Military responses

Here's where the candidates stand on issues important to troops and veterans

BY STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden agreed in a questionnaire released Wednesday by a military advocacy group that the Defense Department needs to compete with near-peer military powers such as Russia and China.

But the presidential candidates differed on the details and where billions of federal dollars should be spent.

Trump boasted about "rebuilding the military." Biden conceded the military might need a boost but he doesn't back a runaway budget.

In the questionnaire released by Military Officers Association of America on how Trump and Biden would lead the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs, Trump touted the Pentagon's "largest-ever" budget, writing "our country has rejected a future of American decline and embraced our destiny of American dominance."

The MOAA asked Trump, Biden and Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian candidate for president, a series of questions on how they will lead the military and improve care for veterans.

SEE RESPONSES ON PAGE 7

Gulf Coast braces for 2nd round of flooding in Sally’s wake

BY JAY REEVES, ANGIE WANG AND JEFF MARTIN
Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Homeowners and businesses along the soggy Gulf Coast began cleaning up Thursday in the wake of Hurricane Sally as the region braced for a delayed, second round of flooding in the coming days from rivers and creeks swollen by the storm's heavy rains.

In Pensacola and surrounding Escambia County, where Sally's floodwaters surged through downtown streets and lapped at car door handles Wednesday before receding, authorities went door-to-door to check on residents and warn them the danger wasn't over.

"We are not out of the woods yet," Escambia County emergency manager Eric Gilmore said.

With the Florida Panhandle and Alabama on alert, Sally's rainy remnants pushed farther inland across the Southeast, causing flooding in Georgia and threatening more of the same on Friday in North Carolina and Virginia.

SEE SALLY ON PAGE 9
**BUSINESS/WEATHER**

**EUROPE GAS PRICES**

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**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

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**FRIDAY IN EUROPE**

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**SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

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**INTEREST RATES**

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**ADVERTISING GUIDE**

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**TODAY IN STRIPES**

American Roundup ........... 12
Classified .................. 42
Comics ...................... 38-40
Crossword .................. 38-40
Faces ....................... 45
Opinion .................... 38-40
Sports ..................... 46-56
Weekend .................. 17-38

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**RELLOCATION GUIDE**

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes and online daily at www.stripes.com/relo
BY CAILLIN DOORNROS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Japan — Japan’s new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, is likely to adhere to his predecessor’s defense policies, which experts say will benefit the Pentagon’s interests.

Suga, previously the chief cabinet secretary, took over as prime minister on Wednesday following elections by the governing Liberal Democratic Party. His predecessor, Shinzo Abe, stepped down due to poor health. Suga had been Japan’s longest-serving chief cabinet secretary, working under Abe from 2012-20.

Because of his long partnership with Abe, Japanese media has labeled Suga a “continuity candidate” expected to carry on the former prime minister’s work.

Abe advocated strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, bolstering the Japan Self-Defense Force and supporting U.S. troops in Japan, said Michael Cucek, assistant professor of Asian Studies at Temple University’s Japan campus.

Abe also pushed unsuccessfully to reform Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which prohibits the use or threat of force and the creation of an offensive military.

The self-made Suga shares Abe’s pro-military stance, but “was critical in saying there’s other things Abe could do to enhance Japan’s security,” said Stephen Nagy, a politics and international studies professor at Tokyo’s International Christian University.

“We strategically has a lot of different ideas on how Japan can strengthen its security without that direct change to the constitution,” he said. “Many people would like that change, but the pragmatists understand that it’s difficult to do in the current environment.”

For example, Nagy said, Suga likely influenced Abe’s successful pursuit of the 2015 Legislation for Peace and Security. The act allows the JSDF to assist foreign militaries and use force when Japan or one of its allies are under attack.

Suga has already made decisions signaling his commitment to Japanese defense, Cucek said, among them replacing former Defense Minister Taro Kono with Abe’s younger brother, Nobuo Kishi.

Kono in June canceled Japan’s plans to deploy the land-based missile-defense system Aegis Ashore.

“(With Kishi), Mr. Abe’s desires of the hard defense-oriented side of the party are guaranteed,” Cucek said. “We can expect Japan to be more activist … more intense, more pro-America and more proactive.”

Suga’s government will also place “great emphasis on the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy,” Cucek said, which promotes open access to the Western Pacific in the face of China’s claims to and militarization of the South China Sea. The concept is a key element in the 2018 U.S. National Defense Strategy and the Navy regularly patrols the region in support of it.

While some in Japan protest the U.S. presence and complain of base-associated noise, pollution and crime, the status of U.S. military bases in Japan should also remain safe under Suga’s leadership, according to Cucek.

“They will facilitate the U.S. because the security situation around Japan is getting more serious and dangerous,” he said.

As China disputes claim over Japan’s southwestern Senkaku Islands, Nagy said the Liberal Democrats see the U.S. bases on Okinawa “as something essential to peripheral security.”

The Pentagon has said an attack on the islands would invoke the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, meaning the U.S. military would be obligated to respond.

Okinawa and the Senkaku Islands are part of the “first island chain” that China uses to distinguish its nine-dash line, which Beijing says delineates its territorial waters. An international tribunal ruled this claim in 2016, and the U.S. in July also announced a formal policy rejecting it.

Last year, Beijing sent a record-breaking 1,004 ships near the Senkakus, the Japan Coast Guard said in December. The Chinese refer to them as the Diaosu Islands. They’re also claimed by Taiwan.

While Nagy said Suga may work to decrease the U.S. military’s burden on the Okinawan population, the administration will likely support U.S. operations there.

“(Okinawa) is the closest place to where Japan’s sovereignty is being challenged daily by Chinese maritime militia forces,” Nagy said. “If (Japan) can maintain control on this island chain they can limit Chinese assertive behavior beyond that point.”

Experts say Japan’s new prime minister will adhere to Abe’s pro-military stance.

The bill was born out of the outrage that followed the death of Spc. Vanessa Guillen earlier this year at Fort Hood. Guillen, a 20-year-old small arms repairer, was killed by another soldier April 22. She was reported missing in late April, and her remains were found more than two months later in a shallow grave about 20 miles from the base. Guillen’s family has said that she faced sexual harassment on base but was too afraid to report it.

The news of Guillen’s death and sexual harassment inspired hundreds of veterans to post on social media their own experiences with harassment and assault and expose a larger issue about a victim’s willingness to report these problems.

Guillen’s family joined lawmakers Wednesday outside the Capitol to introduce the act. Lupe Guillen, Vanessa’s 16-year-old sister, spoke at the end of the event, tears streaming down her face as she read prepared remarks from her phone. In part, she criticized the Army for tolerating sexual harassment.

“The Government Accountability Office to study the military’s handling of missing persons cases and its sexual assault and harassment prevention programs.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., introduced the legislation Wednesday, along with Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., and 71 other cosponsors. Speier is trying to recruit more Republicans to cosponsor the measure in order for it to be passed under a suspension of the rules — a procedure used to quickly pass noncontroversial bills. That type of motion would require a two-thirds’ majority.

“This is very remarkable, to be able to introduce this bill today and have it taken up before the end of the session,” Speier said. “That means a vote would either be in the next few weeks or in November.”

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“How many more people must die before a system that is broken can be changed?” Lupe Guillen asked.

Nearly 10 years ago, Speier began sharing stories of military sexual harassment with other lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Even at that time, survivors were urging Congress to create an independent system for reporting harassment and assault, Speier said. Democrats and Republicans pushed back.

“For the longest time, the military was successful in arguing that us challenging their chain of command was somehow unpatriotic,” Speier said. “What’s unpatriotic is that we have a dead young service member who didn’t believe in the system enough to report her harassment. This culture is broken. The rot has festered for generations.”

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has committed to scheduling a vote before the end of the congressional session on the I am Vanessa Guillen Act — a bill that would revamp the military’s system for reporting and investigating military sexual harassment and assault.

The sweeping measure would create new procedures for service members to report sexual harassment and assault in confidence and outside of their chain of command. Two years after being enacted, the bill would establish independent investigators and an independent prosecutor within the military who would be responsible for handling sex offenses.

The bill would also allow service members who experience sexual harassment or assault to file claims for compensation with the Defense Department. It orders

House to vote on changes for reporting military sexual assault

Experts say Japan’s new prime minister will adhere to Abe’s pro-military stance.
TikTok use spurs security, conduct concerns

BY ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. soldier sparked outrage last month when she posted a clip on the popular video sharing app TikTok dancing in uniform to the song “WAP” with a tag “military.”

Even if it’s on a goofy side on social media, we can still be disciplined in the military,” she said. “I am one of the most disciplined soldiers, but I post something where I’m having fun and people say that I’m a disgrace and that I shouldn’t be in the military. I should be able to post without being harassed.”

TikTok has over 6 million downloads in the U.S. and the Pentagon last month said military members should avoid using the app.

“Without a doubt, it’s one of the greatest challenges facing operational security and personnel security today,” Powell said. “It also strikes straight to the core of constitutional issues.”

“Hey if you get offended, get the [expletive] out, cause it’s a joke,” he says in the clip.

While Freihofer was not in uniform in the video, he did have a Common Access Card on his account. The profile, which has been deactivated, had 3 million followers.

Since the investigation that was launched Sept. 3, several Freihofer fan accounts have sprung up on TikTok, and one already has over 20,000 followers.

The use of TikTok among service members has also led to debate on Twitter over misgivings in the military.

“Let’s be clear here, the reason this particular video is making the rounds outside of Twitter and bringing up comments on professionalism from people with oak leaves and eagles or people with stars between their chevrons and rockers is because it’s of two women,” she tweeted Aug. 27.

The future of TikTok use by active-duty troops is still a question. Service members will have to wait and see if the DOD’s stance on the app alters in light of the company’s pending agreement with Oracle.

“Without a doubt, it’s one of the greatest challenges facing operational security and personnel security today,” Powell said. “It also strikes straight to the core of a constitutional issue.”

“How do you balance our First Amendment rights with the safety and security of our members?”

Deadline set to renew expired IDs

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

Military

Service members and others with common access cards that expired during the coronavirus pandemic must renew them by Sept. 30, while retirees and dependents with expired ID cards will have more time to renew them.

The Defense Department in April began allowing CAC holders to extend the life of their IDs virtually by updating their information at the MilConnect ID Card Office Online, which allowed them to continue using cards with an expiration date of April 16 or later to gain base access and obtain benefits.

That policy will expire at the end of the month, “due to the high rate of Common Access Card reinstatement and low rate of certifi- cate extensions,” a Sept. 8 memo from the office of the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness said.

Uniformed Service Identification card holders, which include dependents and retirees, may continue using cards that expired on or after Jan. 1 this year, the memo stated. The expired USIDs will be good for access to DOD installations through June 30, Navy guidance issued Monday said.

The USID extensions were authorized because of “limited ability” to return ID offices to normal capacity while complying with safety precautions, the DOD memo said.

Defense Department ID card offices will prioritize those with expiring CACs and renewal requests through Sept. 30, the Navy statement said.

Employees will contact those who have appointments to confirm that they’re for CACs; USID car holders will be rescheduled for Oct. 1, the Navy said.

To make an appointment for an ID card renewal or to locate an office, go to the ID Card Office Online at idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco.
The Air Force said Tuesday it was yet again postponing physical fitness assessments for airmen due to the coronavirus pandemic, this time until the beginning of 2021.

In May, the service notified airmen that the tests were being suspended until Oct. 1. The start date has now been pushed back to Jan. 1, the Air Force said in a statement.

Airmen typically take the test once or twice a year. Those who earn a top rating are only required to test annually.

“To continue minimizing close contact among personnel during the ongoing [coronavirus] pandemic and ensure units and personnel are fully ready to resume, testing has been delayed from October to January, and testing in January will move forward without obtaining waist, height and weight measurements,” the statement said.

Come the new year, uniformed personnel will be expected to test on the 1½-mile run, 1 minute of push-ups and 1 minute of sit-ups. Waist, height and weight measurements remain postponed until further notice, the statement said.

All airmen will receive maximum points for the so-called “abdominal circumference” component as part of their official score, including those with exemptions to that waist measurement, the statement said.

“We know people are staying fit regardless, but we want to give our Airmen enough time to prepare,” Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said in the statement.

Commanders may delay fitness assessments beyond Jan. 1 based on factors such as recommendations of local public health officials, continuation of closed fitness centers and extended statewide restriction of movement and gatherings, the statement said.

“Commanders may delay fitness assessments beyond Jan. 1 based on factors such as recommendations of local public health officials, continuation of closed fitness centers and extended statewide restriction of movement and gatherings, the statement said.

He said airmen have been juggling work, child care access, homeschooling and family separations that have impacted maintaining fitness.

“This delay gives our folks extra time to prepare for January, while also ensuring units have more time to implement additional COVID precautions,” Kelly said.

Fitness assessment due dates in 2021 will depend largely on the date and score of the last official test, and can be determined by visiting the Official Physical Assessment Due Date Matrix on myPers, the statement said.

The Air Force is using the hiatus on measuring waist size to scrutinize its role in the service’s fitness culture, Kelly said.

“We’re in discussion with our medical counterparts to determine the right place for the waist measurement, whether it be part of an annual health assessment or elsewhere,” he said.

In April, the Marine Corps canceled all fitness tests for the remainder of the year. The Navy did likewise in July.

The Air Force trainee Chris-Aun Wilmuth participates in a physical training session in July at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
Federal officials requested the Active Denial System to clear protesters in Washington

BY MARISSA J. LANG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hours before law enforcement forcibly cleared protesters from Lafayette Square in early June amid protests over the killing of George Floyd, federal officials were searching to determine what equipment and weaponry federal officers in the District of Columbia on the ground that day were using.

The District of Columbia National Guard Maj. Adam DeMarco told lawmakers that defense officials were searching for crowd control technology deemed too unpredictable to use in war zones and had authorized the transfer of about 7,000 rounds of ammunition to the D.C. Armory as protests against police use of force and racial injustice roiled Washington.

In sworn testimony, shared this week with The Washington Post, DeMarco provided his account as part of an ongoing investigation into law enforcement and military officers’ use of force against District protesters.

On June 1, federal forces pushed protesters from the park and across the White House, blanketing the street with clouds of tear gas, firing stun grenades, setting off smoke bombs and showering demonstrators with shields and batons, eliciting criticism that the response was extreme. The Trump administration has argued that officers were responding to violent protesters who had been hurling fire bombs, setting fires and throwing water bottles and rocks at police.

But DeMarco’s account contradicts the administration’s claims that protesters were violent, tear gas was never used and demonstrators were giving warnings to disperse via a Long Range Acoustic Device. But DeMarco told lawmakers that is impossible because there was no such device on the scene at the time.

Just before noon on June 1, the Defense Department’s top military police officer in the Washington region sent an email to officers in the District’s National Guard. It asked whether the unit had a Long Range Acoustic Device, also known as an LRAD, or a microwave-like weapon called the Active Denial System, which was designed by the military to make people feel like their skin is burning when in range of its invisible rays.

The technology, also called a “heat ray,” was developed to disperse large crowds in the early 2000s but was shelved amid concerns about its effectiveness, safety and the ethics of using it on human beings.

Pentagon officials were reluctant to use the device in Iraq. In late 2018, the New York Times reported, the Trump administration had weighed using the device on migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border — an idea shot down by Kirstjen Nielsen, then the Homeland Security secretary, citing humanitarian concerns.

But in the email, on which DeMarco was copied, the lead military police officer in the National Capital Region wrote the ADS device “can provide our troops a capacity they currently do not have, the ability to reach out and engage potential adversaries at distances well beyond small arms range, and in a safe, effective, and nonlethal manner.”

The email continued: “The ADS can immediately compel an individual to cease threatening behavior or depart through application of a directed energy beam that provides a sensation of intense heat on the surface of the skin. The effect is overwhelming, causing an immediate repel response by the targeted individual.”

Federal police ultimately were unable to obtain a heat ray device — or an LRAD — during the early days of protests in the District, according to the Defense Department official.

DeMarco said without an LRAD, federal forces instead issued dispersal orders to the crowd using a handheld red-and-white megaphone. Laws and court rulings require police to give demonstrators repeated, clear warnings of officers’ intentions to escalate and to allow people adequate time and avenues to disperse peacefully.

DeMarco told lawmakers he was standing about 30 yards from the announcer but could barely make out the order. The chanting crowd, which was even farther from the officer with the megaphone, did not appear to hear the warnings, DeMarco said.

Protesters, journalists and humanitarian aid volunteers who were there that day have repeatedly said they never heard a warning before police began to move on the crowd. Advancing on foot and horseback, they pushed protesters back as explosions sent clouds of smoke and chemicals into the air, and officers fired rubber pellets into packs of retreating protesters.

Monahan has said police responded to protesters spurred his agency to clear the area ahead of the District’s mayor’s 7 p.m. curfew — instituted as a response to looting, vandalism and arson amid demonstrations on previous nights — with unusually aggressive tactics.

Monahan also told members of Congress in July that Park Police had followed protocol in issuing three warnings “utilizing a Long Range Acoustic Device” — although DeMarco’s testimony indicates no such device was in use.

The D.C. Park Police did not respond to a request for further comment this week.

DeMarco first appeared before lawmakers on the House Natural Resources Committee in late July but followed up at the end of the week with more detailed answers to legislators’ questions about munitions and equipment used by law enforcement. His answers, submitted in written form, were shared with The Post this week by congressional staff at the House Natural Resources Committee.

He told lawmakers he felt compelled to come forward as a witness because he found the events at Lafayette Square “deeply disturbing.” His attorney, David Laufman, said DeMarco hopes lawmakers will continue to investigate the federal response.

“That anyone in the Department of Defense referred to American citizens exercising their First Amendment rights as ‘potential adversaries’ and even contemplated the use of an ADS on the streets of our nation’s capital is deeply disturbing and calls for further investigation,” Laufman said.

DeMarco also testified that a stash of M4 carbine assault rifles was transferred from Fort Belvoir to the D.C. Armory on June 1 and that transfers of ammunition from states such as Missouri and Tennessee arrived in subsequent days. By mid-June, about 7,000 rounds of 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm ammunition rounds had been transferred to the D.C. Armory, DeMarco said.

He did not specify what the ammunition was for, and the District’s National Guard did not respond to questions about the weapons transfers.

In late June, Congress opened an investigation into tactics used by federal law enforcement officers to clear protesters near Lafayette Square.

Monahan and DeMarco testified on the same day in July, at which time Monahan said the area around Lafayette Square was cleared June 1 so construction crews could erect a taller fence than the temporary barricades that had closed off the area.

DeMarco told legislators that, having served in a combat zone where he spent time around various threats, he did not feel threatened at any point by protesters’ calls to “arrest them or assess them to be violent.”

“From my observation, these demonstrators were mostly young American citizens — were engaged in the peaceful expression of their First Amendment rights,” he said. “Yet they were subjected to an unprovoked escalation and excessive use of force.”

Law enforcement officials block a street in Washington during the protests that followed the death of George Floyd in police custody.

\textbf{Even contemplated the use of an ADS on the streets of our nation’s capital is deeply disturbing.}\textnormal{\hfill David Laufman\hfill Maj. Adam DeMarco’s attorney}

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\caption{Law enforcement officers block a street in Washington during the protests that followed the death of George Floyd in police custody.}
\end{figure}
Montagnet leads Atsugi as ‘Chili’ Mack departs

By Christian Lopez
Stars and Stripes

Naval Air Facility Atsugi welcomed its new leader, and said goodbye to the old one, Thursday during a change-of-command ceremony customized with measures to prevent the coronavirus’ spread.

Capt. John M. Montagnet assumed command of the installation 12 miles southeast of Tokyo from Capt. Lloyd B. “Chili” Mack at the sparsely attended morning gathering inside a hangar normally used by the headquarters of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 21.

In lieu of the expected 300-400 guests, only about 50 observed in person while wearing face masks and maintaining social distance. Others watched the ceremony live on NAF Atsugi’s official Facebook page.

“As you all know, COVID-19 has tested our community at so many levels,” Mack told the audience.

Collectively, we have weathered the tough times and ensured that NAF Atsugi would be able to meet any challenges that it would face.”

Mack put the base on a temporary lockdown over the summer because of an unspecified number of coronavirus infections. As of Wednesday, there were no active cases.

Montagnet, a Mississippi native who comes to Japan from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where he served as a professor, told the audience it was hard to put into words what we were looking forward to his new assignment.

“It is an honor and privilege to get to play a part in continuing the wonderful relationship between the United States and Japan,” he said.

As of Thursday afternoon, the Navy had not responded to questions about where Mack is heading. He spent three years commanding NAF Atsugi and its community of about 6,000 personnel, including U.S. troops, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force members and their families.

“This is a sentimental moment for me,” he wrote Wednesday in his final “Leadership Daily” message to the community on Facebook.

“There are brighter days ahead for this installation; the base is in transition, and I know you will support Captain Montagnet as he navigates what’s next for NAF Atsugi.”

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Responses: Trump sees Chinese threat; Biden urges ‘fiscal discipline’

FROM FRONT PAGE

In his responses, Trump highlighted his establishing Space Force and authorizing a boost to the military’s arsenal, including 100 new F-35s, 165 new Abrams tanks, and two new Virginia-class submarines.

Biden slammed Trump for abandoning “all fiscal discipline” and called for a more surgical approach to Defense Department investments that includes reallocation of existing resources to modernize the military.

His budget is dominated by investments in aging legacy capabilities. At a time when we’re winding down our main combat efforts from the last two decades, we need to make smarter investments in our military,” Biden wrote to the MOAA, stopping short of committing to any big promises on how he would finance the military. “We have to make smart investments in technologies and innovations — including in cyber, space, unmanned systems, and artificial intelligence — that will be necessary to meet the threats of the future.”

In an interview with Stars and Stripes last week, Biden said there is a possibility of a need to boost defense spending — mainly to modernize the force to compete with near-peer threats such as China and Russia.

Trump and Biden in their answers to MOAA’s questionnaire agreed near-peer threats pose the greatest long-term security threat to the United States.

Trump and Biden agreed near-peer threats pose the greatest long-term security threat to the United States.

Specifically, we see China as an ever-increasing economic and military threat as they continue to expand their influence throughout the world.” Trump wrote, also repeating his past critiques of NATO countries not contributing enough to the defense of Europe.

“Relatedly, we continue to ask our NATO allies to fulfill their obligation to provide 2% of their GDP to defense,” Trump added.

Several NATO countries have not made that commitment and are not on a glidepath to do so. We remain committed to our friends in liberty but we cannot allow America to be uniquely burdened.”

Biden said Russia and China pose “the most distinct and immediate threats from state actors,” adding that Russia seeks to undermine the United States and democracies in Europe while China is a looming global threat, calling it “the greatest strategic challenge.”

In the questionnaire, Trump did not make any military commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria or Africa. He has previously made promises to end “forever wars” and has taken steps recently to bring a large number of troops home this year.

Biden told Stars and Stripes last week that he intends to keep a small number of troops in the conflict regions to facilitate special operations missions. He told MOAA that he wants a detailed review of a defense strategy in the Global War on Terror to figure out a plan for the military in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

On veterans issues, both candidates said the VA needs to continue investing in private-sector health care.

However, Trump fully embraced private-sector care for VA patients while Biden said he wants to lean on the agency itself and caregivers.

Trump often cites his efforts with the VA as a central achievement of his first term, saying no one has done more for veterans. Nonetheless, the agency has an uneven record in caring for the nation’s 9 million veterans.

Trump told the MOAA that the VA’s biggest accomplishment during his presidency is implementing the Mission Act, which greatly expands eligibility for veterans to seek care outside the federal network.

“Enabling veterans in the VA to receive care in the private community whenever it’s in their best interest or when they require urgent care without any prior authorizations,” Trump wrote.

Biden said his goal will be to “strike the right balance between VA and community care,” suggesting there is room for private care using federal funds, but the VA itself should stay relevant.

He also underscored the importance of expanding the list of presumptive conditions for veterans with traumatic brain injuries or sick from burn pit exposure.

“We must never again have an Agent Orange-like crisis,” Biden wrote.

In her responses, Jorgensen wrote she would dramatically scale back military spending. She told MOAA that America should be “one giant Switzerland” with no involvement in foreign wars and focused on defending the country.

Jorgensen added, under her presidency, U.S. troops in foreign countries would be brought home.

In a major reversal from Trump and Biden, Jorgensen would dismantle the VA. She said instead of health care, veterans who were wounded in combat would be given direct payments in compensation.

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Airman killed in 2nd wreck at Kuwait base

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Air Force reservist was killed in an all-terrain vehicle wreck on the flight line at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait on Monday, the second fatal wreck on the base in less than a week, the Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Ouellette, 23, died in the single-vehicle wreck at the base in central Kuwait that houses U.S. service members largely supporting anti-Islamic State operations in Iraq and Syria, the Pentagon said in a statement. Ouellette was from Merrimack, N.H., and was a member of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron stationed at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts.

Ouellette’s death came just two days after Senior Airman Jason Kahi Phan, also deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, died in a vehicle wreck Sept. 12 while on a patrol just outside the base. U.S. Air Forces Central officials said both incidents were under investigation but were not related. Neither wreck was the result of enemy or combat-related activity, the officials said in a statement.

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**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

3 cases traced to woman’s Edelweiss quarantine violation

By John Vandiver and Marcus Kloeckner  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Worries of a large-scale coronavirus outbreak in a Bavarian alpine vacation town that hosts a U.S. military resort eased this week after test results showed few cases directly connected to an American who flouted quarantine for a night of bar hopping, officials said.

Three of the 56 active cases in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen district were traced directly to a 26-year-old Edelweiss Lodge and Resort employee’s night on the town Sept. 8 after she was ordered into quarantine following a coronavirus test the day before, district officials said.

The woman’s quarantine violation caught national attention as health officials administered hundreds of tests and shuttered bars in the district.

“The coronavirus situation in the district of Garmisch-Partenkirchen continues to relax as regards to possible infections in Garmisch-Partenkirchen’s nightlife,” the district said in a statement Wednesday after local officials met with a top U.S. Army commander.

Brig. Gen. Christopher Norrie, the Army’s senior officer in Bavaria, said he was encouraged by the results of recent tests but turned results in concert with the results, there is “more work to do.”

“The health and safety of not only our American community, but of the Bavarian communities where we live and work, is our top priority,” he said.

There are more than 50,000 Americans connected to the military in Bavaria, mostly concentrated around Grafenwoehr. To date, more than 25,000 tests have been conducted inside the military community in Bavaria since August, Norrie said.

Some of the 56 active cases in the district were from work-related travel, officials said.

**COVID-19 danger continues to drive historic joblessness in US**

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell last week to 860,000, a historically high figure that reflects economic damage from the coronavirus outbreak.

Before the pandemic hit the economy, the number signing up for jobless aid had never exceeded 700,000 in a week, even during the depths of the 2007-09 Great Recession.

The Labor Department said Thursday that U.S. jobless claims fell by 33,000 from the previous week and that 12.6 million are collecting traditional unemployment benefits, compared with just 1.7 million a year ago.

The outbreak slammed the U.S. economy in the spring, causing the economy to collapse at a 31.7% annual rate from April through June, by far the worst three months on record. Companies and government agencies slashed 22 million jobs.

Since then, the economy and job market have been rebounding. Employers added 10.6 million jobs from May through August — but the United States still has recovered less than half the jobs lost in March and April.

The recovery remains fragile, imperiled by continuing COVID-19 cases and a failure to deliver another economic rescue package.

An extra $600 in weekly unemployment benefits ran out July 31, squeezing households that had depended on the beefed-up payments. President Donald Trump issued an executive order Aug. 8 providing a scaled-back version of the expanded jobless aid. Most states signed up for federal grants that let them increase weekly benefits by $300 or $400.

That program is expiring.

Charissa Ward, 37, was furloughed in April from her job as a server at a restaurant in Disney’s Hollywood Studios resort near Orlando, Fla. Since then, she’s been helping at her partner’s online retail business, applying for jobs and waiting to see what Disney will do. “We have no idea when we’re going to get called back,” she said.

The extra $600 in weekly jobless benefits didn’t replace all her lost income but helped. The reduced $300 she received briefly from Trump’s program made life “a little less stressful.”

Stay-at-home order is extended on Guam

Guam’s governor has once again extended a coronavirus-related stay-at-home order that was set to expire at noon Friday. A new executive order, announced Thursday by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero’s office, came just a few hours after the U.S. territory reported its 30th coronavirus-related fatality, a 72-year-old man who died early that morning at Guam Memorial Hospital. A statement said he had tested positive on Tuesday.

As of Wednesday evening, Guam had recorded 2,013 coronavirus infections. Of those, 291 have been U.S. service members. The governor’s stay-at-home order, which is now set to expire at noon on Sept. 25, directs “all persons in Guam” to remain in their residences, except for essential activities such as food shopping, visiting a doctor or commuting to and from work.

US military in Japan reports a single new coronavirus case at Yokota

**Stars and Stripes**

TOKYO — One person at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday as the number of new patients within the U.S. military in Japan continued to climb.

The new patient was tested by Japanese authorities at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo after returning from travel abroad, according to a statement from the 374th Airlift Wing. That person went directly into quarantine, as required of any one arriving into the country.

U.S. Forces Japan also requires all personnel arriving in the country to isolate themselves for 14 days. Yokota remains under a public health emergency, although some restrictions have been eased in the past month.

Elsewhere, U.S. Army Japan loosened travel restrictions on its personnel Wednesday at Camp Zama and the nearby Sagami General Depot and Sagamihara Family Housing Area.

Personnel at those locations may now travel during off-peak hours by train, buses, taxis and hired cars in a 93-mile-wide area around Camp Zama. The installation is 28 miles southwest of central Tokyo, which remains off-limits.

Public transportation is barred from 6-9 a.m. and 5-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, according to the Army. Traveling through restricted areas is still off-limits and riders should avoid vehicles with greater than 50% occupancy.

The Army requires its personnel while on public transportation to wear masks and refrain from eating, drinking and talking except for health and safety reasons.

The service also raised the 10:30 p.m. curfew back to 1 a.m. for sergeants and below, which is uniform across U.S. Forces Japan.

Bars and nightclubs and similar venues remain off-limits, although the Army increased the number of people who can take part in physical activity from the team to the squad level.
Sally: Half million in Alabama left with no power after hurricane

FROM FRONT PAGE

Forecasters said Georgia could get up to a foot, and South Carolina 10 inches.

Along the Gulf Coast, officials inspected shut-down highways and bridges for damage. A section of the main bridge between Pensacola and Pensacola Beach collapsed after it was hit by a barge that broke loose during the storm.

At least 400 people in Escambia County were rescued by such means as high-water vehicles, boats and jet skis, county Public Safety Director Jason Rogers said. At least one death, in Alabama, was blamed on the hurricane, and more than a half-million homes and businesses were without electricity on the morning after the storm in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

A few people cleaned up in Bristol Park, a creekside neighborhood where as much as 4 feet of water filled brick homes north of Pensacola.

Susan Cutts’ parents fled rising water inside their home into the garage, where they desperately called for help on a dying cell phone until aid arrived.

“They were on top of their car when they got to them,” Cutts said.

At least eight waterways in southern Alabama and the Florida Panhandle were expected to hit major flood stage by Thursday. Forecasters warned that some of the crests could break records, submerge bridges and flood homes.

Flooding in central Georgia forced Robins Air Force Base south of Macon to close one of its entrances and delay the start of the workday for some employees. Elsewhere in Georgia, sheriff's deputies warned even more flood stages were possible for rivers and creeks as heavy rains continued.

In Alabama, 105 mph winds near Gulfport, Miss, as a Category 2 storm boasting 110 mph winds near Gulfport, Ala, and moved slowly across the Florida Panhandle at some 5 mph through the day, dumping rain for hours. The storm poured more than 2 feet of rain on the Pensacola area, leaving the city's downtown flooded. Federal forecasters warned even more flooding was likely in the area in the coming days as rain-swollen rivers and creeks were expected to overflow.

On Facebook, Naval Hospital Pensacola posted photographs showing wind damage to structures outside the facility, and water and other damage inside the hospital.

The hospital, including its urgent care facility, was to remain closed at least through Thursday after suffering storm damage and loss of power. Navy officials said they did not know when the facility might reopen. Dining facilities on the air station were set to reopen to service members and others on the base, officials said, but most other services, including child care facilities, were closed indefinitely.

Officials at Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, outside Port Walton Beach, Fla, about 40 miles east of Pensacola, also said Thursday that they were conducting damage assessments.

National Weather Service forecasters warned the remnants of Hurricane Sally would bring heavy rain and potential flooding to southeast Alabama, Georgia and North and South Carolina through Friday. Officials at Robins Air Force Base in central Georgia reported the storm, which remained a tropical depression, had caused flooding on that installation Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, Florida and Alabama National Guard troops were working Thursday to help civilian first responders in search-and-rescue, route clearance and delivering supplies such as pre-packaged military meals to shelters, she said.

The Coast Guard also was conducting search-and-rescue operations in the region by helicopter and boat. On Wednesday afternoon, a Coast Guard shallow water vessel crew rescued nine people and a dog stranded by Hurricane Sally near Navarre Beach, Fla, officials said Thursday.

By COREY DICKSTEIN Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Multiple buildings, including the hospital, at Naval Air Station Pensacola sustained damage from Hurricane Sally as the storm dumped torrential rain and spread debris across the base Wednesday, several Navy officials said.

Damage assessments were only beginning Thursday, more than 24 hours after the storm hit NAS Pensacola, and it could be days before the extent of the hurricane’s impact on the western Florida base is known, said Steve Strickland, a spokesman for Navy Region Southeast. A spokesman for NAS Pensacola said late Wednesday that the base was largely without power and cell phone and internet communications in the area were sporadic.

Hurricane Sally made landfall early Wednesday morning as a Category 2 storm boasting 105 mph winds near Gulfport, Ala, and moved slowly across the Florida Panhandle at some 3 mph through the day, dumping rain for hours. The storm poured more than 2 feet of rain on the Pensacola area, leaving the city’s downtown flooded. Federal forecasters warned even more flooding was likely in the area in the coming days as rain-swollen rivers and creeks were expected to overflow.

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Buildings at NAS Pensacola damaged by hurricane

A boat is washed up near a road after Hurricane Sally moved through the area, Wednesday, in Orange Beach, Ala.

A tree limb juts through the ceiling of a home damaged by Hurricane Sally on Thursday, in Guyton, Ga.
executors should have final say in Donald Trump. Including in criminal cases the decisions of Justice Department are thus the ones on which cases that they bring, Barr described as part of the “permanent bureaucracy” and suggested they need to be supervised, and even rein in, by politically appointed leaders accountable to the president and Congress.

The men and women who have ultimate authority in the Justice Department are thus the ones on whom our elected officials have conferred that responsibility — by presidential appointment and Senate confirmation,” Barr said, according to his prepared remarks. “That blessing by the two political branches of government gives these officials democratic legitimacy that career officials simply do not possess.”

Barr himself has been aggressive as attorney general in pursuing certain categories of prosecutions, including using federal statutes to charge defendants in the unrest that roiled cities after the death of George Floyd. But he warned that prosecutors can become overly attached to their cases in ways that lose perspective and judgment, listing a series of prosecutions — including under prior administrations — in which he said he believed the government had taken extreme positions. “Individual prosecutors can sometimes become headhunters, consumed with taking down their target,” Barr said. “Subjecting their decisions to review by detached supervisors ensures the involvement of dispassionate decision-makers in the process.”

Barr’s comments appeared to be a thinly veiled reference to the fracas that arose ahead of the February sentencing of Trump confidant Roger Stone. In that case, Barr overruled the sentencing recommendation of the line prosecutors in favor of a lighter punishment. The move prompted the entire trial team to quit before Stone’s sentencing hearing. Barr has defended his intervention as in the interests of justice.

In May, he sought the dismissal of the criminal case against former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn, who pleaded guilty as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation to lying to the FBI. Barr’s request is tied up in a court fight.

Though Barr was accused of undue intervention on behalf of the president’s associates, he bristled in his speech Wednesday night at the idea that he was even possible for an attorney general to meddle in the affairs of a department that he leads. “The successful organization where the lowest level employees’ decisions are deemed sacrosanct. There aren’t any,” Barr said.

He added: “Letting the most junior members set the agenda might be a good philosophy for a Montessori preschool, but it’s no way to run a federal agency. Good leaders at the Justice Department must be at any organization — need to trust and support their subordinates. But that does not mean blindly deferring to whatever those subordinates want to do.”

He also took a veiled swipe at members of Mueller’s team. He suggested that the Trump administration had been more successful than the Obama administration before the Supreme Court, and that one reason for that was because the Obama administration had some of the people who were later on Mueller’s team writing briefs for the court.

That appeared to be a reference to Michael Dreeben, a respected lawyer who argued over 100 cases before the Supreme Court, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, during a decadeslong career in the Justice Department’s solicitor general’s office. Dreeben was a senior member of Mueller’s team.
Seoul: N. Korea may test missile fired underwater

BY HYUN-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea may soon conduct its first underwater-launched ballistic missile test in about a year, a top South Korean military official said Wednesday, amid long-stalled nuclear talks between the North and the United States.

In written remarks to lawmakers ahead of a confirmation hearing, Won In-choul, the nominee for chairman of South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, said North Korea has been repairing recent typhoon damage at its northeastern Sinpo shipyard, a place where it builds submarines.

Shortly after the repairs are complete, there is a chance it will carry out a submarine-launched ballistic missile test, Won said. He said South Korea’s military is keeping a close watch on developments there, according to a copy of his remarks provided by a lawmaker.

In recent years, North Korea has been pushing hard to acquire the capability to launch missiles from submarines in what experts say is a worrying development because such weapons are difficult to detect before launch. A submarine-launched missile test by North Korea last October was the first of its kind in three years, and the most provocative weapons test since North Korea entered nuclear negotiations with the U.S. in 2018.

The nuclear talks have made little headway since the second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in Vietnam in 2019. North Korea suspended nuclear work and expelled international inspectors after the talks collapsed.

In March, the Trump administration said it was not ruling out a new nuclear test by North Korea.

Foreign experts say past North Korean underwater-launched missile tests were conducted from a submersible barge with a single launch tube, not a functioning submarine. In July 2019, North Korean state media said Kim inspected a newly-built submarine that observers said appeared to be the North’s most sophisticated model with several launch tubes.

A military source said the upcoming underwater launch test would also be made from the barge, not the new submarine, to not provoke the United States too much.

According to 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, recent satellite images of the Sinpo shipyard show the repositioning or departure of the submersible test barge. It said the barge’s location “may signal an impending SLBM test though conducting such a launch on the heels of a destructive typhoon seems unlikely.”

Jung said a missile fired from the barge would have a potential range of 185-310 miles, thus posing no direct threat to the U.S. mainland.

Greeks move migrants to new camp after huge fire

KARATEPE, Greece — Greek police are moving hundreds of migrants to an army-built camp on the island of Lesbos on Thursday after a fire destroyed an overcrowded facility, leaving them homeless for days.

Wearing masks and white coveralls, police escorted migrants camped out on a roadside to the new site in the island’s Karatepe area.

The notoriously squalid Moria camp burned down last week, leaving more than 12,000 people in need of emergency shelter.

Thursday’s operation included 70 female police officers and no violence was reported. As long as it is peaceful, we believe it is a good move, said Astrid Castelein, head of the U.N. Refugee Agency’s office on Lesbos.

“Here on the street it is a risk for security, for public health, and it’s not dignity which we need for everyone.” Authorities said the fires had been set deliberately by a small group of inhabitants angered by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Six Afghans, including two minors, have been arrested on suspicion of arson.

Most of the migrants made homeless last week will be moved to a new site specializing in North Korea

Navalny ally: Bottle with Novichok found in room

MOSCOW — Colleagues of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Thursday that a bottle of water with a trace of the Novichok nerve agent was found in his hotel room after his poisoning.

Navalny fell ill on a flight from Tomsk to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was flown to Germany, where he was kept in an induced coma for more than two weeks as he was treated with an antidote. Members of his team accused the Kremlin of involvement in the poisoning, charges that Russian officials have vehemently denied.

The Kremlin has bristled at calls from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders to answer questions about the poisoning, urging Germany to provide evidence of its own. On Tuesday, Navalny posted a picture of himself from his bed in Berlin’s Charite Hospital, hugged by his wife and children. “I still can’t do anything on my own, but yesterday I managed to breathe on my own for the entire day,” he added in the post.

Nigeria: Rapists will face surgical castration

LAGOS, Nigeria — The governor of Kaduna state has signed a law saying men convicted of rape will face surgical castration. The rapid rise in rape complaints under age 14 will face the death penalty.

Gov. Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai said “draastic penalties are required to help further protect children from a serious crime.”

Reported cases of rape in Nigeria have risen dramatically during the months of coronavirus restrictions. Women’s groups have called for tougher action against rapists, including the death penalty.

A new state law’s new law is the strictest against rape in Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country.

A man convicted of rape of a child under 14 faces the removal of her fallopian tubes.

US envoy begins second high-level visit to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan — U.S. Under Secretary of State Keith Krach arrived in Taiwan on Thursday for the second visit by a high-level American official in two months, prompting a stern warning and threat of possible retaliation from China.

Beijing considers Taiwan its own and opposes all official contacts between other countries and the self-governing island.

Krack, the highest-level State Department official to visit the island in decades, is to meet Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials, the island’s minister of foreign affairs said.

The visit by Krach, who is under secretary for economic growth, energy and the environment, is the highest-level American official to visit Taiwan since the U.S. switched formal relations from Taiwan to China in 1979.
2 solid rocket boosters to join shuttle display

CA LOS ANGELES — Two flight-worthy solid rocket boosters have been given to the California Science Center for display of the retired space shuttle Endeavour.

The boosters, donated by Northrop Grumman Corp. and NASA, will allow the shuttle to be displayed in Los Angeles as if it was about to blast off into space.

Shuttle boosters, filled with solid fuel, provided most of the thrust for the first two minutes of flight and then parachuted into the ocean where they were recovered for reuse. The donated boosters, which are inert, flew on actual space shuttle missions and were used in many ground tests.

Endeavour, which will be the centerpiece of a planned expansion of the California Science Center, last flew in space in 2011.

Motorcyclists accused of harassing park bison

WY YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Two brothers accused of riding motorcycles off-road and harassing bison in Yellowstone National Park have pleaded not guilty.

Dallin McAllister, 25, of Provo, Utah, and Tyler McAllister, 36, of Gilbert, Ariz., entered the pleas Monday. Each was charged with operating a motor vehicle in prohibited areas and feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentionally disturbing wildlife.

The two drove off-road near Fountain Flats Drive in western Yellowstone late Friday evening, park spokeswoman Ashton Hooker said. Video posted online showed motorcyclists riding off-road within several feet of a group of running bison, including some calves, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.

Visitors in Yellowstone are required to stay 25 yards from bison and at least 100 yards from bears and wolves. Visitors may not go off road on vehicles or bicycles.

Southerly winds kick up century-old volcanic ash

AK ANCHORAGE While western U.S. states were suffering from hazy skies from wildfires, Alaska was dealing with an air quality problem born a century ago.

Strong southerly winds picked up loose ash from a 1912 volcanic eruption, sending an ash cloud about 4,000 feet into the sky on Monday.

There were no reports of ashfall in nearby communities near Katmai National Park, but pilots were warned about the cloud because the ash can stall engines.

"Basically these sorts of events happen every spring and fall when strong winds pick up ash from the 1912 Novarupta eruption," said Kristi Wallace, a U.S. Geological Survey geologist at the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

The three-day eruption, one of the world’s largest, began June 6, 1912, and sent ash as high as 100,000 feet above the Katmai region, located about 250 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Ready to read

Lubert Stryer checks out two books from Pitkin County Library in Aspen, Colo., on Monday, the first day the library reopened to the public. Stryer said it was great to be back and jokingly told the librarians that it was nice because almost all of the books were checked in.

Man accused of striking state trooper with car

CT HARTFORD — A man accused of striking a Connecticut state trooper with a car while fleeing a traffic stop was arrested Tuesday on multiple charges.

Jayquan Richardson, 22, of Windsor, was taken into custody at his job in Willington, state police said.

State police Sgt. Timothy Begley pulled over Richardson on Interstate 84 in Hartford on July 19 for suspicion of driving under the influence, according to authorities. In a police report, Begley said he smelled marijuana coming from the car and ordered Richardson to hand over the keys. A front-seat passenger began handing Begley the keys but Richardson sped off and struck the trooper, according to the report. Begley was treated for minor injuries.

3 injured in chemical explosion at lab

AZ TEMPE — Three people were injured in a chemical explosion at a research lab on the Arizona State University campus in Tempe, according to authorities.

Tempe Fire Department officials said Tuesday morning’s explosion was caused by chlorine dioxide, which resulted in a workbox becoming overpressurized.

The amount of money a former store manager was accused of stealing from Meijers in Quincy, Ill. Michelle R. Lewis, 36, pleaded guilty last week to one count of theft over $10,000 in Adams County, according to The Herald-Whig. Under the plea deal, charges of theft over $500,000 and theft over $100,000 were dropped. Prosecutors allege that between 2014 and 2019 Lewis printed old receipts for items bought with cash or check and would enter returns and take the cash. They say she has video footage of her processing a return with no customers or products. First Assistant State’s Attorney Todd Eyler said about $639,000 was taken from the store.

Man gets prison for Masters ticket scheme

GA AUGUSTA — A Georgia man was sentenced Monday to more than two years in federal prison after pleading guilty to a scheme that used stolen identities to obtain tickets to the Masters golf tournament.

Federal prosecutors say Stephen Michael Freeman, 42, of Athens, and three family members in Texas sold those tickets for a profit.

U.S. District Court Judge Randall Hall in the tournament’s hometown of Augusta sentenced Freeman to 28 months in prison. More than a year had passed since Freeman pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

His parents and a sister also entered guilty pleas last year and were sentenced to three years on probation. As part of their plea deals, the family members agreed to pay a total of nearly $275,500 in restitution.

Federal prosecutors said the family used stolen IDs from 2013 through 2017 to cheat the lottery system that distributes tournament tickets and to circumvent Augusta National Golf Club’s rules allowing people to apply only once to enter its lottery.

Iowa winds reaching 140 mph, also damaged full storage bins at farm cooperatives and on farms, taking out grain stored from last year’s harvest.

Windstorm removes acres from corn harvest

IA DES MOINES — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that 50,000 acres of Iowa corn will not be harvested this fall due to damage caused by the Aug. 10 windstorm that swept across the state.

That estimate in a report released last week places the value of the lost corn crop based on the yield and price anticipated before the storm at around $344 million.

From wire reports
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. AIR FORCE!

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

It’s been 73 years since the greatest flying force in the world was created as part of the National Security Act of 1947 – the same legislation that established the Department of Defense. On this day, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service family salutes all Airmen, past, present and future.

The Exchange offers a hearty happy birthday to our Nation’s Airmen who ensure our Nation’s preeminence in the skies. The Exchange family is honored to serve you.

Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win!

Tom Shull
Army & Air Force Exchange Service
Director/CEO
Divers in Asia may have found US WWII sub

BY GRANT PECK  
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Divers have found what they believe is the wreck of a U.S. Navy submarine lost 77 years ago in Southeast Asia, providing a coda to a stirring but little-known tale from World War II.

The divers have sent photos and other evidence from six dives they made from October 2019 to March this year to the United States Naval History and Heritage Command for verification that they have found the USS Grenadier, one of 52 American submarines lost during the conflict.

The wreck lies 270 feet underwater somewhere in the Strait of Malacca in October 2019. Divers have found what they believe is USS Grenadier, one of 52 American subs lost in World War II.

An image on a sonar screen shows a silhouette shape of a submarine lying on the ocean floor somewhere in the Strait of Malacca in October 2019. Divers have found what they believe is USS Grenadier, one of 52 American subs lost in World War II.

The 1,475-ton, 307-foot-long Grenadier was scuttled by its crew after bombs from a Japanese plane almost sent them to a watery grave. All 76 of its personnel survived the bombing and sinking, but their agony to follow would be prolonged. After being taken prisoner, they were tortured, beaten and nearly starved by their Japanese captors for many years.

The crew, rescued by the Belgians in 1945, are honored as heroes in their home countries.

The wreck was discovered by Singapore-based Jean Luc Rivoire and Benoit Laborie of France, and Australian Lance Horowitz and Belgian Ben Reymenants, who live in Phuket.

Reymenants was a soccer coach who got trapped in a cave in northern Thailand two years ago.

The Belgian has been researching possible locations for shipwrecks for many years, Horowitz said in an interview with The Associated Press, and Rivoire had a suitable boat to explore the leads he found. Reymenants would ask fishermen if there were any odd spots where they’d lost nets, and then the team would use side-looking sonar to scan the sea floor for distinct shapes.

When they dived to look at one promising object, it was a lot bigger than expected, so they dug back into the archives to try to figure out which lost vessel it could be, and then dived again.

“And so we went back looking for clues, nameplate, but we couldn’t find any of those,” recalled Horowitz. “And in the end, we took very precise measurements of the submarine and compared those with the naval records. And they’re exact, as per the drawings, the exact same size. So we’re pretty confident that it is the USS Grenadier.”

The Navy command’s Underwater Archaeology Branch on average receives two to three such requests a year from researchers like the Grenadier divers, said its head, Dr. Robert Neyland, in an email to The Associated Press.

“A complete review, analysis, and documentation may take two months to a year to complete,” he said, adding that it will likely take a few months in the case of this potential discovery.

The Grenadier left Pearl Harbor on Feb. 4, 1942, on its initial war patrol. Its first five missions took it to Japanese home waters, the Formosa shipping lanes, the southwest Pacific, the South China Sea and the Japanese-occupied Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). It sank six ships and damaged two.

It sailed on March 20, 1943, from Fremantle, Australia, on its sixth patrol, to the Malacca Strait and north into the Andaman Sea. The commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. John A. Fitzgerald, recorded what happened there in a report written after being freed from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in 1945.

On the night of April 20, the submarine glimpsed two small freighters and set course to intercept them the next morning, sailing on the surface for speed.

In the morning, a plane was sighted; an immediate crash dive was ordered, but the ship did not descend far enough, fast enough. Blasts from two bombs battered the sub; key parts of the vessel were mangled; power and lights were lost and a fire broke out. All hands desperately worked to fix what they could as Fitzgerald ordered the ship to stay on the sea floor.

When it surfaced after 13 hours it was clear the Grenadier was too crippled to fight or flee. An effort was made to rig makeshift sails on a periscope to reach shore before blowing up the vessel, but there was dead calm.

As dawn broke, two ships on the horizon were closing in. Codebooks and sensitive equipment were destroyed as preparations were made to scuttle the submarine. A Japanese plane made a run at the ship, but was fought off with small arms, dropping a bomb harmlessly about 200 yards away.

The crew abandoned ship at 0830 and an hour later were hauled aboard an armed merchant ship, which took them to Penang, a major port town on the Malayan Peninsula.

“At a Catholic school requisitioned by the Japanese for use as a prison, events took an even darker turn.”

“The rough treatment started the first afternoon, particularly with the (enlisted) men. They were forced to sit or stand in silence in an attention attitude,” wrote Fitzgerald. “Any divergence resulted in a gun butt, kick, slug in the face or a bayonet prick.”

In the questioning room, persuasive measures, such as clubs, about the size of indoor ball bats, pencils between the fingers and pushing of the blade of a pen knife under the finger nails, trying to get us to talk about our submarine and the location of other submarines.”

After a few months, all the crew were transferred to camps in Japan, where the abuse continued. Four died from a lack of medical attention.

“This was an important ship during the war and it was very important to all the crew that served on her,” diver Horowitz said last week. “When you read the book of the survivors, that was, you know, quite an ordeal they went through and to know where she finally lies and rests, I’m sure it’s very satisfying for them and their families to be able to have some closure.”

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Austria disputes Trump comments on forest cities, explosive trees

Associated Press

BERLIN — The Austrian government has spoken up to correct U.S. President Donald Trump’s claim that people in its country live in “forest cities.”

Trump recently cited Austria and other European countries as models of good forest management that U.S. states like California, which has seen devastating wildfires lately, should learn from.

Calling in to Fox News on Tuesday, Trump said that “you look at countries, Austria, you look at so many countries. They live in the forest, they’re considered forest cities. So many of them. And they don’t have fires like this. And they have more explosive trees.”

In an article Thursday for the London-based Independent, Austria’s agriculture minister sought to set the record straight.

“There have been both serious and humorous conversations on social media about the ‘exploding trees’ (Trump) mentioned, as well as the fact that he claimed we live within ‘forest cities’ which never catch fire,” Elisabeth Koestinger wrote. “As Austrians, … blessed with a healthy sense of humour, we normally take such cliches about our country in our stride.

“However, the gravity of current events make Trump’s words much more worrying — after all, right at this moment, thousands of people are fighting horrendous wildfires in life-or-death situations,” she said.

“In reality, Austria is a country situated in the heart of Europe, where people do not live in the forest, but rather with the forest and in a close, sustainable relationship with the natural environment,” Koestinger wrote.

Sustainable management of forests, which cover almost half the nation’s territory, is important, she added, but not because they’re more combustible.

“To clarify: No, we don’t have any exploding trees in Austria,” Koestinger said, though she did confirm Trump’s assertion that “we have found a way to give our trees the space they need.”
Marines, sailors join California wildfire fight

By Rose L. Thayer  Stars and Stripes

Roughly 250 Marines and sailors from Camp Pendleton, Calif., will deploy to help battle the 25 wildfires still burning across state that have stretched firefighting resources to the limit, military officials announced late Wednesday.

The active-duty troops will travel about 350 miles north this week to assist efforts with the Creek Fire in the Sierra National Forest, according to the news release from U.S. Army North, the element of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) that is the joint command that will oversee the military support in fighting the wildfires.

They join about 200 soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., who deployed in late August to help combat fires in the northern part of the state. In total, more than 17,000 firefighters, including about 1,200 California National Guard members, are working throughout the state, which has already seen more than 3.5 million acres burned during wildfire season.

“Given the unprecedented fire season and the magnitude of the loss the people of California are experiencing, we stand ready to support the National Interagency Fire Center in their effort to help protect people, property and land in California,” Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of Army North, said in a statement. “Just like the soldiers supporting fire suppression efforts here in California, the Marines and sailors who will assist in this mission in central California are trained and equipped with the necessary gear to keep them safe, to include in a (coronavirus) environment.”

The Marine personnel are assigned to Camp Pendleton’s 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. They will be fitted for personal protective equipment, including fire resistant clothing, boots, gloves and hard hats, and begin training on fire behavior and fire line safety at the base as early as Thursday, according to the release.

They are scheduled to deploy to central California on Saturday to receive hands-on training in fire suppression methods and procedures prior to employment in the national forest.

The Creek Fire has burned more than 228,000 acres and is 18% contained, according to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire. The fire began Aug. 5 and has led to evacuations in Fresno and Madera counties.

“The 1st Marine Logistics Group is ready to assist our community during the California wildfire crisis,” Brig. Gen. Bobbi Shea, 1st Marine Logistics Group commander, said in a statement. “Alongside federal agencies, and state and local partners, 1st MLG will provide highly capable Marines and sailors to assist in wildland fire suppression efforts.”

Up north in the Mendocino National Forest, the soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord expect to spend nearly all of September helping fight the August Complex Fire. That fire began in late August and later merged with two other fires to encompass more than 21,700 acres that stretch into the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. It is about 30% contained, according to the National Forest Service.

The soldiers from Lewis-McChord’s 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, arrived Aug. 31 and have dug 6.5 miles of fire lines and removed lower limbs from trees along nearly 15 miles of the fire’s perimeter, said Spc. Michael Peña, a technical engineer deployed to California.

The 1st Marine Logistics Group’s joint task is not to directly fight the fire, but rather keeping the blaze from spreading or reigniting. Troops have cleared about nearly 730 acres through mop up operations, in which crews clear debris to prevent it from reigniting the fire.

Spc. Michael Ybarra, an Army photojournalist, said he’s been documenting the work of those soldiers on the fire lines.

“A lot of them are dressed head to toe in personal protective equipment and traveling uphill digging lines and delimbing trees,” Ybarra said. “They spend about three or four days on the line sleeping in tents and rotating out.”

Ybarra, who is a native of Fresno, where the fires have left the sky orange and filled with hazy, smoky conditions, said it feels good to be helping his home state.

“I’m very happy to be out here doing my part and documenting everything going on out here,” he said.

Richardson visited the soldiers earlier this week alongside her senior enlisted adviser Command Sgt. Maj. Phil K. Barretto.

The August Complex remains high, but our soldiers continue support activities as firefighting crews work to suppress what has become the largest complex fire in California history,” Richardson said. “Our thoughts remain with communities affected here and elsewhere by the fires, while our actions, part of a joint effort, provide much needed relief.”

Outside of California, Oregon also is grappling with wildfires. More than 1,200 members of the Oregon National Guard are part of the 6,000 firefighters working in that state. The Oregon Guard has nine Black Hawk helicopters and two Lakota helicopters available to provide water bucket drops and fire mapping, said Stephen Bonnar, spokesman for the Oregon Military Department.

Activated since Aug. 19, the aircraft have already dropped more than 25,000 gallons of water, he said.

“We are currently in six counties and supporting the Warm Springs Tribal Nation with traffic control points to protect Oregonians from going into hazard areas and to support the return evacuees to their homes,” Bonnar said. “The Oregon Guard is also supporting Oregon State Police with fatality search-and-rescue operations while standing up recovery elements to further assist first responders as we plan for recovery phases.”

With so many fires burning on the West Coast, smoke and ash has created unhealthy air quality throughout the region. Despite the conditions, there has been no impact to military training at Lewis-McChord, Camp Pendleton or within the Navy’s 3rd Fleet.
Amazon Prime show’s second season continues to explore the dark side of superheroes while touching on timely issues such as systemic racism, capitalism and assault.
Airlines trying a variety of new antimicrobial techniques

By Kyle Arnold

The Dallas Morning News

Across the world, the aviation industry is scrambling to find ways to keep the COVID-19 risk out of airplanes with high-tech filtration and advanced cleaning. American Airlines has partnered with medical advisers at Vanderbilt University, and its competitors have made similar moves. Every airline is requiring masks. Southwest Airlines has adopted the “Southwest Promise,” which includes cleaning. American Airlines has partnered with the FDA to use a spray-on coating product that provides them with a layer of protection. “This, in combination with social distancing and what we know about similar respiratory viruses is spread via surfaces, but airlines are still taking enhanced cleaning procedures along with state-of-the-art air filtering technologies, face masks and social distancing. Companies are experimenting with UV lights to help kill COVID-19, and Southwest is testing thermal imaging cameras to detect fevers among passengers. “The primary and most important mode of transmission for COVID-19 is through close contact from person-to-person,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Based on data from lab studies on COVID-19 and what we know about similar respiratory diseases, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth or nose, or possibly their eyes.”

The Dallas Morning News

To hear the difference for myself, I had someone use the headphone and call me. A 15 minutes of charging produces eight hours of battery life. My real world doesn’t have a Superfit control, but the device’s Bluetooth 5.0 allows pairing with up to eight devices with simultaneous connections. Charging cables, 3.5 mm audio connections, plug adapter and a hard carrying case are included. Online: Jabra.com; $449, in-ear headphones.

Jabra’s Evolve2 active noise cancellation headphones

Jabra

By Gregg Ellman

Tribune News Service

The over-the-ear-headphones have 40 mm speakers inside soft memory foam cushions for all-day comfort. A discreet retractable boom microphone arm can be tucked away inside the right side. These days, with more folks spending workdays on conference calls, the need for superior output sound is high demand. All you need is one member of your team to call you, and you’ll know that you just don’t want to be you. So on a recent Friday night happy hour call with friends across the country, I took up a notch, using the Evolve2 instead of my iPad’s built-in mic. A few looks and questions I got were why was I wearing a headset, but the discussion instantly shifted to the superior clarity they heard from me. One friend stated simply asked me to message him with the model number, I guess my demo was impressive.

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

GADGET WATCH

A smartphone mount that’s fun, innovative

By Christopher Reynolds

Los Angeles Times

A smartphone mount that’s fun, innovative.

The Scosche MagicGrip window/dash wireless charging auto-grip mount

Online: scosche.com

Amazon Prime

A smartphone mount that’s fun, innovative.

The Scosche MagicGrip window/dash wireless charging auto-grip mount

The Dallas Morning News

A smartphone mount that’s fun, innovative.
Flame-throwing, air-bending battle royale arrives with Spellbreak

By TEDDY AMENABAR
The Washington Post

Don’t look now, but we’re surrounded by battle royale. The last-man-standing formula has been regurgitated over and over again in countless attempts to create the next Fortnite, the next worldwide phenomenon, the next holy grail in online gaming. It’s like the Hunger Games, and it’s exhausting. Still, the matches keep queuing. The wheel keeps turning. We all keep chasing that coveted “Victory.”

All of this entered Spellbreak, a free-to-play, spell-casting battle royale that officially released across platforms Sept. 3 after months spent in closed beta on PlayStation 4 and PC. Developed by Proletariat, Spellbreak’s dossier doesn’t feature the battle royale wheel, but the game creatively weaves the bloated genre into a fantasy battle royale wheel, but the game creatively

王子時代再臨？

Gene Park
The Washington Post

Absent for 12 years, one of gaming’s first action stars returns for a full-on remake of a title regarded as one of the best games ever.

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time Remake was announced Sept. 10 at the Ubisoft Forward event. The original 2003 title helped Ubisoft become one of the most successful game publishers this century, boosting the credentials of in-house studio Ubisoft Montreal. Studios in Pune and Mumbai, India, are both in charge of the remake, scheduled for a Jan. 21 release on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC and the next-generation PlayStation and Xbox machines. It will cost $60.

The remake follows the same plot of the original 2003 release, which was a re-imagining of the 1989 classic by developer Jordan Mechner. In 1984, Mechner was credited as creating one of gaming’s first fighting games, Karateka, and was working on a follow-up title. He graduated from Yale University in 1985 and immediately began work on Prince of Persia. Mechner drew by hand the animations of the original 1989 release.

The original game is a milestone in platformer adventures, inspiring games like Prince of Persia, Flashback and similar platformer adventures. The original Tomb Raider in 1996, one of the pioneers of 3D technology, drew heavy inspiration from Mechner’s work. And after the critical and commercial success of the Sands of Time trilogy, Ubisoft Montreal attempted to evolve the combat and parkour formula of the series into an open-world setting. The team became fascinated with the story of the sands, and the project morphed into a new intellectual property, Assassin’s Creed, a series that has become the centerpiece of Ubisoft’s catalogue.

Prince of Persia was not the same without Prince of Persia. The game’s combat moved the 3D action genre forward. This was one of the first big action titles to step away from the “targeting” mechanic of The Legend of Zelda: The Ocarina of Time, allowing combat for multiple enemies and freedom of movement in the battle.

There was a fairy-tale charm and wit to the original Sands of Time. Voice talent Yuri Lowenthal gave a whimsical line to the nameless prince’s voice in the original title, and he’ll be back for the remake. The entire story was told like a fairy tale from the prince’s perspective, allowing the player to feel the emotions of the game with simply the prince botching the narration. This storytelling premise, alongside the ability to rewind time, made for an engrossing and complete package.

Ubisoft did not mention whether Mechner was involved in the remake, but he has shepherded the brand for the past 30 years.
From left, Tomer Capon (Frenchie), Jack Quaid (Hughie Campbell) and Karl Urban (Billy Butcher) from the series "The Boys" return for a second season on Amazon Prime. Below: Anthony Starr (Homelander), left, and Erin Moriarty (Starlight) are also on the show.

BY GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

The upcoming season of "The Boys" has so many surprises, revelations and themes ripped from today’s front pages that some actors are wondering if their showrunner has psychic super abilities.

"I don’t know what kind of crystal ball Eric Kripke has ... we shot this show last year, July to November. And when this show airs in September, there will be points where you would think we were shooting during quarantine," said Laz Alonso, who plays Mother’s Milk. "There is so (many) moments of social unrest that hadn’t happened yet that it’s almost eerie." Amazon Prime Video’s hit superhero show is hoping to up the ante of shock, thrill, action — and ultimately success — that it garnered last year during its debut. Although it was one of Prime’s most watched series, it’s no longer a surprise that it turned out, and to either hit or exceed that potential company led by CEO Stan Edgar is in full control of its unnervingly calm CEO, Stan Edgar and deadly mommy issues.

Known as The Seven, the indestructible team of “All American” crime fighters who look curiously like Justice League knockoffs are led by a chiseled sadist known as Homelander (Antony Starr). His team includes the high-wattage Starlight (Erin Moriarty), the superfast A-Train (Jessie T. Usher) and the disillusioned Warrior Queen Maeve (Dominique McElligott). They are hardly autonomous, though. Their crime-stopping campaigns are choreographed, marketed and monetized by corporate giant Vought International and its unherrnly calming CEO, Stan Edgar (Giancarlo Esposito). But malfeasance and sloppy mistakes have threatened the squeaky-clean image of the franchise, especially when Nazi-branded racism, supremacist idiots to cancel culture’s plagues are a lot easier to laugh at inside, in our own reality place," Quaid said. "We don’t have to pretend that the world’s not on fire for our show."

"(In) episode four, there’s an African American teen who gets pulled over by a superhero and it goes poorly," Kripke said. "I do get asked that question of ‘do we have a crystal ball?’ And my response is like ‘these were issues a year ago, five years ago, 10 years ago, 50 years ago. (They) just happened to be in the front of people’s minds now.’"

"It’s really cool to explore very, very real issues from this slightly heightened and sometimes not-so-heightened-from-reality place,” Quaid said. "We don’t have to pretend that the world’s not on fire for our show.”

Last season featured a #MeToo-Time’s Up storyline as new Seven member Starlight (Erin Moriarty) was coerced into a sexual act with veteran colleague The Deep (Chase Crawford). Starlight revealed her assault on live TV, prompting The Deep’s exile.

2nd season promises to be better than 1st

BY LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times

Season 2 of “The Boys” couldn’t have touched down at a better time. The Amazon Prime series, which returned this month, is a sharp, entertaining, eviscerating satire of superhero franchises and the culture that aggrandizes them.

The dark comedy expertly skewers social ills in real time, playing with themes of capitalist glitch, celebrity worship and corporate greed within a narrative that pokes fun at the gross commoditization of comic book culture. As with Season 1, new episodes mine disturbing corners of reality with crude humor, wonderfully flawed characters and smart, timely themes, taking aim at everything from white supremacists’ idiotic cancel culture’s self-appointed woke police. And society’s plagues are a lot easier to laugh at inside, in our own reality place," Quaid said. "We don’t have to pretend that the world’s not on fire for our show."

"The Boys’” far-fetched universe of rogue superheroes and avenging vigilantes than outside, in our own reality place," Quaid said. "We don’t have to pretend that the world’s not on fire for our show."

"The supes” (or superheroes) in this series are worshipped by the public, but behind the gleaming smiles and flowing capes are emotionally unstable egomaniacs with crooked morals, drug addictions and deadly mommy issues.

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SUPER GRAY

2nd season of antihero ‘The Boys’ handles hot-button issues like racism, capitalism

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"The Boys” (eight episodes) is available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

If Season 1 was great, Season 2 is even better, thanks to the expansion of the main characters’ back stories—which in turn throws the good-versus-evil, perfect vs. villains-versus-regular slobs plot into even more insane, more emotional season.”

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"The Boys” (eight episodes) is available for streaming on Amazon Prime.
Indisputably funny

‘Black Lady Sketch Show’ creator: Cast combines innovation and humor

By Lynn Elber

Robin Thede’s face lights up when she hears that the Emmy-nominated humor of her “Black Lady Sketch Show” invoked a laugh-out-loud response.

“That means the most. That’s the whole point,” said Thede, who created, produces and acts in the HBO show, which has critical raves underlined by ground-breaking Emmy nominations. A tickled viewer demonstrates that “we connected at a human level ... and that is the biggest gift I can give to people, especially for Black women, because we just don’t have it,” Thede said.

She cites the “duh” moments prompted by the show’s rarity.

“People are saying why didn’t we exist? We had ‘Chappelle’s Show,’ we had ‘In Living Color,’ we have these great sketch shows in Black media traditions,” Thede said, “but never where women were at the forefront. And why not?”

“A Black Lady Sketch Show” illustrates what’s been missing. It offers a dizzying array of characters artfully played by Thede and fellow cast members Ashley Nicole Black, Gabrielle Dennis and Quinta Brunson. The stories can be satirically played with genre and paying revolutionary — but also by women — which shouldn’t be new with the format, not just because we’re Black women, but because the show is just damn funny. That’s indisputable.”

Robin Thede
‘A Black Lady Sketch Show’

Framing the sketches is an unspecified apocalypse that’s forced a group of women to huddle together, a twist Thede dreamed up pre-pandemic and which she promises will be fleshed out in the second season. The new episodes were written and ready to shoot when COVID-19 forced an industry-wide production halt that’s only slowly easing.

In late August, Thede was awarded a green light for taping of the show that boasts Issa Rae (an Emmy nominee for her series “Insecure”) as an executive producer.

For Thede, who grew up in Davenport, Iowa, the series reflects diverse voices and points of view. That’s also led to more inclusive Emmys, with a record number of African Americans nominated in 2020.

Thede welcomes the increased awards recognition, but is adamant that it not be misconstrued amid America’s reckoning with entrenched racism and inequality that followed the death of George Floyd in police custody.

“She really strikes at the core of our country and our own internal reaction to race that can’t be deterred or ignored,” Thede said.

One thing that they don’t want is a healthy curiosity, because the show is a friend of mine,” she recalled. She graduated from Northwestern University, honed her improv skills at The Second City in Chicago and built TV credits that include “The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore” and “The Rundown with Robin Thede.”

The TV industry is gradually opening doors to women of color, who have long pushed for a fair shot at work and the chance to make shows with diverse voices and points of view. That’s also led to more inclusive Emmys, with a record number of African Americans nominated in 2020.

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“Somebody said to me, ‘This is like the reparations Emmys,”’ Thede said, stating her rebuttal on acclaimed nominees including “Watchmen” with Regina King, “Fires Everywhere” with Kerry Washington, “Insecure” — and “A Black Lady Sketch Show.”

“We’re breaking ground not just because we’re Black women, but because the show is just damn funny. That’s indisputable.”
Their relationship may have started six years ago, but as Stone Gossard tells it, he and Minnesota singer-songwriter Mason Jennings are still very much in the “honeymoon phase.” Back in 2014, Jennings was feeling collaborative and his manager reached out to the Pearl Jam guitarist, a longtime acquaintance, who was also working on material apart from his stadium-filling main band.

The two hooked up for a low-stakes 7-inch record — highlighted by groovy ’70s rock rumbler “Knife Fight” — leaving several other sketches on the table. At least until now.

“We realized to finish more songs it was going to have to be a little bit more back and forth,” Gossard said. “Sometimes when you set stuff down for a few years and then re-listen, it’s like you can hear it differently and you get energized by the history of it a little bit.”

On Sept. 9, Gossard and Jennings announced that partnership has produced a full-length album under the name Painted Shield. The self-titled record arrives Nov. 27 through Gossard’s newly rebooted Loosegroove label.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23
Hibbert helped give reggae its name, its sound and its enduring grace

By Chris Richards

The Washington Post

Sing "Funky Kingston" — that golden-hot sunbeam of a song that I first dropped in 1973 — the word "reggae" becomes a sort of hyper-noun: a person, a place and a thing. For Hibbert is Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, singing in a handsome growl that originates in the heart more than the throat. The place is Kingston, Jamaica, reggae's capital and spiritual power spot. And the thing is the sound of reggae itself, an admirable, dynamic musical style both tightens and loosens — and a word that Hibbert claimed to have coined in an earlier song, "Do the Reggay" from 1968.

"The music was in Jamaica playing, but no one knew what to call it," Hibbert told a reporter from Vogue last month. "I took the word from a slang word we have in Jamaica called 'stregey' — that was just a nickname of people who don't dress properly." Back in 1968, Hibbert was already singing from a deep place and he was skilled in the decade that followed, the heft of his voice would help elevate a style of music named after the neighborhood outsiders to international eminence.

Hibbert — who died in Kingston on Sept. 11 at 77 — grew up in the Jamaican countryside, raised by his grandmother, and moved to Kingston as a teenager. His voice would help elevate a style of music named after the neighborhood outsiders to international eminence.

"Funky Kingston," a song that still feels as hot, bright and alive as sunshine. From verse to chorus, Hibbert aptly positions himself as reggae's planetary emissary: "Music is what I've got to give, and I've got to find some way to make it." Funky Kingston is what I've got for you. Even if you have never laid eyes on the lyrics, you should be able to see the entire city come alive inside this song. More than a mere ode or anthem, it stands an astonishing example of how music — an intangible fluctuation of air — can stand in for people, places, things: existence in its material forms.

FROM PAGE 22

About a year ago, Jennings got the collaborative itch again. The oft-acoustic storyteller had recently gone through a divorce and was sitting on a batch of material thinking that the time was right for a little shake-up. "I thought back on working with Stone and I loved working with him back then," Jennings said. "We hadn't really dug into that next level yet, and I thought maybe it would be a good time to try that again."

While all but one track was recorded pre-pandemic, Painted Shield was largely recorded post-pandemic, with the band members living in scattered locations and the singer-songwriter having to travel to various recording locations to record with the band.

Wall mixes original material, traditional tunes and covers, including a rousing rendition of Marty Robbins' "Big Iron."

Here's a vote for the album's vinyl version to fully appreciate that sense and its enduring grace.
**EUROPE**

**WEEKEND: TRAVEL**

**VENICE: LIFE: ‘YOU MUST HAVE A BOAT’**

As we’ve had to postpone our travels because of the pandemic, I believe a weekly dose of travel dreaming can be good medicine. Here’s a reminder of the fun that awaits us in Europe at the other end of this crisis.

Descending Venice’s famed Rialto Bridge, I shuffle slowly, spinning my wheels in a human traffic jam created by one of the city’s biggest shopping streets. Finally breaking free, I turn down a dank and empty lane, reach the big black door of my hotel and push a bronze lion’s nose. This security buzzer brings Piero to the second-floor window. He welcomes me with a “Ciao, Reek!” and buzzes the door open. I climb the steps, eager to settle in.

Piero, who runs the Venetian hotel I call home, shaved his head five years ago. His girlfriend wanted him to look like Michael Jordan. With his operatic voice, he reminds me more of Yuji Gimmerson. He often says, “My voice is guilty of my love for opera.”

Proud of the improvements in his place since my visit, Piero shows me around. While remodeling the hotel, he discovered 17th-century frescoes on the walls of several rooms. The place was a convent back then. An antique wooden prayer kneeler, found in the attic and unused for generations, decorates a corner of my room. The whitewash is partially peeled away, revealing peaceful aqua, ochre and lavender floral patterns.

In Venice, behind the old, the really old peeks through.

The breakfast room is decorated with traditional Venetian knickknacks — green and red decorative glass, prints of canal scenes and sequined masks reminiscent of Carnival indiscretions. The room is strewed with antiques. Everything is old. “It’s kitsch,” Piero admits, “but only the good kind.” I sit down. As Piero brings me red orange juice — made from blood oranges — he reports on his work and the latest Venice news. While the sounds of Don Giovanni fill the air, guests prepare for their day.

Opera continues to fill the air as Piero dashes to help some French guests heading out for the day. He pours coffee for both of us, then sits back down and says, “In hotels, all the people are different. The French don’t use the shower. Young Americans are most messy but use the shower very much. I don’t understand this. Americans ask, ‘What is this bidet for?’ I cannot tell them. It is for washing more than the feet. In it, we wash the parts — that rub together when you walk. The Japanese think the bidet is very funny.”

The tourists have taken over your city. I say sadly.

Walking me to the window and tossing open the decopent blind, Piero answers, “But Venice survives.”

As my gaze moves from the red-tiled roofs to the marketplace commotion filling the street below, I see his point. Tourists cannot take over Venice.

“Venice is a little city,” he says. “Only a village, really. About 55,000 people live on this island. Not Italian, we are just one century Italian. I am Venetian in my blood. I cannot work in another town. Venice is boring for young people — no disco, no nightlife. It is only beautiful. Venetian people are travelers. Remember Marco Polo? He was Venetian. But when we come home, we know this place is the most beautiful. Venice. It is a philosophy to live here ... the philosophy of beauty.

“The life here is with no cars ... only boats. To live properly in Venice, you must have a boat. With a boat you live in Venice in another dimension — with no tourists. You cruise under bridges and see the tourists walking in their dimension, but you are in the Venetians' dimension. The boat is my alternative Venice.”

By using a boat, residents and guests can experience another dimension of Venice.

Rick Steves writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. You can email Rick at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

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**HOP ONLINE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EUROPE’S BEST BREWERIES**

Beer lovers are legendary in their willingness to travel far and wide in search of specific brands or breweries that have achieved cult status. Those in Europe ready to go that extra few hundred miles might wish to make note of these breweries that can boast of out-of-the-way locations, unique facilities or beers like no other.

**Northernmost:** Svalbard, an archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole where polar bear people seem an unlikely location for a brewery, but through his perseverance, a former coal miner became an award-winning beer brewer here. It took Robert Johansen more than five years to get a circa-1928 regulation making it illegal to make alcohol on Svalbard overturned, but shortly after the law was changed, the world’s northernmost brewery could finally tap its first beers.

Johansen maintained the brewery’s unique character stems from the water, some of which comes from Bogerbreen, a 2,000-year-old glacier. At this ice age melt and the water trickles over Svalbard’s porous rocks, the water achieves a minerality it would be hard to achieve elsewhere. Tours of the brewery are offered at 6 p.m. on most Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. A 90-minute tour and tasting of five beers costs 429 Norwegian kroner, about $45. Online: svalbardbryggeri.com/visit-the-brewery

**Oldest:** The Weihenstephan Monastery Brewery in Germany traces its roots to 1040, when Abbot Arnold received a license to brew and sell beer. Through fires, plagues, earthquakes, famines and the French invasion of 1797, there were claims to be the oldest existing brewery in the world, and now proudly appears on Google maps.

In 1803, all possessions and rights of the monastery were transferred to the Bavarian state, but that didn’t stop the facility from brewing. Guided tours take visitors past the brewing facilities and a museum covering close to 1,000 years of brewing history and concluding with a tasting session.

A two-hour tour, along with a pretzel, two-euro voucher for a beer and a museum covering close to 1,000 years of brewing history is considered conducive to good blood circulation and supple skin. The brewery, which has been in operation since 1810, also offers tours through the adjacent castle, underground storage tanks, bottling facilities and a room offering a panoramic view across the Alps.

**Most innovative:** The Tarrenz Brewery in Tarrenz, Austria, offers something truly unique with their brew: The chance to swim in the stuff. The attraction known as Bierrymoth, billed as home to the world’s first swimming pool filled with beer, gives visitors the chance to swim in pools filled with water enriched with breuer’s yeast.

The bottom of the cold storage tanks is the beer in the fermentation process has long been regarded as having healing properties for ailments ranging from skin problems to colds to digestive problems, and the carbonic acid contained in the waters is considered conducive to good blood circulation and supple skin. The brewery, which has been in operation since 1810, also offers tours through the adjacent castle, underground storage tanks, bottling facilities and a room offering a panoramic view across the Alps.

**Most picturesque:** The Starkenberger Brewery in Tarrenz, Austria, offers something truly unique with their brew: The chance to swim in the stuff. The attraction known as Bierrymoth, billed as home to the world’s first swimming pool filled with beer, gives visitors the chance to swim in pools filled with water enriched with breuer’s yeast.

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Fishy in good ways and bad

Furai Japanese Restaurant’s entrees are hit or miss in Vicenza

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

On a warm, cloudless day at the end of a summer mostly lost to the coronavirus pandemic, I decided I wanted a late afternoon lunch, al fresco, under a white umbrella. I also wanted sushi. So I headed over to Furai Japanese Restaurant, in the heart of the Vicenza’s old town.

The menu includes numerous sushi and sashimi items, chicken teriyaki and appropriately enough for a restaurant whose name means “fry,” shrimp tempura. There are also numerous soups, various cooked fish, steamed vegetables, fried dumplings and a nice selection of wine, beer and other beverages.

I took several minutes, sitting under the umbrella at a table socially distant from another solo diner with two plates of noodle dishes in front of him, to decide what to get.

A temaki with salmon and salmon roe, left, and a seafood sunomono with salmon, tuna, white fish, cucumber, seaweed and sesame seeds made for delicious appetizers at a recent visit to Furai Japanese Restaurant in Vicenza.

The result, as is frequently the case at Furai, was a mixed bag. My kaisen sunomono — Japanese seaweed in rice vinegar with raw fish and sesame — was wonderful. There were pieces of white fish, tuna and salmon, and cucumber slices dusted with sesame seeds and nestled among the seaweed in the slightly sweet vinegar. It was a perfect appetizer for 8 euros.

It arrived with temaki, a hand roll. It’s a cone-shaped piece of dried seaweed holding salmon and salmon roe for 6 euros. I had ordered it after being unable to communicate to my masked server that I wanted two pieces of ikura, or rice with salmon eggs.

He wasn’t the most enthusiastic or friendly of waiters; I think we exchanged maybe 10 words. And the temaki didn’t come with wasabi or pickled ginger, which I love.

The nadir of the lunch was the main course. I’d previously had Furai’s sea bass baked in foil with ginger and it had always been delicious. So instead of that, for 13 euros, I got the sea bass in curry. I usually love curry. But the dish looked unappetizing — much like a plate of baby diarrhea, to be honest — with bits of lychee on top. And although the fish was nicely charred, the curry sauce was far too salty. Furai portions are not large, but I only ate about half of the fish.

Still, I got to enjoy my kaisen sunomono and my glass of Lugana wine sitting in the piazza as the sun went down.

BY LINDA GASSENHEIMER
Tribune News Service

Here’s an easy stir-fry dinner. Pepper steak is a popular Chinese dish made with tender beef, bell peppers and onion and cooked in a savory sauce.

It takes a little extra time to prepare the ingredients, but only minutes to cook. To speed the cooking, have all your ingredients, including the sauce, ready. Place them in order of use on a plate or chopping board. You won’t have to keep looking at the recipe to see what goes in next.

Don’t rinse the wok once the meat dish is finished. You’ll use it to stir-fry the noodles, which are first boiled. This way they pick up the flavors of the sauce left in the wok.

Wok-fried pepper steak and noodles cooks in only a few minutes

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A diverse collection spanning 700 years awaits at Frankfurt’s Staedel Art Museum

By Immanuel Johnson
Stars and Stripes

When Frankfurt banker and spice dealer Johann Friedrich Staedel wrote his will in 1815, he included a clause that led to the creation of what was to become Germany’s oldest museum foundation.

The result of the inclusion in the then-elderly man’s testament — Staedel died the next year at the age of 88 — is the Staedel Art Museum in Frankfurt.

The museum has a vast collection of paintings, sculptures, photos and more than 100,000 drawings and prints that take visitors through 700 years of European art.

Under a single roof, the museum’s collection includes works from the early 14th century to the present, from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, to early modern art, and more, the Staedel says on its website.

There are works by Pablo Picasso, Max Beckmann and Sandro Botticelli, to name a few.

The collection is huge. Taking it all in would probably require at least two days.

During the coronavirus pandemic, which Germany has under better control than many other countries, the museum requires a timed ticket, which, as its name implies, gives the holder a precise time and date to show up at the museum. This helps the Staedel to “regulate visitor entry as a precautionary measure to guard against infection” and gives the holder admission to all exhibitions and the permanent collection.

But getting too close to an item in the gallery will cause an alarm to sound and guards to appear out of nowhere. So maintain social distance from the works of art as well as other people at the museum.

The self-service cafe, next to the gift shop that all museums seem to have, offers a sweeping view of Frankfurt and the Main River, but it’s closed now because of the coronavirus.

There are many other dining options just outside the Staedel, though, including the Holbein Cafe and the Liebieghaus Cafe.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com
Twitter: Manny_Stripes

Daniel Richter’s painting, known as Horde, represents a life of hatred and aggression.

A painting called Spectrum by Tony Cragg, showing a mosaic of common plastic waste that is thrown away, hangs at the Staedel Museum in Frankfurt.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS
Address: Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main
I parked at the Deutsche Bank Park in Frankfurt and took the train to the city center and walked to the museum from there. There is also parking at the museum.

TIMES
Closed Mondays. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday from 10 a.m. 9 p.m. Hours may vary on holidays.

COSTS
Entry is 14 euros.

INFORMATION
Online: staedelmuseum.de; tourist office: +49 (0) 69-605098-200

— Immanuel Johnson
Looking for a bite to eat?
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Th-Sa.: 10:00-20:00, or by appointment
0981 9090130
www.lacorona.de

IF YOU’D LIKE TO ADD YOUR RESTAURANT, CONTACT DOUG DOUGHERTY AT DOUGHERTY.DOUG@STRIPES.COM
The pandemic might have slowed it down, but the heart of Tokyo still beats.

The coronavirus pandemic has hit Tokyo harder than any other Japanese city, with nearly 25,000 people testing positive since the illness first appeared in Japan early this year.

Because of the uptick in infections, most U.S. military personnel have been barred from visiting the capital city since spring. Popular tourist destinations like the Imperial Palace, Harajuku's Takeshita Street and the unique bars of Shinjuku's Golden Gai district are a no-go for Americans in Japan under the status of forces agreement.

Stars and Stripes photojournalist Akifumi Ishikawa recently ventured to some of these spots to capture what they're like in the coronavirus era.

— Stars and Stripes

Life goes on

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— Stars and Stripes

Memories with Stars and 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.
People hang out near the Hachiko statue outside Shibuya Station on Sept. 2. Hachiko was an Akita remembered for remarkable loyalty. The dog waited by the station nearly a decade after his owner’s death.

People explore Takeshita Street in the Harajuku neighborhood of central Tokyo on Sept. 6. The pedestrian shopping lane is lined with fashion boutiques, cafes and eateries.

A rickshaw driver gives a tour of Asakusa, an old district of Tokyo known for the Sensoji Buddhist temple, on Sept. 1.

Above and below: Tokyo’s icon rockabilly dancers perform Sept. 6 outside Yoyogi Park. The dancers gather here every Sunday in their blue jeans and boots to twist and strut to classic rock ‘n’ roll tunes.
You can find a slice of farm life nestled in the Nishitama district of western Tokyo, not far from Yokota Air Base and the home of U.S. Forces Japan.

Situated among small patches of pastures is Westland Farm, a quaint gelato spot that is popular among both locals and visitors. The stop has the feel of a country roadside attraction, complete with its own dairy farm.

Westland Farm in western Tokyo offers a variety of unique gelato flavor options, including an effervescent beer offering — but only for those of legal drinking age in Japan.

**By Erica Earl**
*Stars and Stripes*

You can find a slice of farm life nestled in the Nishitama district of western Tokyo, not far from Yokota Air Base and the home of U.S. Forces Japan.

Situated among small patches of pastures is Westland Farm, a quaint gelato spot that is popular among both locals and visitors. The stop has the feel of a country roadside attraction, complete with its own dairy farm.

Westland Farm has the comforting call of the simple life, with goats baaing and cows lined up in their stalls. But the atmosphere isn’t the only thing delighting customers. The shop has some unique flavor offerings, including beer gelato.

The frozen beer confection bears a label advising customers not to eat it if they are driving, and anyone under the age of 20, the legal drinking age in Japan, cannot order the treat.

For me, the warning label made the selection even more enticing. The flavor tastes like a sweet cream soda with the aftertaste of a light, bready beer and is a refreshing choice for a hot and humid summer day. It’s effervescent and bubbles a little on the tongue. While surprisingly creamy and delicious, the flavor can get a little strong as you eat it. The one-scoop option is perfect.

The beer gelato is made from Asahi Super Dry, a crisp and dry Japanese rice lager, and is under 2.5% alcohol. For less malty picks, the matcha green tea and mango flavors are also refreshing.

Westland Farms does not allow any indoor seating but has a covered patio area outside. You can also roam the grounds with your treat and look at the animals. Just be aware that the unmistakable farm smell of cow manure wafts throughout the property. I would recommend eating the airy gelato out of a cup rather than a cone, especially the beer flavor option, which is pleasant to sip as it starts to melt.

To avoid the long weekend lines that often wrap around the side of the small shop and trail into the parking lot, try to visit on a weekday afternoon.

Prices are 300 yen, or about $2.80, for a single scoop and between 400-500 yen for a double scoop, flavor depending. The shop is cash only.

earl.ericastripes.com
Twitter: @thisearlgirl

**WESTLAND FARM**

*Location:* 353-3 Nagaokahasebe, Mizuho, Nishitama District, Tokyo 190-1231

*Directions:* From the main gate on Yokota Air Base, turn right onto Route 16, drive for 4.1 miles, then turn left onto Route 44. Westland Farm will be about a half-mile on the left. Look for the banners and cow statues. The Google Plus code is Q8PJ+C2 Mizuho, Tokyo

*Hours:* Open daily, except Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Prices:* 300-500 yen per serving

*Information:* westlandfarm.tokyo

— Erica Earl
Woodward's ‘Rage’ levels many accusations against president, but not much of it is new

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to The Washington Post

What new insights does Bob Woodward’s latest tell-all, ‘Rage,’ offer? We learn that President Donald Trump is not the sharpest tool in the shed, members of his Cabinet consider him a narcissistic fool, devoid of empathy and incapable of distinguishing between truth and falsehood. Trump blithely minimizes the lethality of the coronavirus because he doesn’t want to look bad. He takes no responsibility for anything, boasts repeatedly about his wealth and genius, and shows nothing but contempt for those who happen to get in his way.

But we knew all this already, didn’t we? We already knew that Rex Tillerson, Trump’s former secretary of state, told colleagues that the president was a “moron” and “unfit for office” and at times it shows. “Trump called me unexpectedly on Fri-day, June 19,” Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. “And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. "And at times it shows: ‘Trump called me unexpectedly on Friday, June 19,’ Woodward relates. ”

Cohen’s ‘Disloyal’ reveals resemblance to former boss

By DAVID S. CLOUD
Los Angeles Times

Decades before Michael Cohen became Donald Trump’s lawyer-fixer, he spent summers working for his uncle Morty at the El Caribe, a lively Brooklyn social club frequented by New York mobsters. Cohen wasn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world. He isn’t the first author to recount his life inside the Trump world.

A new Netflix documentary is setting out to expose technology’s corrosive effects on society during a pandemic that’s left people more dependent than ever on tools that polarize and divide, family and colleagues they can no longer meet in person.

So the timing for last week’s release of “The Social Dilemma” might strike some viewers as odd. But its makers aim to give you a better sense of why the pandemic isn’t the only reason it feels like we’re stuck in a dystopian nightmare.

The film, directed by Jeff Orlowski, aims to explain how Silicon Valley’s embrace of smartphones, attention-grabbing algorithms, polarizing echo chambers and pursuit of profit have left users reeling in a way that could pose an existential threat to U.S. democracy.

“It is a self-destructive code that has been planted in our society right now,” Orlowski said in an interview with The Associated Press. The notion of modern social media as a malignant force that has hypnotized us into mindlessly scrolling distracting feeds, fostered division and elevated previously marginal groups and ideologies in ways that undermine social cohesion isn’t particularly new. For the past several years, it’s been the subject of Silicon Valley mea culpas (at the individual, if not corporate, level), foreboding news articles and academic studies.

Some tech-company engineers and executives have gone so far as to keep their own children off phones and social media. And a number of engineers have also been quitting high-paying technology jobs rather than continuing to contribute to the problems they believe their employers have caused.

The latest example surfaced last week when The Washington Post disclosed that a Facebook engineer had written a lengthy internal letter explaining why he was leaving the company. “I can no longer stomach the suffering of the human impact of social networking,” he wrote in an email to colleagues.

The film reveals more than enough to tell the story. So he employs a gimmicky family of five actors — two parents, three teens — to dramatize the lure of social media in a clunky way.

Worse, he also employs an actor — a weirdly cast Vincent Kartheiser of “Mad Men” fame — to pretend to act like the computer software, sending alluring phone alerts from a console to one of the teens and cuing up videos he knows will be clickbait, while ominous music plays. “Yes, perfect,” Kartheiser purrs after sending a video of epic skateboarding fails to the teen. “He dropped for an ad.” Later, he says: “Don’t show him any more sports updates. He doesn’t engage.” But we know — from the very talking heads — that this is an algorithm with no agency other than its program. Why humanize code? And why humanize code by portraying it as a sleazy middle-aged man who acts like a mid-level officer in “Minority Report”?

The film then steps on itself.

When one of the fake teens falls for a fake online conspiracy and attends a fake demonstration, it’s juxtaposed against real footage of real violence and real demonstrations, muddying the water between fake and real — a tangible confusion concerning what this film is about.

Orlowski would have done better interviewing real teens buffeted by social media and real people caught up in conspiracies. Insulting our intelligence about artificial intelligence is not the way to go.

The silly dramatizations may be an otherwise excellent documentary that shows how so many Silicon Valley leaders designed ways to keep us engaged online and that led to such things as Pizzagate, international destabilization, higher suicide rates in young people and a boom in depression.

The film reveals more than why you go from Googling the best sofa one minute to finding sofa ads on your Facebook stream the next. That so much online seems free is part of the trap. It’s our private data that’s being sold. As Aza Raskin, former Firefox and Mozilla Lab worker says: “Advertisers are the customers. We’re the thing being sold.”

The film nicely delves into how algorithms that seek to maximize advertising revenue tap into psychology to keep users addicted to our screens. Did a friend just tag me? I got an alert! Hey, Facebook just invited me to an event! Those are all “positive intermittent reinforcers” and they both felt important to finish before this November’s U.S. presidential election.

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Controversial ‘Cuties’

Netflix defends film as ‘social commentary’ against sexualizing young girls

When she first set out to make “Cuties,” French Senegalese filmmaker Maimouna Doucoure said she wanted to shed light on the pressures faced by young girls as they become teenagers.

Her directorial debut, which won an award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival and premiered on Netflix last week, follows Amy, an 11-year-old in Paris, as she rebels against her immigrant family and joins a dance crew of other girls at her middle school, at times flashing moves in skimpy outfits.

But after controversial ads for the film showed off some of those dance uniforms, a horde of mostly conservative voices — from Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., to Fox Nation host Tammy Bruce — have attacked the movie, claiming it promotes an overly sexual view of young girls and even pedophilia.

To those critics, Doucoure offered a simple challenge: Watch the movie.

“I’m eager to see their reaction when they realize that we’re both on the same side of this fight against young children’s hypersexualization,” Doucoure, who wrote and directed “Cuties,” told the online publication Zora.

In a statement to several media outlets, Netflix echoed Doucoure’s remarks, writing that the film is “a social commentary against the sexualization of young children.”

“It’s an award-winning film and a powerful story about the pressure young girls face on social media and from society more generally growing up,” the streaming company said.

Like the film’s 11-year-old protagonist, Doucoure was raised by a family of Senegalese immigrants in Paris and grew up struggling to find balance between mainstream French culture and her Muslim parents’ more traditional values of femininity.

“I put my heart into this film because this is my story,” she told Variety.

The film, known as “Mignonnes” in French, sees the 11-year-old “becomes fascinated with a twerking dance crew,” according to Vulture, and “starts to explore her femininity, defying her family’s traditions.”

Doucoure, who had not seen the poster before its release, received death threats, she told Deadline. A Netflix executive called her to apologize over the ad, and the company issued a mea culpa for “inappropriate artwork” that it said did not fairly reflect the movie, which had otherwise received largely positive reviews.

But following the film’s release, the backlash only seemed to grow stronger. Conservative commentators circulated a clip of Amy and the “Cuties” performing in their spandex outfits, while others pounced on parental guidance noting that there is a scene in which one girl’s underwear is exposed. At one point, #CancelNetflix was trending on social media.

On Sept. 10, Texas Republican state Rep. Matt Schaefer said he asked the state’s attorney general to investigate the movie for potential violations of child exploitation and child pornography laws. And some backlash came in from the political left as well, with Democratic political strategist Christine Pelosi calling on Netflix to apologize.

For me, what counts the most is my film. I can express myself and therefore take care of myself through my art. Cinema not only heals me, but it can change the world,” Doucoure told Zora. “With this film, I wanted to give these young children a voice while protecting them. I also wanted to create a mirror for adults to look at ourselves and see where we have gone wrong with this problem.”

Eleven-year-old Amy (Fathia Youssouf, far right) starts to rebel against her conservative family’s traditions when she becomes fascinated by a free-spirited dance crew in “Cuties.”

Netflix / AP
Some romantics keep old photos in a shoebox. Others collect trinkets from the past. For Geraldine Viswanathan, words are what she holds dear.

“Everything handwritten, I’ve kept,” said the Australian actress, who made a major leap from “Blockers” breakout to rom-com heroine in Sony’s “The Broken Hearts Gallery.” “I’ll even write down what people say sometimes because I’m a psycho. But any words that I want to remember, I hold on to forever.”

As a teenager, she knew that memories could be ephemeral. So Viswanathan, now 25 and living in the States, had a ritual. She’d inscribe happy moments on sticky notes and keep them in a jar, and read them again at the end of the year.

“Those little things that made your day, it’s easy to forget them,” she mused. “I should start doing that again. It was a good tradition.”

However, Lucy, the 20-something New York City gallery assistant Viswanathan plays in “The Broken Hearts Gallery,” needs something a little more concrete. An outgoing aspiring curator who wears her heart on her sleeve, she clings so hard to souvenirs from failed relationships that her apartment is cluttered with mundane mementos of her exes: plane tickets, bags of string, even an assemblage of emotionally vivid doorknobs.

Nursing a freshly broken heart, Lucy befriends the emotionally closed-off Nick (Dacre Montgomery of “Stranger Things”), who’s renovating his dream boutique hotel, and builds a gallery in his lobby enshrining tokens of lost love. Onscreen, Viswanathan exuded the screwball energy of a young Lucille Ball but also showed she could mine more dramatic layers.

Viswanathan hadn’t racked up too many Lucy-like breakups herself, other than a high school-era split. “It was very much growing pains of, where are you going to go in your life, and where am I going to go in my life?” she remembered. “Broken Hearts Gallery,” on the other hand, felt like an introduction to adult relationships and breakups, “how normal and inevitable they are, and the maturity that you have to have.”

Reading the script, she fell quickly for the open-hearted Lucy. “She was so magnetic and had this infectious energy,” she said. “Then I met Natalie Krinsky and I realized, oh—that’s why.”

“Sometimes scripts are like ex-boyfriends,” said Krinsky, who recently pulled off her own multitasking feat during the pandemic: opening her first film within days of giving birth to her second child. “You put them on the shelf and think, ‘Maybe someday we’ll get back together.’ (‘Broken Hearts Gallery’) was like the long-lost love that came back into my life at a point when I was ready to forget them,” she mused. “I should start doing that again. It was a good tradition.”

Like film’s characters, ‘Broken Hearts Gallery’ cast, crew say mementos have meaning

*Review of “The Broken Hearts Gallery” on Page 35*
‘Unpregnant’

Film not coy about its subject

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Films dealing with reproductive rights don’t often announce it in the title. But “Unpregnant” is not a by-the-numbers exploiter, but I swear the most coy about its subject matter. Based on a novel by Jenni Hendricks and Ted Caplan, this film is very unambiguous about abortion and what an ambitious 17-year-old Missouri girl must go through to get one without her parents’ permission.

But while abortion is the goal, it’s not the focus. Veronica (Aubrey Plaza), whose boyfriend (Alex MacNicoll) owns “The Broken Hearts Gallery,” a glossy but contrivance-ridden portrait of a Type A woman. One does wonder how much longer the 25-year-old actor will have to keep playing high school students, though. And she has a fun counterpart in Ferreira’s Bailey, who is also more nuanced than her styling might suggest.

The script has moments of real humor, heart and wit, too. But it’s also a little overstuffed and off like drips compared to her. The movie can feel like a redemptive and touching finale that it never quite recovers from. The third act also turns into a kitchen sink mishmash of plot contrivances including a very random Giancarlo Esposito cameo that doesn’t exactly add anything. There is a redemptive and touching finale that will pleasantly surprise, though.

A breakthrough in ‘Broken Hearts Gallery’

BY JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The 25-year-old Australian actress Geraldine Viswanathan owns “The Broken Hearts Gallery,” a glossy but spirited Gen-Y romantic comedy imbued with the wit and spunk of its young star.

Here, Viswanathan plays a rom-com heroine in a role that displays to the fullest her considerable charisma and talent. After seeing another woman cozy up to her boyfriend in the film, she has a public meltdown. She lays it out: “I know we have 10 years before we all drown in the melting ice caps, but I have a precious resource that is not the ozone. Oh no. It’s honesty.”

Natalie Krinsky, in her feature-film debut, wrote and directed “The Broken Hearts Gallery,” a film now in theaters but that was made available to review by digital screener. On the one hand, the film sticks faithfully to genre tropes. It’s about breakups and romance in a fairy-tale New York where young characters have absurdist jobs like turning an old YMCA into a boutique hotel in Brooklyn. None of the movie’s sheen or its sentimental story line leading to love will surprise you.

But Viswanathan, as an aspiring gallerist named Lucy who obsessively collects mementos of former relationships, enlivens the material, crafting a rom-com protagonistic of constant humor and self-deprecation.

Lucy is uniquely fixated on heartbreak, stuffing her bedroom with the souvenirs (“like ‘The Little Mermaid,’” she says) of lost love. Her roommates (Phillipa Soo and Molly Gordon, both delightfully deranged) taunt her says) of loss love. Her roommates (Phillipa Soo and Molly Gordon, both delightfully deranged) taunt that, is, a hoarder. Her ex-boyfriend list grows dramatically out of control for a dance competition. The girls, who call themselves the Cuties, don’t take too kindly to Amy spying on them and begin chasing rocks at her. That assault, much like their suggestive dance moves, is part of their tough-girl act, and an act it very much turns out to be; the Cuties project a lot more confidence, ferocity and real-world savvy than they actually possess. And Amy, despite or perhaps because of her more conservative upbringing, embraces their style, their attitude and most of all their dance moves with an ardor that surprises them and even herself.

Not long after she makes her way into the girls’ good graces and their dance crew, Amy’s the one giving them twerking tips and shooting their Instagram content, inspired by provocative online videos that all of them are a bit young to be watching, let alone emulating.

In a story that’s all about looking and seeing, Doucoure’s own gaze reflects a principled ambivalence: She regards the push-pull of Amy’s existence — her rigid upbringing on one hand and her incepting liberation on the other — with equal parts affection and skepticism. Doucoure has a knack for finding the perfect image again and again: In perhaps the movie’s funniest moment, Amy pulls her hijab over her head during a group prayer meeting and secretly watches a dance video underneath.

But while “Cuties” is full of such contrasts between the sacred and the secular, it’s also attuned to the similarities. Amy’s elders, notably a strict auntie (M Michel Theres Diop) and grandmother, are bent on molding her into an attractive marital prospect. Clothing can be both beautiful and burdensome, whether it’s a traditional blue dress for Amy to wear to her father’s wedding or a midriff-baring shirt.

Society’s rampant sexualization of preadolescent girls is one topic that Doucoure subjects to tough critical scrutiny; she’s made an empathetic and analytical movie, a reductive cautionary tale.

Her film makes one thing perfectly clear: A young girl can look at herself, really look at herself, and learn something truthful and powerful from the experience.

‘Cuties’ (in French with English subtitles) is unrated. Running time: 96 minutes. Available on Netflix.
Fall into something new

Food, fitness tips to ease the transition into autumn during the pandemic

Special to The Washington Post

You made bread. You started running. And you organized the junk drawer. Twice. It’s time to try something new.

Nutrition

Soup up your meals
As the temperature drops, soup becomes a warming and healthy way to start a meal. But not just any soup — we’re talking about one brimming with vegetables and even some fruit, where every hearty slurp is filled with immune-supporting vitamins and minerals.

Only about 9% of Americans get enough vegetables daily, making soup a great menu addition. A high-vegetable intake helps reduce the risk of heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and some cancers. While juicing has become a popular way to pound back fruit and veggies quickly, “souping” has two advantages. First, soup recipes tend to favor vegetables over fruit, making them lower in sugar. Second, while juicing eliminates the skin — and fiber — of fruit, soup-making uses whole fruits and vegetables, so soups are higher in fiber.

Autumn produce, such as kale, carrots, squash and apples, are perfect for soups. Basic recipes are easy: Drizzle oil in a pot and add aromatics, such as onion, shallots and garlic. Add two pounds of vegetables and four to six cups of water or stock. Simmer until vegetables soften, then add salt, herbs and spices to taste. If you prefer creamy soups, the blender is your next step.

Winning combinations include squash and apple; kale, tomato and white bean; and carrot with ginger. Fall offers endless opportunities to experiment.

Make a better pumpkin spice latte
Pumpkin is loaded with vitamin A and makes a nutritious side dish, but it’s more often associated with seasonal indulgences, such as the love-it-or-hate-it pumpkin spice latte, or PSL.

At Starbucks, the PSL is the company’s top-selling seasonal drink. It’s made with milk, sugary syrup, pumpkin puree and spices, and clocks in at 380 calories and 50 grams (nearly 13 teaspoons) of sugar for a 16-ounce grande. In comparison, a four-piece Kit Kat bar has 210 calories and 22 grams (about 6 teaspoons) of sugar.

If you usually order regular coffee and add a teaspoon of sugar, switching to the pumpkin spice latte will add about 360 calories and 12 teaspoons of sugar. So, think of it as an occasional treat — like dessert — rather than something to order daily. If you do indulge often, customize the drink. Ask for it “half-sweet” to reduce the amount of sugar, or save calories by requesting nonfat or almond milk and no whipped cream. A half-sweet, almond milk, hold-the-whipped-cream PSL has about 180 calories.

You can also make a fantastic latte flavored with pumpkin and spices at home. Simply blend coffee and your favorite milk with 2 to 3 tablespoons of canned pumpkin puree and a teaspoon or two of sugar. Sprinkle with pumpkin pie spices: The Starbucks recipe favors cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves.

— Cara Rosenbloom

Fitness

Go for a walk, with Nordic poles
Part walking and part cross-country skiing, Nordic pole walking is an exercise well suited for outdoors in the fall. Combining low-impact cardio with an upper-body strength workout, it takes conventional fitness walking to a new level.

“With the activation of stomach, back and arm muscles every time you push through the pole, NPW becomes a full-body workout,” says Jennifer Howey, a master instructor and owner of InsideOut Physiotherapy in Toronto, who offers instructional videos on her website. “It is an excellent cross-trainer and rehabilitation tool.” It’s also fairly affordable, your only outlay is the poles, which run from $35 to $100.

Not only can Nordic pole walking be done with social distancing, it can address some of our pandemic woes. “People are suffering with neck and low-back issues from sitting for extended periods of time,” Howey says. “Nordic pole walking works to correct posture and strengthen posture muscles.”

Judith Klau, 88, of Boston, who is a friend and avid pole walker, has taken her poles out even more frequently since the onset of the pandemic. “I am walking twice a week now,” she says. “I don’t worry about my balance, because the poles anchor me.”

This extra benefit makes Nordic pole walking one of the few sports that truly can be done by almost anyone.

— Lorne David Opfer

Sweat it out with pickleball
As a kid, I bonded with my grandmother over word games, never athletics. Sadly, we hadn’t heard of pickleball. If you’re picturing nothing but sweet or sour cucumbers, you may soon be in the minority. Pickleball, which celebrates its 55th anniversary this year, is one of America’s fastest-growing sports; an industry association reported 3.3 million players in 2019, up about 29% from 2015.

Think of a combination of ping-pong — paddles swatting a plastic ball — and tennis, but with a lower net, a court one-fourth the size and players a few decades older than Roger Federer. Pickleball, usually played as doubles, involves less running than other sports; it has been called a “two-step game,” which makes it good for seniors who may have limited mobility. But it’s gaining popularity among younger folks. (Singles can be a fairly safe pandemic choice for people not isolating together because players are separated by a 14-foot non-volley zone; opponents can use different-colored balls.)

The multigenerational appeal makes pickleball a good choice for families. The United States has more than 15,000 dedicated courts, but you can create a pop-up court on any paved surface. There, adults avoiding gyms can gather with kids missing physical education classes and sports. Give the iPad and Scrabble a break and head outside for a pickleball showdown with Grandma.

— Matt Fuchs

NEXT WEEK: Tips for the home, mindfulness and making human connections.
Reunited by baseball

Cardboard cutouts fill seats at empty stadiums as tribute to fans

BY RICK MAESE
The Washington Post

C hanning Coy was watching a baseball game on television recently when she noticed the cardboard cutouts in the stands. The fact that fans filling an otherwise empty stadium, a now-normal sight in an anything-but-normal season.

“At first, the idea seemed a little silly, all these cardboard cutouts in the background to . . .” But then it hit me: Oh my goodness, I could have Ryan and Dad at a game together again.”

Oracle Park, the bayside stadium of her beloved San Francisco Giants, had always been somewhat sacred to her family. It was the site of big wins and important milestones for the team, of course, but also for the family. And when her younger brother, Ryan Coy, died a month ago at 22, it seemed like the perfect way to honor him.

“Channing really made something special happen,” said Tom Bartlett, her father, and he’s likely in most likely the only way I’m going to be in the ballpark again.”

Across the nation, fans have been looking out this summer because of the novel coronavirus. But at each ballpark, they’ve been invited to invite in loved ones, quietly honoring lives and memories with a photo in the stands. It’s a way of connecting generations and had imagined him running to the family’s home in Vacaville, Calif., of a golden retriever has an aisle seat

A tribute cutout of Charley Beers, age 6, sits in the second seat from the left at T-Mobile Park in Seattle. Though fans haven’t been able to attend baseball games due to the coronavirus, some have purchased cardboard cutouts of themselves or family and friends to fill the seats.

“Baseball’s been such a key part of our lives when I was growing up,” her father said. “So we’ve always been cognizant of any time we have an opportunity.”

“My husband and I decided as part of the proceeds to decorate the background of television screens for three-plus hours every night.”

About two-thirds of the major-league teams offered fans the chance to purchase the cutouts during this pandemic-shortened season. Some were available only to season ticket holders, and many teams opted out of the program to defer charitable causes. Costs varied, but most fan cutouts could be had for $30 to $100, though a photo in a Dodger Stadium premium section cost as much as $300 and one above Fenway Park’s Green Monster carried a $500 pricetag.

In Section 145 of T-Mobile Park in Seattle, there’s a photo of an energetic 6-year-old wearing a pink baseball glove in Row 7, Seat 17. Charley Beers always had designs on playing baseball, not softball, and she loved the Mariners. She knew all the players’ names and numbers, watched every game on television and was constantly begging her parents to make the trek to the family’s home in Olympia, Wash., to the ballpark.

Charley had just completed kindergarten when she fell ill in June 2010. Just a couple of days later, she died of complications from a Group A strep infection.

“It was so rare,” said her father, Zach. “A doctor told us it’d be like getting struck by lightning three times.”

In the decade that has passed, the family has taken every opportunity to keep her memory alive, to remind people how Charley would befriend lonely kids on the playground, scrounge up loose change to buy other kids in the cafeteria play or watch baseball at every opportunity.

“I guess we were afraid people would forget her and forget her name,” her father said. “So we’ve always been cognizant of any time we have an opportunity, we’d say her name. So when I saw the cutout thing, I thought immediately, ‘Yes, I’m doing that for Charley.’”

The cardboard tributes are usually quiet gestures, known and shared by family and friends. Some are hard to miss — more than three dozen pet cats have their own sections at T-Mobile Park — and others are hard to forget. Seventeen-year-old Joaquin Oliver was one of the students killed in a school shooting two years ago in Parkland, Fla. His image is memorialized in 14 major-league ballparks this season, his father’s effort to remember his son and raise awareness for efforts to reform gun laws.

“He was not only my son but my best friend,” Manny Oliver told the Los Angeles Times. “The fact that now we’re bringing him to the ballparks, in some way, makes me feel happy.”

The quiet stands are where the sentimental and the surreal can sit side by side this season, atypical baseball scenes unfolding every night. In Philadelphia’s Citizens Bank Park — Section E, not far from home plate — a cutout of a golden retriever has an aisle seat that’s not far from all the action. Moose was a 13-month-old ball of energy when a tumor caused his organs to fail in July.

Arvey Harwan, 25, had long planned to take Moose to the Philadelphia’s annual Bark at the Park promotion and had imagined him running all over the stadium.

“We were joking that he probably would’ve wanted to pick his own seat,” Harwan said. “He’d’ve dragged us to where he wanted to sit.”

The cutouts, like baseball itself, have a way of connecting generations. At T-Mobile Park, not far from the cutout of 6-year-old Charley Beers, two photos sit side by side: Bobbie Losey next to an old black-and-white photograph of a young ballplayer, looking very much like an image from an old bubble gum card. Losey’s father, Carl Pritchard, played semipro ball in the 1920s and died in 1980. Losey’s son, Kirk West, had sent her a card for her 92nd birthday that read: “You always wanted to take your father to a Mariners’ game but were unable to . . . until now.”

West had heard stories about his grandfather pitching against barnstorming teams of pro ballplayers, and when West was younger, it was his mother who was tossing him grounders. He lives in Australia now but streams the Mariners’ games, and he’s tickled by the idea of his mother and grandfather re- united nightly in the stands.

“We have a key part of our lives when I was growing up. It’s just always been there,” he said. “Who would have thought this would ever be possible? But somehow they’re right next to each other for an entire season.”

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE
Lisa Smith Molinari

Champagne dreams, Dirty Banana realities

I’ve always wanted to say, teeth clenched with hard- dy intonation, “We were on the Vineyard yesterday,” as a cry of joy from my childhood, as a trip to Martha’s Vineyard in New England. So, last weekend, the unofficial end of summer, my husband, Francis, and I took a day trip to Martha’s Vineyard, the preppy vacation spot for the rich and famous.

Four years ago, Francis transitioned out of the Navy after 28 years on active duty, and we decided to stay in Rhode Island. Even though we’re technically New Englanders now, we have yet to put a hard “r” on the end of words like “pizza.” We don’t call water fountains “bub-bl-bub” for the Siquidles over the Patriots. And we can’t eat whole-belly clams without getting the willies.

However, we jumped headfirst into New England’s fascinating history. We’re no longer offended when people are shockingly blunt. We understand terms like “wicked smaht,” “carriage” and “johnnycakes.” And we now appropriately bread from a can and pudding made from Grape-Nuts.

However, to be true New Englanders, we must experience its most famous places, so off we went with our bikes to Martha’s Vineyard last weekend.

We caught the first ferry to Oak Bluffs, planning a bike route that would allow us to ogle million-dollar seaside homes, to visit the historic whaling port of Edgartown, watch yachts on the harbor and end the day with a pricey but well-deserved seafood dinner.

“Based on what Oak Bluff” honky-tonk vibe: “This must be an anomaly,” we thought, before biking five miles south to Edgartown.

In town, we spent the day lounging like Kennedy’s on Katama Beach, window shopping at high-end boutiques, admiring grand sea captains’ houses and paying a premium for fancy coffee.

After riding back to Oak Bluffs, we had three hours before our return ferry — plenty of time to find the perfect dinner. Our mouths watered at the thought of fresh oysters, lobster bisque and trendy cocktails.

For an hour, we walked our bikes through crowded streets in search of an acceptable restaurant. Our standards lowered as pangs of hunger grew.

“What about that place down on the waterfront?” Francis suggested. “You mean that greasy fish and chips joint?” I asked.

But after realizing that our only other available option was buying a bag of Fritos and a 40-ounce can of malt liquid at the gas station, we hightailed it to the greasy fish and chips joint.

“May we sit on the deck if we buy a couple of drinks?” I desperately asked the hostess.

“Of course you can purchase food to sit here,” she said, pointing to long lines at the food and drink order window.

“You gotta try the Dirty Banana!” a man shivered Francis in the bar line. His drunken companion, sniffing the frozen concoction from a plastic cup, added, “It’s got like eight different liquors in it. Delicious!”

A half hour later, we ordered draft beers and fish and chips, and an eye-rolling teenager, who gave us an electronic hockey puck that would buzz when our order was ready. For the next half hour, we waited on a sticky bench, watching the guys swilling their Dirty Bananas.

“We’re on the Vineyard yesterday,” Francis said. “What about that place down on the waterfront?”

“May we sit on the deck if we buy a couple of drinks?” I desperately asked the hostess.

“Of course you can sit on the deck if we buy a couple of drinks?” Francis said. “I’ll order a Dirty Banana reality.” I sipped my Dirty Banana, looked at the stars and smiled at life’s unexpected gift.
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

COULD YOU REPEAT THAT NUMBER?
BY David Kwong / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Kwong is a magician and crossword constructor in Los Angeles who regularly combines puzzles and sleight of hand into his performances. His 2014 TED Talk (posted on TED.com) includes a trick with a New York Times crossword and has been viewed 1.7 million times to date. David has a new virtual show with puzzles, titled “Inside the Box,” opening in a few weeks with the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. This puzzle is his 21st crossword for The Times. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Part of a backpack
6 Pyramids, often
11 Dutch requirements
16 Evan: Welsh -- Scottish
19 One of Chekhov’s “Three Sisters”
20 Hunter of myth
21 Bring to bear
22 Result, maybe, in brief
33 Many apartments in old warehouse districts
34 Japanese comic style
35 Labor Day baby, e.g.
36 Shape formed by an extended thumb and index fingers
37 Good person to believe in
39 Swiss neighbor
40 Writer Tartuff who took on Standard Oil
51 Pins are placed at the end of them
55 07 film
57 Some EMT cases
60 Boying bingie
61 Count in music
62 Logical start?
64 Uf foeder
65 Picked from a lineup, informally
66 Hurt
47 Proverbs
60 Like puppets, morally
63 Maven
64 Leafy crown material
55 Day competitor
62 Ballerina
63 Legal
65 Chief Chirps and others, in sci-fi
66 Waste away
66 “Fantasy” Grammy winner
67 Cool, in old slang
68 “The way things are currently going…”
72 Muscle problem
74 Muscular
76 Grammy-winning country singer Black
77 Play combo of old
83 Mark, ___ winner of the 1998 Masters
84 George Carlin was his first, for short
85 State capital on the Colorado River
86 Subject of Newton’s first law of motion
88 Dealers do this
89 Have an in-court experience?
92 QB’s peer: Abbr.
93 “…” to My Socks,” Pablo Neruda poem
94 Larson who wrote “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo”
96 Additionally
98 Deletes, with “out”
99 Tree alternative
100 Kind-of-salted
105 N.Y.C.’s first subway line
106 Like some gas: Abbr.
107 “Big Sur” novelist, 1962
111 A suggestion
112 World capital whose name comes from the Greek for “wind, whirl”
114 Humble
116 Jazz composer with an Egyptian-inspired name
117 “…” your call?
118 Elements of Algebra’s author, 1770
119 First lady of the 1950s
120 Kind of pear that resembles an apple
121 Rapper with the 2005 hit “I Can”
122 Judge ___ (1995 Billadeau movie)
123 and curl (salon treatment)
124 Not interfere with

DOWN
1 Tower over the field
2 Silk film with vehicles called “light cycles”
3 Loaded (with)
4 Prone to fudging
5 Some 1990s Toyota
6 Naomi fashion designer who once served as the creative director at Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent
68 “…” all ye faithful
59 Classical funny soda
60 Occupied, with “in”
61 Accept as charged
62 “…” doctor, but…”
63 Trait of a romantic partner
64 Lead singer of rock’s “Yeah Yeah Yeahs”
65 It ended on Nov. 11, 1918
66 Swell up
67 Kind words
74 “Va ___” (Italian “All right!”)
75 Something to bookmark
76 Film director Jon
77 “… , you’re…”
78 “… , ‘doctor, but…”
79 Trait of a romantic partner
80 Lead singer of rock’s “Yeah Yeah Yeahs”
81 “Most of the ___” (1967 No. 1 album)
85 Weep 1954 Patti Page hit
86 Mocks at
87 “…” between us?
88 “…” Saint Laurent
89 Author born Truman Stocklass Persons
90 Not much at all
91 Pig in a poke or pigeon drop
92 “…” of the Simpsons”
93 Edward’s ___
95 Christmas-tree hanging
96 Kahleah’s champ
97 Of the ankle
98 Stumbled, in a way
101 Walk heavily
102 Contemplative sort
103 Toothy smile
104 Jazz’s James
105 Cond’s, e.g.
106 Kriffy weave
110 Christmas-tree hanging
113 “…” between us?

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

1 8 1 3 5 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6
3 4 4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3
7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4
8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5
9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6

GUNSTON STREET

“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

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**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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       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  
     51   |  52   |  53  
     54   |  55   |  56  
     57   |  58   |  59  

ACROSS
1  Witty one
2  Bouquets-to-order co.
7  Argentine grassland
12 "I love," to Livy
13 "Enrage" character
14 Virginia Woolf's "—of One's Own"
15 Illuminated
16 Edible sugar crystals
18 Potent stick
19 Sacred song
22 Crony
23 Pen pals?
27 Golf's Ernie
28 Goober
31 "Star Trek" doctor
34 Spoiled kids
35 Spider's creation
37 TV schedule abbr.
38 Privation
39 Wall St. deal
41 Clear the decks?
45 Hummings
47 — cart
48 Drywall brand
52 Ballot marks

DOW
1 Viennese dancer
2 Acid type
3 Reached
4 Rural tract
5 Girl Scout units
6 Formal decrees
7 Treaty
8 Altar
9 Calendar abbr.
10 Group of seals
11 "Little Women" woman
17 110th source

50 Type measures

Answer to Previous Puzzle
C E L T S P S T E A S
A L I H A L T E D G E
L I S T E N E R C I T E
A I M D U C H E S S
W I L L E D M A I N
I T O S O Y D E M O N
D E E R T A J S A L E
E M B E D P O I R E O
S E A K E D I S O N
W E B C A S T T R A C K
E C R U I S R A I L I S
S H O E D A N G I C I
T O W S E R A S U B

9-18 CRYPTOQUIP
G Z R G U M M E O X C Q I D R A A O
D V B M O J Z C G G C V U R A A G Z D
N H G L M V J M V W O I D W M G D Z
Q M D J C G B H J G E M I Y A C Y X J

Yesterday's Cryptquip: If artist Warhol had made decorative items manually, I would have to call them Andy-crafts.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals G
Frazz

According to my employee tracker, you spent 45 minutes in stall four of the men's room today.

Dilbert

Hey, I heard a great joke this morning. So Attila the Hun invades this town and kills every Roman he sees.

Pearls Before Swine

Stella...Stella...Stella!

Non Sequitur

That's either rate or some kind of epidemic. Dealing with a stray cat named Deedee?

Candorville

Valiant eagle, I think belligerent rabbits' riding technique might actually be rather useful in battle.

Carpe Diem

How do you like the new hood ornament, Julius?

Beetle Bailey

I can't believe Art's gone.

Bizarro

I can't believe Art's gone.

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 Klutz
4 Pre-weekend cry
8 Avocado dip, for short
12 TiVo precursor
13 Arizona tribe
14 Gymnast Korbut
15 Bond rating
16 Katy Perry hit song
17 Stable diet
18 Military front
21 Whatever
22 Saute
23 Extra
26 Day — paint
27 Consume
30 At the summit of
31 Nonclerical
32 Cruise stop
33 Chum
34 Burrowed
35 Perfect
36 Pouch
37 Year in Spain
38 Football field divider
45 "— in the Dark" (1988 Meryl Streep film)
46 Low-calorie
47 Singer Ritzer
48 Stagger
49 "Would — to you?"
50 Parisian friend
51 Apportion
52 Secondhand
53 Parking place

DOWN
1 Cameo shape
2 Exotic berry
3 Humorist
4 Lobowitz
5 Seat of power
6 Disney pooch
7 Apple tablet
8 Like hot fudge
9 — Bator
10 Literary reps
11 Job for Holmes
19 Lawyer
20 Wyatt
22 To and —
23 Tree fluid
24 Sch. org
25 "You've got mail!" co.
26 Jake
27 Jargon suffix
28 — carte
29 Business card no.
30 "Elementary" actress
31 Pedestal occupant
32 Calendar box
33 Truly
34 Fashion
35 "The Sopranos" restaurateur
36 Rural tract
37 Frozen drink brand
38 Worry
40 Peels unwell
43 Jules Verne
44 Way out
45 2 Slanted type (Abbr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SWMH QJCS HQPUMP HB JR
HQKLS ZWPSW PO KO CKS
SWPOP’H JAQIP HLCIMYW IS
MS UKLIN YOKZ PMSWPO ZJR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT GOOFY KID REALLY ENJOYS Hitting ALL THE BUTTONS ON MY REMOTE. HE DOES IT JUST FOR CLICKS.

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Limits on Massing on right off interest on

By Salvatore Joseph Cordileone

**Special to The Washington Post**

I
ever expected that the most basic religious freedom, the right to worship — protected so robustly in our Constitution — would be unceremoniously trampled if we do not act promptly.

But the same thing that is happening in San Francisco. For months now, the city has limited worship services to just 12 people, with no exceptions for religious services. As a result, a great many faithful who come from God, the very right to worship, it crosses a line. Our church buildings. But when government asserts authority over the church’s affairs, it violates the First Amendment demands.

Even this injustice, though, is not as harmful as the simple lack of compassion.

I sometimes wonder whether the increasingly secular elites imposing these restrictions understand the pain they are causing. The presumptions of independence put it, they are “self-evident truths from on high.”

And it is not just San Francisco. According to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, six states with a combined population of 67 million Americans single out religious worship for unfavorable treatment compared to similar secular activities.

We Catholics are not indifferent to the very real dangers posed by COVID-19. This is one of the reasons Catholic church leaders have developed rigorous protocols to protect public health in our facilities. We submitted our safety plans to the city along with other faith-based organizations, and while indoor retailers had their plans approved and went into operation, we are still waiting to hear back.

Meanwhile, the scientific evidence from other jurisdictions is clear: These religious worship services are no more dangerous than comparable-disease specialists who reviewed the evidence on more than 1 million public Masses over the past few months concluded. They know how to hold Mass safely. There is no reason not to allow us to put that knowledge into practice.

Nor do our concerns stem from hostility toward government. We Catholics respect legitimate authority, and we recognize that the government has a right to impose reasonable public health rules, just as we recognize its right to issue safety codes for our church buildings. But when government asserts authority over the church’s very right to worship, it crosses a line. Our Constitution and the First Amendment demand that government respect the religious worship that connects them with God and one another. For hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans facing the simultaneous challenges of a pandemic and economic downturn, the church is their key source of spiritual, emotional and practical support. To shut our doors and work only online would be jobless and especially the addicted whose major access to community help is the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings formerly held in our church buildings.

As one of my parishioners, Kathryn Reese, wrote recently in the San Francisco Chronicle: “I am more than concerned about the way my church, this place for me, this body, is not for my soul. I need it. My faith is what got me through all these years.”

We want to be partners in protecting the public health, but we cannot accept profoundly harmful and unequal treatment without reason. The church is not the only Catholic from across San Francisco will join in a public demonstration this Sunday calling on the city, its leaders and the people of San Francisco to treat religious believers fairly.

At our demonstration, we will not be asking for special treatment. We just want our reasonable request for fair treatment and equal treatment of all religions. Catholic worship is a fundamental right, the same fundamental right enjoyed by every American.

**Biden’s proposed agenda is frighteningly expensive**

By Henry Olsen

**Special to The Washington Post**

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, a former senator, has argued that his tax policy proposals won’t increase the federal deficit. In fact, Riedl’s figures show it could exceed $5.4 trillion over the next decade. Analysts from the nonpartisan Tax Foundation document just how much Biden proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck. Biden’s tax proposals would raise between $3.4 trillion and $3.5 trillion in new revenue per year under Trump before the coronavirus struck.
Disney+ scores 5 Emmys with ‘The Mandalorian’

The show will also go up for Sunday night’s biggest award, outstanding drama series, against “Better Call Saul,” “The Crown,” “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Killing Eve,” “Ozark,” “Stranger Things” and “Succession.”

Elton John collection to be released, including new tracks

Elton John is opening up his vault and releasing an expansive collection of rarely heard and unreleased tracks.

Federal judge sentences Swift stalker to 30 months

A federal judge has sentenced an Austin, Texas, man to 30 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to stalking and sending threatening letters and emails to pop star Taylor Swift’s former record label.

Assoc Press

Even the Television Academy loves Baby Yoda.

Jon Favreau’s “The Mandalorian,” the Disney+ series that takes place five years after the 1983 “Return of the Jedi,” took home a trio of trophies Wednesday during the third night of the Creative Emmys, including one for outstanding visual effects.

The show also picked up wins for outstanding cinematography for a single-camera series (half-hour), outstanding sound mixing for a comedy or drama series (half-hour) and outstanding sound editing for a comedy or drama series (half-hour) and animation, and outstanding production design for a narrative program (half-hour).

“The Mandalorian’s” Emmys are the first for Disney+ in the streaming service’s first year of eligibility.

The Star Wars spinoff is nominated for 15 Emmys in total, including outstanding character voice-over performance for Taika Waititi as IG-11 and outstanding guest actor in a drama series for Giancarlo Esposito as Moff Gideon.

By Kristin M. Hall

Associated Press

In a surprise twist that fit an unexpected year of firsts, Carrie Underwood and Thomas Rhett tied for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, the first time the top prize has been split between two artists.

Underwood and Rhett seemed equally taken aback after host Keith Urban announced the tie at the awards show held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville on Wednesday.

“Keith, what is happening right now?” Rhett asked, astounded, before thanking his family. Underwood appeared right after him remarking, “2020, man!” before adding, “I am more than happy to share this with Thomas Rhett.”

The show on CBS had been delayed for months because of the pandemic, moved from Las Vegas to Nashville for the first time and held with no audience in empty venues. There was a lot of anticipation for the show, which featured Taylor Swift making her first appearance at the ACMs in seven years.

Underwood’s win is her third total in that category and Rhett’s first win. They beat out other nominees Eric Church, Luke Bryan and Luke Combs. A woman hasn’t won that award since 2011 when Swift last won it. Swift delivered a simple acoustic performance of “betty” from her new album “Folklore,” on a darkened Opry House stage.

Combs still went home a winner by picking up album of the year and male artist of the year. After amassing tremendous streaming numbers and nine consecutive No. 1 country radio hits, Combs thanked fans for their support from the Bluebird Cafe.

“This is a lot to process right now; I just can’t believe this,” Combs said. “I just want to thank everybody in my life, my team, my beautiful wife and the fans. You guys have done everything for me.”

Country group Old Dominion won song of the year and group of the year, and band members Matthew Ramsey, Trevor Rosen and Brad Tursi earned additional individual awards as songwriters for “One Man Band.”

The awards show aired from empty venues in Nashville with no fans and no applause, even when winners got up live to accept their awards. Ramsey, the lead singer of Old Dominion, said the empty venue and quiet made him think of friends and family they had lost.

“I can feel them all,” Ramsey said. “They are so proud, and it’s such an honor to receive this in their presence.”

Urban noted all the changes this year for the show and for the country in general, saying 2020 has been an “unpredictable and unsettling year.” After noting wildfires on the West Coast, hurricanes in the South, Urban said the country is battling two pandemics: COVID-19 and social injustice.

“The show for the country and in the world and right here in our country community.”

Maren Morris, who was a leading nominee, won two awards, including female artist of the year and music event of the year, for a collaboration with Miranda Lambert, Caylee Hammack, Tenille Townes, Elle King and Ashley McBride.

“This is so weird talking to no one, but I have so many people to thank. This is an award that I never expected to win,” said Morris, who thanked her husband and baby boy, Hayes, before blurting out “Oh my God, I have to pee.”

Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani weren’t in Nashville, but turned a green screen room into a virtual replica of the Bluebird Cafe for their duet “Happy Anywhere.”

Skelton won single of the year for his song, “God’s Country.”

Lambert performed a stripped-down version of her No. 1 song “Bluebird” at the Bluebird Cafe in a blue fringed shirt and a sparkly belt. Lambert’s vocals seemed to fill up the space in the tiny songwriters’ club surrounded by tables and chairs, but no fans.

In awards announced before the show aired, Rhett also won music video of the year, while Townes won short form music video of the year. Riley Green won new male artist. Duo Dan + Shay won vocal duo of the year, their second win in that category in a row.

Underwood sang a tribute to iconic female Opry members, including Patsy Cline, Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, Barbara Mandrell, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton. She effortlessly breezed through snippets of classics like “Crazy,” “You Ain’t Woman Enough,” “Why’d You Come In Here Lookin’ Like That,” and “Fancy.”

“They are some of my heroes, and I am so honored to stand alongside them as a fellow member of the Opry,” said Underwood, who sang her heart out to a venue that flickered with lights where people should have been.
**NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

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**NFL INJURY REPORT**

NEW YORK – The New York Giants have placed defensive end Michael Bennett (ankle) on the Reserve/Not Active list, according to a team source.

SUNDAY

**ATLANTA FALCONS at DALLAS COWBOYS – FALCONS:**

- Falcons DL Jonathan Greenard (ankle) will miss Sunday night’s game.
- Falcons RB Devonta Freeman (ankle) is questionable.

**BOSTON CELTICS:**

- Celtics G Gordon Hayward (right ankle) is questionable.
- Celtics F Jayson Tatum (left foot) has been ruled out.

**BOSTON RED SOX:**

- Red Sox OF Andrew Benintendi (hip) is listed as day-to-day.
- Red Sox OF Andrew Benintendi (hip) has been placed on the Injured List.

**Baltimore Ravens at Houston Texans:**

- Ravens LB Tyus Bowser (knee) has been placed on the Reserve/COVID-19 list.
- Ravens DE Yannick Ngakoue (knee) has been placed on the Reserve/COVID-19 list.

**Miami Dolphins:**

- Dolphins LB Elandon Roberts (knee) is listed as questionable.
- Dolphins LB Elandon Roberts (knee) has been ruled out.

**St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs:**

- Cardinals LF Juan Perez (knee) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
- Cardinals C Tyler Heineman (ankle) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.

**San Francisco 49ers at Arizona Cardinals:**

- 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo (knee) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
- 49ers G Alexits Gonsiorek (knee) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.

**San Francisco 49ers at Detroit Lions:**

- 49ers WR Brandon Aiyuk (knee) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
- 49ers LB Kahlil Mack (ankle) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.

**San Francisco 49ers vs. Chicago Bears:**

- 49ers WR Brandon Aiyuk (knee) is listed as questionable.
- 49ers WR Brandon Aiyuk (knee) has been ruled out.

**San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams:**

- 49ers RB Raheem Mostert (ankle) has been placed on the Reserve/COVID-19 list.
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**Washington Nationals vs. Miami Marlins:**

- Nationals LF Juan Soto (finger) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
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**Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees:**

- Red Sox OF Andrew Benintendi (right foot) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
- Red Sox OF Andrew Benintendi (right foot) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.

**Boston Celtics vs. Phoenix Suns:**

- Celtics G Jaylen Brown (knee) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
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**Denver Broncos vs. Pittsburgh Steelers:**

- Broncos LB Avery Williamson (ankle) has been placed on the 10-Day IL.
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**San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams:**

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The Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook, left, keeps the ball from the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James during a playoff game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. James was named All-NBA for a record 16th time, unanimously making the first team. Westbrook was a third-team selection.

Sweet 16: LeBron sets record on All-NBA team

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — LeBron James now stands alone in All-NBA recognition history, getting there unanimously.

James was revealed Wednesday as an All-NBA player for a record 16th time, breaking the mark he shared with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant and Tim Duncan. He was a first-team pick on all 100 ballots, joining Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo as the only unanimous first-team selections this season.

Joining them on the first team: Houston guard James Harden, Lakers forward Anthony Davis and Dallas guard Luka Doncic, with Davis and Harden unanimous as first-team choices on all 100 ballots — though only 98 of them actually voted, and the others had to choose two guards, two forwards and one center for each position.

Harden was the only player with at least 15 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and two blocks per game in the first round. He was recently named NBA Player of the Month for March.

Unanimous decision

Antetokounmpo, Leonard and Davis are four-time selections. Butler and Giannis Antetokounmpo, Leonard and Davis are four-time selections. Butler and Giobot are three-time selections, Jokic a two-time choice and Siakam, Tatum and Simmons all joined Doncic as being on the team for the first time.

Harden and Doncic appeared on 100 ballots — though only James, Davis and Harden appeared on 98, and Leonard appeared on 98.

The voting was conducted based on regular-season games played through March 11, and voters had to choose two guards, two forwards and one center for each team. Milwaukee forward Khris Middleton did not make All-NBA even though he appeared on more ballots (60) than Simmons (43) and Westbrook (38); they made the team as guards. Philadelphia's Joel Embiid got 39 votes and did not make the team either, after finishing fourth among centers.

Middleton led forwards who didn't make the team in votes; Embiid did the same for centers and Washington's Bradley Beal (26 votes) did the same for guards. Beal posted the 24th season in NBA history where someone finished with averages of at least 30 points and six assists — and became the first of those 24 to not make an All-NBA team.
Dillon out to bust playoff brackets

AUSTIN Dillon was written off as a championship contender before NASCAR's playoffs even began and he knew no one expected him to go far. Undeterred, he vowed to show he has taken a huge step in his career.

Dillon raced his way into the playoffs with a win at Texas, just his third in seven full Cup Series seasons, and he has been considered a threat for the title. A first-round elimination would surprise no one.

He still may not make it to the final four, but Dillon is making good on his promise to "mess up a lot of brackets." He opened the postseason with finishes of second and fourth — the first back-to-back top-fives of his career — and should easily move into the second round.

NASCAR goes to Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday for the first elimination race and William Byron, Cole Custer, Matt DiBenedetto and Ryan Blaney are all below him on the outline. Dillon, ranked 10th at the start of the playoffs, has climbed to sixth in the standings.

"I think we've just steadily gotten our stuff better and we've got a really good group working hard," Dillon said. "I've had confidence in myself my entire career. I've been through some ups and downs and kind of weathered the storm to this point. I always felt like when I'm given something to work with, I can perform with it and make it happen."

The fast start is a surprise because it has been a long time since Richard Childress Racing has been able to keep up with the big boys in NASCAR. Mind you, RCR was once among NASCAR's big boys in NASCAR. Mind you, has been able to keep up with the elite, but the organization slipped and made it happen."

"Some people do it faster than others, but it's a good time right now for me and the (No.) 3 team."

Dillon opened the playoffs as run-up to Harvick at Darlington and then rebounded from a pit road speeding penalty at Richmond to finish fourth. He and Joey Logano are the only two drivers to open the playoffs with consecutive top-five Cup finishes.

It's allowed Dillon to capitalize during a free fall by Blaney, a driver most expected to advance further than Dillon. Blaney was ranked second in the standings in July at Texas, where Dillon earned his first career top-five. He was 19th in the standings that started the final two months of the regular season has him on the verge of elimination.

He was penalized in the opener when his car failed pre-race inspection and he finished 24th, then was 18th at Richmond to finish fourth. His collapse has been as surprising as Dillon's rise.

"I'm glad we got on the playoff grid, in a 27-point hole and determined to win this weekend to extend his postseason."

"We probably need to go out there and win Bristol," Blaney said. "It's our goal every week to win the race, but now it's our season on the line."

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

USA Bobsled and Skeleton typically has staff spending part of the spring and summer months on the road recruiting, looking for new talent and luring them with the potential of representing their country in the Olympics.

This year, amid a pandemic, none of that could take place.

So USABS made the entire process digital — and so far, it's working.

Following the same sort of thinking that works for high school athletes trying to get noticed by colleges, USABS has invited potential sliders to upload videos and videos that show what they can do and who they are. The results have been overwhelming, both in terms of the numbers and the quality of athleticism from many who are interested.

"I would say in this short amount of time — and we're just talking really like from May to now — I think this has been the greatest response rate of any recruiting thing that we've ever done," said USABS assistant coach Mike Dionne, who handles much of the federation's recruiting efforts. "I was shocked at the amount of responses that we were getting."

Someone submitted video of herself pushing a car for 30 yards in a parking lot. Another sent his rugby highlights. One woman inserted a clip of her missing what would have been a game-winning goal in a state high school soccer championship game and how she grew from that experience.

USABS already has gotten dozens of serious candidates involved, through Zoom video conferences with coaches and established athletes and past bobsled and skeleton Olympians. Team officials expect many more names to get into the mix before the Sept. 30 submission deadline for consideration this season.

The idea of taking the process online, USABS CEO Arien McGuire said, was probably overdue and is likely here to stay. Athletes submit themselves running a 40-yard dash, completing a broad jump, plus fill out a questionnaire.

Just like that, they officially become Olympic hopefuls.

"COVID or no COVID, we've got to be thinking about ways that we can be more efficient and really get a greater reach," McGuire said. "We can get more athletes excited about the sports and get them involved. So, this is kind of a great way to kind of reach that next generation of athletes."

Another plus for USABS: It saves a ton of money. Budget constraints would typically limit the team to recruiting stops in 8-10 cities, McGuire said. This reach, being online, is unlimited.

"Now, we can have the entire reach of literally anyone in the world, any US citizen in the world that wants to try out," McGuire said. "It's much more effective in terms of that outreach."

What happens in the coming weeks, if all goes to plan, would see many of the Olympic hopefuls travel to Lake Placid, N.Y., — the team's home base — or possibly Park City, Utah, for rookie camps. Lake Placid would be where many of the incoming athletes who are seeking to be part of the program would get a push track for the first time, and coaches could start getting more information on who has the type of strength, speed and explosive-ness that is needed to help get a sled down a mountain as fast as possible.

Dionne said it's not outside the realm of possibility that someone who comes into the program this fall could find themselves on the 2022 U.S. Olympic bobsled team. There are precedents for things happening that quickly.

And this season, it's unclear how much U.S. national team athletes will be overseas because of the pandemic. If some top athletes are able to train in Lake Placid or Park City more for even some of the sliding season, that could accelerate the development of this year's rookie class.

“For a bobsled push athlete, 2022 is definitely not out of the question,” Dionne said. “And we're also trying to fill the pipeline for bobsled and skeleton drivers more than anything. On average, can that be an eight-year process before they're ready to be in medal contention at the Olympics. So, we have to get those athletes in the pipeline.”

Front to back, driver Justin Oosten, pushers Christopher Foght and Carlo Valdes, and breakman Nathan Weber compete for the United States during the Bobsled World Cup final on Feb. 22, 2018 at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. USA Bobsled and Skeleton couldn't hit the road recruiting this summer because of the coronavirus pandemic, so it made Olympic hopefuls submit videos online.
Dodgers defeat Padres, clinch 1st playoff spot

By Bernie Wilson
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — While the Los Angeles Dodgers seek regular participants in postseason baseball, there was something unusual about becoming the first team in pandemic-shortened season to clinch a berth in the expanded playoffs.

“I don’t know if different, I guess. I just found out that five minutes ago, manager Dave Roberts said in his video news conference after the game that the Padres were the first team in the NL to clinch,” said pitcher Kenta Maeda, who was optioned to Oklahoma City of the Minor League’s Texas League in the off-season.

The Padres were 6-4 in the first 10 games of the season, but the Dodgers were 8-3 in their first 11.

Maeda (3-1) gave up a leadoff hit to Fernando Tatis Jr., and the Dodgers went on to win 4-1. It was the third time in four days that the Padres were held to one run.

Maeda held the Padres scoreless in 6 1/3 innings, allowing one hit and striking out seven.

The Dodgers are now 4-1 since the start of the season.

The Padres, who were 1-1 in their first two games of the season, have now lost seven of their last 10 games.

Maeda, who was optioned to Oklahoma City of the Minor League’s Texas League in the off-season, was optioned to Oklahoma City of the Minor League’s Texas League in the off-season.

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Jerry’s drops stick out as 1st-round WRs stumble

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — First-round draft pick Jerry Jeudy is a man of few words and even fewer miscues. After dropping a pair of passes in his NFL debut, the normally sure-handed receiver from Alabama tweeted, “Failure is growth.”

Jeudy, the 15th overall selection in the NFL draft, took his eyes off the ball and turned upfield, dropping a wide-open pass on third down that squelched Denver’s opening second-half drive against Tennessee on Monday night.

An even costlier drop came on first down in Titans territory in the fourth quarter with the Broncos running their four-minute offense while clinging to a 14-13 lead.

“If he makes the play, Denver has a chance to salt away the victory or at the very least kick a field goal. Instead, Denver punted and Tennessee went down and won it on a field goal with 17 seconds left.”

“I felt like I failed my team on those two plays,” Jeudy said Wednesday. “I’m learning from that, just go out here and practicing and really focus on catching the ball and focus on the little details of catching the ball is really going to help me.

“Those two drops will probably help me on not dropping passes for the whole season.”

The Broncos are sticking by their usually sticky-fingered rookie.

“That’s not Jerry Jeudy,” quarterback Drew Lock said when addressing the pair of dropped throws.

“Jerry has good hands,” coach Vic Fangio agreed.

When asked what he’ll remember most about his professional debut, one in which he caught four passes for 56 yards, Jeudy said, “the two drops.”

What Lock doesn’t want is for Jeudy to harp on it any more than he already has. Lock, for one, won’t keep bringing it up.

“He apologized. He was upset and hurt. It’s like missing layups in basketball. You miss a couple and it’s not going to happen again,” Lock said. “You don’t go address a guy about missing layups. It’s not a thing you do and that’s not a thing that we will overly address with Jerry.”

Jeudy said it wasn’t a case of the butterflies.

“It just seemed worse because it was my first game,” he said.

“Those two dropped passes made it seem like I was nervous. That wasn’t the case. I was just not concentrating on the ball, trying to make a play after the catch.

“Other than those two drops, I had a good day,” Jeudy added. “I was getting open, getting separation.”

Jeudy wasn’t alone in his sputtering start in the pros after a stellar college career.

The only rookie receiver to score in Week 1 was Jacksonville’s Laviska Shenault Jr., who had three catches for 37 yards.

The 42nd overall pick, Shenault was one of 13 wide receivers selected in the first two rounds of the NFL Draft.

Henry Ruggs III, the only pass catcher taken ahead of Jeudy, at No. 12, had five receptions for 55 yards in his Raiders debut.

The other first-rounders all had rather pedestrian debuts, too.

■ CeeDee Lamb (17th, Cowboys) had five grabs for 59 yards.

■ Jalen Raegor (21st, Eagles) had one catch for 55 yards.

■ Justin Jefferson (22nd, Vikings) had two receptions for 26 yards.

■ Brandon Aiyuk (25th, 49ers), missed San Francisco’s opener (hamstring).

The rookie receivers seemed to pay the price for the league’s lack of a regular offseason because of the coronavirus pandemic that forced teams to do work remotely and scuttled the preseason.

Their timing with quarterbacks just wasn’t what it could have been in a normal year.

In addition to Jeudy’s pair of drops in Denver, Lock overthrew a veteran tight end and a veteran receiver for sure touchdowns in a two-point loss to Tennessee with top target Courtland Sutton sidelined with a shoulder injury.

“You can use the convenient excuse that the timing (was affected) by the offseason, no preseason games,” Broncos coach Vic Fangio said. “Those are plays that we expect those guys to make.”

Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr., left, scores a touchdown on a 16-yard pass play in front of Indianapolis Colts defensive end Justin Houston on Sunday, in Jacksonville, Fla.
 Packers WR Valdes-Scantling ready to build on Week 1 effort

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

One week into the season, Green Bay Packers wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling already has showcased the traits that have inspired such exhilaration and exasperation.

Valdes-Scantling has had four receptions for 96 yards and a touchdown in a 43-24 victory over the Minnesota Vikings, but he also dropped two passes early in the second half to continue a troubling pattern for the 2018 fifth-round pick from South Florida.

Yet his overall production backed up the praise Valdes-Scantling’s teammates have given him since they saw how he approached training camp.

“He definitely showed a different type of focus this time around,” wide receiver Davante Adams said. “I had a feeling that he was going to come and have a great start the way that he did.”

Valdes-Scantling now must work on his consistency as the Packers prepare for their home opener Sunday against the Detroit Lions. The Packers need Valdes-Scantling and Allen Lazard to complement Adams because Green Bay lost its main offseason addition to the receiving group when Devin Funchess opted out.

They delivered on that front in Minnesota. Adams scored twice while Valdes-Scantling and Lazard had one touchdown each. Valdes-Scantling’s 45-yard touchdown reception gave Green Bay a 22-7 lead with 14 seconds left in the first half.

That play showcased Valdes-Scantling’s considerable value as a deep threat. But he followed that up by dropping passes on each of Green Bay’s first two second-half possessions. The first drop came on a third-and-6 play and the second wiped out a potential gain of 50-plus yards.

“There’s no receiver in the history of the NFL that hasn’t dropped a ball,” Valdes-Scantling said. “It’s going to happen. It’s going to happen plenty of more times for the rest of the time that football is played. You’ve just got to keep going to the next play, and move on and go make the next play. If your quarterback trusts you, he’ll keep throwing you the ball, and that’s what mine did. I had other opportunities to go out and make plays, and that’s what I did.”

Indeed, five plays after Valdes-Scantling dropped that long pass, he caught a 39-yarder to give Green Bay first-and-goal and set up a 1-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers to Adams.

The receiver’s ability to recover from that mistake showed how Valdes-Scantling has grown.

“I’m more proud of him for that than if he would’ve caught the initial ball and scored, honestly,” Adams said. “Because me being another receiver, I know exactly how difficult it is to bounce back from something like that. A lot of things are in your head and it’s tough to flush it.”

He had 21 receptions for 416 yards and two touchdowns through his first seven games in 2019. But he caught just five passes for 36 yards over the Packers’ last nine regular-season games and had one catch for 8 yards in two playoff matchups.

“He wants it so badly,” Rodgers said. “I think that’s the only thing that gets in his way sometimes. He just wants to make those plays so badly. But the thing that I noticed this training camp was he was catching the ball better. I know that might sound like a strange statement for a receiver. I think he was trusting his hands more.”

Valdes-Scantling said the votes of confidence from Rodgers and Adams go a long way toward boosting his own faith in himself.

“It’s huge,” Valdes-Scantling said. “If your quarterback believes in you and has trust in you, it says a lot for you.”

Edwards-Helaire has quick impact

Chiefs rookie running back led NFL in rushing

BY DAVE SKERTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tyrann Mathieu knew perhaps better than just about anybody what the Kansas City Chiefs were getting when they selected running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire out of LSU in the first round of the April draft.

“You see, Mathieu bleeds purple and gold. He was born and raised in New Orleans, starred at St. Augustine High School and nearly won the Heisman Trophy while starring for the Tigers.

And even though Mathieu was dismissed from the program for a violation of team rules, he remains a steadfast fan of everything going on down on the bayou.

So while most of the college football world was focused on quarterback Joe Burrow as he led LSU to the national title last season, the Honey Badger was focused on the diminutive running back that caused fits for defenders like him.

It’s why Mathieu wasn’t surprised to see Edwards-Helaire shred the Houston defense in the Chiefs’ season-opening win.

“I’m so impressed with the young man,” he said. “Obviously, I’m a huge LSU guy. I’ve seen him stick his foot in the ground and make guys miss plenty of times. I’ve seen him bounce off plenty of Alabama, Auburn and Mississippi State guys.

This is the NFL, though. This isn’t college football — even the rough-and-tumble world of the SEC.

Yet the 31st overall pick in the draft showed the NFL that his skill set translates quite nicely to theup-up world of pro football. He ran 25 times for 138 yards, highlighted by a 27-yard touchdown scamper in which he stuck that foot in the ground and made a Texans defender look downright foolish. And while he failed to catch a pass, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes targeted him twice in a sign of just how comfortable he is in the passing game.

In short, it was the kind of debut that could only make Chiefs general manager Brett Veach and coach Andy Reid smile. They were the ones who decided to add one more playmaker to their offense rather than fill some holes on their spotty defense.

“We feel like he had a good camp, and he’s a heck of a player, so we wanted to give him the ball,” Reid said. “We didn’t come in saying he would get ‘X’ number of carries. We like the mix we were able to go getting.”

Yet after Week 1 wrapped up, it was Edwards-Helaire who found himself leading the league in rushing. All-Pro running back Derrick Henry of the Titans was second with 116 yards in their Monday night win over the Broncos, and Benny Snell Jr. was third with only one other to eclipse the century mark with 113 yards rushing in the Steelers’ win over the Giants.

“When we first ran out, just nerves at an all-time high,” Edwards-Helaire said, “but then, you know, as time went on, we were just kind of on the field, my hands, and they made me feel at home. Ultimately the first carry, yeah, I felt a lot of emotions but after I got tackled the first time, and got rolled up, I just knew: It’s football. Time to roll.”

Kansas City wound up feeding him all game, too. Part of that is because presumptive starter Damien Williams opted out of the season, making Edwards-Helaire the clear-cut No. 1. But part of it was because the Texans were so focused on defending the Chiefs’ wide receivers that it created soft defensive fronts.
Seahawks not sure what to expect from Pats, Newton

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Carroll saw what happened in the season opener as New England put the ball in the hands of new quarterback Cam Newton and he ran all over the Miami Dolphins.

It left the Seattle Seahawks coach wondering what to believe. Is Newton back to being a dynamic runner and Seattle should plan for another 15 carries from the quarterback during the Seahawks’ home opener Sunday? Or was it a one-game Mirage?

“We’ve got to see what they do this time around. There’s not enough games for us in their new thinking to know what to expect here,” Carroll said Wednesday. “We’ll have to adapt at game time.”

Seattle’s defensive coordinator Dick Sherrill, Ira q in 2005 w h e n  th e v e hi c l e  h e  w as dr i v i n g  h i s  h e l m e t  w a s  o n  pa t t e r n , h e  w a s  c h e c k - i n g .  B u t  w i t h  o n l y  o n e  g a m e  o f  a p p r o a c h  t o 2012. He faced off against the Seahawks during the national anthem when he stood out of sight.

His best overall game against Seattle may have come in 2015 when he rushed for 63 yards and completed 25 of 30 passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns.

“We have to go into this game with a wide-open eye. Almost like a first game,” Carroll said. “We have some information. They showed they really want to run the football, ran it 42 times in the game, which is a great commitment. But we don’t know. We’ll see.”

“You definitely have to approach it with fresh eyes,” Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. “We have a lot of history with playing Cam. We understand the type of runs that they want to implement with Cam. We also understand that the Patriots have a history — they can run the ball 42 times one game and in the next game, throw it 42 times. I feel like they’re confident in Cam’s ability to throw the ball as well. So we’ve got to be prepared for everything.”

Newton’s 15 runs were the second-most in a regular-season game in his career. But he’s never carried the ball that much in his eight previous games against Seattle, the most coming in 2014 when he rushed 12 times for 24 yards.

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NCAA hoops season set to open Nov. 25

By Eric Olson
Associated Press

The NCAA men’s and women’s basketball season will begin Nov. 25, the day before the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Division I Council voted Wednesday to push the start date back from the original Nov. 10, a week to avoid potential overlaps of basketball and football games on campuses.

The maximum number of regular-season games was reduced from 31 to 27.

“The rationale was that during the season teams tend to play an average of two games a week, so the fact we’re shortening the season by two weeks necessitated the reduction in games so we’re not being counterproductive and trying to jam more in a shorter amount of time,” NCAA Deputy Commissioner Kurt Kinnear said.

The minimum number of games for consideration for the NCAA Tournament was cut from 25 to 13. Calhoun said the low minimum is an acknowledgement that schools probably will experience different levels of COVID-19 cases and have to alter schedules.

“We fully anticipate there are going to be some issues as we go through the season, much like we’ve seen in football, so we want there to be flexible for institutions to put together seasons,” she said.

Teams can start preseason practices Oct. 14. Beginning Monday, teams will be allowed to participate in strength and conditioning and sport-related meetings and skill activities will be allowed. But schools probably will experience different levels of COVID-19 cases and have to alter schedules.

No scrimmages against other teams or exhibitions are allowed. It also was recommended each team play a minimum of four nonconference games.

The council is scheduled to meet again Oct. 13-14 and could delay the start date and change other pieces of the basketball framework if circumstances surrounding the virus warrant.

The council also voted to extend the recruiting dead period for all sports until Jan. 1. In-person recruiting is prohibited during a dead period, though phone calls and other correspondence are allowed.

Also approved was civic engagement legislation. Practicing, competing, and other countable athletically related activities will be prohibited on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November each year, including this year’s Election Day on Nov. 3.
Orgeron: Most players have had, recovered from virus

**By Brett Martel**

Associated Press

Most of LSU’s football players have contracted and recovered from COVID-19, coach Ed Orgeron said Tuesday, leaving the coaching staff hopeful those players will remain eligible to play the bulk of the season before they have to be tested again.

Orgeron made those comments while discussing how he would plan for the possibility of seeming healthy starters or regulars suddenly being deemed ineligible to suit up for the defending national champions because of a positive COVID-19 test.

The coach explained that because players who have recovered from COVID-19 do not have to be tested again for 90 days under Southeastern Conference protocols, he figures he won’t likely have to worry about those who’ve come back from the virus suddenly being ruled out again because of it.

“I think, not all of our players, but most of our players have caught it,” Orgeron said during a video conference, adding later that he did not know the percentage of the roster that had tested positive.

“I think, hopefully, that once you catch it, you don’t get it again,” Orgeron added. “I’m not a doctor. I think they have it that 90-day window, so most of the players that have caught it, we do feel like they’ll be eligible for games. ’’

“So we look at the players that have caught it and say, ‘OK these guys should be eligible,’” Orgeron continued. “We look at the players who haven’t caught it; we talk to them about being very, very careful so they’re eligible for games. ’’

“I think the following week, after the kickoff, the coaches and players will start the sprint to opening day.

Expect a wild ride.

After canceling spring football, limiting and sometimes pausing offseason workouts, shutting down full-contact practices and eventually postponing the season, the league’s 14 university presidents and chancellors have given teams five weeks to accomplish what typically takes months — getting into football shape by Oct. 17.

The SEC’s policy of not requiring testing for players for 90 days is based on medical findings that antibodies developed in fighting off COVID-19 provide at least short-term immunity from contracting it again.

No. 6 LSU hosts Mississippi State on Sept. 26 to open a 10-game, league-only SEC schedule. The SEC canceled all nonconference games because of the pandemic.

The Big Ten and Pac-12 announced in August they would not play football this fall out of concern for player safety. The Big Ten, however, changed its mind and will begin play in October.

LSU officials have declined to make public precise counts or even percentages of players who have tested positive for antibodies or the disease itself. The virus has been spreading at alarming rates, particularly since students began returning for the fall semester, with some schools scrambling in-person instruction as a result.

Orgeron’s comments Tuesday were narrowly focused on how the virus would affect his ability to field a team.

“I told the team, ‘We need everybody. ’’ There’s so many players, what’s going to happen with the COVID,’’ Orgeron said.

Big Ten’s hurry up offense

Teams have five weeks to prepare for a season that had been on hold

**By Michael Marot**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Now that the Big Ten has a rescheduled kickoff weekend, coaches and players can start the sprint to opening day.

Expect a wild ride.

After canceling spring football, limiting and sometimes pausing offseason workouts, shutting down full-contact practices and eventually postponing the season, the league’s 14 university presidents and chancellors have given teams five weeks to accomplish what typically takes months — getting into football shape by Oct. 17.

The Big Ten plan for the possibility of seemingly healthy starters or regulars suddenly being deemed ineligible to suit up for games. ’’

“I’m just proud to be here with a group of individuals within the Big Ten and I seriously understand what makes the Big Ten the Big Ten,” Warren said.

Vocal critics of the school’s leaders who voted 11-3 to postpone all fall sports amid an August uptick in COVID-19 cases have been largely silenced by the unanimous vote that put Big Ten football back on the calendar alongside the ACC, Big 12 and SEC.

Those who play the sport, teach the sport and watch the sport almost universally expressed joy and relief Wednesday, knowing football will return. Like those other conferences, though, Big Ten football will look different in many ways. Stadiums will be mostly empty and tickets will not be sold to the public. The season has been reduced from 12 games to eight with the opportunity for a ninth around the Dec. 19 conference championship game.

Players will undergo daily antigen testing before practice and if two tests confirm a positive result, the player must sit out 21 days before being cleared for game action.

Those who contract COVID-19 must be cleared by a school-designated cleared by a school-designated medical finding. Those who contract COVID-19 must be cleared by a school-designated medical finding.

We’re going to be ready to play on (October) the 24th,” Ohio State coach Ryan Day said, referring to the new opening weekend. “You know, the ramp up to that, and the 20 hours of (weekly practice), and putting on pads has been well thought out. So we’ll be ready. We’ll play with depth.”

Big Ten commissioner Kevin Warren said he was comfortable with the decision to bring football back.

“My initial concerns were how do you meet, how do you practice, how do you keep social distancing during your practice but (also) in meetings and all the situations when you have close quarters,” said Wisconsin athletic director and former football coach Barry Alvarez, who noted he’s been assured it’s achievable. “To me, that was the hardest (part), this ad-

justing your players and coaches to a change in how you go about your day-to-day routine.”

While the Big Ten permitted teams to run and lift weights as well as doing light work in helmets for 12 hours per week over the past month, the intensity of full-contact practices will pick up quickly.

Purdue coach Jeff Brohm and Indiana coach Tom Allen don’t plan to change much this week or next.

“I think the following week, on a Tuesday — as of now I don’t think that’s set in stone — maybe the first day in shells,” Brohm said, referring to Sept. 29. “That Wednesday, the following day, may be our first day in pads,. though I don’t know that’s fully set in stone.”

Day believes he can persuade offensive lineman Wyatt Davis and cornerback Shaun Wade to play after each previously said they would opt out to focus on their NFL hopes. Penn State tight end Pat Freiermuth confirmed he plans to play while Brohm plans to see if Rondale Moore, one of the league’s most electric players, might return to the Boilermakers.

“We’re going to support any decision he wants to make and the direction he wants to go,” Brohm said. “But yes, we’re definitely going to look into it and see where that goes.”

By playing nine consecutive weekends, the Big Ten can finish in time to be in the playoff mix and the bowls hunt. Friday night telecasts are likely to return while traditional Thanksgiving weekend rivalries, such as Michigan- Ohio State and Indiana-Purdue, could find new dates. And then there’s the cross-division finish against a Week 9 opponent yet to be determined.
Newcomers get chance to shine
No. 1 Clemson loaded everywhere

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

LIKE college coaches around the nation, Clemson's Dabo Swinney is always looking to build on his team's depth. That wasn't hard to do in the top-ranked Tigers' opener as several highly regarded freshmen played early and often in a win against Wake Forest.

Defensive linemen Bryan Bresee and A.J. Myers Murphy combined for 2 1/2 of Clemson's six sacks in the 37-13 win while on the other side of the ball, strong-armed first-year quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei saw his first college action as starter Trevor Lawrence's backup.

"It's not anything new for us," Swinney said Tuesday. "Indeed, it is. Clemson played 78 of the 80 players it brought to Wake Forest. The Tigers led the nation the previous two seasons both of which ended in the national championship game — in the number of players used per game."

Swinney acknowledged that strong backups may be more essential this season as the Tigers play amid a nationwide pandemic.

Three of Clemson's most experienced defensive starters in end Justin Foster, cornerback Derion Kendrick and Mario Goedrich were unavailable because of medical protocols.

Swinney said Kendrick and Goedrich should return to face The Citadel of the Football Championship Subdivision Saturday while Foster will remain out.

"This is never been more important" to get players time on the field, he said.

That was certainly true of Murphy and Bresee, two of the most coveted defensive prospects in last year's high school class.

Murphy, a five-star recruit from Marietta, Ga., who seemed to be in the Wake Forest backfield as much as the Demon Deacons. Murphy led Clemson with seven tackles, two of them sacks.

"My first drive out there, I was very nervous," Murphy said. But after his first hit, he went back to football.

"After that, it was like high school ball and I just did what I do out on the field," he said.

That was the best aspect of us playing our defense today," said Ouwsu-Koramoah, who last season tied for the team lead in tackles and quarterback sacks. Against Duke, Ouwsu-Koramoah finished with a team-high nine tackles, including a sack of quarterback Chase Brice late in the game.

Coach Brian Kelly acknowledged Lee's adjustments and complimented his third-year player as 38 and potentially an attractive candidate for a head coaching job elsewhere. Kelly also pointed to the unit's talent and depth as the seventh-ranked Irish geared up for a Saturday visit from South Florida, which is coming off a season-opening 27-6 defeat of The Citadel.

"Clark is really good at seeing things as the game unfolds," Kelly said. "We played a lot of players. Getting that many guys in the rotation allows us to develop our football for the duration of the season."

"We played 11 defensive linemen, four linebackers and a number of players on the front seven," Kelly said. "We've got to play more guys on the back end of the defense. That is the directive and the goal, and we'll achieve that this weekend."

Ouwsu-Koramoah's fellow rover Paul Molaia and inside linebacker Drew White had five tackles each. Kelly also liked the play of the cornerbacks — grad transfer Nick McCloud (five tackles, one pass defended) and senior TaRiq Beasty (four solo tackles, two passes defended) — and sixth-year player Shaun Crawford, who had four tackles and a fumble recovery in his first start at strong safety.

Sophomore backup end Isaiah Foskey opened a lot of eyes with his play that included two quarterback hurries, a pass defensed and a 10-yard sack of Brice in the second quarter that forced Duke to settle for a field goal. Ouwsu-Koramoah called him a "ball hawk."

"Some people would be happy that (Foskey) would be our featured player and he's a depth player for us," Kelly said. "What we are blessed with is depth, and you could kind of start to see that show itself in the third and fourth quarter where we started to take the game over."
Black Knights short-circuited by coronavirus

By John Kekis
Associated Press

Army coach Jeff Monken has the Black Knights purring again, and all of a sudden the 13-win season turned in two lopsided wins to start the season has been halted by the coronavirus.

After beating Louisiana-Monroe 37-7 on Saturday, the Black Knights were alert that this Saturday’s home game against No. 21 BYU had been postponed. That’s a tough pill to swallow, especially for seniors in their last hurrah.

“We like the way things are going right now, some games being canceled, it’s Week 3 and we’ve already had a game postponed,” Monken said Tuesday. “I anticipate that this won’t be the last time this happens during the season, so if it happens again you start counting on your hand how many opportunities you have.”

Army averaged 389 yards rushing last year, outgaining Middle Tennessee State, which was one of the teams Army was willing to play. The Black Knights are one of the few teams who have won their first three seasons. “We’re very thankful we had our leadership here make arrangements and decisions that allowed us to be in this bubble and ultimately allowed us to stay healthy and stay away from the outside world.”

“I think it’s really important,” McCoy added. “We don’t have a choice. We cannot leave (campus). No one can leave. It just limits our point of contact to get COVID.”

And helps build team chemistry.

“We’re used to having a little more freedom and being able to leave and stuff,” West said. “But obviously, we’re living in difficult times, so we understood that difficult times require difficult measures and we have to make personal sacrifices in order to gain the bigger achievement, and that’s winning as a team.”

“We knew we were facing really good opponents going into both games. Coach Monken just focuses on us and fundamentals. Nothing extraordinary — just play team ball, and it will pay off,” Monken said.

The success on the field has the Black Knights ranked No. 22 this week in the AP Top 25.

“Honestly I didn’t know we were ranked until today, to be honest,” West said. “I wish I could have been on the field last Saturday night after practice. It just goes to show that’s not necessarily a healthy way to do it. We just want to focus on us, the relationships we have on this team, and focus on the opponent.”

As for still playing BYU, it remains anybody’s guess.

There’s certainly a lot of unknowns and a lot of possibilities,” Monken said. “We would love to play that game (BYU). They’re a great team. It would be just a great opportunity for our program. If we can do it, then we’ll try to do it. But right now we’ve got our schedule set.”

North Dakota State head coach Matt Entz raises the trophy alongside quarterback Trey Lance (5) as they celebrate beating James Madison 28-20 in January for the FCS championship in Frisco, Texas. As the Black Knights are ranked in three major conferences and among other programs scattered across the country, there will be a void at the FCS level — very few games and no scheduled playoffs.

A fall without fans filling the 19,000-seat Fargodome isn’t ideal, Bison lineman Jackson Henke said, but “If the spring’s an option, at least we get to play some football games.”

The Bison will play one game this fall, facing Central Arkansas on Oct. 3 in Fargo, giving coach Matt Entz essentially an extended preseason for practice. James Madison “did entertain the notion” of playing a game this fall, coach Curt Cignetti said, but has nothing on the schedule after the Colonial Athletic Association postponed fall sports.

In all, nearly 1,200 games have been canceled or postponed in Division I football. The blow was particularly hard in the FCS, where only 15 of the 127 teams will have at least one game. Cignetti is anxious to see how that plays out.

“If you’re playing right now, I’ve got to think that it’s extreme challenging for the coaches and the players, just day to day. All of a sudden, you’ve got to pause and quarantine 10 guys. You may have a game scheduled that Saturday and find out on Thursday you can’t play it,” he said.

Bourne surmised that to pull off a playoff in the spring, the calendar would have to start with the end point and build backward, perhaps with conference-only seasons in March and April and a 12- or 16-team postseason in May.

The Missouri Valley Conference, home to the Bison and 10 other teams, is planning an eight-game conference schedule beginning in February with hopes for a playoff to follow.

“We feel pretty good about the planning and execution for both,” associate commissioner Mike Kern said of the possibility for a regular season and postseason, both of which are critical to their programs overall because football income helps to prop up other sports.

It is also critical to the communities.

Charley Johnson, president and CEO of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, estimated each Bison home game injects about $1 million in direct spending into the local economy. About 35% of the fans at a sold-out home game are from out of town and account for about half of that spending.

Jennah Kelly, assistant manager of the Bison Turf restaurant, said the lack of games “is going to hurt our business big time.” The business, painted in Bison green and yellow, is located a short walk from the Fargo dome and is a popular game-day hangout. It is open with limited seating.

“We get really packed on game day so we’re just going to have to suffer with all this stuff going on,” she said. “We don’t want to but we have to.”

In Frisco, Texas, home to the championship game through 2025, Mayor Jeff Cheney last year estimated the game has a regional economic impact of $8.1 million.

The Dukes’ original schedule included a $500,000 pay-day game at North Carolina, and losing those lucrative opportunities hit James Madison and the rest of the CAA schools hard. Should the league be able to compete in the spring, commissioner Joe A’ntonio said, factors such as limiting expenses like air fare and hotels figure to play a larger role in arranging matchups.
Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (19) offensive tackle Alejandro Villanueva (78) and wide receiver Diontae Johnson celebrate Smith-Schuster’s fourth-quarter touchdown against the New York Giants on Monday in East Rutherford, N.J. The 31-year-old Villanueva is a two-time Pro Bowler who took an unlikely path to the NFL, serving three tours in Afghanistan before joining the Philadelphia Eagles practice squad, eventually making his way to Pittsburgh and a starting job.

SETH WENIG/AP

UNITED FRONT?

Army vet Villanueva surprises teammates with choice to honor late Black soldier Cashe

BY WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Steelers stressed the need for unity as the team weighed how to properly promote social justice.

It didn’t quite work out that way during their season-opening win over the New York Giants, and left tackle Alejandro Villanueva finds himself again in the middle of a difficult conversation about self-expression on a volatile subject.

Three years ago Villanueva — a graduate of West Point and a decorated U.S. Army veteran — found himself standing alone with his hand over his heart as the national anthem played while his teammates remained out of sight in a nearby tunnel. On Monday night, while the rest of his teammates honored Antwon Rose Jr., a Black Pittsburgh teenager shot in the back and killed by a white police officer in 2018, by emblazoning his name on a white strip on the back of their helmets, Villanueva instead chose to honor Alwyn Cashe, a Black soldier who died from injuries sustained in Iraq in 2005.

While Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin said Villanueva approached him about the decision before the game, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and defensive tackle Cam Heyward — both captains — admitted they were caught off guard.

“I did not know about Al’s choice for the back of his helmet,” Roethlisberger said.

“Obviously, it’s his choice. That’s the amazing thing about the country we live in. Unfortunately, it is what it is.”

Tomlin has encouraged his players to speak out and take action if they do so respectfully, guidelines Tomlin believes Villanueva’s decision did not violate. SEE UNITED ON PAGE 52

DID YOU KNOW?

Alwyn Cashe, a Black soldier who died from injuries sustained in Iraq in 2005, was on patrol in Samarra, Iraq, when the vehicle he was in struck an improvised explosive device. Cashe sustained severe burns but helped six soldiers inside the vehicle escape safely. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

SOURCE: Associated Press

NCAA basketball season set to open the day before Thanksgiving » Page 52

Black Knights’ game against No. 21 BYU postponed due to coronavirus » Page 55