "I could care less about the Confederate Flag but there are ppl that do and it doesn't make them a racist."

NASCAR helmet artist Jason Beam tweeted "ignorance wins again, NASCAR you realize the North had slaves too, lol not just the South, you want to remove the American Flag as well, idiots."



STEVEN HELBER/AP

**Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning Wednesday's 500 laps at Martinsville, Va., for his first NASCAR Cup Series victory this year. He led in 370 of the 500 laps.**

# Truex ends 2020 slump with dominant win at Martinsville

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Martin Truex Jr. used a trip to NASCAR's shortest track to end a lengthy losing streak on the day the stock car series at long last banned the Confederate flag.

Truex cruised down the stretch and won his first NASCAR Cup race of the season on Wednesday night in the first race under the lights at Martinsville Speedway. Truex, the 2017 Cup champion, has been one of NASCAR's biggest winners over the last three years, but failed to find victory lane for Joe Gibbs Racing over the first 10 races of this season. He won 19 times from 2017-2019.

"I knew we were going to get one soon," Truex said. "Hopefully we can get on a roll."

Tick tock. The time ran out on the losing streak.

Truex won the Martinsville grandfather clock on the paperclip-shaped track at just 0.526 miles. He won for the first time with new crew chief James Small.

"It's huge for him and his confidence and for the way people look at him," Truex said. "I think it's huge. I knew all along that he was capable. I know he's going to be an amazing crew chief for a long time to come."

Ryan Blaney, Brad Keselowski, who has two wins this season, and Joey Logano made it a 2-3-4 finish for Team Penske.

The race started shortly after NASCAR said the Confederate flag would be prohibited from all NASCAR events and properties.

Martinsville capped a stretch of seven straight Cup races since

it resumed without fans at the track. That streak ends Sunday when 1,000 Florida service members, representing the Homestead Air Reserve Base and U.S. Southern Command in Doral, are allowed to attend the Cup race at Homestead-Miami Speedway as honorary guests and view the race from the grandstands. The following week at Talladega Superspeedway, up to 5,000 fans

will be allowed to attend the race. NASCAR says all fans will be screened before entering, required to wear face coverings, mandated to social distance at six feet, and will not have access to the infield.

"I want to say hi to all the fans at home, we definitely miss you," Truex said. "This just doesn't feel right, but exciting to win for sure."

## Scoreboard

**Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500**  
Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series  
Wednesday  
At Martinsville Speedway  
Martinsville, Va.  
Lap length: 0.53 miles  
(Start position in parentheses)  
1. (2) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 500 laps, 47.0 pts.  
2. (3) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 500, 44.  
3. (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 500, 34.  
4. (3) Joey Logano, Ford, 500, 51.  
5. (11) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 500.  
6. (8) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 500.  
7. (19) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 500.  
8. (15) William Byron, Chevrolet, 500.  
9. (8) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 500, 34.  
10. (13) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 500, 45.  
11. (22) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 500.  
12. (1) Ryan Newman, Ford, 500, 25.  
13. (24) Chris Buescher, Ford, 500, 24.  
14. (29) Michael McDowell, Ford, 500.  
15. (10) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 499, 31.  
16. (14) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 499.  
17. (4) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 499, 29.  
18. (21) Ricky Lajolo, Ford, 499, 19.  
19. (7) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 499, 18.  
20. (13) Erik Jones, Toyota, 497, 17.  
21. (17) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 497, 16.  
22. (30) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 497, 15.  
23. (20) Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet, 497, 14.  
24. (12) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 497, 13.  
25. (18) John H. Nemechek, Ford, 497.  
26. (28) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 496.

11. (27) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 494, 10.  
28. (32) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 494.  
29. (27) Cole Custer, Ford, 494, 8.  
30. (31) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 494.  
31. (26) J.J. Yeley, Ford, 493, 0.  
32. (53) David Starr, Chevrolet, 479, 0.  
33. (2) Aric Almirola, Ford, garage, 476.  
34. (34) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 474, 3.  
35. (26) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 464, 0.  
36. (32) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 450, 0.  
37. (22) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, accident, 399, 1.  
38. (39) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, electrical, 295, 1.  
39. (38) Timmy Hill, Toyota, fuelpump, 105, 0.  
**Race statistics**  
Average speed of race winner: 177.383 mph.  
Time of race: 3 hours, 23 minutes, 55 seconds.  
Margin of victory: 4.705 seconds.  
Caution flags: 7 for 52 laps.  
Lead changes: 14 among 8 drivers.  
Lap leaders: R.Blaney 0; A.Almirola 1-19; J.Logano 20-62; C.Elliott 63; J.Logano 64-114; M.Trux 115; C.Lajoie 116-120; J.Logano 121-201; J.Johnson 202-271; R.Blaney 272-283; J.Logano 284-306; R.Blaney 307-328; J.Logano 329-364; R.Keselowski 365-369; M.Trux 370-500.  
**Leaders summary (Driver, times led, laps led):** J.Logano, 5 times for 234 laps; M.Trux, 2 times for 132 laps; J.Johnson, 1 time for 70 laps; R.Blaney, 3 times for 34 laps; A.Almirola, 1 time for 19 laps; R.Keselowski, 1 time for 1 lap; C.Lajoie, 1 time for 5 laps; C.Elliott, 1 time for 1 lap.  
**Wins:** K.Harvick, 2; J.Logano, 2; R.Keselowski, 2; D.Hamlin, 2; C.Elliott, 1; M.Trux, 1; A.Bowman, 1.

## SPORTS



**Show of support**  
Amid protests, NASCAR bans  
Confederate flag » **Racing, Page 55**

## VIRUS OUTBREAK



Aaron Jones celebrates with Packers fans in 2019. Such close contact is out for the foreseeable future.

AP

# Redefining the fan experience

Attending a game will look different when spectators are again allowed

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

Dayton Moore remembers so clearly the vast sections of empty seats inside Kauffman Stadium when he took over as general manager of the Kansas City Royals, and he remembers just as vividly — nearly a decade later — how those seats filled and fans roared as the long-suffering club won the World Series.

Those dueling memories make the thought of playing games in empty stadiums hard for Moore to fathom.

“I know how much strength all players draw from the fans and environment,” he said, when asked about plans to play a shortened season without crowds, “and you need that support to get through an entire Major League Baseball schedule.”

As lockdowns are lifted and restrictions eased, sports are finally starting to emerge in the coronavirus pandemic. But in virtually every situation, fans are not yet being allowed to attend



A man has his temperature checked by a security guard before being allowed to tour Globe Life Field, the new home of the Texas Rangers, in Arlington, Texas, on June 1.

LM Otero / AP

■ Commissioner says there is ‘100%’ chance of baseball being played this season, Page 48

and the only consensus for now is that there could be a long period of empty or nearly empty seating. Some U.S. universities are modeling for 25% capacity for the upcoming football season or maybe half-full arenas for the ensuing basketball season.

“I think for most sports, a reduced crowd wouldn’t negatively impact the overall experience,

especially in a situation like baseball or even the NFL,” said Katy Lucy, a digital marketing agent from Atlanta whose fandom is split between all things Georgia Bulldogs and the Washington Capitals. “But it would be different for sure for those who attend in person.”

SEE FAN ON PAGE 52



Austin LaFontaine wears a mask as he tours Globe Life Field on the first day of public tours June 1. Once fans are allowed back in stadiums, ensuring their safety while also keeping them entertained will be of paramount importance.

LM Otero/AP

US Soccer reverses national anthem rule » Page 52

