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EUROPE
& PACIFIC

WEEKEND

EDITION

MOVIES

'King of Staten Island' shows more depth to Pete Davidson

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STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 45 ©SS 2020 **FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020**

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

AMERICA PROTESTS

Cutting ties with the cops

Prosecutors charge police, push reforms amid Floyd protests

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
AND MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

Prosecutors across the country are defying traditionally cozy relationships with police departments, swiftly charging officers with murder, assault and other crimes following protests over the death of George Floyd and dropping charges against demonstrators.

Even just a few years ago, when protests erupted over the killings of other black men by police, officers were rarely arrested for suspected criminal acts during the demonstrations. It's been rare to charge police with crimes in the death of civilians, and winning a conviction is harder.

But the tide may be turning, led by progressive prosecutors pressing for criminal justice reforms to better hold police accountable for wrongdoing.

"Prosecutors realize that they're being watched," said Mark Dupree Sr., district attorney for Kansas' Wyandotte County, which includes Kansas City. "My hope is that this is a change and that we are turning a tide."

On Wednesday, Fulton County prosecutors charged Atlanta officer Garrett Rolfe with murder for a shooting during a sobriety check gone awry near a Wendy's. The other officer involved in Rayshard Brooks' death faces lower-level charges. The shooting happened less than a week ago.

Derek Chauvin, the officer who pinned George Floyd to the ground by the neck, was charged with murder days after Floyd's death, and three other officers were charged shortly afterward.

SEE COPS ON PAGE 12

Police in riot gear line up in Atlanta on June 13, amid protests over the killing of Rayshard Brooks, a black man who was shot and killed by Atlanta police following a struggle in a Wendy's drive-thru line.

BEN GRAY,
ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

■ Trump's plan to visit Tulsa this weekend raises concerns about violence

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

'It's a big mess': Stop-movement order burdens some families

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Andrea and Army Capt. Jerry Bortner bought their first home on the same street as Jerry's brother near their next duty station in northern Virginia, confident that their military housing allowance would cover the monthly mortgage payment.

But a Pentagon stop-movement order issued in March in response to the coronavirus pandemic has left them paying for two homes: their new 4-bedroom home near Fort Belvoir and the home they're stuck renting at Fort Riley, Kan., until the Army lets them move.

"We're paying for two houses in May, June and July," Andrea Bortner said in a phone call Thursday. "It's a big mess."

The Bortners are among tens of thousands of military families whose permanent change of

SEE ORDER ON PAGE 8



Andrea Bortner

A DOD stop-movement order has left Andrea and Army Capt. Jerry Bortner, pictured with their children, paying for two houses while receiving one housing allowance.

SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC

CHINA RUSSIA

N. KOREA S. KOREA JAPAN

Seoul 79/64
Osan 79/64
Busan 71/65
Sasebo 77/67
Okinawa 82/79
Iwakuni 72/67
Tokyo 76/61
Misawa 63/69
Guam 84/81

Pacific Ocean
Sea of Japan
Philippine Sea

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

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MILITARY



SU-24 FENCER ASSESSED LANDING

U.S. Africa Command

These Russian aircraft are being used to support Russian-backed private military companies backing Libyan warlord Khalifa Hifter, U.S. Africa Command said Thursday.

Russian planes now flying for Libyan warlord, AFRICOM says

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russian warplanes delivered to support a rebel warlord in Libya and flown by mercenary pilots are now operational, U.S. military officials said Thursday.

Last month, U.S. Africa Command said that Russia sent at least 14 MiG-29 fighter planes to Libya to prop up the forces of Khalifa Hifter, who has waged a yearslong fight against the country's Western-supported government. Those aircraft are flying out of al-Jufra air base in central Libya and operating near the coastal city of Sirte, according to AFRICOM, which released photos of a MiG-29 in flight.

The pilots are connected to Russian-backed private military companies, or PMCs, said Brig. Gen. Bradford Gering, AFRICOM director of operations.

"There is concern these Russian aircraft are being flown by

inexperienced, non-state PMC mercenaries who will not adhere to international law; namely, they are not bound by the traditional laws of armed conflict," Gering said in a statement. "If this is true and bombing occurs, innocent Libyan lives are at risk."

Besides potentially changing the military balance in Libya, the Russia warplanes represent an attempt by Moscow to gain a "strategic foothold on NATO's southern flank," Gering said.

Since NATO's 2011 intervention in Libya, which helped militia fighters topple dictator Moammar Gadhafi, the country has been in disarray amid an armed conflict between rival factions seeking to gain control.

The United Nations and the United States, which doesn't currently have ground troops in the country, support Libya's Government of National Accord. Turkey also backs the national government and has provided significant

military aid. On the other side is the Libyan National Army, led by Hifter, a self-proclaimed field marshal, who has Moscow's backing.

In late May, AFRICOM said at least 14 MiG-29 fighters and several Su-24 attack jets were flown from Russia to Syria, where their Russian markings were painted over to camouflage their origins.

AFRICOM said the deployment of the aircraft was in direct violation of the U.N. arms embargo on Libya.

Moscow has dismissed AFRICOM's claims that it had shipped the jets to Libya, saying they were delivered to Syria in keeping with a bilateral defense agreement.

AFRICOM estimates that there are about 2,000 mercenaries connected to the private, Russian-backed Wagner Group currently in Libya.

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Special operations Marine dies during airborne training

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A special operations Marine died Tuesday from injuries suffered during airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga.

Sgt. Wolfgang "Wolf" K. Weninger, 28, a critical skills operator assigned to the Marine Raider Training Center, was fatally injured while taking part in the Army's Basic Airborne Course 24-20, Marine Forces Special Operations Command said in a statement Thursday.

Born and raised in Auburn, Ohio, Weninger graduated from Kenston High School, MARSC said. He joined the Marine Corps in May 2015 and was the honor graduate for his platoon at Marine boot camp in Parris Island, S.C.

From November 2015 to December 2018, he was an armory custodian with Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. He reported to MARSCOM in January 2019.

Enlisted Marine Raiders earn the critical skills operator designation after undergoing a competitive two-phase assessment and selection process and completing a nine-month individual training course. Weninger completed the course in October 2019, earning the Marine Special Operator insignia, MARSCOM said in the statement.

"Wolf was exactly what we look for when training students to become Marine Raiders," said a statement issued on behalf of the course's instructor cadre. "He was a consistent top performer, a natural leader, he never complained, and was always there to pick up his team during challenging events."

An avid hockey player, he could often be found on the ice even after a tough week of training, said the instructors' statement.

They said they were "proud and honored" to have Weninger join the formation and become a part of their legacy.

He showed "unsurmountable determination, a deep sense of integrity, and an unconquerable spirit," as well as a good sense of humor even in the most challenging times, said Col. Travis Homiak, the Marine training center's commanding officer.

Weninger's death comes about six months after Army Green Beret Master Sgt. Nathan Goodman died after a free-fall jump during routine training near Eloy, Ariz., in January.

Last year, at least four service members died in parachuting incidents, including a Ranger who died during a routine training jump at an undisclosed location in Arizona in March.

But hundreds of service members attend the three-week Basic Airborne Course in Georgia each year. In the final week, before graduating and earning the silver parachutist badge known as "jump wings," they must complete five static line parachute jumps from either a C-130 or C-17 aircraft at an altitude of over 1,200 feet, the course website states.

On three "Hollywood" jumps, they wear only the main chute and a reserve. On two "combat equipment jumps" — one of them at night — they each carry a rucksack with a modular airframe weapons case and a dummy weapon.

Class 24-20 was slated to graduate Friday, an Army schedule showed. Members completed the first two of their five qualifying jumps Monday, according to a post on the Airborne School's Facebook page.

The final Tuesday on the training schedule usually includes the daytime combat equipment jump.

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Trump to meet Polish president

Associated Press

President Donald Trump will meet with Poland's President Andrzej Duda at the White House next week to discuss defense, trade, energy and telecommunications security, the White House announced Wednesday.

The meeting, set for June 24, comes on the heels of Trump announcing plans to reduce the U.S. military presence in Germany. Under the current plan, at least some of those Germany-based troops are expected to be shifted to Poland.

Trump announced Monday that he was reducing the U.S. military

presence in Germany to 25,000 troops, down from the current level of about 34,500.

He told Duda during an Oval Office meeting last year that he was thinking of moving some troops from Germany to Poland. He also complained that Germany was not living up to its defense spending obligations under NATO, while praising Poland for doing its part.

Duda has been trying to woo more American forces, even suggesting Poland would contribute over \$2 billion to create a permanent U.S. base in the country.

Navy aviators safely eject from F/A-18

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two naval aviators assigned to the carrier wing on the USS Theodore Roosevelt had to eject from their aircraft Thursday over the Philippine Sea, according to a Navy statement.

The aviators were flying an F/A-18F Super Hornet during routine pilot proficiency training when the incident happened, according to a statement from the Roosevelt.

The statement did not say to which unit the aviators were assigned, but U.S. Naval Institute News reported that the Black Knights of Strike Fighter Squadron 154 from Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., is the only unit in the carrier wing on the ship to fly the F/A-18F aircraft.

The aviators were picked up by a helicopter assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8 from the Roosevelt. They were assessed by medical personnel aboard the aircraft carrier and

are in good condition, according to the statement.

The incident is being investigated, according to the Navy.

The Roosevelt returned to its deployment in the Indo-Pacific region on June 4 after being sidelined in Guam due to an outbreak of the coronavirus among its crew. Of the nearly 4,800-member crew, 1,273 were infected by the virus and one sailor died.

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PACIFIC



LILLIAN MILLER/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Jar'quayla Doss of the 96th Aircraft Maintenance Unit marshals a B-52H Stratofortress at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, on Wednesday.

B-52 bombers train with Japanese fighters after Alaska deployment

By CATLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Two Air Force B-52H Stratofortress bombers and several Navy EA-18G Growlers practiced long-range escort and aircraft interception with the Japan Air Self-Defense Force on Wednesday over the Sea of Japan.

The bombers left Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska for the mission, which involved four F-2 and 12 F-15JASDF fighter jets "to enhance the readiness and security of the region," according to an Air Force statement Thursday.

"These strategic bomber missions provide our Airmen with the realistic long-duration sorties that they require to remain highly proficient and ready to act when called upon to support the collective defense of the United States," said 96th Bomb Squadron commander Lt. Col. Christopher Duff in the statement.

The bombers are from the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., but are deployed to Eielson, near Fairbanks, as part of the new Air Force approach to

making its global bomber presence less predictable.

The new "force employment model" means the Air Force will deploy strategic bombers to the Indo-Pacific region from more locations overseas and in the United States, the statement said.

Global deployments demonstrate the Air Force's capability for long-range strikes "anywhere in the world, and at any time," Duff said in the statement.

The B-52s arrived with one other at Eielson on Sunday, their first presence there in three years, the Air Force announced Monday. The bombers were last deployed to Eielson in July and August 2017 for the Red Flag-Alaska exercise.

The Growlers, from Electronic Attack Squadron 209, are deployed to Misawa Air Base in northern Japan from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. The statement did not say how many of the aircraft participated.

Bomber task force missions familiarize aircrews with other combatant commands' areas of responsibility, according to a

statement in October by the U.S. Strategic Command.

"Deploying in an expeditionary format challenges our aircrews, maintainers and support personnel in different theaters," Duff said in the statement.

Exercises like these have become common recently in areas that brush up against areas of interest to China and Russia, along with the Air Force publicizing them.

The most recent bomber task force mission before Wednesday's took place Sunday over the Beaufort Sea when B-52s teamed up with F-22 Raptors and Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornets for intercept training to support the North American Aerospace Defense Command, according to the Thursday statement.

In May, a pair of B-1B Lancer bombers trained with 16 Japanese fighter jets over the Sea of Japan. The Texas-based bombers were among four that deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from May 1 through early June.

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China sends ships to Senkaku Islands 66 days in a row

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — China set a new record Thursday for the number of consecutive days — 66 — its government vessels have been seen in waters near the Japan-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

In the latest sighting, four Chinese coast guard vessels appeared around 9 a.m. about 18 miles north-northwest of Uotsuri Island, inside Japan's contiguous zone, and heading southwest, a spokesman for the Japan 11th Regional Coast Guard headquarters said Thursday.

Chinese vessels have been spotted in Japan's contiguous waters every day since April 14.

Nations may exert limited control in the contiguous zone, a maritime area that extends 12 nautical miles beyond the territorial limit. They may act there to prevent further intrusion or illegal activity in their territorial waters.

China's presence there is not an intrusion, but is viewed by Japan as provocative.

Beijing also claims the barren group of rocks and islands that total 7 square miles and that it calls Diaoyu. The area surrounding them, however, is a rich fishing ground and may hold oil and

natural gas deposits.

During a press conference Wednesday, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga declined to speculate on the ships' purpose in the contiguous waters.

"The Senkaku islands are under our control and are unquestionably our territory historically and under international law," he said. "We think it is an extremely serious [matter] that these activities continue," he added. "We will respond firmly and calmly to the Chinese side."

Suga said the Japanese government had lodged a protest with Chinese diplomats over the incident.

The previous record for Chinese vessels in the contiguous zone was 64 days between April 12 and June 14, 2019, the Japan Coast Guard spokesman said.

Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

The United States has long declined to take a position on the islands' sovereignty. Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump, however, have both declared the Senkakus fall under the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

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Japanese coast guard

A Japanese coast guard vessel sails in the East China Sea near Uotsuri-jima, the largest island in the uninhabited Senkaku chain.

For 8th time this year, F-22s intercept Russian bomber formations off Alaska

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jets were scrambled Tuesday to intercept two Russian bomber formations flying off Alaska's coast, the eighth such incident reported this year by U.S. military officials.

The latest intercept announced Wednesday by the North American Aerospace Defense Command comes about a week after a similar incident with a similar Russian formation flying unusually close to Alaskan shores on June 10. While Russian bombers

flew within eight nautical miles of sovereign American airspace last week, they remained farther away Tuesday, according to the NORAD statement.

The first formation Tuesday night featured two Tu-95 Bear bombers, two Su-35 Planker fighter jets and an A-50 airborne early warning and control aircraft, NORAD said. The second formation included two more Cold War-era Bear bombers and an A-50. The Russian aircraft remained in international airspace at all times.

The second group of Russian aircraft flew within 32 nautical

miles of Alaskan shores, NORAD said. U.S. airspace stretches 12 nautical miles from its shores. But NORAD — the command that defends American and Canadian airspace — expects all aircraft to identify themselves for national security purposes when flying within about 200 miles of U.S. and Canadian shores, in what are known as air defense identification zones.

It is not unusual for Russian military aircraft to fly near U.S. and Canadian airspace, especially off Alaska's coast, to observe off-shore training. NORAD has reported such incidents for three

consecutive months. The United States, too, flies regular military flight operations near Russian territory, which are typically intercepted by Russian aircraft.

Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, who commands NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, linked the uptick in Russian military flights off Alaska's coast to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The general has repeatedly warned that Russia would test America's ability to defend its territory during the crisis.

"For the eighth time this year, Russian military aircraft

have penetrated our Canadian or Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zones, and each and every time, NORAD forces were ready to meet this challenge," O'Shaughnessy said in a statement issued Wednesday. "Despite the [coronavirus] pandemic, NORAD constantly monitors the northern approaches to our nations, and our operations make it clear that we will conduct homeland defense efforts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

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PACIFIC



RHITA DANIEL/U.S. Marine Corps

Marines prepare to launch an RQ-21 Blackjack drone in Yuma, Ariz., in 2017.

USMC sends RQ-21 Blackjack drones to Australia for 1st time

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The annual Marine Corps rotation to Darwin, Australia will, for the first time, incorporate unmanned surveillance drones this year, according to U.S. and Australian officials.

RQ-21 Blackjack drones will soon arrive in Australia to support Marine Rotational Force — Darwin, rotational force commander Col. David Banning said in a telephone interview Thursday.

This year's rotation, delayed by two months due to the coronavirus pandemic, includes 1,200 Marines, fewer than half as many as headed south last year.

The force is made up of a ground combat element from Twentynine Palms, Calif., Combat Logistics Battalion 5 out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and a command element from the III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa, Banning said.

He declined to reveal exactly how many Blackjacks will support the force until the aircraft arrive in Australia.

"It's the first time for the rotational force to incorporate unmanned aircraft," he said of the RQ-21s.

The Blackjacks, supported by a detachment of Hawaii-based Marines, will monitor remote battlespace, he said, adding that his forces will practice dispersing small units across wide areas in line with recent guidance from Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger.

The Marines in Australia will exercise the drones' capability to feed information to commanders, who might use the information to call for artillery or airstrikes on the enemy, he said.

The Blackjack is made by Insitu, a Boeing Inc. subsidiary in Washington. A "small, tactical" aircraft, it can carry payloads of 39 pounds maximum and stay

aloft more than 16 hours, depending on how it's configured. It has a line-of-sight range of 64 miles, according to Boeing's website.

Australia is preparing to acquire some of its own large drones, including the MQ-4C Triton and MQ-9 Reaper, said Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. Stewart Dowrie, commander of Northern Command headquarters and a former liaison with Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii.

The Marines in Darwin will also have M-777 towed howitzers and a variety of trucks and Humvees this year, Banning said.

Last year, the force brought with it 10 MV-22 Osprey tiltrotors, four AH-1Z Vipers and three UH-1Y Venom helicopters, but the coronavirus meant there aren't any manned aircraft heading south this time.

Tiger attack helicopters from Australia's 1st Aviation Regiment will train with the Marines, Dowrie said.

The Marines won't be going to sea on Australia's amphibious ships HMAS Canberra and HMAS Adelaide, as they did last year, he said.

They had planned to deploy on the ships to participate in the Rim of the Pacific exercises off Hawaii, he said. On-shore portions of RIMPAC, which runs from Aug. 27-31, have been canceled this year, Indo-Pacific Command announced in April.

A second wave of Marines arrived in Darwin this week and will go into quarantine for two weeks. None of the Marines who have arrived there so far have tested positive for coronavirus, Banning said.

When they come out of isolation, the Marines will conduct small-unit training and work up to Exercise Koolondong with the Australian Defence Force in late September, he said.

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Base post offices to offer space to fill out online forms

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

Post offices on some U.S. military bases across the Pacific are setting up self-service workstations with printers to accommodate a switch from customs forms filled out by hand to computer-generated ones.

A new rule that takes effect Aug. 13 requires all packages mailed from any overseas military post office to carry a customs form completed and printed from the U.S. Postal Service website.

Sasebo Naval Base and Yokota Air Base, both in Japan, and Osan Air Base in South Korea, have either already installed computer stations for customer use or plan to do so in the near future.

"We have set up a printer and computer in the lobby to handle these issues," said Sasebo postal manager Lewis Powell on Wednesday. "However, we have a limited number of [customer] lines. So, we plan to set up a line for people with the customs form already printed out and another for the computer station."

Powell said the post office will provide patrons with step-by-step instructions to complete the process.

At Yokota, the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, the base post office plans on three or four printing stations but hasn't



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Dustin Traylor uses a computer to fill out a customs form inside the post office at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Tuesday.

received the equipment yet, postal clerk Senior Airman Brianna Phillips said Wednesday.

The post office at Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo, does not have the money for a workstation and printers but is always "looking for ways to improve our services to the community," according to a Facebook message to Stars and Stripes from the post office on Wednesday.

The switch from the familiar green-and-white form available on post office counters to the digital version is required under global trade agreements, Powell said. The first changes began in March with a digital form required for packages headed anywhere but the United States.

There are benefits to patrons who print their customs forms at home, Powell said. If they know the weight and dimensions of their packages, they can also pay the shipping costs from their computer. When they drop a package off that has already been paid for, a clerk will confirm the package size and weight and it will be on its way.

Customers who access the Postal Service website on their own must first create an account, then select the "Click and Ship" option, where they can create labels, fill out customs forms and pay for shipping.

Stars and Stripes reporters Theron Goldbird, Matthew Keeler and Christian Lopez contributed to this report.

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PACIFIC

Seven test positive after Guam deployment

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Seven service members belonging to a unit that had deployed May 25 to Andersen Air Force Base on Guam have tested positive for the coronavirus, the Air Force said Wednesday.

Upon arrival, members of the unit had been lodged at the Guam Reef Hotel in Tumon, the island's main commercial district about 13 miles southwest of the base, a

statement said. They all received medical checks at that time.

On June 11, one of the service members showed symptoms of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus. That individual was tested by staff from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam and on June 12 found to be positive.

Six other service members who had close contact with the first individual have also been confirmed positive for the virus, the statement said. The Air Force did

not disclose the dates that they tested positive nor the unit to which they belonged.

All service members with the unit have been moved to Andersen and placed in isolation, the statement said.

Brig. Gen. Gentry Boswell, commander of the 36th Wing, said in the statement that the base was working closely with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services and Joint Region Marianas to "coordinate preven-

tion and response efforts."

Joint Region Marianas, which manages Andersen and Naval Base Guam, announced last week that it was preparing to loosen restrictions put in place to slow the spread of the virus because infections had been on the decline.

Guam, a U.S. territory, had been in the headlines for weeks in April and May as the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was in port there dealing with a coronavirus outbreak that infected

more than 1,100 crew members and killed one.

The commander of Misawa Air Base in northern Japan on Wednesday ordered all personnel to shelter in place for 24 hours after members of a visiting aircrew were found to be infected with coronavirus. The base is tracking down anyone on base who had significant contact with the infected individuals.

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WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

This 1942 Willys Jeep, which has no engine or transmission, was centerpiece decor at the Home of the Brave museum in Honolulu.

Hawaii's Home of the Brave Museum collection is headed to auction block

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — About half of the collection that made up the Home of the Brave Museum in Honolulu is now on the auction block, while the items most closely related to World War II and survivors of the 1941 Pearl Harbor surprise attack are headed for Colorado.

The museum had struggled to survive over the past three years, closing its doors in December in preparation for relocation from the city's funky-but-cramped warehouse district to the tourist-laden Waikiki Beach, which was a ghost town since late March in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"This coronavirus has absolutely wiped us out," said Glen Tomlinson, who has been operating the museum since the early 1990s with his wife, Janet.

The couple maxed out their bank credit and took out a second mortgage on their house to keep the doors open as they searched for a benefactor. An investor had stepped in to make the Waikiki Beach location a reality, Glen Tomlinson said, but the widespread economic setback from the coronavirus shutdown ended that possibility.

They now plan to move them-

selves and the remaining core collection to Colorado, where they hope to set up a similar but more modest operation.

The collection is chock full of military memorabilia from mostly World War II but also more recent wars — uniforms, equipment, buttons, insignia, weapons, gadgets, helmets and a whole lot more. The online auction at oahu.auctions.com, where items are displayed, ends at 6 p.m. June 26.

"We got all the stuff out of the museum and into our garage," Tomlinson said. "And then this damn coronavirus thing. It was like the perfect storm. We had an investor lined up to do this whole thing. We just lost it."

The Tomlinsons also ran the Brewseum, a military-themed brew pub next door that generated decent revenue for the operation. But, like all bars on Oahu, it was ordered closed in March by Gov. David Ige in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Among the items up for online bidding are tables, chairs, taps and decorations from the brew pub, along with the 1942 Willys jeep that adorned the Brewseum.

While it no longer has an engine or transmission, the jeep is the same year and model used by Adm. Chester Nimitz as his so-called "land flagship" in Hawaii

during World War II.

The couple went through the museum collection and withheld "the real historical items" from sale, particularly World War II-era items donated through the years by Pearl Harbor survivors — hundreds of whom toured the museum through the years.

One of the Tomlinsons' three sons lives in Colorado and wants to help restart the Brewseum there.

They hope the auction will yield enough to pay off debt they've accrued through personal bank loans.

"There's some really cool items in there," Glen Tomlinson said of the auction bill. "There are some really cool collectibles, one-of-a-kind things. But all of the signed prints — the ones that actually have meaning to me from all the Pearl Harbor survivors — I'm keeping all of that to try and do almost like a mini-museum over there in Colorado."

He is reluctantly leaving behind some of the museum's larger items, including a cherished customized table that was once on the carrier USS Enterprise and signed by a Pearl Harbor survivor.

"I didn't want to let that go," Tomlinson said, "but you can't take everything."

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A member of the Air Force has tested positive for the coronavirus after flying to South Korea from the United States for a new assignment, the military said Thursday.

The confirmation raised to 35 the total number of cases affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea, a quarter of which have been troops traveling to the peninsula from abroad.

The service member was tested and went into mandatory quarantine after arriving Monday at Osan Air Base on a government-chartered flight from the United States, USFK said in a press release.

"Since testing positive, the airman has been moved to Osan's isolation facility designated for confirmed COVID-19 cases," it said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the virus.

USFK health professionals determined there was limited need for contact tracing because everybody on the Patriot Express had been tested and immediately quarantined for at least two weeks, according to procedures

aimed at preventing the spread of the virus.

People in quarantine or isolation also must receive a negative test before being released.

The airman's quarantine room had been thoroughly cleaned, USFK said.

"Despite the confirmed case, USFK remains at a high level of readiness with two active duty service members — all of the recent confirmed cases have been declared recovered — who are currently confirmed positive for COVID-19," the command said.

USFK has reported 35 coronavirus cases since an outbreak began in South Korea in February. Those included 11 active-duty service members, but only two troops were infected while in South Korea.

The others arrived in recent weeks after being approved for travel as exceptions to a Defense Department stop-movement order. Most USFK personnel arrive aboard the Patriot Express, which requires passengers to wear masks and maintain social distance.

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MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Passengers exit a Patriot Express flight at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on June 10.

VETERANS

Plan to prevent veteran suicides unveiled

Critics push back on Trump's 'bold' initiative

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump praised his new plan to prevent veteran suicide Wednesday as unprecedented, bold action against the problem — but critics argue it isn't enough.

Trump unveiled the plan, which was three months overdue, in the White House on Wednesday afternoon, surrounded by Department of Veterans Affairs officials and veterans advocates. The plan is the result of an executive order Trump signed March 5, 2019, creating a Cabinet-level task force titled PREVENTS, short for "President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide."

The last annual report from the VA showed that suicide among veterans continues to be higher — or than among the rest of the population, particularly among women. About 20 veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserve die by suicide every day. The task force issued its 60-page plan, which included 10 recommendations. The recommendations are expected to take two years to fully implement.

The first action will be a national public service announcement, which Trump described as a "historic" campaign to help end the stigma surrounding mental health. Second lady Karen Pence, mother of a Marine Corps pilot, will be the campaign's lead ambassador.

The plan also focuses on improved research into veteran suicide, increased suicide-prevention training and new partnerships between government agencies and outside organizations. It includes a legislative proposal that would establish a federal grant program to fund state and local groups that help veterans.

"We're gathered to address an especially urgent struggle," Trump said. "Today, we're unveiling our roadmap to empower veterans and end the national tragedy of suicide."

Republican lawmakers praised Trump's plan, including the GOP leaders of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees, Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn.

"We must do more to change the culture and conversation surrounding suicide in the public and private sectors and, most importantly, in neighborhoods across the country where the real healing work must start and end," Roe said in a statement. "The PREVENTS roadmap shows us how, and I am confident that it will help to save and improve the lives of at-risk veterans and others for years to come."

Democrats, though, criticized the plan for not being bold enough.

Sen. John Tester, D-Mont., ranking member on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the



Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie adjusts his mask after Wednesday's event in Washington.

plan was a "necessary step forward," but "far more" — including policy changes — needs to be done to make a real difference.

Tester and Moran have pushed legislation for over a year that would boost funding to local organizations that help veterans, as well as increase mental health staff, alternative therapies and research at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, also builds into the law an initiative that Trump announced in 2018 to automatically enroll every servicemember into VA mental health care for one year when they transition from active duty.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, was even more critical of the PREVENTS plan, describing it Wednesday as "meek" and " tepid." He claimed it was developed with little input from veterans service organizations and lawmakers who work on veterans policy.

"Tepid calls for more research, interagency coordination and meek public education campaigns won't do enough to end this crisis," Takano said in a statement. "We have much more substantial work to do to prevent veteran suicide and ultimately help save veterans' lives."

Karen Pence, along with other senior administration officials who spoke on background Wednesday, said the plan came at an urgent time. The coronavirus pandemic has created more need for a national plan to address suicide, an official said.

"I feel like right now is such an opportune time because we're all dealing with anxiety, we're all dealing with stress," Pence said. "So, if I can do anything as lead ambassador, it's my goal to help take away the stigma around mental health. We want them to know there are people out there who want to help. There is a way forward."

The VA's budget request for fiscal 2021, released in February, includes \$53.4 million to the PREVENTS initiative.

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President Donald Trump speaks after unveiling the PREVENTS "President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide," task force, in the East Room of the White House, Wednesday in Washington.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX BRANDON/AP

Recommendations in the White House plan to reduce suicide among vets

- Create and implement a national public health campaign focused on suicide prevention for veterans and all Americans.
- Identify and prioritize suicide surveillance and research that focuses on a veteran's unique combination of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors to deliver the most effective intervention(s) tailored to meet their needs and circumstances.
- Promote foundational changes to the way research is conducted — including improving the speed and accuracy with which research is translated into practice, improving efficiency through data sharing and data curation practices, and using innovative funding techniques to drive team science and reproducibility.
- Develop effective partnerships

across government agencies and nongovernment entities and organizations to increase capacity and impact of programs and research to empower veterans and prevent suicide.

■ Encourage employers and academic institutions to provide and integrate comprehensive mental health and wellness practices and policies into their culture and systems.

■ Provide and promote comprehensive suicide prevention trainings across professions.

■ Identify, evaluate and promote community-based models that are effectively implementing evidence-informed mental health and suicide prevention programs across the country. In doing so, they should leverage relationships with community-based efforts, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, veteran and mil-

itary organizations focused on saving the lives of veterans.

■ Increase implementation of programs focused on lethal means safety (e.g., voluntary reduction of access to lethal means by individuals in crisis, free/inexpensive and easy/safe storage options).

■ Develop a coordinated, interagency federal funding mechanism to support, provide resources for, and facilitate the implementation of successful evidence-informed mental health and suicide prevention programs focused on veterans and their communities at the state and local levels.

■ Streamline access to innovative suicide prevention programs and interventions by expanding the network of qualified health care providers.

SOURCE: The White House

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MILITARY

Officials warn of caterpillars, ticks in Europe

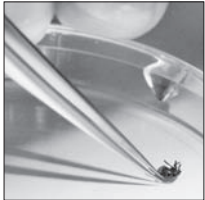
By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A hairy, toxic caterpillar frequently found in forests and a rising tick population have Defense Department health commands in Europe warning families to take precautions while outdoors in the months ahead.

The oak processionary moth caterpillar, whose fine bristles can trigger allergic reactions, such as painful rashes and breathing problems, should be avoided, said Army Captain Megan Heinemann, chief of entomology for Public Health Command Europe.

But of greater concern are ticks, whose bite can cause serious illness and whose population has exploded after a mild winter and an unusually warm spring, she said.

"We've had ticks emerging early and in large numbers," Heinemann said. "I think also ... because of COVID, people are going outside into tick habitat more. Those combinations have made a nice recipe of an increase of tick bites and poten-



Stars and Stripes

A lab technician in the Entomological Sciences Division at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center looks at a tick.

tial for tick-borne diseases in our community."

Ticks can carry bacteria that cause illnesses such as Lyme disease, which if left untreated can affect the heart, nervous system and joints, and tick-borne encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain.

Of 91 ticks tested by the public health command since January, nine have been found to have the



U.S. Army

Oak processionary moth caterpillars pose health risks to humans and pets. They are easy to identify because by the long black stripe down the back of their yellowish-white body covered in gray hairs.

Borrelia bacterium that causes Lyme disease — two more than during the whole of last year.

There have been six cases of Lyme disease in DOD personnel in Europe so far this year, the command said.

TBE, which can cause long-term neurological complications, is more common in the German state of Bavaria than in Rheinland-Pfalz, Heinemann said.

Coming into contact with processionary caterpillars is unlikely to cause death or severe illness, but will cause discomfort.

Found in oak trees until July or so, the caterpillars have a black stripe down their backs and are covered with long, grayish-white hairs that contain a toxin.

Their name comes from the fact that "as they're moving from their nest to their feeding places, they move in these large groups

from head to tail," or processions, Heinemann said.

Disturbing them cause the caterpillars to "release their hairs, which can get caught in the wind and cover you," she said. Pets can accidentally inhale the caterpillar toxin if they sniff near a nest, Heinemann said.

Some forests use signs to warn of a heavy presence of the caterpillars, called Eichenprozessions-spinner in German. On U.S. bases, caterpillar nests are typically cordoned off, Heinemann said.

The best prevention for caterpillar-related reactions is to stay away from them, Heinemann said.

"We don't want people even going near them," she said.

To prevent tick bites, Heinemann advises avoiding high grass when hiking, keeping lawns well-mowed, and doing a full body check for ticks and showering

after spending time outdoors.

It's also a good idea to use insect repellent with DEET on exposed skin, and to spray insecticide with permethrin on shoes, socks and pants, where ticks often attach and start moving upwards, Heinemann said.

Pets can be protected with oral or topical tick prevention products. People have told Heinemann this year that they have found more than 30 ticks on their pets after a short walk in the woods.

Defense Department personnel and their families can drop off ticks they find with a military veterinarian or health care provider to test for disease. Public health does the testing for free.

A European-made vaccine for TBE is available from German providers.

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Order: Some families forced to pay two mortgages, leases due to travel ban

FROM FRONT PAGE

station moves have been delayed by the order. Many of those families are facing financial difficulties because of the backlog, said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of the California-based nonprofit Blue Star Families.

"About a fifth of families with PCS orders polled have been paying two mortgages or leases," Roth-Douquet said in a phone call Monday.

She 18% of respondents to a Blue Star Families survey of 7,500 family members reported unexpected out-of-pocket expenses due to rescheduling their moves.

Meanwhile, 28% said they have had to dip into their savings as a result, according

to the unreleased data shared this week by the nonprofit with Stars and Stripes.

So far, the stop-movement order has delayed about 24,000 soldiers and 42,000 sailors originally scheduled to move, Army and Navy spokesmen said this week. The Air Force and Marines have also experienced PCS backlogs.

The Army has allowed about 3,000 soldiers to continue their moves since the stop movement order took effect March 16 and was extended twice.

The Navy said they offer waivers to the stop-movement order for those facing "extreme financial hardships." It will prioritize operational sea duty billets as it clears its five-month PCS backlog, a service

memo said last week.

The Air Force did not respond to a request for comments on its plans.

Congress has also tried to help, with a bill introduced in May that would provide some financial relief to military families affected by the stop-movement order.

In the meantime, families like the Bortners are spending their savings. The family bought their house in northern Virginia — which is within one of the priciest metro areas in the U.S. — on the expectation they would receive a housing allowance of about \$2,800 a month, Andrea Bortner said.

However, they're only entitled under DOD rules to receive about \$1,400, based on their on-post residence in Fort Riley.

"The member would continue to receive a housing allowance at the current duty station but would not be eligible for a second housing allowance at the prospective duty station," Pentagon spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence said in an email.

While the family has found someone to rent their new home for a few months, which will partly help with costs, Andrea Bortner said PCS season this year has been much more stressful than their previous five moves.

"We are used to change, but no one knows what the rules are now," she said.

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Doctors Without Borders closes Kabul program after hospital attack

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Doctors Without Borders said it closed its operation on Tuesday in Kabul, ending yearslong work to support a maternity hospital in the Afghan capital. The closure came a month after a horrific attack at the facility killed 24 people, including two infants, nurses

and several young mothers.

The international charity said it would keep its other programs in Afghanistan running, but did not go into details.

The May 12 attack at the maternity hospital set off an hours-long shootout with Afghan police and also left more than a dozen people wounded. The hospital in Dashti Barchi, a mostly Shiite neighborhood, was the Geneva-

based group's only project in the Afghan capital.

No one claimed responsibility for the assault. The Taliban promptly denied involvement in the attack, which the U.S. said bore all the hallmarks of the Islamic State's affiliate in Afghanistan — an attack targeting the country's minority Shiites in a neighborhood of Kabul that ISIS militants have repeatedly at-

tacked in the past.

"This was not an easy decision," said Brian Moller, head of programs in Afghanistan for the organization, which is often known by its French acronym MSF. "We don't know who is responsible for this attack, we don't know the rationale or intent behind the attack and we don't know who was actively targeted, whether it was foreigners, whether it was MSF,

whether it was the Hazara community or the Shiite community at large."

Moller said the organization still hopes that an Afghan government investigation would uncover who was behind it.

"So, given this lack of information ... we have decided that it is a safer option to close this project for the time being," Moller told The Associated Press.

MILITARY

Impeachment casts shadow on promotion

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An Army officer's promotion is in jeopardy over what some officials fear could be White House retaliation for his role in last year's impeachment inquiry, raising the possibility that President Donald Trump might again intervene in military affairs, according to officials familiar with the matter.

Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, who received a Purple Heart for being wounded in Iraq and later served as a White House aide on European affairs, is among hundreds of officers selected to be promoted to full colonel this year. Normally, such promotions are signed off on by Army then Pentagon leaders before moving to the White House and onto the Senate for a confirmation vote. The list now sits in a Pentagon personnel office.

Multiple government officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to address personnel matters, have voiced concern, however, that the White House could strike Vindman's name once it is conveyed, effectively sanctioning him for testimony he gave under subpoena to House lawmakers in October.

A senior official said the White House has not received or ap-

proved a list of those up for promotions. A second official said that Trump dislikes Vindman more than any other witness in the impeachment proceeding and noted that he was the first one fired when it ended.

"The president said it was a 'total disgrace' what he did," the official said.

The second official said it is not clear what Trump would do, but couldn't imagine that he would support Vindman's promotion.

The uncertainty surrounding Vindman's promotion comes at a sensitive moment for Pentagon leaders as they seek to move past a major crisis in civil-military relations caused by the participation of armed forces in the response to recent civil unrest and the perception that top Defense Department officials were inappropriately involved in one of the most politically and racially charged episodes in recent U.S. history.

While the fate of an officer at Vindman's grade wouldn't normally draw the scrutiny of senior White House officials, decisions about his military career path have taken on political overtones after he emerged as a key figure in the impeachment drama.

In his role as the National Security Council's Ukraine expert,

Vindman listened to a phone call last July between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. In the call, Trump asked the Ukrainian government to open an investigation into former vice president Joe Biden, now the presumptive Democratic nominee for president. Vindman told House investigators that he was alarmed by the call and that Trump appeared to condition military aid to Ukraine on the investigation.

Vindman's testimony, which was corroborated by other officials as well as a partial transcript of the call released by the White House, became crucial firsthand evidence in Trump's trial in the Senate, where he was acquitted.

In February, Trump removed Vindman from his post at the NSC, in what many officials saw as retribution for his testimony. Vindman, a decorated combat veteran, was escorted out of the White House. At the same time, Trump ordered the ousting of Vindman's twin brother, Yevgeny, a chief ethics lawyer at the NSC who did not testify in the impeachment probe.

The president has also attacked Vindman personally and questioned his credibility.

Vindman "was very insubordinate, reported contents of my

'perfect' calls incorrectly & was given a horrendous report by his superior," Trump tweeted after the officer's removal. "In other words, 'OUT.'"

One U.S. official said that finalization of the Army promotion roster had been held up longer than initially anticipated by a number of factors, including the COVID-19 crisis and concerns that the White House might remove Vindman's name from the list.

Several officers up for promotion have said they anticipated that the final list would have been approved by now, and that it was being held up over Vindman and the potential reaction from the president his ascension might trigger.

But a senior defense official said there had been "zero delay" and that speculation about "the causes of a non-existent delay are fabricated and incorrect."

In a statement, Pentagon spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence said the department follows "applicable laws and regulations with regard to developing and reviewing officer promotion lists and submitting them to the White House and the Senate. This list and any names on it have been and will be treated as is customary."

She declined to comment on



ANDREW HARNIK, STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman testifies before the House Intelligence Committee in November during a public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump.

Vindman specifically.

Vindman's attorney David Pressman said if the list was delayed, it would have professional consequences for other lieutenant colonels who the Army has approved for a step up in rank.

"For his lifetime of service and his commitment to the rule of law, Lt. Col. Vindman has been targeted by the President and his proxies in an effort to humiliate and intimidate," Pressman said in a statement to The Washington Post.

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NATION



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

DACA students rally in front of the Supreme Court on Thursday in Washington.

Court rejects Trump bid to end young immigrants' protections

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected President Donald Trump's effort to end legal protections for 650,000 young immigrants, a stunning rebuke to the president in the midst of his reelection campaign.

For now, those immigrants retain their protection from deportation and their authorization to work in the United States.

The outcome seems certain to elevate the issue in Trump's campaign, given the anti-immigrant rhetoric of his first presidential run in 2016 and immigration restrictions his administration has imposed since then.

The justices rejected administration arguments that the 8-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program is illegal and that courts have no role to play in reviewing the decision to end DACA.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by his four liberal colleagues, wrote for the court that the administration did not pursue the end of the program properly.

"We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies," Roberts wrote. "We address only whether the agency complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action. Here, the agency failed to consider the conspicuous issues of whether to retain forbearance and what, if anything, to do about the hardship to DACA recipients."

The Department of Homeland Security can try again, he wrote.

The court's four conservative justices dissented. Justice Clarence Thomas, in a dissent joined by Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch, wrote that DACA was illegal from the moment it was created under the Obama administration in 2012.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in a separate dissent that he was satisfied the administration acted appropriately in trying to end the program.

DACA recipients were elated by the ruling.

"We'll keep living our lives in the meantime," said Cesar Espinosa, a DACA recipient who leads the Houston immigration advocacy group FIEL. "We're going to continue to work, continue to advocate."

Espinosa said he got little sleep overnight in anticipation of a possible decision Thursday. In the minutes since the decision was posted, he said his group has been "flooded with calls with Dreamers, happy with that hope that they're going to at least be in this country for a while longer."

DACA covers people who have been in the United States since they were children and are in the country illegally. In some cases, they have no memory of any home other than the U.S.

The program grew out of an impasse over a comprehensive immigration bill between Congress and the Obama administration in 2012. President Barack Obama

decided to formally protect people from deportation while also allowing them to work legally in the U.S.

But Trump made tough talk on immigration a central part of his campaign, and he announced in September 2017 that he would end DACA.

Immigrants, civil rights groups, universities and Democratic-led states quickly sued, and courts put the administration's plan on hold.

The Department of Homeland Security has continued to process two-year DACA renewals so that hundreds of thousands of U.S. election-year immigrants stretching beyond the election and even into 2022.

The Supreme Court fight over DACA played out in a kind of legal slow motion. The administration first wanted the justices to hear and decide the case by June 2018. The justices said no. The Justice Department returned to the court later in 2018, but the justices did nothing for more than seven months before agreeing a year ago to hear arguments. Those took place in November, and more than seven months elapsed before the court's decision.

Thursday's ruling was the second time in two years that Roberts and the liberal justices faulted the administration for the way it went about a policy change. Last year, the court forced the administration to back off a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

Bolton: Trump sought China's help for reelection

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump "pleaded" with China's Xi Jinping during a 2019 summit to help his reelection prospects, according to a scathing new book by former Trump adviser John Bolton that accuses the president of being driven by political calculations when making national security decisions.

The White House worked furiously to block the book, asking a federal court for an emergency temporary restraining order Wednesday against its release.

Bolton's allegations that Trump solicited Chinese help for his reelection effort carried echoes of Trump's attempt to get political help from Ukraine, which led to his impeachment.

"I am hard-pressed to identify any significant Trump decision during my tenure that wasn't driven by re-election calculations," Bolton wrote.

The 577-page book paints an unvarnished portrait of Trump and his administration, amounting to the most vivid, first-person account yet of how Trump conducts himself in office. Several

former officials have written books, but most have been flattering about the president. Other former officials have indicated they were saving their accounts of their time working for Trump until after he left office to speak more candidly. The Associated Press obtained a copy of Bolton's book in advance of its release next week.

Bolton, Trump's national security adviser for a 17-month period, called Trump's attempt to shift the June 2019 conversation with Xi to the U.S. election a stunning move and wrote that it was among innumerable conversations that he found concerning. He added that Congress should have expanded the scope of its impeachment inquiry to these other incidents.

Deeply critical of the president and much of his senior team, Bolton wrote that because staff had served him so poorly, Trump "saw conspiracies behind rocks, and remained stunningly uninformed on how to run the White House, let alone the huge federal government." He wrote that while he was at the White House, Trump typically had only two intelligence briefings a week "and in most of those, he spoke at greater length than the briefers, often on matters completely unrelated to the subjects at hand."

Trump on Thursday denounced the book as "a compilation of lies and made-up stories, all intended to make me look bad. Many of the ridiculous statements he attributes to me were never made, pure fiction," he tweeted.

Trump accused Bolton of violating the law by releasing the

book, telling Fox News Channel's "Hannity" on Wednesday: "It's highly classified information, and he did not have approval."

The book includes embarrassing claims that Trump thought Finland was part of Russia, didn't know that the United Kingdom was a nuclear power and called reporters "scumbags" who should be "executed."

As for the meeting with the Chinese president in Osaka, Japan, Bolton wrote that Trump told Xi that Democrats were hostile to China.

He then, stunningly, turned the conversation to the coming U.S. presidential election, alluding to China's economic capability to affect the ongoing campaigns, pleading with Xi to ensure he'd win," Bolton said. "He stressed the importance of farmers, and increased Chinese purchases of soybeans and wheat in the electoral outcome."

Bolton wrote that he would print Trump's exact words, "but the government's pre-publication review process has decided otherwise."

The book, titled "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir," is set to be released Tuesday by Simon & Schuster. It has been the subject of a lengthy battle between Bolton and the White House.

The Justice Department sued Tuesday in an effort to delay publication of the book, claiming that it still contained highly classified information and that a required review by the National Security Council had not been concluded. According to the filing, a career official determined he was expressing his opinion instead of relying on sensitive information. In others, he was asked to describe things more generally. He was asked to remove quotation marks nearly every time he recounts conversations between Trump and foreign leaders and himself and foreign leaders.

The White House's contention that so much of the book was classified appeared to be a tacit admission that many of Bolton's allegations were accurate — as information classification could not be classified.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Wednesday that he attended a meeting between Trump and Xi at the Group of 20 nations in Osaka, but never heard Trump pleading with Xi to buy more agricultural products to ensure he would win reelection.

NATION

Officer charged with murder in Atlanta shooting

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As Rayshard Brooks lay dying in a Wendy's parking lot, prosecutors say the Atlanta police officer who shot him in the back kicked him and didn't give him medical attention for more than two minutes.

Rolfé, who is white, shot Brooks after the 27-year-old black man grabbed a Taser and ran, firing it at the officer, the prosecutor said. But when the officer fired his gun, Brooks was too far ahead of him for the Taser to be a danger, and it had already been fired twice, so it was empty and no longer a threat, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

"I got him!" Howard quoted Officer Garrett Rolfé as saying. On Wednesday, the prosecutor announced a murder charge against Rolfé and an aggravated assault charge against a second officer, Devin Brosnan, who the district attorney said stood on Brooks' shoulder as he struggled for his life.

The decision to prosecute came less than five days after the killing rocked a city — and a nation — already reeling from the death of George Floyd under a police officer's knee in Minneapolis late last month.

Rolfé's lawyers said he feared for his and others' safety and was justified in shooting Brooks. Rolfé opened fire after hearing a sound "like a gunshot and saw a flash in front of him," apparently from the Taser.

"Mr. Brooks violently attacked two officers and disarmed one of them. When Mr. Brooks turned and pointed an object at Officer Rolfé, any officer would have reasonably believed that he intended to disarm, disable or seriously injure him," the lawyers said in a

statement.

The prosecutor said Brooks "never presented himself as a threat" during a more than 40-minute interaction with officers before the shooting. An officer found him asleep behind the wheel of his car in the restaurant's drive-thru, and a breath test showed he was intoxicated.

"Mr. Brooks on the night of this incident was calm, he was cordial and really displayed a cooperative nature," Howard said.

The charges reflect a potential "sea change" in tolerance for violence by police, said Caren Morrison, a Georgia State University law professor who used to be a federal prosecutor in New York.

"If they were to get a conviction, I feel like what they're saying is that policing as we know it needs to change," she said. "This I think five years ago wouldn't have been charged."

Morrison said the view until now has generally been that officers are justified in using deadly force when the suspect has a stun gun or other weapon that can harm "grievous bodily harm."

The Atlanta Police Department tweeted late Wednesday that it had more officers calling out than normal but that it had "enough resources to maintain operations & remain able to respond to incidents."

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said on CNN that many of the department's partners had been notified in case they needed to call in others. She said the true test would come Thursday.

The felony murder charge against Rolfé, 27, carries life in prison or the death penalty, if prosecutors decide to seek it. He was also charged with 10 other offenses punishable by decades behind bars.

The district attorney said Brosnan, 26, is cooperating with prosecutors and will testify. But one of his attorneys, Amanda Clark Palmer, denied that and said Brosnan was not pleading guilty to anything.

making June 19 a permanent state holiday. Such a bill is already before the legislature.

"It is a day we should all reflect upon. It is a day that is especially relevant in this moment in history," Cuomo said.

Several states already observe Juneteenth, which has its historical roots in Texas, the first state



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., right, accompanied by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., left, and Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., center, stands with other Republican senators before a news conference to announce a Republican police reform bill at Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

Senate GOP's proposed changes to policing less sweeping than Dems'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans unveiled proposed changes to police procedures and accountability Wednesday, countering Democrats' far-reaching overhaul with a more modest package but one that underscores how swiftly the national debate on race has been transformed five months before elections.

The White House signaled President Donald Trump's support as Republicans embraced a new priority with the "Justice Act," the most ambitious GOP policing proposal in years in response to the massive public protests over the death of George Floyd and other black Americans.

Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell promised speedy action next week, when the House will also be voting on the Democratic plan. That puts the two bills on a collision course, but the momentum of suddenly shifting American attitudes is driving both. Half of adults now say police violence is a serious problem, according to an Associated Press-NORC poll.

"We hear you," said Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina at a press

conference with GOP colleagues at the Capitol. The only black Republican senator, he had asked leadership for a say in the bill and was tapped to craft it.

The outlook is extremely fluid, as both parties see a need to meet the moment after graphic cellphone videos and a public outcry over police killings sparked a worldwide movement against racism and police violence.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi criticized the GOP package as "inadequate." But she also said House Democrats "hope to work in a bipartisan way to pass legislation that creates meaningful change to end the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality in America."

In the Senate, McConnell is pushing the Republican bill ahead of other priorities, all but daring less-than-satisfied Democrats to block the debate.

"We are serious about making a law," said the GOP leader, whose home state of Kentucky has faced unrest over the officer-involved killing of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor.

The two parties' bills take similar but far-from-identical

approaches to the core issues of police accountability and procedures as Congress delves into the problem of excessive use of force and the treatment of people of color.

Central to both packages is a beefed-up database on use-of-force incidents, so officers' records can be tracked even when they transfer from one department to another. It's also a priority for Trump, who signed an executive order this week on a similar plan.

The GOP legislation would increase requirements for law enforcement to compile use-of-force reports under a new George Floyd and Walter Scott Notification Act, named for the Minnesota man whose May 25 death sparked worldwide protests over police violence, and Scott, a South Carolina man shot by police after a traffic stop in 2015. Scott is not related to the senator.

It would also establish the Breonna Taylor Notification Act to track "no-knock" warrants, named for the Louisville woman who was killed when police used a no-knock warrant to enter her home.

New York declares Juneteenth a holiday for state employees

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York's governor signed an executive order Wednesday recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday for state employees to commemorate the emancipation of slaves in the U.S.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he will propose legislation next year

to make it a state holiday in 1980. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was effective Jan. 1, 1863, but the news took time to travel. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, when word of the proclamation was brought by the Union army to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, making them among the last to be freed.

Virginia's governor proposed making Juneteenth a state holiday there earlier this week.

Protesters nationwide have called for action to address the nation's legacy of racial oppression and discrimination in the wake of Minneapolis police officers killing George Floyd.

"I want to be a force for change,

and I want to help synergize this moment," Cuomo said. "Whether it's reform on police department, whether it's an expanded racial understanding and sensitivity and progress. And if Juneteenth is part of that, and the recognition of what happened and an understanding of what happened, great."

NATION

Cops: Prosecutors press for overhauls of contracts with police

FROM FRONT PAGE

Most of the time it takes months, if not years, to charge an officer in an on-duty death.

Meanwhile, in New York City, a police officer on video showing a woman to the ground is facing criminal charges, and prosecutors in Buffalo charged two officers with assault after a video showed them knocking down a 75-year-old protester. Atlanta police were charged with assault in a protest-related stop. In Philadelphia, a police officer faces aggravated assault stemming from video that shows him striking a student protester in the head with a metal baton.

And in Chicago, investigators are looking at whether more than half a dozen officers broke the law after security video captured them lounging around a side-street office with its windows smashed in, making popcorn and napping on a couch, as a shopping center was ransacked nearby.

"This is the time to be aggressive," Kim Foxx, the first black woman to hold the top prosecutor's job in Chicago, said about pressing for overhauls of contracts with police that have helped abusive officers sidestep charges.

Her office is looking at whether the officers who seemed so uninterested amid the chaos committed a crime or were following orders, which could mean they aren't subject to charges.

Prosecutors are also investigating whether some officers covered their badges during protests, turned off their body cameras or wielded their batons on protesters without cause. To date, no officers have been charged.

In Manhattan, Miami and Houston, charges have been dropped against hundreds of protesters arrested for minor offenses, such as curfew violations, unlawful assembly or trespassing.

Foxx and others ushered into office on promises of overhauling the criminal justice system are seizing the moment, throwing weight behind proposals to scrap laws that conceal police records and barring prosecutors from accepting campaign cash and police union endorsements.

Too often in the past, negotiators have resisted pushing hard for overhauls of police union contracts from fear of being cast as anti-police, Foxx said. That's now changed, she said, as the city looks to hammer out a



ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

This screen grab taken from body camera video provided by the Atlanta Police Department shows Rayshard Brooks speaking with Officer Garrett Rolfe, left, in the parking lot of a Wendy's restaurant June 12.

new contract.

"The politics of not wanting to appear to go against the police union are over," Foxx said.

Transforming collective bargaining contracts that for decades enshrined protections for officers accused of misconduct "is the biggest piece of criminal justice reform that can happen," Foxx said.

The top prosecutor in Boston is also butting heads with the city's largest police union.

Officers accused Rachael Rollins, the first woman of color to serve as district attorney in Massachusetts, of inciting violence against police after she tweeted: "We are being murdered at will by the police ... No more words. Demand action." Rollins rebuffed the union's criticism, saying on Twitter, "White fragility is real people."

But Rollins said in an interview that "not all of the blame can lay at the feet of police." Prosecutors have failed to hold offi-

cers accountable for wrongdoing, she said.

"District attorneys have been complicit and co-conspirators in this lack of oversight. And we deserve to be called out about it. That's exactly why I ran for office," said Rollins, district attorney for Suffolk County.

In Kansas City, Kan., Dupree said he plans to expand an independent unit that will be dedicated to investigating accusations of excessive police force or misconduct and is setting up a hotline for people to report complaints about officers.

The district attorney for San Francisco this month announced a new policy to ensure prosecutors review all available evidence, like body camera footage, before filing charges against people accused of resisting arrest or assaulting officers. District Attorney Chesa Boudin said it's designed to ensure people aren't wrongfully charged.

"For decades, we didn't have the benefit

of social media, of cellphone camera recordings or body camera footage. Now we do and it is incumbent upon us to not simply accept the narrative in a written police report in these cases," he said.

Some lawmakers have proposed creating independent state prosecutors to investigate police misconduct and abuse, in part because local prosecutors work closely with police every day.

But district attorneys are historically not keen to hand their investigative powers over to others.

And politics have already scuttled at least one proposal to remove them from cases involving police.

In Minnesota, the state's county attorneys group recommended putting the state attorney general in charge of prosecuting all cases of killings involving police, but leaders of the Republican-controlled Senate rejected the proposal because they distrust the fiery progressive.

Many fear Trump's upcoming visit to Tulsa could spark violence

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Black community leaders in Tulsa said they fear a large rally by President Donald Trump in the city this weekend could spark violence, and the state's governor asked Trump not to visit the site of a race massacre where up to 300 black residents were killed by white mobs in 1921.

Tens of thousands of Trump supporters are expected in Tulsa on Saturday for the first of a series of rallies across the country to rev up his reelection campaign. The gathering at the 19,000-seat BOK Center, and at a 40,000-capacity convention center nearby, would overlap a two-day local celebration of Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the census.

Both events are in the city's downtown area. The Rev. Al

Sharpton is among the speakers at the Juneteenth observance in the Greenwood district, where several dozen blocks of black-owned businesses were burned in the massacre. A separate anti-hate rally is set for Saturday night in a Tulsa park about a 30-minute walk away.

Community leaders and organizers say all the events should be peaceful, but worry about the potential for clashes involving Trump supporters, participants in several anti-Trump protests planned downtown, and those attending the Juneteenth program. Tulsa experienced several days of large protests after the death of black Minneapolis resident George Floyd on May 25, but violence and damage were limited.

"We're all terribly concerned," said the Rev. Ray Owens, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, a historically black church on the

city's north side. "I'm hearing rumors of people coming from both sides who may be inclined to incite some kind of physical conflict or war of words. That worries me."

Wednesday, the QuikTrip convenience store chain announced the closing of its downtown area locations "out of possible safety concerns for our employees." Up to 250 Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen will be activated as a "force multiplier" for local, state and federal law enforcement providing security, said Tulsa Police Chief Wendell Franklin.

Tulsa's long history of racial tension was exacerbated in recent weeks by the arrest of two black teenagers for jaywalking. Another flashpoint was the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, Terence Crutcher, by a Tulsa police officer in 2016.

"All of those things are the back-

drop for Donald Trump's visit," said Marj Lewis, a black community organizer and founder of We the People Oklahoma. "His visit is definitely inflammatory."

Adding to the tension is fear about a recent spike in coronavirus cases in Tulsa and how it could be worsened by throngs of people cramming into downtown and indoor arenas.

Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt had invited Trump and Vice President Mike Pence to tour the city's Greenwood district during their visit, then backed-
 after being told it was a bad idea.

He said he doesn't know what Trump will do. "That is something that will ultimately be the president's decision," Stitt said.

Trump supporters started arriving from around the country as early as Monday, some camping outside the BOK Center in

the 90-degree-plus heat. Several acknowledged concerns about violence between rally goers and protesters.

"That is in the back of everyone's mind down here," said 41-year-old Trump supporter Delmer Phillips. "We know that if protesters show up, it could get nasty. That's ultimately what I fear the most."

State Sen. Kevin Matthews, a Democrat whose district includes the Greenwood area, said Stitt didn't consult community members before extending the offer. An appearance in Greenwood by Trump would be "a slap in face," he said.

Meanwhile, Franklin said there will be a massive police presence downtown Saturday.

"The eyes of the world are on Tulsa, Oklahoma, during this event and we are ready for it," he said.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

1.5M more seek unemployment benefits

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

Last week's jobs report showed that employers added 2.5 million jobs in May, an unexpected in-

crease that suggested that the job market has bottomed out.

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

Even those figures don't capture the full scope of the damage to the job market. Including people the government said had been erroneously categorized as employed in the May jobs report and those who lost jobs but didn't

look for new ones, 32.5 million people are out of work, economists estimate. That would have raised May's unemployment rate to 19.7%.

Thursday's report also shows that an additional 706,000 people applied for jobless benefits last week under a new program for self-employed and gig workers that made them eligible for aid for the first time. These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the official count.

The weekly reports on applications for unemployment benefits track layoffs. But they don't di-

rectly account for hiring, which can offset layoffs.

The surprise job gain in May suggests that some employers are recalling laid-off workers.

Private real-time data also points to steady, if modest, rehiring. Data from Kronos, whose software tracks workers' hours, shows that the number of shifts worked has recovered steadily since bottoming in mid-April.

Shifts worked have risen 25% since then, recovering nearly half the work that was lost to the pandemic-induced business shutdowns.

Europe sees spikes as China's outbreak wanes

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Europe grappled Thursday with local spikes in coronavirus infections as the continent's lockdown restrictions eased after hundreds of cases were found at one meatpacking plant in Germany and Greece had to impose a total seven-day lockdown on one village.

The developments came even as a new outbreak in Beijing saw a decline in daily cases and Hong Kong Disneyland reopened after a major drop in infections in the Chinese territory.

In western Germany, health officials in Guetersloh on Wednesday said the number of new COVID-19 cases linked to the Toennies slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbrueck had risen to 657, a significant regional spike for a country that has recorded daily nationwide infections in the low hundreds lately.

"It's no coincidence that the Toennies slaughterhouse has become the next hotspot of Coronavirus infections," said Freddy Adjan, the deputy chairman of the NGG union that represents workers in the food and drinks industry.

He said workers employed by sub-contractors face "catastrophic working and living conditions."

Germany is widely considered to have handled the pandemic well. The infection rate declined sharply after authorities imposed nationwide social distancing rules in March and the daily case increase has averaged between 300-400 in June.

Germany has recorded 188,474 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 8,844 deaths — about one-fifth of Britain's death toll.

Greek authorities on Thursday imposed a full lockdown on Echinos, which has a population of around 3,000, in the northeastern province of Xanthi, after a spike in cases and deaths, while the small Balkan nation of Montenegro reported new infections after weeks of having no positive cases.

All residents of Echinos were under curfew, allowed to leave their homes only to buy food or medication and only while wearing masks, after 73 new coronavirus cases and four deaths were registered in the last week.

Greece has been widely praised for managing to contain its outbreak, with only 187 virus-related deaths and just over 3,200 confirmed cases.

In neighboring Turkey, authorities made wearing masks mandatory in three major cities, including the financial hub of Istanbul and the capital of Ankara, following an increase in confirmed cases since many businesses were allowed to reopen.

In China, an outbreak detected in a wholesale market in the capital last week has infected at least 158 people in the country's largest resurgence since the initial outbreak was brought under control in March. The city reported 21 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, down from 31 on Wednesday. City officials said close contacts of market workers, visitors and other connections were being

traced to locate all further cases as quickly as possible.

The United States, meanwhile, has been increasing pressure on China's leaders to reveal what they know about the pandemic. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "stressed the need for full transparency and information sharing to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and prevent future outbreaks," the U.S. State Department said about his meeting with the Communist Party's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi.

Pompeo has joined President Donald Trump in criticizing China's response to the outbreak, including claiming that the virus may have emerged from a Chinese laboratory in Wuhan.

China is also being called on to relieve the virus' financial consequences in Africa.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed Chinese leader Xi Jinping during an online China-Africa summit and reminded China that African nations are seeking significant debt relief as they battle the pandemic.



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Visitors wearing face masks to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, take a selfie at the Hong Kong Disneyland on Thursday.

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WORLD

India cautions China over its claim to area of deadly clash

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India on Thursday cautioned China against making “exaggerated and untenable claims” to the Galwan Valley area even as both nations tried to end a standoff in the Himalayan region where their armies engaged in a deadly clash.

Twenty Indian troops were killed in Monday’s clash, which was the deadliest conflict between the sides in 45 years. China has not disclosed whether its forces suffered any casualties.

Responding to China’s claim to the valley, India’s External Affairs Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said both sides agreed to handle the situation responsibly.

“Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding,” he said in a statement.

Both sides accused each other of instigating the clash between their forces in the valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier.

China stuck to its position that it was Indian troops who had de-



Indian paramilitary soldiers keep guard as Indian army convoy moves on a highway northeast of Srinagar, India, on Thursday.

liberately provoked and attacked its officers, though it also signaled it wanted talks, noting the importance of the broader bilateral relationship.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, citing Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a call with his Indian counterpart, said that “mutual respect and support serves our long-term interests”

as two emerging nations trying to realize their full development.

“After the incident, China and India communicated and coordinated through military and diplomatic channels,” he said at a daily briefing. “The two sides agreed to deal fairly with the serious events caused by the conflict in the Galwan Valley, and ... cool down the situation as soon as possible.”

German prosecutors charge Russian over brazen Berlin killing

Associated Press

BERLIN — German prosecutors on Thursday filed murder charges against a Russian man accused in the brazen daylight slaying in Berlin last year of a Georgian man, and said that the Russian state ordered the killing — adding to tensions between the two countries.

The case prompted Germany in December to expel two Russian diplomats, citing a lack of cooperation with the investigation of the Aug. 23 killing. Russia’s ambassador was called in to the foreign ministry in Berlin again on Thursday.

The victim, Tornike K., who also has widely been identified in reports on the killing as Zelimkhan “Tornike” Khangoshvili, was a Georgian citizen of Chechen ethnicity who fought against Russian troops in Chechnya. He had previously survived multiple assassination attempts and continued to receive threats after fleeing to Germany in 2016.

On Thursday, federal prosecutors filed charges of murder and a violation of weapons laws in a Berlin district court against a

Russian citizen they identified as Vadim K., alias Vadim S. His last name was withheld in line with German privacy laws but has been widely reported as Vadim Krasikov, using the alias Vadim Sokolov.

They said that, at some point before mid-July last year, “state agencies of the central government of the Russian Federation” tasked him with “liquidating” the victim.

The suspect “accepted the state killing assignment,” prosecutors said in a statement. “He either hoped for a financial reward or he shared the motives of those who tasked him to kill a political opponent and take revenge for his participation in earlier conflicts with Russia.”

Prosecutors say that the killer approached Tornike K. from behind on a bike in the small Kleiner Tiergarten park and shot him in the torso with a Glock handgun equipped with a silencer. The victim fell, and the assailant then fatally shot him twice in the head. The suspect was arrested near the scene shortly afterward and has been in custody ever since.

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SHIFTING GEARS



The 2020 Hyundai Sonata Limited hybrid

PHOTOS BY MARK PHELAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Hyundai hybrid offers surprising features

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press

Hyundai should score a choice slice of the shrinking pie for midsize hybrid sedans with the stylish and well-equipped 2020 Sonata hybrid. The new hybrid offers a miserly version that the EPA rates at 52 mpg in combined city and highway driving and a loaded top model rated at 47 mpg combined.

What used to be a flood of hybrid midsize sedans has all evaporated in the last few years, as automakers dropped sedans like the low-profit bad habit they'd become. Where once an automaker had to offer them to seem relevant, hybrid sedans are now more symbols of an automaker's good intentions than core products.

The Sonata, which debuted its new gasoline model late last year and just began selling hybrids, is nothing if not sincere.

Where did all the hybrids go?

Hyundai Kia has quietly become one of the world's leaders in electrification, adding all-electric models at the same time it rolls out new hybrids. That's a meaningful philosophical and financial decision, as automakers like General Motors and Volkswagen abandon hybrids to concentrate on purely electric vehicles.

About 33% of all car shoppers are considering a hybrid for their next vehicle, according to Hyundai, while 24% are considering all-electric and 20% plug-in hybrids, a technology that offers the best of both worlds but seems to leave shoppers irredeemably confused.

As with most customers shopping for vehicles these days, many people leaning toward a hybrid are looking for SUVs. Hyundai, Honda and Toyota are the only major automakers to introduce new hybrid

midsize sedans in recent years. Ford and Kia still offer carryover hybrid sedans. A new Kia Optima hybrid should arrive soon, but Ford's Fusion midsize sedan is on borrowed time until a vehicle in a potentially more popular body style replaces it.

Priced to move

Prices for the 2020 Sonata hybrid start at \$27,750 for the Blue model, which is also the most fuel-efficient, rated at 50 mpg in the city, 54 on the highway and 52 mpg combined. The Blue's 52 mpg matches the Toyota Camry LE as the midsize sedan with the best fuel economy.

Stepping up to an SEL model raises the

price to \$29,900 and adds features and larger 17-inch aero-look wheels. The base Blue has 16-inch wheels.

I tested a top of the line Sonata Limited that stickered at \$35,300. Features on it included a solar panel on the roof; blind spot alert; video blind spot monitor; adaptive cruise control; Apple CarPlay; Android Auto; front and rear collision alert and automatic braking; LED headlights, taillights and daytime running lights; 12-speaker Bose audio; leather seats; heated and ventilated front seats, and a 10.25-inch touch screen.

The SEL and Limited are heavier than the base Blue, thanks to extra features and bigger wheels. The EPA rates them at 45 mpg in the city, 51 highway and 47 combined.

Sonata prices are competitive with top Camry and Accord hybrids. The 2020 Sonata hybrid is in dealerships now.

Unexpected features

The solar panel on the roof weighs 66 pounds. That's about 29 pounds less than a panoramic sunroof, but 44 pounds more than a simple steel roof.

On a sunny day, the solar roof generates enough electricity to move the Sonata hybrid about 2 miles a day or 700 miles a year, if you live in a particularly sunny area.

A "smart" driving mode reads inputs including the accelerator pedal, following distance, steering and hilly terrain to choose eco, comfort or sport mode. Sport mode adjusts steering feel and engine sound noticeably.

You can play "nature sounds," including a crackling fire, rainy day and footsteps in snow on the audio system.

Hyundai took advantage of cameras and sensors required by safety and assistance to add the video blind spot monitor simply by adding a few lines of code.

Highway driving assist supplements adaptive cruise control by helping keep the car centered in its lane. The driver still must have hands on the steering wheel, but the system takes a surprising amount of work out of a long drive.

Quiet, comfortable and clean

The Sonata hybrid is smooth, comfortable and easy to drive. I got good fuel economy in real world driving that combined city, suburb and highways. The gasoline engine and electric motor provide 192 horsepower, fine for daily drives. While most hybrids have continuously variable automatic transmissions, Hyundai uses its six-speed automatic. It works fine with the hybrid system.

The hybrid system uses a lithium-ion battery that's under the rear seat. That location preserves trunk space at a useful 16.0 cubic feet. Leg, shoulder and headroom are also fine.

The interior of my car featured leather upholstery and soft materials on the doors, dash and arm rests.

Visually, the hybrid gets a unique grille (with shutters to reduce drag), front bumper, rear spoiler and 17-inch multi-spoke, aero-look wheels. The interior is unchanged, except for some display pages that show hybrid energy flow and fuel efficiency.

Safety equipment includes: Front and rear collision alert and automatic braking

Pedestrian detection
Parking sensors
Blind spot alert and assist
Lane keeping assist
Automatic high beams
Adaptive cruise control
Lane following assist
Highway driving assist
Rear cross traffic alert and assist
Rear occupant alert

2020 Hyundai Sonata Limited Hybrid



Vehicle type: Front-wheel drive midsize sedan
Base price: \$35,300
Price as tested: \$35,300 (excluding destination charges)
Powertrain: 2.0-liter gasoline engine and electric motor
Output: 192 hp
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
EPA fuel economy rating: 45 mpg city/51 highway/47 combined

TNS

weekend



Norah Jones picks up
where she left off

Music, Page 32



the
M A N
who would be
K I N G

You may know tall, tattooed comedian
Pete Davidson from 'SNL' or maybe
from his appearances in the tabloids.
The semi-autobiographical film
'The King of Staten Island' might
change your perception of him.

PAGE 20

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

The purr-fect companions

Animatronic cats designed to comfort dementia patients living in isolation

BY DANIELLE IVANOV
Sun Sentinel

When Marlys Cordes flipped on the light in her daughter's bedroom, the last thing she expected to hear was a robotic meow. She had no idea how interactive the toy cat responsible, Silver, would be.

Silver is her 53-year-old daughter Christine Hasey's gray, lifelike animatronic cat. Delivered a week and a half ago as a surprise for Hasey, the pet is from the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University.

Silver, who purrs, meows, blinks and rolls over, is one of more than 30 robotic cats the memory and wellness center uses to treat dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Although they've been used for more than a year on campus, the cats are now going to homes to see how effective they are as treatment for the increased isolation brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

Hasey is one of the first to receive a robotic cat at home. She has dementia caused by Raye's syndrome, and before quarantine began, she attended

therapy five days a week at the memory center. There, she did not have her own robotic cat, but she had structure to ground her days and friends to make crafts with. But when the center switched to teletherapy because of the coronavirus pandemic, Hasey had to stay home, drastically magnifying her seclusion.

"Especially since this coronavirus hit, she's not motivated to do much at home," Cordes said of her daughter. A typical day for Hasey involves watching "Golden Girls" episodes, completing word search puzzles, going out for two walks and sleeping.

"Not much else interests her," Cordes added.

But now, after just a week and half with Silver, Hasey is improving. She regularly talks to the toy cat, brushes its fur and jokes about it acting drunk when it rolls over.

Hasey knows Silver isn't alive, but she loves and interacts with her robot pet. And because Silver doesn't eat, poop, shed or pee, it's not a burden on the family.

"It makes me feel really encouraged to see her playing with that cat," Cordes said. "I'm happy that she has anything to stimulate her mind and body."

Hasey's cognitive impairment



AMY BETH BENNETT, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL/TNS

Assistant Professor of Nursing Lisa Kirk Wiese, left, and nursing student Melissa Johnston sit with robotic cats used to treat individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's disease June 2 at the Louis and Anne Green Memory & Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University.

is intermediate. She recognizes her surroundings and the day, month and year. She still argues with her mom sometimes, like any mother-daughter duo. But she often seems lost in thought, and she needs a walker to keep her balance.

To slow the progression of her dementia and keep her mind as sharp as possible, Hasey needs not just pills but positive social interaction. Silver provides the latter.

FAU registered nurse and assistant professor Lisa Wiese said holding on to empathy is crucial for people battling cognitive impairment. Because animals have

triggered empathy and other positive emotions in patients, Wiese said, a former student thought robotic pets might do the same.

She was right.

The robotic cats project, first introduced by former student Bryanna Streit last summer for three months, not only got all 12 participants cooing and smiling in person, it even reduced their overall anxiety and depression by 6 points and their dementia loss by 1 to 2 points, Wiese said.

"We're so thrilled it's working for cognitively impaired adults because there's very few things that stimulate them," she said.

Now, Melissa Johnston, a nursing doctoral student at FAU, is carrying on part two of the pet project by evaluating how the robotic cats help at home during quarantine.

The memory and wellness center has 30 cats for cognitively impaired adults ages 55 and older who want to participate. The cats are free for participants as they were already paid for by grant funding through the university or donated by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Johnston said she hopes to start the project by July.

"I think this has the potential to help a lot of people," she said.

GADGET WATCH

Gift ideas for Father's Day

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

He doesn't need a tie, a T-shirt or a belt he'll never wear. What dad does need for Father's Day is cool stuff like innovative tools for the grill and new tools for a perfect lawn.

DeWalt's new cordless tree trimmer and brush blower make some of the most basic home landscaping tasks so simple. The products are additions to DeWalt's 200-product line in the 20V MAX System.

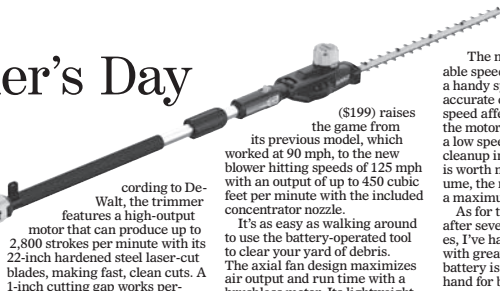
Since I knew the DeWalt 20V MAX Pole Hedge Trimmer (\$199) would arrive in the coming weeks, I let some trimming grow out a little over the past month for better testing. To say it was done quickly, easily and efficiently along with perfect

shaping is an understatement.

Along with your arm length, the pole trimmer extends up to a 12-foot reach. Using it was a joy — just charge the battery and you're ready to go.

As well as extending the trimmer has a seven-position end that acts like an elbow to position the trimmer in seven positions with a 180-degree range. This made it perfect for trimming the tops of hedges so the trimmings blended with the rounded look they have.

The rechargeable battery works off of the DeWalt DCB205 20V MAX Lithium Ion Battery Pack and is compatible with DeWalt's 20V MAX tools. Ac-



cording to DeWalt, the trimmer features a high-output motor that can produce up to 2,800 strokes per minute with its 22-inch hardened steel laser-cut blades, making fast, clean cuts. A 1-inch cutting gap works perfectly for those thicker cuts.

It can be stored fully extended, or fold the trimmer down 180 degrees. A shoulder strap is included, which is handy when you're working to control fatigue with the 79-pound trimmer. It also assists in storage.

Along with the rechargeable battery, an AC desktop charger is included.

The DeWalt 20V MAX XR Brushless handheld blower

(\$199) raises the game from its previous model, which worked at 90 mph, to the new blower hitting speeds of 125 mph with an output of up to 450 cubic feet per minute with the included concentrator nozzle.

It's as easy as walking around to use the battery-operated tool to clear your yard of debris. The axial fan design maximizes air output and run time with a brushless motor. Its lightweight and ergonomic design make portability easy.



DeWalt/TNS

DeWalt's new cordless tree trimmer, top, extends up to a 12-foot reach. DeWalt's cordless brush blower can hit speeds of 125 mph with an output of up to 450 cubic feet per minute.

The new blower has a variable speed trigger for control and a handy speed lock for easy and accurate control. Since the motor speed affects the noise level of the motor, it's nice to keep it at a low speed at times for an easy cleanup in near silence. But it is worth noting, even at full volume, the new blower operates at a maximum of 66 decibels.

As for the battery life on both, after several test runs and charges, I've had no problem. But even with great battery life, an extra battery is always good to have on hand for bigger jobs.

www.dewalt.com

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Associated Press

Believe it or not, a lot of new films have been released since movie theaters were shuttered by the coronavirus pandemic — and a lot of good films.

They have arrived by streaming service, cable television, on-demand, drive-in and even Instagram. And the films keep coming. Here are 10 favorites of AP Film Writers Jake Coyle and Lindsey Bahr.

Michael Stuhlbarg and Elisabeth Moss star in the biographical drama “Shirley.”

NEON/AP

Stream now

The 10 best films released since theaters were closed



NETFLIX/AP

Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution

The decadeslong struggle for the equity of people with disabilities is at the center of Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht's Netflix documentary. But for a film that tells a vital and under-told history, it's also uncommonly loving, celebratory and spirited. In “Crip Camp,” we see a social movement fueled by the passion of remarkable individuals.

— Coyle

The documentary “Crip Camp” is now available on Netflix.

How to Build a Girl

A portrait of a writer as a young, talented and messy woman, “How to Build a Girl,” based on Caitlin Moran's semi-autobiographical novel, features a delightful Beanie Feldstein as a teenage girl from a downtrodden U.K. town who invents a larger-than-life persona to help get a foot in the door in the male-dominated world of music writing. (Available for digital rental)

— Bahr

Beanie Feldstein stars in the comedy “How to Build a Girl.”



IFC FILMS/AP

Driveways

A gracefully understated film about next-door neighbors — one an eight-year-old boy (Lucas Jaye), the other a retired Korean veteran (Brian Dennehy, in one of his last performances) — who become unlikely friends, Andrew Ahn's exquisitely gentle little movie has felt blessedly nourishing this spring. The tale might be sentimental, but Ahn's touch is true, and the performances of the three leads (including Hong Chau as the boy's mother) are all tenderly human. The beautiful final shot is achingly sweet. (Available for digital rental)

— Coyle

Never Rarely Sometimes Always

Eliza Hittman's “Never Rarely Sometimes Always” will break your heart, and you'll be glad it did. This quiet, sharp and deeply felt drama about a teenage girl in rural Pennsylvania who must travel to New York to get an abortion is the kind of film that burrows deep into your being and stays with you long after. Newcomers Sidney Flanigan and Talia Ryder capture the unease of simply existing in their teenage girl bodies when the world sees them only as objects to be possessed and controlled. (Available for digital rental)

— Bahr

The Half of It

This Netflix sleeper is smarter than your average Cyrano-inspired high school dramedy. From writer-director Alice Wu (“Saving Face”) in her first film in 15 years, “The Half of It” follows a whip-smart Chinese-American student Ellie (played by the wonderful Leah Lewis) who reluctantly helps a romantically challenged football player woo the beautiful and soulful Aster (the girl of both of their dreams). It's an original gem that didn't get half the buzz it would have had the Tribeca Film Festival not been canceled because of the pandemic.

— Bahr



IFC FILMS/AP

The Trip to Greece

There is a poignant melancholy to “The Trip to Greece.” It's partly because it might just be the last time Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon take their semi-fictionalized versions of themselves out for an impression-soaked spin around a picturesque locale. But it's also a beautiful reminder of everything that we're missing, and the little and big luxuries that we can't even afford to dream about right now: Travel, food, wine, friends. (Available for digital rental.)

— Bahr

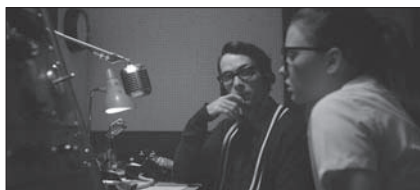


HBO/AP

Bad Education

This true-life suburban crime drama might very well have been destined for Oscar buzz. Instead, it went straight to HBO and very likely the Emmys, should they happen. In Cory Finley's film, a Long Island school district becomes enmeshed in an embezzlement scandal that has its prim superintendent (Hugh Jackman) and assistant superintendent (Allison Janney) fighting for their jobs.

— Coyle



AMAZON STUDIOS/AP

The Vast of Night

Andrew Patterson's stunning directorial debut (streaming on Amazon) is a low-budget sci-fi thriller set in a small town in 1950s New Mexico. With sound and shadow, it summons a fully realized vision of mid-century paranoia with more contemporary filmmaking flair, including a memorable long-take prowl through town. Rarely do new directorial talents announce themselves this clearly.

— Coyle

Shirley

Josephine Decker's prickly, unnerving story about reclusive author Shirley Jackson is set a '50s Vermont college town but also takes place in the gothic realm of one of Jackson's own stories. Decker's fourth film, executive produced by Martin Scorsese, has a knack for making perspective a playing-and-blurring the lines between art and reality. In “Shirley” (available for digital rental), the filmmaking craft is nearly as good as Elisabeth Moss' ferocious performance as Jackson.

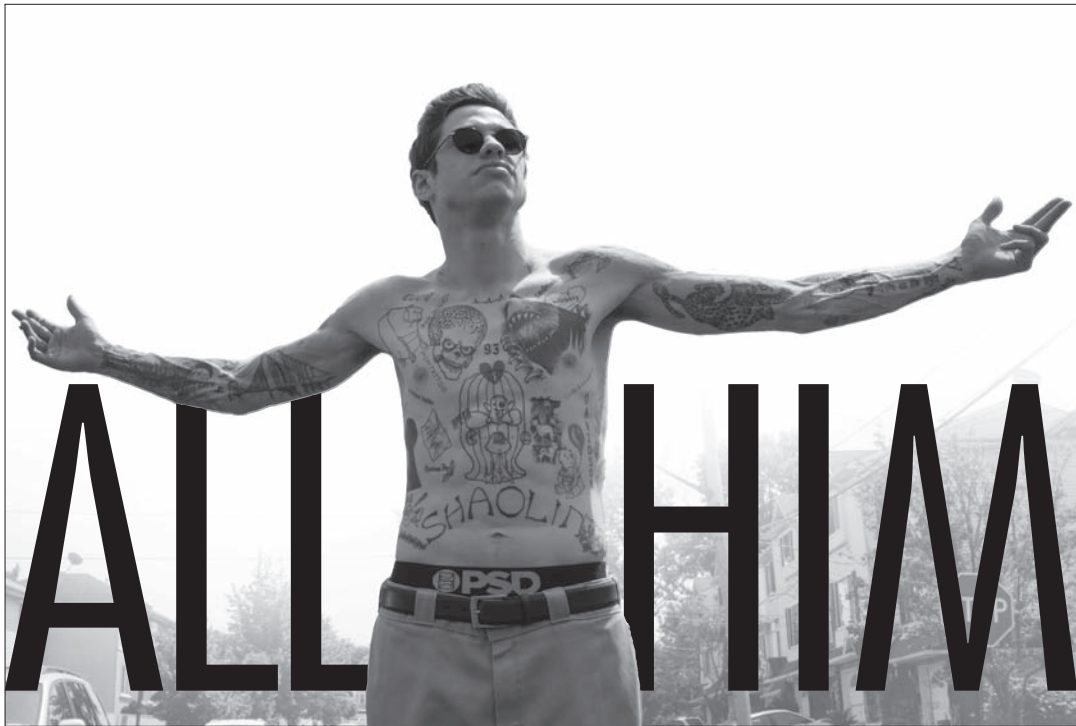
— Coyle

New York, New York

Spike Lee's ambitious Vietnam War veteran film, “Da 5 Bloods,” recently debuted on Netflix, but he's already made possibly the most indelible and moving film of the pandemic. Set to Frank Sinatra, the three-minute short “New York, New York” simply and straightforwardly captures lockdown in Lee's home city. A galvanizing tribute to New York when it needed it most.

— Coyle

WEEKEND: MOVIES



In stand-up and on 'SNL,' Pete Davidson's comedy has always been disarmingly open. He says 'The King of Staten Island' is '100% me'

By JAKE COYLE ■ Associated Press

The first time Pete Davidson performed stand-up, he was 16. It was in front of a handful of people at a place called the Looney Bin Comedy Club in Staten Island. He describes it as inside a bowling alley and a Wendy's and across the street from an LA Fitness.

"Which is the most Staten Island thing I ever heard," says Davidson. "I remember when it wouldn't go well, you could hear people bowling and getting strikes and spares."

As a standout performer on "Saturday Night Live" and the star of Judd Apatow's new "The King of Staten Island," the 26-year-old Davidson would normally be able to reflect on those humble origins from a higher perch. But because of the pandemic — and since he was about to move when the lockdown began — he's back in his mother's house in Staten Island, living in the basement.

"This is my basement but it's also my bedroom, which is even more embarrassing," says Davidson, smiling on a recent interview by Zoom with his bed in the background.

It's an ironic place for Davidson to be since "The King of Staten Island," a comedy Davidson co-wrote with Apatow and Dave Sirus, begins with him playing videogames in his mom's basement. The movie is about him getting off the couch, reluctantly making something of himself and finding some peace with the death of his father.

From the start, Davidson's gleefully squirm-inducing comedy has been open and self-referential. The first joke he ever told onstage was about when he asked for a car and his mom said he could have a Mongoose. "I got really excited because I thought it was like a German car," he says. "I thought it was like a Kia Mongoose."

In appearances on Weekend Update, he often uses his own life for punchlines, self-deprecatingly and bemusedly drawing on the media coverage that has followed him through mental health issues and a high-profile romance with pop singer Ariana Grande.

And yet Davidson feels widely misunderstood. "The King of Staten Island" may change that. The movie, he says, "is 100% me."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Directed by Judd Apatow, Pete Davidson stars in "The King of Staten Island," based loosely on the life of the "Saturday Night Live" actor.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEW

Davidson steps up in 'King of Staten Island'

Comedian plays semi-fictionalized version of himself in Apatow film

By LINDSEY BAHRA
Associated Press

The protagonists in Judd Apatow movies don't generally have their stuff together. They are emotionally stunted, occasionally underachieving, unmotivated to change and often even border on unlikable. But whether it's Seth Rogen's stoner-entrepreneur, Steve Carell's 40-year-old virgin or Adam Sandler's depressed movie star, there has always been at least some separation between the actor and the character.

That shield of fiction is pushed aside in his latest, "The King of Staten Island," in which Pete Davidson (a co-writer and producer on the film) lays bare many of his personal struggles for our entertainment and edification, from losing his firefighter father at the age of 7 to living with Crohn's syndrome, in this tale of a Staten Island loser who is more than happy to just drift.

It is the kind of personal project that could have gone wrong in so many ways. All you need is for the lead to lack a certain self-awareness or for the filmmaker to be too protective. But somehow, and despite its bloated runtime, "The King of Staten Island" has become a film that is honest, entertaining and humane. That is no small feat considering that Davidson's character Scott is one

of the most unlikable Apatow leads (at least at first).

Scott is angry at the world for taking his father away, although he tries to hide that behind a nihilistic stoner front. He lives with his mother Margie (Marisa Tomei) and refuses to commit to the local girl he's sleeping with (Bel Powley, channeling "Working Girl"-style Staten Island swagger). He knows he has mental health issues but doesn't seem to want to do anything about it. He doesn't have any prospects or passions. His friends are losers too. And he doesn't even really seem to care about his pie-in-the-sky career choice of tattoo artist (his lack of skills in that department provides a particularly funny through line).

But Scott is 24 and his youthful indifference is starting to turn into a full-fledged character flaw, which is why Margie gives him a push and then a shove out of her house to get his act together. She's emboldened by her new boyfriend Ray (Bill Burr). He's a firefighter too, which makes Scott crazy. When Ray takes him out to a baseball game with his fellow firefighters, Scott decides to rant to the guys (among them an excellent Steve Buscemi) about why people in their profession shouldn't have families. It's raw and uncomfortable and helps set the stage for what will come next for Scott.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Marisa Tomei, left, plays Pete Davidson's mother in the comedy "The King of Staten Island."

Apatow refuses to make short movies, and thus "The King of Staten Island" is a bit of an odyssey that's packed with some well-drawn side characters (including Maude Apatow as Scott's sister) and subplots as well as some questionable and repetitive ones. It also curiously leaves some story threads dangling.

But it's a journey that does pay off and the film really hits its stride in the third act, in which Scott finds himself living in the fire station with Ray and starts

to learn about both work and his father.

It might seem silly to say, but Davidson is really good at playing himself. He never sacrifices honesty in the name of trying to make himself seem cooler or more sympathetic, and you end up liking him more because of it.

What is so refreshing about "The King of Staten Island" is that there isn't some big Hollywood arc to it. Scott doesn't suddenly become a tattoo prodigy. No suspiciously put-together love

interest descends to pull him out of his status quo. And there is no miraculous revelation that fixes him completely, just a few little ones.

Davidson isn't everyone's cup of tea, and no one knows that better than he does. It's that self-awareness that elevates this story and makes "The King of Staten Island" worth the watch.

"The King of Staten Island" is now available through VOD. It is rated R for language, drug use, sexual content and some violence/bloody images. Running time: 136 minutes.

FROM PAGE 20

"I personally don't think people have a good idea of who I am, which is another reason why this movie is so important and dear to me," says Davidson. "It's as transparent and honest and open as I could possibly be. I hope that if you do see it, maybe you see what I see in myself."

Universal Pictures will release "The King of Staten Island," originally slated to open the SXSW Film Festival, on Friday via on-demand after its theatrical run was canceled by the pandemic.

The movie is heavily based on Davidson's life. His character is struggling with the death of his father, a firefighter who died in the line of duty. When Davidson was 7, his firefighter father, Scott, died on Sept. 11. In the film, Davidson's feelings of heartache and anger are challenged when his mother (Marisa Tomei) begins dating a firefighter (Bill Burr).

"It's something that's been weighing on my chest for a very long time," says Davidson. "It allowed me to heal on a personal level. My main goal in doing this was to grow out of it."

Apatow, the filmmaker of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Funny People," first became acquainted with Davidson when he was making 2015's "Trainwreck" with Amy Schumer. Apatow has shepherded the careers of several young comic talents, like Seth Rogen ("Knocked Up") and Lena Dunham ("Girls"), but Davidson's seemingly lackadaisical, bug-eyed version of stunted maturity is more plainly wounded than his previous collaborators.

At Schumer's urging, Apatow gave Davidson a small role in "Trainwreck." Then



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

"The King of Staten Island" is a semi-autobiographical take on the life of Pete Davidson, who lost his firefighter father during the Sept. 11 attacks.

they began kicking around movie ideas.

One of their first scripts, a college comedy, fizzled. "Pete hadn't been to college and I had only been for 18 months," chuckles Apatow, speaking from his home in Los Angeles. Then they inched toward something more personal.

"As soon as we said, 'Let's make a movie about his character's mom dating a firefighter,' we knew that we'd have to address everything," says Apatow.

Davidson hasn't avoided his father in his comedy. In his recent Netflix comedy special "Alive From New York," he recalls learning his dad did cocaine. "I knew he was a hero," he says with a grin. "But I didn't know he was a superhero."

And the comedian had contemplated mounting a one-man show about his father. Instead, "The King of Staten Island" became his autobiographical outlet. "He took it slowly. The writing, Apatow could

tell, was cathartic.

"Pete had to write scenes from the point of view of other people. If he was writing a scene with him confronting his mom, he had to write in her voice and he had to write in his sister's voice," says Apatow. "I think that allowed him to see himself in a new way."

Davidson could have been seen by some as a risky bet. In 2018, a troubling Instagram message prompted a police visit to the "SNL" offices. But Apatow believed that Davidson should also be a producer on the film, making him responsible for the entire set.

"I've been through a lot and to have someone believe in you and still have your back even when it might not be popular to do so, it really means the world to me," says Davidson. "I'll never forget that."

For those who know him more from the tabloids, "The King of Staten Island" will certainly reveal a different side to Davidson. It has as much emotional pain and tender family drama as it does clouds of weed smoke and man-child jokes. Like Davidson, it's full of the messiness of life.

Tall and lanky with sunken eyes, Davidson is covered in tattoos; he's literally an open book, though all that ink can work like a mask, too. But he counts two as his most important: He has his father's badge number, 8418, tattooed on his arm, and a fire helmet with 343 on it for the number of firefighters who died on 9/11.

"They were very healing for me to get," he says, before noting he has some he regrets, too. Stewie from "Family Guy" is on his hands and neck. Davidson shrugs. "I'm an impulsive person," he says. "You just get to learn."

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Return to the classics

Clubhouse Games for Nintendo Switch has a favorite for everyone

By GIESON CACHO
The Mercury News

If there's one consistent message this year, it's this: People should stay inside. The coronavirus has left people sheltering in place, and civil unrest has made curfews widespread.

As America swings from one crisis to another, quality time at home has become more important. Families can spend it bingeing Netflix series, or they can turn to Clubhouse Games: 51 Worldwide Classics on the Nintendo Switch.

Yes, the title doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, but the latest entry to the console's library packs plenty of amusement for a family game night. Leveraging the versatility of the Joy-Con and the system's touch screen, the developers at Agenda have programmed 51 fine-tuned games plus a rudimentary piano for players.

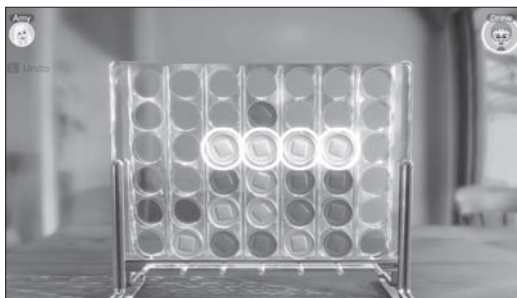
The roster is a mix of card games, board games, toy-based curiosities and other pastimes. Clubhouse Games supports up to four players and has an online mode. Through a free downloadable program on the Nintendo eShop, players who have the full game can play with another Switch console.

That means one full version can support multiple consoles for local play.

At its core, Clubhouse Games is a party title. It's a project that excels in group settings — much like a board game. Competitors can argue over the lucky roll in Yahtzee Dice — aka Yahtzee — or they can test their skills at Darts by using the Joy-Con motion controls.

The games themselves don't take too long and they're easy to pick up and play thanks to their familiarity. Players will know games like Checkers, Dominoes and Chess. They'll even recognize carbon copies of childhood favorites such as Sorry!, Uno and Connect 4, although they are listed by their non-copyrighted names.

Agenda leveraged the visual power of the Switch to create lifelike facsimiles of various games and adapted each so that it feels close to the original. The tactile sensation of dropping chips on the Four-in-a-Row board isn't there, but the core strategy of outthinking the opponent



Photos by Nintendo of America

Nintendo's Clubhouse Games: 51 Worldwide Classics for the Switch includes a mix of 51 card games, toy-based curiosities and other pastimes like Checkers, Dominoes, Chess and Mancala — without the hassle of pieces to lose, set up or clean up.

remains.

Clubhouse Games has a trade-off. Although the feel of a classic game isn't entirely there, the fact that players can jump in without setting up pieces or cleaning up is a major benefit. It also lets players cycle through the amusements at a rapid-fire pace. If your group decides Toy Boxing isn't cutting it, you can switch over to Blackjack in a minute. If Slot Car Racing grows dull, players can try their hand at 6-Ball Puzzle, a Tetris-style diversion.

What's great is that Clubhouse Games tallies the wins and losses for each competition. It's essentially the unbiased scorekeeper and arbiter, though I wouldn't try arguing over the rules with the Switch. It is going to ignore you.

If a player wants to enjoy the distractions of Clubhouse Games alone, Agenda supports that as well with a surprisingly good single-player mode across all 51 games. Players will just have to battle the computer. In addition, titles such as Klondike and Spider Solitaire are meant to be played alone.

Agenda rewards players for their victories with medals, and players can try more difficult versions of the games to



Take on a human foe or the computer in Toy Boxing.

test their skills. They can even earn cosmetic upgrades such as Mario-themed cards for playing through the single-player mode.

The most surprising element of Clubhouse Games is the educational factor. Many of the 51 worldwide classics have their origins in different cultures and feature long histories. Agenda acknowledges that and gives players the background behind games such as Mancala from ancient Egypt, and Hanafuda, a card game that Nintendo originally manufactured.

The developer groups the activities in themes and ties them to unlockable figurines that act as guides through each game. This single-player mode is a great way to learn the basics of each enterprise. It gives gamers a chance to learn a new pastime in a welcoming environment. They'll have all the virtual equipment and rules at hand.

Clubhouse Games does a decent job of teaching players the 51 games. Offerings such as Shogi or Richi Mahjong are complicated, but thankfully, Agenda presents these games intuitively. It allows players to learn the games through the best teacher — experience.

The sheer variety in Clubhouse Games is its strength. The developers maximize the fun of these tried-and-true games by making them easy to play so the focus stays on what makes each of them great. Even if fans don't like one activity, there's plenty of others to choose from and they can perhaps find a new hobby to focus their passion on.

Platform: Nintendo Switch
Online: tinyurl.com/y924517g

5 intriguing titles for PlayStation 5

By GIESON CACHO
The Mercury News

Although E3 has been canceled, it's not stopping video game makers from unleashing big announcements. Sony led the way June 11 with its PlayStation 5 reveal event showing what the console looks like along with a slew of upcoming games.

Sony Interactive Entertainment unveiled everything from AAA blockbusters to promising indie titles. The reveal ran the gamut and showed that there's a little something for everyone on the PlayStation 5, which is slated to come out this holiday season. Here is what stuck out the most:

1. Village: Resident Evil: Despite the unusual name, this should be considered Resident Evil VIII and it follows Ethan, the protagonist of the previous entry. As the name implies, he's investigating a village near a snow-capped locale a few years after the events of Resident Evil VII. What moved this game to the top of the list are its visuals. They jump out at you in terms of the realistic faces and atmosphere. The title looks like it will show off the next-generation graphics of the PlayStation 5, which will likely include ray tracing to boost realism in the game, increase the immersion and make the experience altogether more terrifying.

2. Horizon: Forbidden West: Again, this is "Horizon Zero Dawn 2" with a somewhat different name, and it again follows Aloy. The postapocalyptic hero is back, and this time she makes her way to North America. From the screenshots, it looks like she'll be in the Bay Area for part of the adventure. She'll also face off against Sylens who now has control of HADES, the original's main villain. The trailer showed off new robot designs and fresh areas for Aloy to explore, most notably the underwater elements. Just the fact that players get to continue Aloy's journey is enough to make this one of my more anticipated games of the future.

3. Spider-Man: Miles Morales: This title is notable because it appears to be the only one on the list coming out in 2020 and it stars one of the few Latino heroes in gaming. Morales was introduced in 2018's "Spider-Man" as a teenager just learning his powers, but in this sequel, it appears he'll be setting out on his own. This webseries created in 2011 has a different set of powers than Peter Parker and it looks like that will manifest itself in the upcoming game. His "venom strike" — a directed energy power — also shows up in the trailer.

4. Demon's Souls: From the looks of it, this remake will look exceptional on the PlayStation 5 and will fill a niche in the library. Blueprint Games has a good history of doing remakes: updating the superb "Shadow of the Colossus" and releasing "Gravity Rush Remastered." (That's a cult favorite worth playing on the PS4.) I have no doubt that the Austin, Texas-based studio will have the same success here. I just hope that some of the mechanics are updated and the game is somewhat easier to play.

5. Little Devil Inside: This indie title captured my attention because of its distinct look and humor. It's described as an action RPG with survival elements, but the trailer appears to show influences of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." The combination of style and compelling substance has this game high on my list. The developer, Neostream, has been working on this title for a while. It was a Kickstarter project scheduled to be released in 2016. Now it's a timed exclusive for the PS5 that will also come to the PS4.



In Texas Hold'Em, a variation on poker, you must make hands with the two cards you're holding and the five cards on the table.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KARSTEN/Stars and Stripes

Mohammed Abdu Al-Omari rolls out a carpet during a “rug flop” event in Bahrain, hosted by U.S. Navy Cmdr. Joe Zerby and his wife, Jill. The informal parties involve socializing and perusing rugs of varying value for sale.

Patterns and patter

‘Rug flops’ make for a colorful social event in Bahrain

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN
Stars and Stripes

There’s nothing like a good old-fashioned “rug flop,” where carpet vendors literally roll out the red carpet for service members stationed in Bahrain.

But if red isn’t your carpet color, shop owners will keep them rolling until you see one you like, either in their store, or at your place for an afternoon of food, fun and a truckload of carpets.

Rug flops typically include a couple hours of socializing before participants circle around, as the host flops carpets one by one into a mound.

My first rug flop last year was a surreal experience. After a few oohs and ahhs, participants then negotiated prices — often cheaper than in the store — and broke out the credit cards. I couldn’t believe how much I enjoyed it.

As coronavirus restrictions slowly ease, rug flops are becoming an option again, though the outdoor versions are understandably more popular in the winter.

My first invite, prior to the pandemic, came from budding collectors Cmdr. Joe Zerby and his British wife, Jill, who have purchased more than a dozen carpets from host Mohammed Abdu Al-Omari, owner of Carpet House in Adliya.

Omari knew where each carpet came from and its value just by looking at the patterns and material. Persian, Afghan, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Kazakhstani, Turkish, the list goes on and on. But Omari said the value can be found in the details.

“It is very easy to know,” Omari explained. “Each area of Iran, for example, has their own design, own color.”

Omari shared tips and advice on the difference between handmade carpets — which have imperfections and knots on the back — to machine-woven carpets that are more symmetrical. A tribal carpet from Afghanistan, for example, could take up to eight months to complete and will often have no designer. A rug designed by a single family from Iran will have fewer imperfections, Omari said.

His most expensive carpet costs 6,000 Bahraini Dinar

(\$16,000) and he has many antique carpets more than a century old. Omari said Persian rugs can cost much more overseas depending on the location, quality and history, with some carpets being “made before Jesus.”

“Mohammed will take the time to teach you about the differences,” Joe Zerby said. “When you see this one is 600 BD and that one is 200 BD, he can explain why, instead of it just being like magic.”

The Zerbys regularly visited Omari’s store, where they sipped tea and looked at carpets “just for fun.”

“I’ve learned you cannot get rugs like this in America or the U.K. unless you’re paying thousands and thousands,” Jill Zerby said. “And the Americans do have a fascination for them; I don’t know why.”

After asking around, I learned that this phenomenon is growing in popularity for the military community, which Omari claims was his idea back in 1994.

“It started with an American guy” who came into Omari’s store with an idea to host a carpet education event for U.S. Navy sailors coming to Bahrain for a port visit. “He invited me to his house, and we brought food and he brought the drinks ... and he make it like a party.”

Under normal circumstances, Omari hosts similar parties about five times a week.

But just a few doors down from Omari is Oasis Carpet Centre, where shop owner Abdul Wahed Abdulla has been doing rug flops for three decades, also claiming to have started the trend out of his van in the earlier days of Naval Support Activity Bahrain, “when it was much smaller.”

“It started small and we called it ‘carpet party,’” Ab-

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Shawarma Alley in Adliya. Take Awal Ave. west from the base. Pass the Grand Mosque through the intersection onto Bani Othab Ave and the second left onto Osama Bin Aid Ave. (aka Shawarma Alley).

TIMES

Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; call ahead if any coronavirus restrictions are in effect.

COSTS

Looking is free. Carpet prices vary.

INFORMATION

Carpet House: Phone: +973 1771-0163, Online: facebook/carpet.house.79, email: houseofcarpet@hotmail.com
Oasis Carpet Centre: +973 1771-3197, Online: oasiscarpets.com, email: oasis_carpet@yahoo.com

— Joshua Karsten



Mustafa Ameen, from the Carpet House in Adliya, Bahrain, rolls out a carpet during a “rug flop.”

dulla said. The word ‘rug’ is an American word, but the term “rug flop” soon caught on.

Although the origin is up for debate, Abdulla explained that he and other successful “rug floppers” continue to thrive with the military community because of trust, as “not all shop owners will give you a fair price.”

“It is this honest attitude and not focusing on the highest price that has gotten me more business over the years,” Abdulla said.

Honest price or not, some carpets can cost thousands, said former Bahrain community member and carpet aficionado Cmdr. Charles McKinney, currently serving at a NATO base in the Netherlands.

“Prepare yourself to be in a situation akin to any other situation which could be addictive,” McKinney said. “Especially if you attend a flop.”

McKinney recommended to set a rug aside and look at it again later, saying “you’ll be surprised how different it looks the second time around.” McKinney has purchased more than 15 carpets from Omari and other shops from multiple tours in Bahrain over his career.

“Flops are a great idea, especially for a community of friends and co-workers,” McKinney added. “They really are fun social events, and I applaud and give thanks to anyone who has ever hosted one.”

More than half of Abdulla and Omari’s business comes from Americans. The shop owners both showed off their proud collection of U.S. Navy command ball caps and coins that have been presented to them over the years.

If you want to see a flop, shop owners will take the time to show you as many carpets as you want in their stores, assuming current coronavirus restrictions permit it. They even offered me some tea and Arabic coffee at the time.

Abdulla said he had customers cancel rug flops at their homes over the past few months because of the pandemic, but that he’s ready to do them again with social distancing and other safety measures enforced.

Both Omari and Abdulla will take care of everything, including the food.

“But you need to buy the booze,” Omari joked.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

English shops open to delighted customers

BY SYLVIA HUI AND PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

Long lines stretched along streets across England as shops selling items considered as nonessential during the coronavirus pandemic, such as sneakers and toys, welcomed customers on Monday for the first time since the U.K. was put into lockdown in late March.

Starved of the retail experience for the best part of three months, shoppers generally appeared to abide by the social distancing requirement to stay two meters (6½ feet) apart as they awaited their turn to enter the stores.

Not everywhere, though — pushing and shoving was evident at the NikeTown store on Oxford Street, London's world-famous shopping mecca, at its reopening.

For friends Dionne Sumner and Olivia Copeland, both 25, it was a far more orderly experience when they waited to get into their local budget clothes retailer Primark in Liverpool. Arriving at the store at 8:30 a.m., they queued for about 15 minutes before getting in.

"This has been planned; we've been really missing it," Copeland said after spending more than 200 pounds (\$250). "It's nice to get back out; it's better than being stuck in the house."

Monday's reopening of shops, from department stores to bookellers and electronic retailers, only applies to England. Scotland and Wales are taking

a more tentative approach to the easing of the coronavirus restrictions. Northern Ireland's stores reopened last week. England also saw zoos, safari parks and drive-in cinemas reopen on Monday.

The new shopping experience is anything but normal, though.

Shops are limiting numbers and are providing hand sanitizers at the door as well as creating one-way traffic systems inside. Plastic screens protect workers from shoppers at payment counters and some shops will only take cards, not cash. At the Apple store on Regent Street in central London, staff checked customers' temperatures and insisted upon face coverings.

Not all shops in England are reopening. Many say the social distancing guidelines are just too difficult and are urging the British government to reduce the 2-meter requirement.

Critics have also accused the government of being too hasty given still-high levels of daily coronavirus infections. Though the country's daily virus-related death rates have fallen to below those seen before the lockdown, there are worries of a second spike. The U.K., as a whole, has recorded 41,698 coronavirus-related deaths, the third highest in the world behind the United States and Brazil.

Customers are being encouraged to "be sensible" as the government seeks to reopen the economy "gradually and carefully."



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Shoppers in London's Regent Street on Monday for the first time in months in London. Social distancing and sanitizing measures were encouraged.

Despite the reopening, footfall is not expected to come anywhere near levels pre-lockdown. At London's Oxford Street, normally teeming with shoppers, businesses have installed scores of signs to ensure social distancing. Some sidewalks have been widened and extra bike stations were put up to encourage shoppers

to travel there without using the city's Underground subway.

With virtually no tourists in town, London's entire West End shopping and theater district was expected to see just 10% to 15% of its normal customers this week. International tourists now face a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Britain.

British, Belgian museums shed light on slave trade, exploitation

What many have failed to achieve over the course of years was suddenly and swiftly accomplished in the wake of the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

In Europe, at least three statues glorifying figures with legacies tied to slavery and colonialism in Africa are now part of history themselves, with more falls from grace likely to follow.

The toppling of the monuments began on June 7, when a statue of Edward Colston, an English merchant involved in the slave trade, was pushed into the harbor in Bristol, England. On June 9, authorities in London removed a statue of Robert Milligan, a sugar plantation owner and slave trader. Also that day, a statue of King Leopold II was removed in Antwerp, Belgium. The king, who referred to himself as the proprietor of the world's only privately-owned colony, presided from Brussels over an unspeakably brutal regime of forced labor in the Congo for the extraction of ivory and rubber. Between 1880 and 1920, the native population went from 20 million to 10 million.

The reckoning for monuments to controversial figures will likely continue. London Mayor Sadiq Khan stated that a commission would be set up to review all of the capital's landmarks, which will include street names, the names of public buildings and plaques, and to make recommendations for the renaming or removal of those with links to slavery.

It's a good time to look more closely at the collections of museums that are attempting to

expand perspectives beyond that of the dominant cultural group. (Actual museum visits may have to wait a bit longer, as coronavirus concerns keep many doors closed for the time being.)

Britain

Estimates place the number of Africans shipped to the New



Karen Bradbury

World for a life of slavery at somewhere around 12 million, and it is estimated that Britain transported more than 3 million

Africans to its colonies in North and South America and the Caribbean. The slave trade was carried out from many British ports, the three most dominant of which were in Liverpool, London and Bristol.

The International Slavery Museum in Liverpool explores the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and other forms of enslavement. This campaigning museum that actively engages with contemporary human rights issues was opened in 2007, the bicentenary of the abolition of the British slave trade. Its Albert Dock location is equally significant, as it was here that the slave trading ships were repaired and fitted out. Liverpool ships carried about 1.5 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic on approximately 5,000 voyages.

The museum's extensive collection of artifacts and archive

materials reflects the enduring impact of the transatlantic slave trade. The Enslavement and Middle Passage gallery shows the horrific conditions the captives endured on the journey across the Atlantic and the toil and abuse they faced on the plantations at which their labor was exploited. Instruments of enslavement and punishment add impact to the displays. Online: tinyurl.com/yddsd5f9

Bristol's close connection to the transatlantic slave trade is brought to light at the Bristol People gallery at a museum named the M Shed, where visitors learn how the growth of sugar cultivation in the Caribbean and tobacco in Virginia

and Maryland ensured a steady demand for enslaved Africans. Online: tinyurl.com/y9pj7kch At the Museum of London Docklands, the gallery titled "London, Sugar and Slavery" is housed in a building constructed for the storage of sugar gained by the labor of enslaved men, women and children on West Indian plantations. The gallery offers a look at early trade with Africa and its slave traders; life on the plantations and the wealth generated by British colonies

in the Caribbean; resistance to slavery and the abolition campaigns; the African presence in London post-abolition and the enduring legacy of London's involvement in slavery. Online: tinyurl.com/y2dvsvww

Belgium

The Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, a Flemish municipality east of Brussels, houses 27 collections on themes relating to history and anthropology. The majority of its holdings originate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and were collected during the colonial period, when the military personnel, civil servants, missionaries, teachers, traders and scientists active there were encouraged to collect everyday and artistic items and animals. Although primarily known for its ethnographic objects, the museum also possesses a wealth of photos,

archive materials and items pertaining to the natural sciences. So vast is the museum's collection that only about 1% is displayed as part of its permanent exhibitions.



This hand-painted sugar bowl, distributed by campaigners for the abolition of slavery, reminded British people of the slaves who produced their sugar. It's on display at the Museum of London Docklands.

Museumoflondon.org.uk

The history of the museum itself is fascinating and highly troubling. In 1897, at the request of King Leopold II, the "Colonial Section" of an exhibition making up part of the Brussels International Exposition was moved to the "Africa Palace" in Tervuren, where in addition to animals, ethnographic and artistic objects, an African village was re-created in the park, with 267 Congolese people brought in to lend it an air of authenticity. The seven who died over that exceptionally cold summer were buried in paupers' graves.

In 1898, the temporary exhibition became the country's first permanent museum of the Congo.

In an effort to shake off the museum's reputation as a space that glorified colonialization, the museum underwent a five-year, 75 million euro revamp, reopening in December of 2018. In a room with a marble wall inscribed with the names of Belgians who died in the Congo, the names of Congolese victims of colonialism are superimposed by means of a projector. Other collections feature revised captions, and videos allow African voices to speak out on contemporary issues from climate change to popular culture. The museum is presently open to visitors, but advance booking is essential. Online: africamuseum.be

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Tender chicken on a bed of mashed potatoes, drizzled with gravy and served with vegetables, is an excellent choice at the Yachtova restaurant in Mikolajki, Poland.

Lakeside luxury

Yachtova Restaurant in Mikolajki serves up delicious yet affordable regional dishes and spectacular views

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

Mikolajki is a hidden gem of a town in Poland's northeastern lake district, offering breathtaking views of nature and wildlife, historical buildings and five-star dining at an affordable price at the Yachtova Restaurant.

About a half-hour drive from the Bemowo Piskie Training Area, where U.S. troops lead a NATO battle group, the Yachtova is part of the Hotel Mikolajki, which sits on one of the lakes that the town is famous for, at least in Poland.

Diners have the option of sitting inside, in the modern dining area, which offers a panoramic view of Mikolajskie Lake through the many windows, or outside on the terrace, which offers the same calming views. Weather permitting, I'd recommend sitting outside, but Polish weather isn't always conducive to outdoor dining.

The menu features an array of Polish dishes for breakfast and dinner and a limited number of seasonal dishes. A set menu or a la carte dining are available, and if you're flummoxed by the names of typical Polish foods, like pierogi or bigos, the staff are



**AFTER
HOURS
POLAND**

happy to offer recommendations for what to eat, and what beverage would go well with the meal.

I ate at the restaurant a few times on a recent trip to Poland. For appetizers, there was the traditional Polish beef tartare, which was light and had a colorful, visually appealing presentation. The fish soup with sour cream captured different flavors in a spoon.

One main course dish that stood out to me was the chicken served on a bed of mashed potatoes surrounded by vegetables and drizzled with gravy. It was a simple dish, but I'd give it nearly five stars. The only reason it lost half a point in my rating was that the peas and carrots were a bit salty for my taste.

A local brew called Zywiec married perfectly with the meal, and an Irish coffee wrapped up the experience. Zywiec was the only Polish beer the restaurant had on tap, but the Yachtova also offers bottled beers, cocktails



Hotel Mikolajki in the Polish town of the same name houses the Yachtova restaurant. Diners enjoy views of Lake Mikolajskie through the restaurant's many windows or from the terrace.

and soft drinks.

In addition to serving great food at an affordable price, the Yachtova takes the fight against the coronavirus seriously. The socially distanced tables are thoroughly disinfected between customers, and there is hand sanitizer just outside the restaurant. The staff wear face masks at all times, and diners are required to wear them when walking around, but can remove them when seated at a table. The face mask rules apply to all guests, whether dining indoors or on the outdoor terrace.

Johnson.Immanuel@stripes.com
Twitter: Manny_Stripes

YACHTOVA RESTAURANT

Address: Aleja Spacerowa 11

11-730 Mikolajki, Poland

Hours: Monday-Sunday, breakfast 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m., dinner 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Times are subject to change. A la carte menu available until 10 p.m.

Prices: Between \$5 and \$24.99

Menu: English, Polish

Phone: +48 87 420 60 00

— Immanuel Johnson



Beef with a signature sauce, served with potatoes and vegetables, is one of the main courses offered at the Yachtova restaurant. The sign in the background says the table has been disinfected, one of many preventive measures the restaurant takes against the coronavirus.



Irish coffee is a satisfying way to top off an excellent meal.



Black raspberry cake is one of Yachtova's tasty dessert options.



An aerial shot, taken with a drone, of the town of Mikolajki, Poland, in the country's northeastern lake district. Lake Mikolajskie is in the foreground and Yachtova restaurant is at bottom left.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Scents of clean

Hotel managers hoping that smells associated with cleanliness will help ease visitors' coronavirus fears



BY REBECCA POWERS

Special to the Washington Post

A capacity crowd populated sofas and ottomans. Fragrance — a proprietary blend described as leather, smoke, amber and your grandfather's cologne — circulated among guests who socialized on a Friday night in late winter, just before everyone vanished.

Now, our public living rooms are undergoing a post-shutdown spring cleaning of sorts. In the process, sterile may no longer be a pejorative when describing atmosphere.

As Chicago-based interior-design executive Cheryl Durst suggests, in addition to actually being sanitary, the places we visit may also need to evoke a reassuring sense of clean. Aroma could become as important as newly minimal decor with distanced seating, touchless entry and Plexiglas shields.

Many hotels' reopening policies include cleaning with hospital-grade disinfectants, even as man-made scent molecules envelop guests in a sense of escape.

Just like airing out an old summerhouse for the season, reopenings after the coronavirus may need to, in effect, clear the air, says Durst, who is CEO of the Chicago-based International Interior Design Association.

"There are smells associated with clean," Durst said in a recent telephone interview. Cleanliness and health safety, she says, should be communicated through sight, touch and smell.

"There's hygiene, and there's the perception of it," she says.

Kevin Peterson, a Detroit-based fragrance expert, has pondered scents that signal "germ-free." Humans have long associated smell with illness, Peterson says.

'Hygiene is the new security. That very first smell is going to be your first impression.'

Lisa Simeone

owner of Simeone Deary Design Group

During the bubonic plague, it was believed foul odors transmitted the disease.

"Plague doctors wore beak masks, and stuffed herbs and citrus peels in them so they wouldn't smell bad smells and therefore wouldn't become infected," he says. "So somewhere in our collective unconscious, there are scent memories of rosemary, orange and thyme being amulets of protection against plagues."

Peterson, who with his wife, Jane Larson, runs Sfumatō + Castalia, a natural fragrance boutique and scent-based cocktail bar in a Detroit mansion, says pleasant smells are a very powerful way to evoke a sense of security. What you don't want, he says, is a hand-sanitizer smell, because people will "have a weird association" with it after the pandemic.

His solution is a new blend of oakmoss, basil and mandarin orange, which the couple plan to spritz as a clean welcome in the entry of their space when it reopens later this month.

"Hygiene is the new security," says Lisa Simeone, owner of the Simeone Deary Design Group, which has collaborated with many hotels on decor and branding.

"That very first smell is going to be your first impression," she says.

Speaking by phone from Chicago, Simeone said she's not sure if any of her company's hospitality clients will alter their fragrance or shift to something new.

"But as they welcome guests back, in order for people to feel comfortable, that first smell of clean will bring the guests' shoulders down," she says, referring to a posture of relaxation.

There are other methods for conveying an emotional sense of well-being, she says. There will, of course, be physical, operational ways to add the assurance of healthfulness, such as removing lobby magazines, extra books and throw pillows, and putting plants between chairs, she says.

As became clear during the initial peak of the coronavirus spread, the vital importance of essential workers is being realized, recognized and embraced more than ever.

"What was once back of the house, the cleaning ritual, let's make it overt," Simeone says. "Bring out the staff. Let's make a beautiful ritualistic show of cleaning."

When Simeone imagines clean smells, she says she thinks of laundry that has air-dried on the line.

"It's almost the smell of nothing," she says.

At the famed BlackBerry Farm in Walden, Tenn., there is no signature ambient scent that circulates via the ventilation system. But scented personal amenities are changed seasonally. The current aroma is Appalachian hyssop, which is appropriate amid pandemic fears, given its traditional use as an herbal restorative and for treating respiratory ailments.

Past, tried-and-true comforts are figuring into the decision by many hoteliers to stay with their signature, air-infused aromas.

We may still be a long way away from the lobby scene of conference-goers greeting their fellow lanyard wearers with hearty handshakes and wedding

parties arriving with gowns and tuxedos cocooned in garment bags, swinging from rolling racks.

As hotels move to reopen, "a lot of things have been taken away," says Daniel Caudill, the creative director for Shinola Hotel in Detroit, which reopens June 21.

"Scent will yield the memory of the way it was: warm, inviting, inclusive."

Aromas designed to evoke the outdoors may be especially welcome for travelers tentatively emerging after months of mostly indoor self-sequestration.

At Toronto's luxury micro hotel the Ivy at Verity, which plans an early July reopening, a blend of outdoor air and organic bath salts, including lavender and eucalyptus, provide an aroma of clean, as do rooms tended by an assigned pair of housekeepers for each.

"We have only four hotel rooms and we spend a lot of time on cleaning," says Cecilia Keller, Ivy's general manager. "You get a really pristine bed washed in scent-free detergent. The pillowcases are unfolded and brought up on a trolley with the clean duvet cover on a hanger, crease free."

The mattresses, from the Swedish brand Hastens, are made of a hypoallergenic blend of horsehair, cotton, wool and flax with no chemicals.

"In a lot of hotels, you can't even open the windows," Keller says. "We have balcony doors that open to the courtyard. We air out the room."

At the Dream Inn in Santa Cruz, Calif., a beach hotel highlighted in writer-musician Patti Smith's book "Year of the Monkey," the prevailing hotel fragrance is a blend of salt, cedar, sunscreen and ocean: the real thing, which beckons from the balcony door in every guest room.

In the year of a pandemic, that does sound like a dream.

At the Ivy at Verity, a Toronto luxury hotel, a blend of outdoor air and organic bath salts provides an aroma of clean.

Anna with Love Photography

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Testing the waters

Would-be vacationers approach summer travel cautiously

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT
Special to The Washington Post

How bad is the fear of travel right now? So bad that even people in the travel industry are staying home.

Annie Gofus, a Washington, D.C., travel agent who founded the site Wunderbird, isn't going anywhere. She's worried not just for her own safety, but also for that of her customers.

"I'm afraid of a client falling ill while traveling, or spreading coronavirus while on vacation," she says. "As eager as I am to start planning travel again, I don't think I'll be totally confident until we have a safe vaccine for COVID-19."

If you're afraid to travel this summer, you're in good company.

Lum Kamishi is afraid to travel, too. He says the pandemic threatens to create a rift between visitors and suspicious residents. "I'm afraid I'll be seen as an alien—an outsider by the locals," says Kamishi, who is based in Kosovo and works for a travel news site that specializes in visa information.

Carlos Chilin, the general manager of AirportParking-Reservations.com, doesn't expect consumer confidence to rebound until next year. But there could be some hope for 2020, he says, "if travel operators listen and take action to satisfy travelers about their number-one concern, health and safety."

First, a reality check. The virus continues to spread, and many states still have restrictions in place. "It is reasonable to want to avoid a threat to your safety," says Robert Quigley, a physician and regional medical director for the Americas at International SOS, a travel security firm. "While many areas are starting to reopen, COVID-19 is still a large health threat to the world. But there are still ways to travel and enjoy a summer vacation."

Juan Fernandez, the operating partner at Virtuoso-affiliated Elii Travel in Larchmont, N.Y., says travel has always come with risks. "The difference this time around," he says, "is the fear of the unknown."

The travel industry hopes that reassuring travelers will push them to return sooner. For example, VisitPortugal in April unveiled an initiative called Clean & Safe. It's a government certification to distinguish tourist activities that are compliant with hygiene and cleaning requirements for the prevention and control of COVID-19 and other possible infections.

In May, the vacation rental company Vrbo introduced a new program to both help customers filter for close-to-home properties and allay anxiety about the cleanliness of its rental homes.

Its guidelines advise owners to disinfect high-touch surfaces, build in times between bookings for thorough cleaning, and stock hand soap and hand sanitizers for guests. Jeff Hurst, Vrbo's chief executive, says his company took the steps "to help guests feel safe when they're ready to travel again."

D. Alexander, a high-end vacation rental management company, is marketing its luxury homes by highlighting features such as remoteness and isolation.

"Safe travel today boils down to a handful of basic questions," says Alex Allison, the company's managing partner. "How many people would I come in contact with? Do I know what safety and hygiene practices are in place? Can I be certain they're being followed?"

The safety comes at a price. A month on Florida's Emerald Coast will set you back \$18,000. A 30-day isolation in the red rocks of Sedona, Ariz., costs \$19,000. Maybe not in everyone's budget, but they have the right idea: Get away to somewhere safe.

Those who opt for less solitary options will have their fellow travelers to consider. "How do we protect ourselves from others?" asks Robert Yeager, a retired military contractor from Tucson who enjoys cruises. "What about passengers who fail to use the hand sanitizers prominently located just outside of eating areas? And those that handle food and serving utensils recklessly? How about the people who don't wash their hands after using the bathrooms?"

Concerns like Yeager's are among the reasons experts recommend local getaways that limit exposure to those outside your household. Road trips to state and national parks are summer favorites for travelers who want to avoid exposure to COVID-19. Summer travelers are avoiding planes, cruises and any activity where people are in proximity.

Even in the best of times, travel anxiety can be difficult to manage.

"Overcoming the fear of travel requires tolerating the fear," says Anna Diamantis, a psychotherapist based in Stamford, Conn., who specializes in anxiety and grief counseling. "You ultimately need to face your fear head-on and stay in the feared situation until the anxiety comes down on its own. Continuing the avoidance—or partial avoidance—will only continue or amplify the fear."



iStock

As travel restrictions ease, would-be globe-trotters are continuing to exercise caution when planning their next vacation whether traveling domestically or making a trek overseas.

And the sooner, the better. Travel-related phobias are notoriously challenging to treat because most people travel only occasionally, according to Jessica Borelli, an associate professor of psychological science at the University of California at Irvine.

"Anything we do infrequently is a prime target for anxiety buildup," she says. "If we want to gain control over that anxiety, we have to do it more. The answer is always doing something more frequently, not less frequently, if you want to feel less anxious about it."

Germany

DIRECTORY

Restaurants

<p>KAISERSLAUTERN</p> <p>Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.Enchilada-kaiserslautern.de</p>	<p>BAVARIA</p>	<p>RHEIN MAIN</p> <p>Come Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine www.brauhaus-castel.de Otto Seiler Ring 27 55053 Mainz-Kastel 36 06134 2099 Open daily from 11:00 - 24:00</p>	<p>RHEIN MAIN</p> <p>Open daily 11:30 - 15:00 & 17:30 - 23:30 USD accepted - Master Card/Visa Tel: 06134-258928 Ulrichstrasse 8, Mainz-Kastelheim</p>
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Hotels

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific

Beating the quarantine blues

A stroll through Okinawa's Yohena Hydrangea Garden is a sure-fire prescription to lift the spirits

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

If the stress of being cooped up inside for weeks on end due to the coronavirus has got you down, Okinawa's Yohena Hydrangea Garden in Motobu might be just what the doctor ordered.

Tucked away in the jungle near other northern tourist attractions like Dino Park and the Nago Pineapple Park, about 90 minutes' drive from Naha on the expressway, the garden looks like something out of a J.R.R. Tolkien novel. It features some 40 varieties of blooming hydrangeas — more than 300,000 in all — as well as 100 other types of flowers from begonias to St. John's wort and chandelier trees, in a space of roughly 100,000 square feet, according to the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau website.

The flowers wrap around the hillside in breathtaking fashion, appearing to swallow a quaint cafe, called Hydrangea House, as well as a spiderweb of scenic hillside walking trails and rest areas.

The garden provides an injection of color and natural beauty that instantly inspires and lifts the spirit.

The flowers bloomed a bit late this year, as if to coincide with coronavirus park and beach restrictions being lifted for all U.S. service members late last month.

Yohena Hydrangea Garden was started as a hobby about 40 years ago by the homeowner on the property, Uto Yohena, after she was gifted two hydrangeas by her brother-in-law, the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau website said. As she filled the hillside surrounding her home, word of her garden began to spread.

It officially opened in 2000, thanks to the crush of visitors that would just show up after hearing about it through word-of-mouth.

The park has received interest from all over the world, the park website said. Yohena died in 2018 at age 102, but the park has lived on with the help of her family. In fact, it continues to grow.

Hydrangeas belong to a genus of "erect or climbing woody shrubs" native to the Western Hemisphere and Eastern Asia, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica website. Roughly 23 different species are known, renowned for their colorful "ball-like flower clusters."

They grow to generally about 4 feet tall



PHOTOS BY MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A blue hydrangea blooms at Yohena Hydrangea Garden in Motobu, Okinawa.

and colors range from white to pink and blue, depending on the acidity of the soil, the encyclopedia said. They are popular with horticulturists and American homeowners alike for their beauty.

Hydrangeas are a high-maintenance plant, and they require constant weeding, fertilization and pruning, the garden website said. Yohena also performs pest control by hand.

Last week, Yohena Hydrangea Garden displayed a kaleidoscope of color that looked

like a giant open ocean swell, rolling down the steep hillside into the tiny valley below. It was almost too perfect to be real.

Visitors got a good sweat going due to the thick jungle humidity. They walked slowly and posed for selfies as they wound up and then down the hillside trail, flanked on all sides by stepped flower beds and Mother Nature's best in show.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Located at 1312 Izumi, Motobu, Okinawa. GPS coordinates, N 26.646995, E 127.945551

TIMES

Daily, mid-May to the end of June, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Check website for confirmation.

COSTS

400 yen for adults, 200 yen for kids 6 and older. Discounts available for those with disabilities as well as large groups.

FOOD

A small on-site cafe called Hydrangea House offers cold drinks and Okinawan sweets.

INFORMATION

Phone: 0980-47-2183;
Online: yohenaajisaen.sakura.ne.jp

— Matthew M. Burke



A chandelier tree brightens the garden.



The Yohena Hydrangea Garden in Motobu, Okinawa, was started as a hobby 40 years ago. The flowers almost appear to swallow the Hydrangea Cafe, which offers drinks and sweets.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

The \$5 gyoza bento from Turtle, a takeout eatery near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, includes five deep-fried pot stickers, a slice of fried chicken breast and a large portion of rice.

Deliciously affordable

Lunch House Turtle near Yokota shines with tasty, wallet-friendly options

By THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

With dine-in options still off-limits for many folks in the U.S. military thanks to coronavirus restrictions, now's the time for Lunch House Turtle, a walk-up, take-away shop near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, to shine.

The one-story, bright yellow building with a counter and sliding windows facing the sidewalk is a five-minute drive from Yokota's main gate. Park along the street. In fact, a line of cars with flashing hazard lights may signal you've arrived.

The Turtle serves a tasty selection of bento boxes at great prices. The Turtle Special, for one, at just under \$10 (1,000 yen), is hard to beat.

For lunch recently, I opted for the gyoza bento: five pot stickers; a breaded, fried and sliced chicken breast; a small bed of noodles; and a generous portion of rice and Japanese ginger. All that for just under \$5.

Back at my desk, I opened the plastic foam box and dug in. The rice was still steaming as I plucked a deep-fried dumpling and crunched into it. A very light hint of ginger spiced up the flavor as I devoured the dumpling's smooth filling. I prefer a pan-fried dumpling, but Turtle's sensational flavor surprised me.

While I waited 10 minutes back at the shack for my order, I watched as locals pulled up and picked up their lunch orders. I recalled what my uncle once told me about good dining options: "Always look for the locals," and "The more run-down the place, the better it probably is."

In this case, "run-down" may not apply to the Turtle as much as "humble," and "locals" includes personnel from nearby Yokota who are frequent customers. And yes, English menus are available.

My uncle's advice played through my head as the sizzling sounds of frying chicken perked my ears and the wafting smells of fried food teased my nostrils.

The wait was worth it.

godbold.theron@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @GodboldTheron



Turtle, a takeout restaurant near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, is known for generous portions and affordable prices.



AFTER
HOURS
JAPAN

LUNCH HOUSE TURTLE

Location: 1 Chome-21-10 Musashino-dai, Fussa, Tokyo

Hours: Turtle is open six days a week, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; it's closed Wednesday.

Prices: Everything is under \$10, sides are under \$1.

Dress: Come as you are

Directions: Five-minute drive from Yokota's main gate; Google GPS code is P8XM+MM Fussa, Tokyo

Information: Phone: 042-553-4896;

Online: turtlebento.html.xdomain.jp/english/eindex.html

— Theron Godbold

Plain roast chicken made better with everything bagel seasoning

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
Chicago Tribune

You've heard it before. Roast chicken truly is one of the easiest main courses to cook and the most versatile. You can dress it up or down.

Armed with just the two basic ingredients, chicken and salt, I've cooked fryer and roaster birds in ovens big and small, decrepit and new, countertop and mammoth professionals. Before we had kids, I roasted chickens in an ancient gas range in our city apartment during renovations.

When the children were little, we roasted simply seasoned chickens in a trusty almond-colored Sears range for birthday celebrations. Whole chicken also was the first dish we cooked after moving into our suburban family home. I cooked it in a tired-looking kitchen with an oven prone to losing its door. No matter, the chicken emerged juicy and the house smelled like home.

This month, we will move from that home of 20 years. I roasted a chicken in the sleek, much-beloved Wolf range as our last meal there — complete with a flavorful coating on the skin and a tray of like-seasoned vegetables. We couldn't gather the family, but comfort ensued.

My roasting pans already rest in their new cabinet in preparation for our first roast chicken dinner in the wall oven at our new townhome. I plan to open the windows to let the aromas escape so our new neighbors get a true sense of our style.

These days, whole chickens can be easier to procure than boneless chicken parts. Adjust

the cooking time for the size chicken you can find. When done, the juices should run clear when you pierce the thigh with the tip of a knife.

All in all, the only real trick to roasting chickens? Heat. For golden skin, turn on the convection setting on the oven, if it's available. Or, fully heat a conventional oven to 400 degrees. Keep the heat high during the complete cook time.

Chicken roasted plainly with just salt tastes fantastic. For variety, I add herbs and spices. This spring, my fascination with everything bagel seasoning mix — that blend trend that took off in recent years — inspired a coating for chicken and vegetables. A bit of smoked paprika, dried basil and oregano adds color and flavor.

After the chicken is in the oven, I prepare vegetables to keep the heat high in the range that follows. I add small new potatoes to the chicken pan partly through the cooking. That way they can roll around and absorb the flavorful pan juices.

A sheet pan or two of eggplant, zucchini, peppers and onions makes a great accompaniment to the chicken. I make enough for leftovers for another dinner or to serve with eggs for brunch. Season the vegetables with the same blend of spices as you used for the chicken.

The pan juices from the chicken taste amazing. Spoon the mixture over the carved chicken for a rich but simple topping. I also like to save them to stir into a bowl of hot, cooked egg noodles (or rice) with shreds of the chicken and a heaping spoonful of the roasted vegetables.

EVERYTHING BAGEL ROAST CHICKEN WITH NEW POTATOES

Look for everything bagel seasoning mix in the spice aisle of most grocery stores; see the note below to make your own version.

Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken, about 5 pounds
- 3 tablespoons everything bagel seasoning mix, recipe below
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 ½ to 1 ½ pounds petite red or small gold potatoes (about 1 ½ inches in diameter)
- 1 handful fresh cilantro, roughly chopped, or minced chives or a combination

Directions

Heat oven to 375 degrees or convection or 400 degrees conventional. Put seasoning mix, paprika, basil and oregano into a small bowl.

Pat chicken dry. Tuck wings behind back. Place back side up in a large roasting pan. Sprinkle chicken generously with one-third of the seasoning mixture. Turn chicken breast side up and sprinkle with another one-third of seasoning. Drizzle chicken with olive oil.

Roast chicken, 25 minutes.

Add potatoes to pan and roll them around in the pan juices. Sprinkle potatoes with remaining seasoning mixture. Continue roasting, stirring potatoes every 20 minutes or so, until potatoes are tender, the chicken is golden and the juices run clear when the thigh is pierced, about 50 minutes more.

Gently transfer potatoes to a bowl. Put chicken on a cutting board and tent with foil. Let rest about 10 minutes. Scrape the pan juices into a bowl (or save them for serving over buttered noodles or rice).

Carve the chicken into serving portions. Serve with a drizzle of pan juices and some potatoes. Sprinkle with chopped herbs.

Homemade everything bagel seasoning mix: In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, put ¼ cup sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon coarse (kosher) salt, 1 tablespoon minced dried garlic, 1 tablespoon minced dried onion, 1 tablespoon black sesame seeds (or more regular sesame seeds) and 2 teaspoons poppy seeds. Shake well. Keeps almost forever.

Serves 6

WEEKEND: TRAVEL



Lessons from the Pacific Crest Trail

Mount Hood can be seen from a weathered sign pointing the way along the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon.

iStock

What 2,650 miles taught one man about surviving quarantine

By DAN WHITE

Special to The Washington Post

When I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada in the '90s, a rattlesnake struck at my ankles, missing by millimeters. I found black, wriggling creatures in my drinking water. Field mice nibbled my pack straps.

But the biggest obstacles were intangible things: the enormity of a 2,650-mile hike through the lengths of California, Oregon and Washington, combined with my lack of training. The open wilderness and the claustrophobia of a one-person tent containing me and my girlfriend, our elbows in each other's faces. The inability to imagine the end of the trail and what I would do next.

I was on the trail by choice, while sheltering at home is part of a national emergency. Yet I notice many overlaps between my time on a national scenic trail and these months drifting around my home in Santa Cruz, Calif.: the long stretches of time, my lapsed social graces and hygiene, the constant fighting with loved ones over candy bars and apples, the once-every-10-day shopping binges.

As this time indoors drags on, my thoughts return to the trail — not for escape, but as part of my search for structure and meaning. The trail has become a template for the time ahead of me, with no northern terminus in sight. My experience on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) helps me consider the endgame, and the life I want to have when this is over.

Here are the lessons I've gleaned.



DAN WHITE/The Washington Post

The author walks on a flatter part of the trail in 1993.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 30

Look down, not ahead

I spent the first couple of weeks on the PCT wondering why faraway mountains did not seem to get closer. No matter how quickly I walked, they receded into the distance, taunting me.

After a while, I tried forgetting the miles. Instead, I looked at the ground, or off to the side. I noticed wildflowers that seemed to burst from solid rock, and weird antlike insects covered with thick furry coats.

I broke days into moments, ignoring the horizon line, focusing on footsteps, pebbles, desert sagebrush or the bumps on a horned lizard's head.

Before I knew it, I was devouring vast chunks of the trail. The more I forgot the walk in front of me, the faster the miles fell away.

Now, during the pandemic, we don't know when we'll be able to resume normal life, but by focusing on the present — updating our plague journals, supporting local businesses, writing our own comic strips and maintaining unruly compost heaps — we can take our minds off the steep terrain ahead of us.

Walk away from conflict

In isolation and confinement, fights break out over the most idiotic things.

The PCT is so huge, you'd think my girlfriend and I would have had enough personal space to maintain equilibrium and not squawk at one another over small things. But the pathway is only a few feet wide. In such conditions, relationship flaws magnify. Quirks lose their charm and seem pathological.

We fought over water breaks, rest breaks and daunting logistics. The trail exploited our weaknesses. I spent too many hours pouting, bellowing and digging in instead of walking away or admitting I was wrong.

Though these fights seem trivial now, their lasting impact was devastating. That relationship survived the trail, but it ended soon after the hike was over.

Now I'm married, with an 11-year-old daughter. Skirmishes happen over broken eggs and mushy strawberries. We have battles and weeklong investigations over missing cookies.

But I've learned to sequester myself when my anger spikes. Now I know that today's outbursts can reverberate into the future, long after these strange times are over.

Nature will humble you

Out on the trail, I was amazed by the many inventive ways that nature had of thwarting me, stretching timelines and wrecking plans. In the desert, the sun was so hot I had to hike at night. Bees swarmed. Mosquitoes descended. Up north, snow and ice blocked the path. Bottles froze.

Every time I stopped paying attention to what was in front of me, hairy woodland creatures, invisible bugs or unpredictable weather put me in my place.

Once I got sick of putting iodine tablets in my spring water, so I gulped it untreated. I got so sick I had to leave the trail for weeks. By the time the ordeal ended, I'd lost 30 pounds to giardiasis and abandoned all hope of finishing the trail that season. My timeline for finishing was six months, and it took me nearly a year.

This lesson came to mind when I spoke with a friend, an emergency physician in Chicago, who talked about spikes in hospitalizations when people get complacent and relax social distancing measures or stage public revolts against them.

I can't look at anti-lockdown protesters without owing up to occasional personal lapses, such as forgetting my mask at home, and winding up in a tight scrum of mask-free runners and bicyclists. With some distaste, I'll remember when I tried to cheat nature on the PCT. And what I learned then: You cannot outthink that which cannot think at all.

Accept the grace of angels

The generous people I met on the trail, and in the small towns along the trail, far outnumbered the jerks, miscreants and idiots.

So many people offered comfort, water and food that I forgot their names. And yet the jerks loomed larger in my memory. They occupied my head space in ways that kind people never could. They shouldn't have.

It's a human adaptive response, sounding the alarm at the least irritating stimulus. I've never forgotten the men who fired their guns across the water, close to a lakeside campground where hikers were sleeping.

It takes an act of will to remember the people who left water caches out for me in deserts, and gave me rides to grocery stores, but it's worth it. The only other option is cynicism and despair. So stop fixating on the mask-less walkers crowding the sidewalks and be grateful for all the Crit-line workers, volunteers and people buying extra loads of groceries for their elderly neighbors.



DAN WHITE/The Washington Post

The author gets a lift in the back of a pickup truck during a 1993 hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.



iStock

Hundreds each year attempt to hike all 2,650 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail's rugged terrain along the west coast of North America, but not all complete the trek.

Send mail and care packages

When I hiked the trail, there wasn't much of an internet, and no reliable cellphones. I called my parents from pay phones in supply towns — and when I hung up, I knew I'd be out of contact for at least another week. I got used to not seeing loved ones for months.

These days, we have Zoom, but it doesn't ease my hunger for connection. We can't safely visit our elderly relatives. All of us are touch-deprived, and longing for tactile things. Every time I reached a trail supply town, I'd head to the post office and find postcards with scribbled messages. Sometimes I'd find care packages containing Snickers and Advil.

Once I got a shrink-wrapped pile of inedible brownies that seemed to have been made of caulking cement, and yet they filled me with joy.

In times of isolation, it feels good to send and receive something you can hold in your hands. These days, I have a friend in Minnesota who makes me laugh with his kitschy postcards. I can't visit my mother in Los Angeles, but she looks forward to my weekly cards crammed with cartoons about my malfunctioning washer/dryer and my exploding sourdough starter.

Ignore the super-hikers

I encountered certain overachieving hikers who were obsessed with the "right" and "wrong" ways to do the trail.

Sometimes they mocked others whose backpack loads weighed more than theirs, or could not hike as many miles a day as they could. When I tried to keep up, I developed a bad case of shin splints and left the trail for weeks, losing the time I had gained.

This taught me to beware of self-documenting "super-shelterers," who say they are learning multiple languages, mastering impossible bakes and Peloton-ing their way through the Criterion Collection on Kanopy. The trail reminds me not to chastise myself when I can't keep up.

Shower. Shave.

When I solo-hiked the final thousand miles of the PCT, my personal hygiene became so terrible that a fellow hiker dubbed me Dirty Dan.

I reveled in filth, smearing mud on my legs and face and drinking boiled Tang with bugs and grit in the stockpot. I embraced what is now known as the "hiker trash" ethos, going without baths and wearing the same clothes over and over as signs of freedom and rebellion.

I later discovered that letting myself go was a sign of withdrawal. These days, I force myself to shave. I "dress for work" and change out of my pajamas at 8 every morning. I remember what happened when I allowed my inner slob to run wild.

Plan for the end

Early on in my hike, I could never imagine the trail ending. Then I finished, and my post-PCT life was a disaster.

During my first weeks on the trail, the days seemed bizarre and unmanageable. I always questioned myself. Are you really going to pitch your tent on that windy ridge? Will you ever fall asleep with coyotes howling their heads off, and crickets chiming in the bushes?

Somewhat it just became my life after a while. The suddenness of the finish line shocked me. It was like leaving a bumpy, one-lane country road and finding myself on the Autobahn.

A thousand decisions awaited me. Where to live? What job to apply for? What to do about my depleted bank account?

The end was a joyful time in many ways. I could hug loved ones again, drive around freely and reconnect with friends. But I couldn't adjust to the pace. My post-trail life was marked by depression, unemployment and an inability to course-correct. I wish I'd spent more time planning for the future.

It took me more than 20 years to see the ways the PCT changed my habits and rearranged my priorities. Surely our shared memories of the COVID-19 crisis will alter us in even more profound ways. I can only hope that this time of exile will drive me to revisit lapsed friendships and forget old grudges.

Considering the aftermath makes me think of the days leading up to my first steps on the trail. A postal worker in a high desert town took pity on me when he saw my overstuffed backpack. He forced me to empty its contents out on the floor.

Some of the items were ridiculous, including a kite and a pile of books. "This is going to be the most strenuous thing you've ever done," he told me. "With all this stuff, you will never make it. So let's start getting rid of stuff right now."

That postal worker saved my walk from disaster. His words popped into my head when I was chatting with the friend who is treating COVID patients. "This just makes you think, 'What is absolutely essential?'" my friend told me. "And what are all the stupid nonessentials we can cast aside? What are the things we can all just live without?"

WEEKEND: MUSIC

By MESFIN FERKADU
Associated Press

The title of Norah Jones' new album, "Pick Me Up Off the Floor," has two chief meanings. After spending two years recording one-off monthly sessions, the piano-playing jazz-pop singer realized she had enough great songs piled up. "I didn't know what was happening with them. I was sort of picking them up and putting them together. That was sort of the idea," she said.

The other meaning? It's the extremely literal one: the songs were sad, and Jones needed a hand getting up.

"That feeling of desperation, when you just need somebody to pick you up, it was all of that," she said.

Jones' seventh album was released June 12 and though the 11-track album was written and recorded sporadically, it is a cohesive set that is personal and emotional, with song titles like "How I Weep," "Hurts to Be Alone," "Heartbroken, Day After" and "Stumble On My Way" to drive the point home.

PICKUP ARTIST

NORAH JONES



Norah Jones gathers herself and a collection of one-off recordings for her seventh album

"Then it whacks me straight into my stomach at night, it's a hard blow to take with all of its might / It tries to be sorry, it tries to be sweet, then it runs out the door as if on two feet," she sings on the opening track.

Jones, 41, isn't down and out the entire time — the album's later songs, including "I'm Alive" and "To Live," finish off with hopeful notes proving there is light at the end of the tunnel.

"I feel like there's a lot on this album that is very personal ... I think I was sad when I wrote a lot of them, for sure, obviously," said Jones, who added that the subjects of the songs came from one period of time in her life, though she didn't say when that was.

Getting the sad songs out of her system was healing, she said. "I think it's a really good way to release it, actually. It's more like an outlet for me to sort of release that sadness, I guess," she explained. "It feels really good to write songs when you're feeling things deeply because you have somewhere to put all that energy. I think it's almost like therapy."

After she finished touring in support of her 2016 album "Day Breaks," Jones held monthly recording sessions to collaborate with artists and also to put out singles without thinking about a full-length album.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Norah Jones poses for a portrait June 8 in Hudson, N.Y., to promote her latest album, "Pick Me Up Off the Floor." Jones said the songs, many of them sad, came from one period of her life, but she didn't say when that was.

VICTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

FROM PAGE 32

She said she was extremely inspired to write, and the songs poured out of her.

"I'm not incredibly prolific usually. I'll go through creative spurts, but I think just the act of doing these sessions every few months was like throwing another log on the fire," she said. "I just thought it might open me up to new things, and so it did. Out of it came the album I wasn't trying to make."

She began to live with the songs — listening to them on her phone while walking the dog or in the house — and thought of ways to enhance the piano-based tunes, the majority of them written and produced by herself. "What do I want to add to it? Do I want to add horns? Does it need anything?"

Once she realized she had a full album she loved listening to, she worked on song sequencing to prevent it from sounding like a completely gloomy affair: "Let it get sad but not so sad that you don't want to listen anymore."

"It could be very different (depending on) the way the sequence goes," she said. "That's the art of the album making, the arc of whatever story you're trying to tell."

As for her next project, Jones isn't sure how the songs will come together, but she's still going to hold off on sessions because it feels like freedom.

And though she's stuck at home like the rest of the world, she's still writing during the pandemic, when time allows it: "I've had a few moments of little lightning bolts where I write ideas down, but ... my kids are 4 and 6, so it's been a lot of just that."

The recent worldwide protests in the response to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and other black people have moved her to write, too.

"Sometimes things come through you (and) you try to capture them," she said. "I last week has inspired a lot of thinking."

Norah Jones

Pick Me Up Off the Floor (Blue Note)

Norah Jones, we need you now. The torch-singing pianist has made quietly satisfying music ever since her 2002 debut, "Come Away With Me," navigating the world between jazz and pop, and throwing in a little country for an extra heartache.

Jones' records are always tasteful and never in the slightest hurry. And in the frantic, no-attention-span world we used to live in, her air of imperturbability could seem a little dull, so becalmed that it sometimes bordered on the soporific.

Now it's a quality that comes in handy, amid global pandemic, economic collapse and civil unrest. If your nerves are rattled, never fear: Norah Jones is here.

"Pick Me Up Off the Floor" shines from the start. Its opener, "How I Weep," makes its sorrow felt in the subtle interplay between her piano, Paul Wiancko's cello and Ayane Kozasa's violin.

The album grew out of a series of collaborations — with poet Sarah Oda, Jeff Tweedy of Wilco and others — but hangs together cohesively. It revs up occasionally, as on the gospel-fired "Flame Twin." Usually, "Pick Me Up" is happy to settle into a deeply comfortable, languorous groove that leaves space for ace musicians like drummer Brian Blade to shine.

It really finds itself in a stretch of three thematically linked songs about essential stuff: "This Life," "To Live" and "I'm Alive." In the last one, written with Tweedy, Jones sings about a woman finding her strength. This first captures a common feeling these days: "This is over as we know it," Jones sings, "is over."

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Jimmy Buffett

Life on the Flip Side (Mailboat Records)

Jimmy Buffett's first studio record in seven years arrives with equal parts seduction and absurdity.

Coming just as we crave a margarita in a mason jar, sand in our toes and the salty wind of the ocean, Buffett's beach bum life — often mocked — has never been so aspirational. What we wouldn't do right now to join a goofy conga line.

"Life on the Flip Side" is no departure from what Parrotheads expect — that special Gulf Coast mix of country, pop, folk and rock, topped by Buffett's swaying voice. Few can mix steelpens, trombones and pedal steel guitar so effortlessly.

Though the songs were written before the global pandemic, the album nods to our viral troubles.

"Hopefully, the songs we wrote and recorded, will also help folks deal with the fallout," he writes in the liner notes. "There will be a time and a place when we emerge from these troubled waters and things will change for the better."

Buffett's incredible ear for hooks and light grooves are often overshadowed by his lyrics about fish tacos and sunsets, but don't underestimate his song skills. Many of these tunes are destined to be played two generations from now at sandy beach-side snack bars.

Toward the end of the album, Buffett treads carefully into Tropical House with the superb "Live, Like It's Your Last Day," which has lyrics seemingly fit for this pandemic: "Live like it's your last day / Time just keeps slippin' away." You'll sing along with Buffett — and wish.

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press



Teddy Thompson

Heartbreaker Please (Thirty Tigers)

Teddy Thompson's roots are showing, and that's not new.

The New York-based singer-songwriter is the son of British folk-rock royalty but grew up on Sam Cooke, Hank Williams and the Everly Brothers, and he often makes music suitable for a sock hop jukebox.

Such is the case with "Heartbreaker Please," an album of 10 new songs that "want to be oldies. There's even a tune titled 'Record Player'" on which Thompson grooves about the quality of today's pop.

That debate aside, Thompson's retro sound sounds great. "Why Wait" and "It's Not Easy" are the kind of horn-driven fare that has gotten kids dancing since "American Bandstand," and the waltz "Take Me Away" pairs Chris Carmichael's inventive string arrangement with a nifty melodic twist. The title track benefits from the subtle guitar work of Thompson patriarch Richard, who partnered with Teddy's mother, Linda, on some of the best records of the 1970s and is still making great music today.

Credit good genes for Teddy's glorious tenor, and here it's bracing but warm and never shushy. On the ballad "Brand New," he lingers softly on one sad note for four beautiful bars.

Much of the music was inspired by a breakup, but nothing gets too heavy, and the formidable Thompson family wit peeks through. "I'm a metaphor that's reaching," he sings on "No Idea," a great lyric in any era.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press

Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July

By MESSIN FERAUDU

Associated Press

Stressed out while working at a bank in New Zealand, Junelle Kunin began searching for music paired with teachings from the Dalai Lama to calm herself down and allow herself to focus.

She couldn't find it online. That's when the musician and practicing Buddhist proposed an idea to The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama: Let's make an album fusing music with mantras and chants from the Tibetan spiritual leader.

She was politely turned down. But on a trip to India — where Kunin says she typically gets a chance to meet the Dalai Lama — she asked again, this time writing the letter and handing it to one of his assistants.

Five years later, "Inner World" is born. The album featuring teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music will be released July 6, his 85th birthday.

"I'd never heard him speak like this. He really was so excited

... he actually proceeded to explain to me how important music is," Kunin said. "He leaned forward and his eyes were sparkling, and his fingers were rubbing together and he (talked) about how music can help people in a way that he can't; it can transcend differences and return us to our true nature and our good heartedness."

The 11-track project will be released in conjunction with a companion booklet.

On her trip to India in 2015, Kunin wrote down a list of topics and mantras she thought would be great for the album, and recorded the conversations with the Dalai Lama for "Inner World." The religious leader recites the mantras of seven Buddhas on the album, discussing topics like wisdom, courage, healing and children.

When Kunin returned home, her husband, Abraham, who is also a musician and producer, helped her create music and sounds to enhance the Dalai Lama's messages and powerful words.

Kunin said that although they've worked on the album for the past five years, it feels extremely relevant releasing it now.

"The entire purpose of this project is to try to help people. It's not a Buddhist project, it's to help everyday people like myself, even though I am Buddhist," she said. "The messages couldn't be more poignant for our current social climate and needs as humanity."

Net proceeds from the sales of the album will benefit Mind & Life Institute as well as Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning (SEE Learning), an international education program developed by Emory University and the Dalai Lama.

Grammy-nominated sitar player Anoushka Shankar makes a guest appearance on the album, playing on "Ama La," a track honoring mothers. Shankar said being invited to perform on the album was "a huge honor."

She first met The Dalai Lama as a child with her father, the legendary musician Ravi Shankar. For the new album, she said,

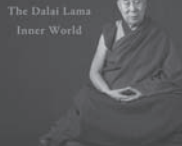
"What I was given was a beautiful template of (the Dalai Lama's) voice speaking ... it was very evocative with his speaking. It's so clear what the mood is about ... that it kind of flowed quite simply to just play along that and try to add a musical enhancement to the words he's speaking."

Dozens of other musicians were invited to help on the project, while Kunin's husband had multiple roles, from playing guitar and percussion to drum and synth programming. Kunin co-produced the album and added vocals to three songs, including "Purification."

She wrote the piano part of that track with her hospitalized mother in mind, growing more nervous as the coronavirus rapidly spread.

"I really thought we were going to lose her. And so I wrote what I would want her to feel and hear at the time of her dying," Kunin said.

Her mother survived, but weeks later Kunin's nephew died. Because of COVID-19



The Dalai Lama
Inner World

"Inner World" features teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music.

restrictions, she and her family couldn't carry out the tradition of sleeping surrounding his body, which would typically lie on a marae for three days. On top of that, her husband was back home finishing the album to make its deadline.

"(My husband) was home weeping at this point, which is when the inspiration came to complete the song 'Purification,'" Kunin said, adding that they dedicated the track to their nephew Izyah Micah Toli. "And he finished it."

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Michael Connelly putting quarantine to good use

‘Lincoln Lawyer’ author on his latest book, how pandemic affects work

By COLETTE BANCROFT
Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times

Michael Connelly is keeping an eye on the 101 freeway from his home in Los Angeles. “I have the same view as Harry Bosch,” says the bestselling crime fiction author of his best-known fictional character. “Not the house in the TV show, with that glittering expanse. Harry Bosch’s house in the books. That’s the view I have, closer to the freeway. So watching the freeway is my way of taking the temperature of Los Angeles. For a while it was empty, but now there are more cars on the road.”

Connelly, 63, splits his time between homes in LA and Tampa, but he hasn’t been back to Florida since March. He talked by phone about his new book, “Fair Warning,” his 35th novel and his third about reporter Jack McEvoy.

Tampa Bay Times: How are you doing sheltering in place?

Connelly: I had just come back on March 8 from Tampa, and a few days later we went to sheltering in place. It’s kind of embarrassing, because a lot of people are dealing with really tough stuff. But writers shelter in place anyway. It’s what I’ve done for most of my adult life, until the “Bosch” TV show kind of pulled me out of that routine.

(His wife) Linda is here. My daughter had gone to a college near Los Angeles. She graduated and got a job, then she was furloughed, so she came home to stay with us. It’s like a throwback to seven years ago, when there was no “Bosch” TV show and my daughter lived with us. I feel like the luckiest guy around. I sort of have survivor’s guilt.

Your new novel, “Fair Warning,” came out May 26. It brings back Jack McEvoy, the reporter who was the main character in “The Poet” (1996) and “The Scarecrow” (2009). What was the starting point for this book?

There were two kind of inspiration



Mark DeLong

Michael Connelly

points or starting points for this novel.

One, a while back I read just a short story about the Pentagon telling military personnel not to provide their DNA to any commercial DNA analysis or heritage firms, because of the security risk of your DNA being out there. In the future that might be how you’re identified, instead of your fingerprints or whatever. That made me delve into the whole issue of DNA privacy.

The other point is that I’ve always used Jack sporadically for my kind of state of the union reports on media. This time it was what’s been happening in our country the last few years with the erosion of trust in the media. I never want to tell people what to think in my books. I don’t want to be didactic. I want to reflect what’s going on in the world. Jack is a tried and true journalist, doing what journalists do: finding the hidden truth and reporting it to the community.

In the first two books, Jack worked for newspapers, the Rocky Mountain News and the Los Angeles Times. This time he’s an investigative reporter for an online consumer watchdog publication called FairWarning. It’s a real site (fairwarning.org), and its real-life executive editor is a character in the novel. Why did you choose that setting?

I’m actually on the board of directors.

The founding father, executive editor, the jack of all trades at FairWarning is Myron Levin. I worked with him for years at the LA Times, and I also played poker at his house every Thursday for years. He took a buyout from the Times and used it to start FairWarning.

He was a consumer reporter, and a good one. There is this story about him getting sued by a guy who claimed (Levin’s) story about him was so wrong and caused him so much stress that he was “bleeding from the seat.”

Amazon TV announced recently that there would be a seventh season for “Bosch,” but that would be the last in the series. Where does it stand?

Like everyone here, we’re waiting for the word to return to normal, whatever that is. The writing is going forward. Our production usually begins in August, or the last Friday in July. This year it probably won’t start until September, and if we can start then, of course, we’ll observe all the protocols of safety. If we can start then I don’t think we’ll miss the April window (for the series to drop).

Will the pandemic have any effect on the story?

Before anything happened, we had started writing the show. It’s set starting on New Year’s Eve 2019 into 2020, so that’s pre-pandemic. But I’ve been doing research and there was a first report (about the virus) on Jan. 7. So we’ll be dropping in hints, the idea that there’s a coming pandemic.

How do you feel about the series ending?

I feel good and bad about it. It’s become a family, because we shoot in LA. People in the industry don’t necessarily love going somewhere else to work. So it’s been pretty stable. I’d say only about 10% turnover. It’s a good family on both sides of the camera. So losing that is going to be bittersweet.

On a creative level, I’m all right with it. I’ve got knowing we could write to an ending. I never thought it would last so long, so seven seasons with a completeness is a good thing.

I’m not finished with Harry Bosch as a writer, so it will be a little weird to end it on a TV level. I think we’ll hear from Harry Bosch next year in a book.

Your next book, coming in November, is another in the Lincoln Lawyer

series about Mickey Haller. What’s the status of the TV series based on that character, run by David E. Kelley and announced as a CBS show?

It got whacked. That’s directly related to the virus. We were two days away from starting to film (when CBS announced it was dropping the show). We had a cast, sets, scripts, everything.

It was quite a shock, and it was a pretty expensive decision, as well as disappointing. But we’re actively hoping to find a new home for the show. It’s ready to go. It’s a good package. It has built-in IP, as they say in Hollywood — intellectual property, with the books, the Matthew McConaughey movie (“The Lincoln Lawyer”).

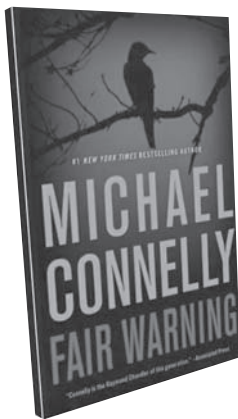
I’m still writing the book. It’s called “The Law of Innocence.” I don’t know the end to this one. My books are all set in the year I write them. This is about a murder case that comes to trial in April. Well, in April there were no trials. I had to figure out what to do. For three or four weeks, I didn’t write anything. That’s the longest I’ve gone without writing since I left the University of Florida (in 1980). It was just this malaise. Then I moved the story back to January and February, and I’m seeing in early reports of the pandemic. But I lost a month, a bad thing to do in a two-book year.

Any plans for a second season of your “Murder Book” podcast?

That’s one of the things the virus has not impacted. For the first season I had to go to a recording studio for each episode, and I wanted to get rid of that time suck. So in a closet in my garage here I put in a soundproof recording studio. I don’t have to leave the house or put on a mask or anything.

I have six episodes done, so it will be out this summer. This one is called “Killer on the Road.” It’s about (LA Police Department Detective) Mitzi Roberts, who is the inspiration for (his fictional character) Renee Ballard, about one of her cases. She caught this guy in 2012 for three murders in LA; it took her three years.

The guy is Sam Little. Now he’s known as the most prolific serial killer ever. There have been TV shows, 60 Minutes covered him. But they never mentioned who caught him. So the podcast is about Mitzi’s experiences tracking him, catching him, and the challenge of convicting him.



‘Fair Warning’ should please fans as it fits well in writer’s oeuvre

By OLIVE H. CODDILL
Sun-Sentinel

Throughout his outstanding thrillers, Michael Connelly has expertly weaved contemporary issues into solid plots, usually with his perennial police detective Harry Bosch at the helm.

Connelly also has achieved this in his novels about journalist Jack McEvoy, who makes his third most welcome appearance in the intriguing “Fair Warning.” In their own way, the McEvoy novels have tracked the state of journalism while showing why the profession and its ethics matter. “The Poet,” McEvoy’s first appearance in 1996, showed a fairly robust media while “The Scarecrow,” published in 2009, gave a glimpse at how newspaper struggles affected the industry, staffers and readers. Now “Fair Warning” explores how online news sites are serving a niche for journalists and readers.

The one-word site FairWarning focuses on consumer fraud, often partnering with

major newspapers for major stories. The work suits McEvoy’s need to continue to write stories that make a difference and to hone his craft while taking him away from the world of violent crime, his former beat.

Operating on a shoestring while constantly seeking donors, FairWarning also mirrors McEvoy’s current path. Once at the top of his profession with a bestselling true crime book, McEvoy, now in his 50s, has had to downsize. Royalty checks have gotten smaller and the website work, however satisfying, doesn’t pay well.

McEvoy is pulled back into crime reporting when a woman with whom he had a one-night stand more than a year ago is murdered by “internal decapitation.” Although the police consider him a “person of interest,” McEvoy follows his journalism instinct and begins looking into a story about cyberstalking because the woman told a friend she was being followed online. But McEvoy’s research leads him to another story involving the dark web, a black market for DNA and a serial killer.

The story also puts McEvoy back in contact with former FBI agent — and one-time girlfriend — Rachel Walling.

The briskly paced “Fair Warning” spins on its realistic look at journalism as Connelly, who worked as a reporter at the Sun-Sentinel and Los Angeles Times, makes the minutia of reporting exciting. Connelly is careful not to glorify reporting — as if anyone still believes it is a glamorous profession — but shows that good journalism is based on ethics and getting details right.

Connelly also illustrates the energizing “addictive momentum” that a journalist often feels when a story that can right a wrong comes together. Adding to the realism, FairWarning is a real news site based in Los Angeles offering tough watchdog reporting, and Connelly is a member of the nonprofit’s board.

Harry Bosch — and his new partner, Det. Renee Ballard — are again referenced in “Fair Warning.” They will return, though not with their own story this year.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Portrait of a Lady on Fire”: A painter, Marianne (Noémie Merlant), travels through choppy waters when she is commissioned to do a portrait of the mysterious Heloise (Adele Haenel).

Heloise’s mother (Valeria Golino) reveals that Heloise wore out the previous artist by refusing to pose for said portrait.

Since the artwork is supposed to be sent to Heloise’s wealthy suitor in Milan, whom she absolutely doesn’t want to marry, it’s her one form of feasible protest. Instead, Marianne must masquerade as a walking partner for Heloise, who’s been kept in her room following her sister’s death. But that’s just one secret in this beautiful, tragic love story. Longing glances and extended silences may as well be supporting characters as the two women fall for each other, while they help a maid, Sophie (Luana Bajrami), with a secret of her own, and dread the clock ticking toward the end of their time together.

Director Celine Sciamma’s sparse but pointed script elevates the tension and desire brought on by Merlant’s and Haenel’s magnificent performances, with imagery mirroring a retelling of Orpheus’ inability to not look back at his newly deceased bride, Eurydice, while attempting to rescue her from the underworld. Alas, for these women, the patriarchy of late 18th century France is an underworld of its own.

Also available on DVD:
“Burden”: An optimistic black preacher (Forest Whitaker) faces community backlash after offering to take in a man (Garrett Hedlund) raised by Klu Klux Klan members.

“Corpus Christi”: An ex-convict (Bartosz Bielenia) masquerades as a priest after being denied admission to the seminary. In Polish and French.

“Couple Trouble”: This Danish series follows a couple’s travels through backroads in counseling. Stars Ditte Ylva Olsen, Esben Dalgaard Andersen and Rasmus Bjerg. In Danish.

“Inheritance”: A family receives a surprise inheritance that brings them more harm than good. Stars Lily Collins, Simon Pegg, Connie Nielsen, Grace Crawford and Patrick Warburton.

“The Legion”: Two Roman legions struggle to survive. Mickey Rourke stars.

“Pennynorth: The Complete First Season”: Epic series follows the beloved butler (Jack Bannon) of the Wayne family before Bruce’s birth.

“South Park: The Complete Twenty-Third Season”: The raunchy animated series created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone continues.

“Stuck with You”: A celebrity couple privately splits up while maintaining the appearance of a marriage for the brand in this series. Stars Tammy Townsend, Timoteo Durrett and Monti Washington.

— Katie Foran-McHale/TNS



AP; Lifetime

Reality TV stars such as Stassi Schroeder, left, and Kristen Doute, who starred on Bravo’s “Vanderpump Rules,” and Abby Lee Miller of Lifetime’s “Dance Moms,” are facing repercussions for comments they’ve made in the past about race.

Unscripted, uncalled for

Reality TV stars are feeling heat for their controversial, off-camera remarks

EMILY YAHY

The Washington Post

In April 2018, Bravo’s “Vanderpump Rules” star Stassi Schroeder went on a podcast and told a story about how she and her co-star, Kristen Doute, called the police when they thought a photo of an alleged robber in a Daily Mail article looked just like their former cast member, Faith Stowers.

The woman in the Daily Mail photo was not, in fact, Stowers — the only thing they had in common is they were both black. Still, at the time, Doute also tweeted her suspicions with a link to another article from the Los Angeles NBC station.

“I didn’t wanna go there but I’m going there,” she wrote.

While this did not strike Schroeder or Doute as particularly problematic two years ago, they learned their lesson June 9 when Bravo fired them both a week after Stowers shared this anecdote in an Instagram Live chat. In addition, the network confirmed that “Vanderpump” cast members Max Boyens and Brett Caproni, who both apologized in January for past racist tweets, will not be returning to the show, which concluded its eighth season stateside last week.

Racist behavior from reality TV stars has gone on for years, and viewers have frequently rallied against it online. Executives and producers typically do nothing: After all, they cast outrageous personalities who say outrageous things, which translates to attention and ratings. Sometimes, these controversies lead to a tearful apology, or a denial, or an attempt at a teachable moment. But given the current reckoning over racism and police brutality, with protests across the world to support the Black Lives Matter movement, networks are realizing they can no longer just hope the social media backlash blows over. There must be consequences.

In addition to Bravo, Lifetime, two weeks ago, pulled the plug on dance teacher Abby Lee Miller’s “Dance Moms” spinoff after students’ parents detailed Miller’s past

alleged racist comments. MTV fired “The Challenge” star Dee Nguyen over “offensive” social media posts about the Black Lives Matter movement. In some cases, stars themselves reached their breaking point: Rachel Lindsay, the only black lead in “Bachelor” franchise history and co-host of the show’s official podcast, said June 9 that she will cut ties with the series if producers don’t make serious changes to address the long-running lack of diversity and racist behavior from contestants. Perhaps they were listening: on June 12, the franchise named Matt James its first black Bachelor for its next season, which will air in 2021.

As for “Vanderpump Rules,” an extremely popular Bravo series that follows the drama among staff at former “Real Housewives” star Lisa Vanderpump’s Los Angeles restaurants, fans were stunned that the network took action. Schroeder, the show’s biggest breakout star with a bestselling book and hit podcast, has made plenty of offensive statements in the past: calling an outfit “Nazi chic”; sighing that she was over “everyone making everything about race” in regards to the #OscarsSoWhite campaign; saying that women who revealed stories of sexual harassment wanted to be part of the “hashtag Me Too trend.” After the latter, multiple sponsors severed partnerships with her podcast. Now, Schroeder has been dropped by her talent agency and PR firm, and lost her gig as a columnist at Glamour. Doute, who just released a book, is no longer represented by her literary agency.

Schroeder and Doute’s call to the police was only re-shared recently because, as Stower explained during a chat on Instagram with MTV star Candice Rice, she started getting messages from people who noticed “Vanderpump Rules” cast members were posting about Black Lives Matter.

“I know some of them, and I know they definitely don’t care about black people like that,” Stowers said.

Stowers said she experienced repeated bullying from the “Vanderpump” cast, including her hair being called “nappy,” after she was involved in an incident with their

friend. (Though she didn’t elaborate, Season 6 focused on Stowers and Jax Taylor, with whom she had an affair while Taylor was engaged to another cast member. Stowers pointed out it was strange that they were upset with her and not Taylor, a known serial cheater.)

Stowers first heard that Schroeder and Doute reported her to the police when Schroeder appeared on a now-deleted episode of the podcast “B— Bible” and told the story about the photo in the news article.

When Stowers’ comments blew up online, Schroeder and Doute released lengthy apologies on Instagram.

Schroeder: “What I did to Faith was wrong. I apologize and I do not expect forgiveness.”

Doute: “Although my actions were not racially driven, I am now completely aware of how my privilege blinded me from the reality of law enforcement’s treatment of the black community, and how dangerous my actions would have been to her.”

Miller, the controversial dance instructor on “Dance Moms,” was also called out for hypocrisy after she posted a black square for #BlackoutTuesday, a music industry campaign to support black artists. Adriana Smith, whose 7-year-old daughter Kamryn appeared on Season 8, responded with a statement that started with the hashtag “#Don’tActLikeYouCare.”

“People need to be held accountable not just for the injustices but also for being a closet racist,” she wrote. She said that Miller once compared her growing up in “the country club” to Adriana growing up “in the hood,” and that Kamryn overheard someone say “they need a sprinkle of color.” In an Instagram statement, Miller apologized: “I realize that racism can come not just from hate, but also from ignorance. No matter the cause, it is harmful, and it is my fault.”

On June 5, Entertainment Weekly reported that Miller will no longer appear on “Dance Moms” if it’s renewed for another season, and a planned spinoff (“Abby’s Virtual Dance Off”) is canceled.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

By JOHN BRILEY

Special to The Washington Post

Pandemic life has a way of revealing our weaknesses. For those of us of a certain age, I mean that literally. If you are feeling like certain household activities — toting groceries, hoisting children, moving furniture, carrying laundry — are more difficult than they were in the past, you aren't alone. And you aren't imagining it.

This isn't a new phenomenon; it just wasn't until the 1800s that many of us lived long enough to experience this decline. For me, it started a few years ago, when I noticed that lifting an air conditioner, carrying a child up to bed or bringing in a load of firewood seemed harder than they once did. I summoned excuses for each difficulty ("Damned kid gained 20 pounds today!"), but now, at age 54, I'm ready to concede: I simply can't lift as much as I once could.

Starting sometime in our 30s (the data aren't precise), we lose up to 8% of our muscle mass per decade, a decline called sarcopenia, along with up to 30% of our strength and power. This leaves us weaker, less mobile and — especially after we cross age 50 — more vulnerable to injury from falls and similar accidents.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Men and women can regain some of that lost muscle mass and, importantly, stay strong enough to enjoy youthful activities well into their winter years, experts say. The key is strength training.

"I have people who start in their 60s, 70s and even 80s," says Jordan Metzl, a sports medicine physician at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. "Building and maintaining strength is one of the most important things you can do at any stage of life, and it's extremely important after age 50."

Why? Strength training improves your "economy of movement," Metzl says, meaning the amount of energy you expend to complete a task, and it "offloads joints, so you can do the same amount of work with less pain and lower risk of injury. You're essentially getting more juice out of your muscles." Metzl is personally vested in this quest: He has run 35 marathons, competed in Iron Man triathlons and says he aspires, even as he approaches his mid-50s, "to keep going forever."

But what if your marathons are dreamed in Netflix episodes or you just need to jump-start an engine that's been accumulating rust for years? Again, you're not alone, says Dixie Stanford, associate professor of instruction in the University of Texas at Austin's Department of Kinesiology and Health Education.

"Most people are professional sitters," she says. As a result, many muscles in the front of our bodies — namely our hip flexors and chest muscles — become short and tight. That shuts off signals to their corresponding anterior muscles — the glutes and upper back — to keep working, so those areas become weak



iStock

Just a lift away

Strength training can help mature adults regain muscle mass, mobility and power

and inhibited. All the sitting we're doing at home could be making things worse.

The first thing to do if you're starting or resuming strength training, says Stanforth, a 60-year-old personal trainer and "avid athlete," is to target major muscle groups, especially the glutes and back.

"Glutes are tremendously important, because they activate the 'rear chain' of the body and can produce a lot of power for movement," Stanforth says. Rear chain muscles are critical for posture, balance, running, jumping and — yes — lifting heavy things. To strengthen those muscles, Stanforth says squats, rows and leg presses are all good, because they engage the core and require movement in multiple joints.

She advises strengthening

front-facing muscles (chest, abs, biceps and quadriceps, for example), but also devoting extra time to stretching them because of how tight they become in our daily, deskbound lives.

"Many people might consider a 1:2 ratio of exercises" — that is, double your strengthening time for rear-chain muscles — "but all of the major muscles [including biceps, calves and triceps] should be trained," she said.

And, before you even ask: Just as about every exercise you can do in a gym, you can do at home — albeit with some modification. Homebound strength exercises that don't require equipment include squats (with or without weight), chair dips, pushups, pullups, planks, lunges, burpees and step-ups. If you have canned goods or empty milk or drink containers (a gallon of water

weighs approximately eight pounds), you can use them for strength training.

Both Stanforth and Metzl recommend building muscle by performing a high number of reps of a lighter weight — i.e., one you can lift at least 15 times before failure, the fitness term for can't ... do ... one ... more.

Data show that straining to perform fewer repetitions of much heavier weights greatly increases the risk of injuries to cartilage, tendons and ligaments, without offering much benefit over lighter weights. A 2017 meta-analysis of 21 studies, published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*, found that people who engaged in strength training regimens for at least six weeks, performing exercises to failure, showed similar muscle cell growth regardless of

whether they did high reps of low weights or fewer reps of heavy weights.

"Fatigue is fatigue no matter how you get there," Stanforth says. "I recommend [sets of] a significant number of reps — 15, 20, 30 — and you'll see all the gains that you would with heavier weights."

Encouragingly, studies also show that you'll reap most of the gains from just one set of each exercise, so you can safely skip the oft-recommended second and third sets.

As for how often to train, the weekly guidelines for generally healthy people age 50 and older aren't any different from those for other demographics: Strength train two to three days, engage in aerobic activity at least five days at moderate intensity, or at least three days a week at high intensity, and perform a stretching routine at least two days a week.

Metzl takes this up a notch by incorporating high-intensity interval training, or HIIT — short, punishing bursts of activity usually lasting 30 to 90 seconds with recovery breaks in between.

"I do HIIT with people in their 70s and 80s," he told me. "We all change over the decades, but I don't want people to be afraid of intensity."

In fact, Metzl says, we should be increasing intensity as we age to "better stimulate all the cells in our bodies." He cited a 2017 study published in the *Journal of Cell Metabolism* that showed that high-intensity training significantly improved how the body converts macronutrients into energy. But, he said: "For some people, a sprint is intense. For others, it's walking up the stairs."

For those who can perform them, Metzl suggests burpees, jump squats and lunges, which he says deliver full-body functional training: "Burpees utilize every muscle in your body. They're high intensity and tremendously effective." And, Metzl says, you'll still reap a benefit from burpees if you opt to step — not jump — your feet back when dropping into the push-up position at the nadir of the exercise.

Stuart Phillips, director of the Physical Activity Center of Excellence at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, says that older people who regularly strength train can expect to see significant gains in strength and power, but not necessarily muscle mass. Still, the benefits of a training regimen — and the extended period of physical independence that comes with them — are enough to motivate us all, he adds.

"It's about quality of life, and that's not a function of muscle mass, but of strength/power," he said.

And, as Stanforth says, "exercise is better than any drug" in sustaining bone and countering the increase of osteoporosis that comes with age.

"It helps tremendously. But we do have to be smarter about how we apply the dose as we age," he said.

So, do it right, and we'll feel stronger, and smarter for it, every day — and have one less thing to worry about.

WEEKEND: FAMILY

COVID-19 complications

Isolation, mental struggles can be extra hard for new black moms

By KELLY GLASS

Special to The Washington Post

Asia Davis welcomed home her now two-month-old baby at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. From the start, things didn't go as planned. Davis was diagnosed with gestational diabetes, which black women are at a 63% higher risk of, and was required to get regular non-stress tests to monitor the health of her baby. Two weeks before her due date, her midwife explained the results of her recent non-stress test were "off," and she needed to give birth right then.

"I cried and I begged to go home and get my stuff," says Davis. "I had a birth plan. I wanted to labor at home before coming to the hospital, but now that wasn't going to happen."

A maternal-fetal specialist sent her immediately to labor and delivery, where a series of unexpected events continued. Davis' baby's heart rate was too high, and doctors and nurses rushed to get him out. He was fine after a frightening birth: When her son finally made his grand entrance, his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck and body. "He wasn't moving," Davis said. "It was really scary, especially with nobody telling me anything."

No visitors were allowed at the hospital where she gave birth, in Cleveland, Ohio's COVID-19 epicenter, on March 26. So although her partner was with her for the birth, her mother and family weren't able to visit for the three days she was there.

The postpartum period has been equally as isolated. Davis was diagnosed with postpartum depression, and with a lack of physical connection and a present support system because

of social distancing guidelines, she's struggling. Her partner, she says, is depressed too, so most of the child care burden falls on her. "I'm doing this alone, and it's just too much. I need help." On top of that, Davis is facing going back to work and finding childcare during a pandemic, which adds another huge worry.

According to a recently released report by Aeroflow Healthcare, 56% of new moms said they had family and friends stay with them to help out. Still, 48% said they struggled with postpartum depression and 39% with social support isolation. Postpartum depression, a serious mood disorder, affects 1 in 7 women and can last for months if left untreated, according to the American Psychological Association. Other postpartum mood disorders, namely postpartum post-traumatic stress disorder (PP-PTSD), can occur when childbirth is stressful and traumatic. To add to that, according to a 2018 study in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, low social support is a significant risk factor for PP-PTSD. And those findings came during what now seems like a faraway time when baby showers, hospital visitors and family coming over was the norm. Now, moms not only face postpartum depression and stressful birth experiences like Davis', but are even more isolated than before—and the effects are yet unseen.

Reena Pande, chief medical officer for mental-health app AbleTo, says we have the perfect makings of a postpartum mental health crisis. "We've seen phased approaches

for a return to normal, but none of them include steps to ensure mental health is on the upswing," says Pande. "This is a huge problem."

And it's a problem that could disproportionately affect black women.

"There are differing levels of maternal mortality and morbidity in racial and ethnic groups, and I worry that disparity will widen in the midst of this pandemic," she says. Black women specifically, who are already at greater risk of postpartum depression, are also at higher risk for childbirth complications, premature birth, and death during and after childbirth. The very real fears black women have about giving birth are only compounded by the coronavirus pandemic, and the fact that COVID-19 is yet another thing black people are at higher risk of dying from than other racial and ethnic groups.

Pande says there needs to be a coordinated effort on behalf of medical care workers to reach out proactively to women after childbirth. "We need to be thinking proactively about how to support new moms of all races and ethnicities, and especially those that are at greater risk," says Pande.

Telehealth can help bridge gaps in access, eliminate child care concerns, and help reduce stigma for women concerned about going to mental health appointments even after the pandemic is over. "Telehealth is actually a wonderful opportunity to get more mental health services to all the patients who need it and will need it as this pandemic progresses and the mental health effects of it continue to develop," she says. "Mental health is one that absolutely can be delivered that way with great success."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Beach socialization was once a shoo-in

"Mom, how did you meet people your age during your family vacation?" my 22-year-old daughter Anna asked a couple of weeks ago, during the 13-hour car ride to our North Carolina beach cottage. We would be picking up Anna's college roommate on the way. Clearly, the girls were weighing their vacation social options.

I dug deep into my faded memory bank. There were a few beach stories I would NOT tell her, however, I had plenty of relatively innocent experiences in my youth that were worth recounting. The beach cottage had been in my extended family since 1979, when it was outfitted with groovy gold shag carpeting, matching plaid *This End Up* furniture and a circular red painted fireplace. That house was where I spent all my childhood family vacations, where I met my husband, and where we've taken our own family vacation every summer.

Three lots away was the Atlantic Ocean—sea oats, golden sand and green-blue water stretching for miles along the narrow, hurricane-battered barrier reef that runs from the Virginia border south to Duck, Nags Head, Hatteras, Ocracoke, Cape Lookout and Emerald Isle.

When adolescence descended and my social life became paramount, I kept a vigil from my beach towel or walked the shoreline, scanning the clusters of umbrellas and chairs for boys and girls my age.

Considering the only telephone I had access to was attached to the wood-paneled wall of our beach house or two miles down the road in a phone booth, my only means of communicating was face-to-face interaction. After scanning the beach all day, adolescents, teens and young lifeguards would eventually approach each other, introduce themselves, and exchange any information about meetups happening that night.

It was all I could do to get through dinner with my parents at the beach house. The thought of meeting up with other kids my age was so exciting. While I teased my bangs and frosted my lips after dinner, I would wonder, "Would I make new girlfriends to body surf with? Would I make an idiot out of myself at a volleyball game? Would I find summer love?"

One summer night after word of a bonfire had been circulated, I scurried out of the house barefoot after dinner. I was wearing a cropped white T-shirt and a long pastel pink surfer skirt. Sporting a golden tan, I swished my long sandy blonde hair as I strutted the path to the beach. From the sea ot dotted walkover, I saw the bonfire down the beach, glowing in the dusky night. I carried on toward the silhouettes of teenagers against the flames, feeling pretty, confident, full of hope for a fun night.

About five strides later, it happened. Today, bonfires aren't the only things prohibited on the beach. Dogs are no longer allowed either. But back then, one had to be careful where one stepped. Especially while barefoot.

The foul substance oozed between my toes like *Play-Doh* through a Fun Factory squeeze machine. My mind raced with the potential humiliation I might suffer. But I just had to get to that fire. Missing the event meant social disaster, or worse, summer vacation mediocrity.

I plastered a confident frosted grin to my perfect '80s beach ensemble, and continued my stride. But at the last minute, I diverted to the surf, shouting playfully, "I just wanna see if the water's warm enough for a midnight swim!" In darkness at the ocean's edge, I plunged my fouled foot into the wet sand, scraping it furiously back and forth to remove the humiliating remnants.

Not only did I attend that bonfire, I also miraculously escaped hook worm, and had a most awesome summer vacation.

Recounting these stories to my daughter and her college roommate, we realized that it's harder for kids today to meet peers on vacation. Smartphones and social media have made spontaneous in-person interactions obsolete.

"It may seem old fashioned, but try meeting other young people face-to-face while we're at the beach," I advised. "But whatever you do, wear shoes."

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com



WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

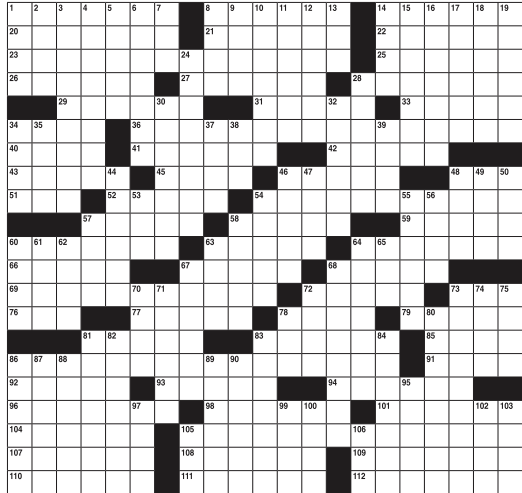
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SURPLUS STORE

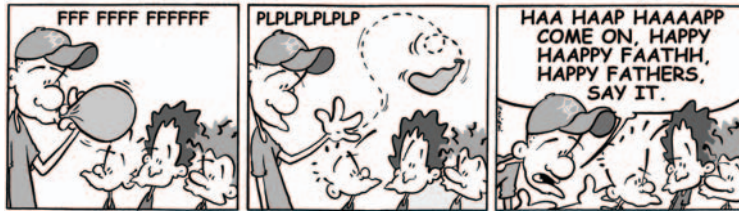
BY ANDY KRAVIS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Andy Kravis, of Brooklyn, joined The Times as an associate puzzle editor in April. A 2013 graduate of Columbia Law School, he previously worked as a Transgender Rights Project Legal Fellow for the L.G.B.T. rights organization Lambda Legal before turning to puzzles full time. In addition to the theme, Andy tried to include as many fresh answers in the grid as possible — including 1A, 104A, 4D and 82D, none of which have appeared in a Times crossword before. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sadistic feline character in a Scott Adams strip
- 8 Out
- 14 Concern for a PR team
- 20 Trembling
- 21 Land, as a fish
- 22 The Red Baron, for one
- 23 "The operation was a success!" e.g.?
- 25 Unimportant-sounding dessert
- 26 Novelist/poet Cisneros
- 27 Posthumous award?
- 28 Cause of death in many a murder mystery
- 29 Lampoon
- 31 Kidney-related
- 33 Montana, in the 1980s
- 34 "Let's go going!"
- 36 People who start arguments out of nowhere?
- 40 Metal in galvanization
- 41 Comes after
- 42 Embedded design
- 43 Stud fees?
- 45 Lighthearted movie
- 46 Painter Velázquez
- 48 Network that once advertised its prime-time block as "Must See TV"
- 51 Bygone car company that bore its founder's initials
- 52 City with views of the Mediterranean and Mount Carmel
- 54 Officers who woke up on the wrong side of the cot?
- 57 No longer plagued by
- 58 The "R" of the Bay Area's BART
- 59 Material for some suits
- 60 One who's unfaithful?
- 63 They're written in chess notation
- 64 Loose and flowing, as a dress
- 66 Unit of stamps
- 67 Felt bad
- 68 What's the holdup?
- 69 Soirees where people are dressed in their finest board shorts?
- 72 "Holy guacamole!"
- 73 Response to a breach of movie-theater etiquette
- 76 Airport monitor, for short
- 77 Supports
- 78 Island whose name rhymes with 72-Across
- 79 Chef's topper
- 81 ___ kebab
- 83 Tailors' measurements
- 85 Be awesome
- 86 Got 101 percent on an exam, say?
- 91 "Don't touch that ___!"
- 92 Really bothered
- 93 Snoutworm Kitty known as "the fastest woman in the world"
- 94 One of a pair on the table
- 96 Hotheaded ones?
- 98 Site of a noted oracle
- 101 How a tandem bicycle is built
- 104 "Well, all right then"
- 105 Why someone might practice deep breathing every five minutes?
- 107 ___ Mae
- 108 Multiparagraph blog comment, maybe
- 109 Nit pick?
- 110 Celsius with a namesake temperature scale
- 111 Kni pick?
- 112 Intrigued by
- DOWN**
- 1 Mamma ___
- 2 Shade similar to turquoise
- 3 Makes aware of
- 4 March Madness' journey, with "the"
- 5 Flip inside out
- 6 Put a bluffer in a tough spot
- 7 Give a whirl
- 8 Son of 62-Down
- 9 Muppet who sings "I Refuse to Sing Along"
- 10 Humorist David
- 11 One-percenter and the like
- 12 ___ Creed
- 13 Demolition material
- 14 Like some granola bars
- 15 Amazon predator
- 16 Dublin alma mater of Oscar Wilde
- 17 "Don't worry, that only looked painful!"
- 18 Early acceptor of mobile payments?
- 19 Haughty looks
- 24 Doesn't go straight
- 28 Requiring a lot of attention, say
- 30 Go on a rampage
- 32 Off the beaten path
- 34 Industry magnate
- 35 "Hands off!"
- 37 Adidas competitor
- 38 A.O.C., e.g.
- 39 Grab (onto)?
- 44 Any member of the Twelve branch of Islam
- 46 Hornswoggled
- 47 Author Murdoch played onscreen by Kate Winslet and Judi Dench
- 48 Faux pas
- 49 Begin to develop
- 50 Quartet that performed at Woodstock, for short
- 53 Revenue sources for podcasts
- 54 Squirrels away
- 55 "Good to go!"
- 56 Stand up at the altar
- 57 Biodiverse habitat
- 58 Gets going, so to speak
- 60 Abbr. that begins some entry-level job titles
- 61 Start of a conclusion
- 62 Goddess who cursed Echo to just repeat the words of others
- 63 Ingredient that turns a Black Russian into a White Russian
- 64 Entrance
- 65 Roman triumvirate?
- 67 German city where Charlemagne was buried
- 68 Do a favor for a vacationing friend, maybe
- 70 Four for a grand slam, briefly
- 71 They often end on a low note
- 72 Many a Dickensian child
- 73 Water heater?
- 74 Polynesian performance
- 75 Last-eaten part of a loaf, often
- 78 Women's History Month: Abbr.
- 80 "Supplies are limited!"
- 81 Paste used for home repairs
- 82 Frequent result of wearing a bike helmet
- 83 Getting three square meals a day
- 84 Office worker
- 86 Appetizer often served with mint chutney
- 87 Pioneer Day celebrant
- 88 Like urban legends, again and again
- 89 Figure out
- 90 Only state capital that shares no letters with the name of its state
- 95 Animal whose genus name, Phascoglossus, means "pouch bear"
- 97 What contacts contact
- 99 Zest
- 100 Cacher for one who's been in Benin to go to Togo
- 102 Directive
- 103 Popular name for a black-and-white pet
- 105 W-2 ID
- 106 "How ___!"

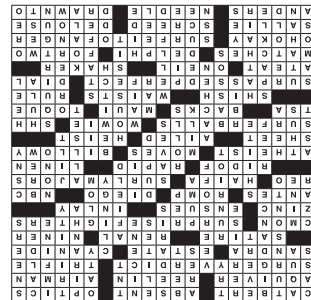


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FACES

Making it on her own

Maude Apatow is ready to move out of her parents' shadow, into the spotlight

By AMY KAUFMAN
Los Angeles Times

Just before the coronavirus became a global pandemic, Maude Apatow was planning on finally moving out of her parents' house. She'd found a few apartments that piqued her interest and scheduled times to tour them. But when the city went on lockdown, she put her plans on hold, instead hunkering down in Brentwood, Calif., with her mom, dad and 17-year-old sister.

"It's been fun, I guess — there are definitely ups and downs," said Apatow, 22, with a telling smile. She had retreated to her mother's office to conduct a Zoom interview, one of the few spots in the house where she doesn't worry that "someone will start screaming in the background or embarrass me."

It was during quarantine that the actress and her dad, director Judd Apatow, began discussing the possibility of debuting his new movie via on-demand instead of postponing its theatrical release. The film, "The King of Staten Island," stars "SNL" comedian Pete Davidson as a wannabe tattoo artist struggling to find his purpose after the death of his father. Maude has a supporting role, playing Davidson's sister — the younger-but-more-mature sibling who leaves for college while her brother is still living at home.

"When my dad first told me about the release plans, there was an option to wait a year, like so many movies that have been pushed," she recalled. "And we were like, 'I feel like a lot of people might watch it right now because everyone has already gone through so much content.' I'm sad about not seeing it with an audience, but it might be a good time for it, fingers crossed."

Dressed in a BTS sweatshirt she bought at one of the K-pop band's concerts, Apatow spoke to *The Times* in mid-May about her new movie, her roles in the television series "Hollywood" and "Euphoria" and making a name for herself.

Los Angeles Times: You acted in some of your dad's movies when you were a kid. How did he bring up the idea of you appearing in "Staten Island"?

Apatow: It was pretty close to when we were about to shoot. Pete had said something about it, and I don't think my dad was super open to the idea at first. I was hesitant. But I read it with Pete and it ended up making sense. I've known Pete for a long time and I feel like I care about him, so having a relationship made it easier to play it with him.

Were you concerned about the perception of you getting the role only because he was your dad?



CAROLYN COLE/Los Angeles Times

Actress Maude Apatow stars in "The King of Staten Island" and the Netflix show "Hollywood." Apatow, the 22-year-old daughter of director Judd Apatow and actress Leslie Mann, wants to prove she is ready to make a name for herself without the help of her parents.

I definitely thought about that before doing this movie. Obviously, I've acted in so many of my parents' movies, and people are going to say it's nepotism. I mean, it's not even an insult — well, it is an insult, but it is what it is. But because I'd just done "Euphoria" and I was starting to do other projects showing I was capable of doing work without their help, I was apprehensive about it. But then I thought, "I haven't worked with my dad since I was 12," and I really look up to him as a mentor figure in my life. I want to be a director someday, and getting to watch my dad do what he does is very important to me. I don't know when I'm ever going to do this again and it just felt like, "Why would I not do it?" I'm gonna spend my whole life trying to prove myself as an individual, and that's a chip on my shoulder. It's really important to me to show that I work really hard, because I do. I want to be an individual.

How different was it working with him when you were 12 versus in your 20s?

I acted when I was a kid, but not really, because I was so young. My dad said this the other day: "It was almost like a simulation of our real life." We were doing what we did normally at breakfast or whatever. And now I would never say this to him, because it's cringy to say it to

my dad — but I wanted to do a good job for him, and his opinion of me as an actor is probably the most important to me. But my dad also makes self tapes with me and knows how to make me be a better actor.

Does he read lines with you during those auditions?

Yes. I have to stop doing self tapes with him, though. We did a self tape for "The Beach Bum" with Matthew McConaughey, and my dad overacts, out of an impression of Matthew McConaughey. And I was like, "This is terrible."

You've said that part of what appealed to you about doing "Euphoria" was the way the show represented obsessive compulsive disorder. What has your experience been with anxiety?

Even though it makes work a lot more challenging sometimes for me, I really do everything I can to not let it get in the way. Even this interview, I'm in a full-blown panic the entire time. I get very flustered when I'm put on the spot or have to talk for a long time. I had really bad OCD in middle and high school. I've gone to OCD treatment. My parents were very supportive of me getting help and reading books about it and learning about mental health at a young age, and I think that was a big advantage for me. Obviously, I'm not done

learning and it's still a problem. But I think I've gotten to a place where I'm able to be more productive. But seeing "Euphoria" and having them talk about OCD and that pressure — I'd never seen it in a show where it felt so real and I felt so connected to it.

Now that you've had three major projects come out in the span of a year, do you feel like you're on your way to establishing yourself outside of your parents? (Apatow's mother is the actress Leslie Mann.)

I'm always thinking I need to keep going. I don't know how to say this without sounding emo, but I'm pretty hard on myself. I should stop and be happy sometimes, but I'm very "onto the next" mindset. I look up to Lena Dunham and Phoebe Waller-Bridge because they act, write and direct. I also think of Emma Stone as someone I look up to — doing comedies and then super dramatic roles. I saw her in "Cabrera" in New York. To see that she can do all of that is really cool to me. And my dad has always been really encouraging of writing for myself. He'll give me writing advice, even though I don't always take it. He gives really good advice, even though I don't like to tell him that. I instinctually have to be like, "I don't agree with that," but he's right, most of the time.

2 Garrison Keillor books set for release

Garrison Keillor will have two books out this fall — a novel and a memoir — marking his first releases since sexual harassment allegations were made against the author and humorist three years ago.

Arcade Publishing announced Thursday that Keillor's "The Lake Wobegon Virus," which continues his popular "Lake Wobegon" series and ties it to the current pandemic, is coming Sept. 8. Two months later, Arcade will release "That Time of Year," a reflection on his childhood and "a good life, including mistakes, regrets, and a few medical adventures."

In his memoir, the 77-year-old Keillor will address the harassment allegations, which led to his being dropped by Minnesota Public Radio and The Washington Post. Keillor was long known for his wry depictions of small-town life in his "Lake Wobegon" novels and in "A Prairie Home Companion," the radio program that was the basis for Robert Altman's movie of the same name, which came out in 2006.

'Antiracist Baby' to be released as picture book

A picture book edition of Ibram X. Kendi's "Antiracist Baby," one of the country's top-selling books since the death last month of George Floyd, is coming out July 14.

"Antiracist Baby" went on sale this week as a board book and has been part of a wave of works about race and racism that have been selling strongly as protests against Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police spread worldwide.

The picture book of "Antiracist Baby" will feature illustrations by Ashley Lukashevsky, Penguin Young Readers announced Thursday.

'Hamilton,' 'Phantom' won't reopen until 2021

Some of London's biggest West End shows, including "Hamilton" and "The Phantom of the Opera," won't reopen until next year, producers announced Wednesday as arts bodies warned that Britain faces a "cultural catastrophe" because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Producer Cameron Mackintosh, his producing partners and his Delfont Mackintosh Theatres group said "Hamilton," "The Phantom of the Opera," Mary Poppins and "Les Misérables" would return "as early as practical in 2021."

Other news

■ Dame Vera Lynn, the enduringly popular "Forces' Sweetheart" who serenaded British troops abroad during World War II, died Thursday at 103.

■ "That '70s Show" actor Danny Masterson has been charged with the rape of the woman in the early 2000s. Los Angeles prosecutors said Wednesday.

Compiled from wire reports

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man arrested after valuable beehives stolen

WA BELLINGHAM — A man who authorities believe stole dozens of beehives across the West has been arrested in Washington state, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said. The bees could be worth more than \$200,000.

"The case has the potential of over 30 victims spread across California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington," the Sheriff's Office told the Bellingham Herald. Perry David Bayes, 56, was arrested and charged with possession of stolen property in the first degree, which is a class B felony, according to officials.

The investigation began after the Sheriff's Office received a report from a beekeeper whose bees were taken.

"The victim went to retrieve his hives and they were gone," Lincoln County officials said. "The investigation soon led to some tips and the 'sting' was set up, resulting in the arrest and a 'very sweet' ending."

Farmers offer reward after melon crop ruined

FL NEWBERRY — A family of farmers in north Florida is seeking answers after a field of watermelons was sprayed with damaging chemicals.

Hugh Martin told the Gainesville Sun his family is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that helps lead to the arrest and conviction of the person they believe intentionally poisoned 56 acres of melons.

The family rents the property in Newberry, near Gainesville, for their business, Martin Farms LLC. Martin and his stepson Joshua Moore said they believe someone filled their crop-sprayer with the harsh chemicals.

On June 1, Moore said he sprayed what he thought was a tank filled with pesticides over the crops to keep insects away. As he was spraying that evening, one of the sprayer's nozzles got damaged in a fence. So he stopped before the entire field was sprayed.

When he returned to the field, the watermelons were already wilting.

Officials: 9/11 memorial plaza to reopen July 4

NY NEW YORK — The Sept. 11 memorial plaza will reopen to the public on July 4, more than three months after it was closed due to coronavirus, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum announced Tuesday.

Visitors will once again be allowed to approach the memorial pools that sit in the footprints where the twin towers used to stand, but the museum at the site remains closed. A plan for its reopening is in the works.

The memorial and the museum had been closed since March 13, with the water flowing into the pools turned off except for maintenance and the area roped off to keep people away from the panels of names. The memorial will open with safety protocols to enforce social distancing regulations,



Eric Gae/AP

Barging in again

Using social distancing and other protective measures against COVID-19, visitors ride a river barge Monday along the River Walk in San Antonio. The barges, which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, began running again this week.

said Michael Frazier, spokesman for the museum and memorial.

Woman finds mother's ashes, long after flood

MI SANFORD — With a friend's help, a woman has discovered her mother's ashes in the flood-ravaged remains of her Midland County home.

Kathy Parsch said she had made eight trips to the home in Sanford, which was destroyed by a flood nearly a month ago, but couldn't find the container that held a portion of her mother's remains. A friend led inspired to search a bedroom area Sunday.

"She's in this corner, I can feel it," Margaret Charbonneau said. "So I found a piece of broken window. It was a fairly large piece, and I took it very carefully and I started digging with it."

And the ashes were found.

Officials warn of large jellyfish near beaches

MA HINGHAM — Swimmers in Massachusetts are being warned about large jellyfish that have been spotted off the state's coast.

The Hingham Harbormaster issued a warning Sunday saying numerous lion's mane jellyfish had been seen in the town's inner and outer harbor over the weekend. At least one resident has been

THE CENSUS

\$390K

The amount of money stolen from an armored truck that a Helena, Mont., man spent on gambling, day trading and travel.

A federal jury found John Gregory Alexander Herrin, 30, guilty in January of interstate transportation of stolen property and eight counts of money laundering. He was sentenced Monday to 30 months in federal prison. The money was removed from a GardaWorld vehicle in November 2013. An internal investigation was unable to directly implicate anyone, however, not long after the money went missing, Herrin's financial situation improved dramatically, prosecutors said. Herrin worked for Garda from 2012 until 2014. By early 2015, though, Herrin owed nearly \$18,000 on his credit card and his car was repossessed, prosecutors said.

stung but did not require medical treatment, the warning said.

The lion's mane jellyfish, the largest known variety, can grow to five or more feet across, with tentacles more than 100 feet long. Encounters can cause temporary pain and redness but are not known to be fatal, the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation said in an advisory.

Arrest made after man pushed in train's path

CA BERKELEY — A woman who allegedly pushed a man onto the tracks at the downtown BART platform in Berkeley as a train approached was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of attempted murder, authorities said.

Rail Okoropodu, 34, also was booked for probation violation

charges, according to a BART statement. Station video showed the woman leaping up from a bench Monday night and pushing a man with both hands as the train neared, the statement said.

"The victim was able to squeeze between the train and the platform and avoid being struck," BART said. He had a minor ankle injury.

Ex-news anchor named in embezzlement suit

MA BOSTON — A multi-million-dollar lawsuit has been filed against a former television news anchor for allegedly embezzling millions.

The former chief financial officer of Massachusetts-based Alden Shoe Co., Richard Hajjar, allegedly stole nearly \$27 million, The Boston Globe reported. Haj-

jar allegedly funneled \$15 million into former WCVB-TV anchor Bianca de la Garza's beauty business. Alden attorneys estimated that Garza received \$2.7 million in 2019 alone.

Garza now refuses to return the money or the lavish gifts purchased by Hajjar, according to the lawsuit.

Attorneys for Alden filed a letter in November requesting Garza to return all the misappropriated funds. According to court filings, an attorney for Garza agreed to return the funds, however, payment has not been made.

Hajjar has only returned about \$3 million in assets.

Woman accused of firing at boy on bike

DE HARRINGTON — Delaware State Police arrested a woman accused of firing a rifle at a 12-year-old boy who was riding a three-wheeler bike near her home over the weekend, according to the agency.

The child was riding through a field near the property of Jeanne D. Zebley, 55, on Sunday afternoon when the woman came out of her house with a rifle, pointed it toward the boy and fired off two rounds, police said in a statement Monday. The boy was not struck, and returned home to get his stepfather, police said.

From wire reports



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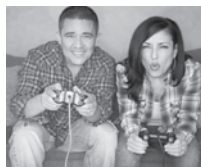
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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Germany's commitment to US security is multifaceted

By DAVID T. ZABECKI
Special to Stars and Stripes

The recent decision by President Donald Trump to withdraw 9,500 American troops from Germany by September 2020 carries with it a deep risk of doing irreparable damage to NATO, the most successful and effective defense alliance in history. Any weakening of NATO will be immensely costly to America itself. NATO has been under increasing stress in recent years, and this unilateral action by the alliance's senior partner may become the final pressure point that will lead to the fracturing of the alliance. If that happens, it will collapse the security framework established and led by the United States since 1945.

During the years of the two World Wars, Army Maj. Gen. Fox Conner was one of America's most important strategic thinkers. He was also a senior mentor who nurtured the professional development of many up-and-coming younger officers who would go on to become some of America's most important military leaders of World War II. Conner's proteges included George Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton. The three key principles of national military strategy he impressed upon those officers included: 1. Never fight unless you have to. 2. Never fight for power. 3. Never fight alone. It is this third principle that we presently are most at risk of falling away from.

Maintaining an alliance is hard work. Each member of the alliance must find its own unique path to striking a balance between its external obligations to the alliance and its internal domestic and political dynamics. There is no question that some NATO members in recent years have been slow to meet their obligation to devote 2% of their GDP to their defense budgets. Those allies should be pressed to meet their obligation. But should this become the point upon which the very viability of the alliance hangs?

Germany, of course, has been one of the most reluctant of our partners to meet the 2% obligation. But that does not mean that Germany has been getting a "free ride" on security from the United States. Germany's economic and political power currently make it the most important member of NATO after America, especially following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. German support for America both within NATO and globally is one of our most important bilateral partnerships. Russia and China understand that only too well, which is why they devote so much effort to fracturing that partnership by pressuring Germany to accommodate their own various regional and global initiatives, often to America's disadvantage.

To measure Germany's true commitment to a transatlantic alliance, one only needs to look to the NATO mission in Afghanistan, as compared to Russia's experience there in the 1980s. The Soviet Union went into Afghanistan alone, without the support of its Warsaw Pact allies. Ten years later, it came back out alone, having lost 150,000 men and 26,000 tanks. On the other hand, has had the full support of NATO in Afghanistan. Between 2002 and 2013, 57 Germans died in Afghanistan — the first German combat deaths since the end of World War II. The expenditure of national funds in support of the alliance is one measure of commitment. It pales in significance if a nation is unwilling to risk the lives of its citizens in support of a cause or mission.

American troops first entered Germany in 1945 as the occupying power of a defeated nation. Over the next 45 years Germany became the central base, but not the only base — from which to defend Western Europe against Soviet aggression.

German support for America both within NATO and globally is one of our most important bilateral partnerships. Russia and China understand that only too well, which is why they devote so much effort to fracturing that partnership by pressuring Germany to accommodate their own initiatives.

The reason Germany was the central position was because any ground war most likely would have been fought there. Generations of German citizens grew up under that shadow, which along with the memory of the two World Wars accounts for the deep ambivalence many Germans still feel about military matters.

Since the end of the Cold War, the strategic situation has changed. American forward military presence on German soil has evolved from a central position to the United States than it is to Germany. As the home of both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command, Germany currently hosts the command and control headquarters for American operability into three continents. They are an ocean closer to many of the world's most dangerous trouble spots. It would be impossible to work at the same level of effectiveness if those headquarters had to operate from the continental United States.

Consider what Germany currently plays host to. Ramstein Air Base is the largest and most important American air base outside of the United States. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center has saved the lives of countless American and allied soldiers seriously wounded or injured in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other locations in Africa and Southern Asia. The 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Kaiserslautern coordinates and manages almost all American military logistics and transportation operations from Europe eastward. The Grafenwohr training center in Bavaria is America's largest live-fire maneuver training ground outside of the United States. Military forces of allied and other partner nations also exercise at Grafenwohr. German air bases, along with U.S. units. Thus, Grafenwohr is one of the world's most important bases for interoperability training.

All of these nodes, of course, continue to play key roles in the security of Europe. But their spans of responsibility and operations extend today far beyond the borders of Europe. They are the foundations of America's global operability. Weakening those foundations can only be to the advantage of our global adversaries — most dangerously, Russia and Iran.

All of these vital nodes of American global operability physically based in Germany are also critical to the conduct of Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003. It was detailed as the director of the U.S. Army Europe Deployment Operations Center. It was an ad hoc control cell responsible for planning and coordinating the movement of some 30,000 U.S. Corps troops and all their support out of Germany into the Gulf region. Although Germany declined

to participate in Iraqi Freedom, and even directly opposed it in the United Nations, the German government nonetheless bent over backward to help us get everything quickly and efficiently done. The German rail, road, barge and port networks.

Quite frankly, the Germans could very easily have locked up V Corps in Germany. Virtually all of the troops headed for the Gulf flew out of Ramstein. The 173rd Airborne Brigade's March 26 combat jump into northern Iraq depended on all the C-17s staging initially out of Ramstein, before picking up the troops in Italy. And as soon as the 173rd secured the airhead, a company of M1-A1 Abrams tanks flew from Ramstein on C-17s directly into the Bashur Airfield in Iraq. It was history's first air-landing of main battle tanks directly into a combat zone. At no time did the German government, despite its stated opposition to Operation Iraqi Freedom, impose freedom of movement restrictions in or out of Ramstein. Turkey, in contrast, routinely causes difficulties about freedom of movement in and out of Incirlik Air Base.

Germany has always worked all-out on the security effort, working with us to secure the troop and equipment movements and screen them as much as possible from the various left-wing protest groups. As the remaining American troops became very thin on the ground in Germany, the Bundeswehr took over the responsibility for the perimeter security of many of the Army bases in Germany. Very few people outside of Germany ever heard anything about that.

By hosting so many centers of American military power on its soil, Germany becomes a lightning rod for the likes of Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping. The Germans also have been very vocal in terms of internal political tensions. Compounding those stresses, too many German citizens in recent years have come to feel that the United States now regards their country as a satellite state, rather than as a respected partner. That the decision to withdraw 9,500 troops was announced apparently without consulting with or even first notifying the German government has exacerbated that perception throughout the country.

Many commentators in Germany have denounced that decision as mere petty retaliation, because Chancellor Angela Merkel declined the invitation to attend the proposed G-7 summit in Washington. Whether or not that was actually a factor, the timing and the optics are not good.

There is a great deal more to support for NATO than just meeting the 2% obligation. It is important, but it is not the total picture. We compare Germany's 1.39% contribution to Turkey's 1.83%. But which country is the more dependable and vital ally?

There is a tragic trend developing here. Similar thinking is one of the key reasons that the Warsaw Pact was a failure. We cannot afford to let NATO slide down that same slope. We need to think very carefully about the second and third-order effects of this decision to withdraw 9,500 troops from Germany. We also must work to develop more creative and constructive approaches to strengthening NATO and our ties to our security partners. If "America First" deteriorates into "America Alone," the only winners will be China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

David T. Zabecki, a retired U.S. Army college professor, is a Fellow of the American College of National Security Leaders. He was director of the USAEUR Deployment Operations Center from 2002 to 2003. He was the senior security adviser on the U.S. State Department's U.S. Coordinating and Monitoring Visitation and Control over the Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East initiative. From January 2005 to March 2006 he was commanding general of the Southern European Task Force Rear (Provisional), and simultaneously the American co-chairman of the Italian-American Joint Military Commission.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other state syndicates.

Fear of 2nd wave of COVID-19 cases keeps economy down

The Wall Street Journal
Stocks sold off recently amid investor worries that a "second wave" of coronavirus infections could cause countries and states that are reopening to lock down again. But headlines about a coronavirus resurgence in the U.S. are overblown so far, and the bigger threat is keeping the economy in a coma.

"We know as a fact that reopening other states we're seeing significant problems," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said earlier this month. "Twelve states that reopened are now seeing spikes. This is a very real possibility." This is Cuomo's excuse for not reopening the state, which has a regulatory for 12 weeks as other states reopen and their economies rebound.

Democrats cite a spike in cases in Florida, Arizona and Texas as evidence of a virus resurgence. But more testing, especially in vulnerable communities, is natural during a pandemic. In fact, cases in Texas have increased by about a third in the last two weeks, but so have tests. About a quarter of the new cases are in counties with large prisons and meatpacking plants that were never forced to shut down.

Tests have increased by about 37% in Florida in the last two weeks, and tests in Texas have risen by 28%. In Arizona, cases have increased by 73% in the last two weeks, though tests have increased by just 53%. But a quarter of all cases in the state are on Indian reservations, which have especially high-risk populations.

Liberals and the media demanded more testing before states could reopen, yet now are criticizing states because more testing has turned up new cases. Keep in mind that New York has reported about the same number of new cases in the last two weeks as Florida, though it ramped up testing earlier so the relative increase appears less significant.

A more important metric is hospitalizations. In Arizona the weekly rolling average for new COVID-19 hospitalizations has been flat for a month. Emergency-room visits for COVID-19 spiked last week, but the number of ER beds in use hasn't changed much.

Texas has also recently reported an uptick in COVID-19 hospitalizations, mostly in the Houston and Austin areas. Current COVID-19 hospitalizations are up about 20% since the state began to reopen, but Gov. Greg Abbott says hospitals aren't overwhelmed because much of the increase is tied to nursing homes.

Fatalities are a lagging epidemic indicator since most people who have been in the hospital for two to three weeks. But deaths also aren't surging. Texas has recorded 151 deaths this past week versus 221 in the last week of April. Florida has recorded 199 deaths this week, down from the last week of April. Deaths are probably declining in part from better and earlier treatment, but this means there's less to fear from reopening. While Arizona has reported 114 deaths — 43 more than in the last week of April — its deaths per capita are down to 125 from 150. New York has reported in the past week.

Cuomo recently boasted that New York "did the impossible" and "crushed" the coronavirus curve. New York has made enormous progress since the early days of the pandemic, which hit the state harder and earlier because of its population density, mass transit and international travel.



GRACE BEAHM ALFORD, THE (CHARLESTON, S.C.) POST AND COURIER/AP

Visitors, including Matt and Marsha Bacote, leave flowers, notes and prayers at Emanuel AME Church on the five-year anniversary of a shooting Wednesday in Charleston, S.C. Dylann Roof killed nine people while they were in a bible study at the church.

We aren't among the revisionists who say Cuomo should have locked down New York earlier.

But other states that didn't impose strict lockdowns and have been gradually reopening have kept the epidemic under control and not paid as high an economic price. Some 7.3% of workers in Arizona and Florida and 11.4% in Texas were collecting unemployment benefits in late May compared to 18.7% in New York.

More infections are inevitable as states reopen, and there will be much trial and error. States need to be vigilant for outbreaks and protect high-risk areas and the vulnerable. But the costs of shutting down the economy are so great, in damage to lives and livelihoods, that there is no alternative to opening for the broader public good.

Free speech at stake in suit against Bolton's book

The Washington Post
In a lawsuit filed Tuesday, the Justice Department insists that it wants to stop former national security adviser John Bolton from damaging national security by revealing secret information in his forthcoming book, "The Room Where It Happened." In fact, the primary danger is to President Donald Trump, who, if early leaks are any indication, has much to fear from an unvarnished account of his behavior. The suit is absurd, and the Justice Department should be ashamed to be associated with a clear attempt to harass a man trying to detail Trump's malfeasance.

The Washington Post reported Wednesday that, based on Bolton's account, Trump pleaded with Chinese President Xi Jinping to help him win the 2020 U.S. election, telling Xi during a summit dinner last year that increased agricultural purchases by Beijing from U.S. farmers would aid Trump's electoral prospects. Bolton's manuscript laments that he was unable to relate Trump's precise words because the administration demanded them struck during a prepublication review.

Indeed, Bolton worked painstakingly with the National Security Council's chief classification official to scrub the book, a process that consumed four months. While this review proceeded, Trump insisted that the book must not be published before the process was complete. Presumably, then, all of his conversations with Bolton were classified. Unsurprisingly, after Bolton's manuscript was scrubbed, another Trump official swooped in to insist that further review was necessary. Reasonably concluding that the administration was using the process as pretext to silence him, Bolton decided to publish.

The long delay has already hurt the public debate. It would have been helpful if Bolton's book had emerged, or Bolton had testified, when Congress was considering Trump's impeachment. The Xi revelations suggest that Trump sought to manipulate U.S. foreign policy with China, as with Ukraine, for his own personal gain. In fact, writes Bolton, "I am hard pressed to identify any significant Trump decision during my tenure that wasn't driven by reelection calculations."

At this point, no self-respecting judge would order Bolton to halt publication. The government seeks a "prior restraint" on speech on matters of critical public interest. Nothing in the First Amendment or the Supreme Court's interpretation of it, in tougher cases than this one, suggests the government has any right to expect such a result, particularly when Bolton worked to scrub the book in good faith.

The lawsuit could simply be a feeble attempt to mollify Trump, who only likes freedom of speech when the message praises him, and who routinely pressures the Justice Department to help his friends and punish his enemies. But even a long-shot bid to silence a Trump critic may intimidate other disillusioned former officials from revealing disturbing things they saw during their time in the administration, lest the Justice Department sic taxpayer-funded lawyers on them, too.

U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth, who is hearing the case, should move quickly and rule decisively against the Justice Department so the opposite message is sent: Former government employees need not fear telling the truth.

Slain SC parishioners live on in efforts to bring change

The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier
Most of us remember where we were and what we were doing on the evening of June 17, 2015, when nine African American parishioners at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church were gunned down during a Bible study.

As the fifth anniversary arrives, it doesn't feel like enough simply to remember that horrible crime, especially as a fresh wave of racial tension breaks over this country. A nationwide unrest has been triggered by last month's death of George Floyd at the hands of a white Minneapolis police officer. To many protesters, his death is part of a larger pattern, one that includes too many widely reported, hate-driven deaths of African Americans, including those killed by a police supervisor in the Emanuel case.

So we need to remember more than that

tragic day and those lives lost and irrevocably changed. We need to remember the goal of the pathetic criminal — to start a race war — and to rededicate ourselves to empathy, understanding and goodwill. We need to rededicate ourselves to fighting hate.

It is heartening to see so many survivors and relatives doing just that, in their own way. As The Post and Courier's Jennifer Berry Hawes reports, Tyrone and Felicia Sanders, who lost their son Tywanza, 26, find hope in his namesake foundation, which awards college scholarships and supports a camp for entrepreneurs. Jennifer Pinckney, widow of Pastor Clementa Pinckney, has focused on their daughters. The Rev. Anthony Thompson, who lost his wife, Myra, wrote a book, "Called to Forgive." The Rev. Sharon Risher and Chris Singleton also have written books. Thompson also speaks together often with survivor Polly Sheppard to spread the message about the power of faith. "That's where I'm at now when it comes to remembering, it's about helping people," he told Hawes.

Those stories are just a slice of how they are picking up the pieces and trying to turn an unimaginable loss into something good, or at least not as bad.

But we all have a family member inside Emanuel that evening, but we all share a sense of loss and grief. And on this anniversary, we all can do something in our own way to try to improve things, whether it's forging new relationships, becoming more politically active or providing financial support for a good cause.

There is hope that something good will come out of all this nation's anguish over the death of Floyd and other tragedies, including the one that unfolded in downtown Charleston five years ago.

This may indeed be a unique opportunity to make progress in the areas of justice and equity, to help build a better America. In doing so, we should draw inspiration from the living victims of the Emanuel tragedy and the example they continue to set of empathy, love and hope.

Commemorating Juneteenth is both historical and significant

Valdosta (Ga.) Daily Times
On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, announcing all persons held as slaves within the rebellious areas are and henceforth shall be free.

A political move by Lincoln, the proclamation did not end slavery immediately or in all states, but it served as a rallying cry for Union troops and for blacks to fight on the side of the Union to win their freedom.

The Civil War did not officially end until June 1865, and word of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach the last stronghold of slavery, in Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after it was issued.

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." So began General Order Number 3, as read by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865. It was on this date that Union soldiers landed at Galveston with news the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were now free — again, two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which became official Jan. 1, 1863.

The annual celebration of the events of June 19, 1865, is most commonly known as Juneteenth. It's the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth has become a day of freedom — a day marking the liberation from American slavery, and now a day symbolically marking the liberation from racism and prejudice.

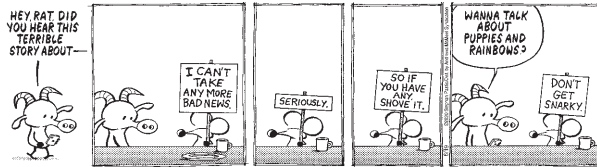
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



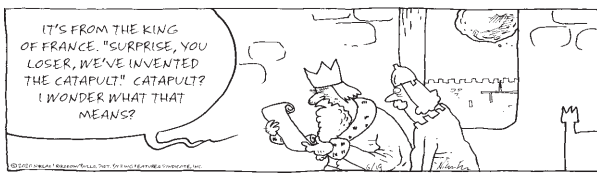
Non Sequitur



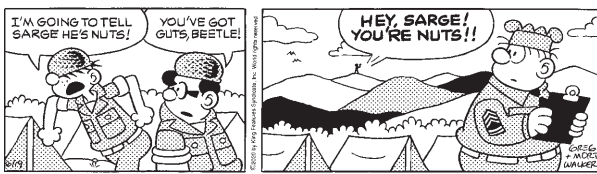
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18							19			
20	21						22	23				
24					25					26	27	28
29					30						31	
32				33						34		
				35					36			
37	38	39						40				
41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

ACROSS

- 1 Rainbow
- 4 Disaster aid org.
- 8 Beloved
- 12 Earth (Pref.)
- 13 Pressing thing?
- 14 Arm bone
- 15 Former beau
- 17 Air outlet
- 18 Vittles
- 19 Surfers catch them
- 20 Cowboy's workplace
- 22 Bar
- 24 Coup d' —
- 25 Hardwood surface in a home
- 29 Comic DeLuise
- 30 Spokes
- 31 Cagers' gp.
- 32 Regular at La Scala
- 34 Yours (Fr.)
- 35 Cold War initials
- 36 Yearned
- 37 Vegas area
- 40 Noble Italian family
- 41 Ache
- 42 20%
- 46 Capri, for one
- 47 Gambling game
- 48 Thai language
- 49 Ticked (off)
- 50 Thunder god

DOWN

- 1 Past
- 2 Seminary subj.
- 3 Spy's moniker
- 4 Squalor
- 5 Eventful periods
- 6 May honoree
- 7 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 8 "The Judge" actor Robert
- 9 Hgt.
- 10 Novelist Rice
- 11 "Phooey!"
- 16 Datum
- 19 Laptop con- nection
- 20 Make over
- 21 Perched on
- 22 Doppler device
- 23 Related
- 25 Lummocks
- 26 Hurriedly
- 27 Reed instrument
- 28 Incursion
- 30 Grate
- 33 Wiped out
- 34 Play opener
- 36 Regarding
- 37 Roasting rod
- 38 Hit with a stun gun
- 39 Anger
- 40 Architect
- 42 Frequently
- 43 Slangy denial
- 44 — kwon do
- 45 Jump

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-19

CRYPTOQUIP

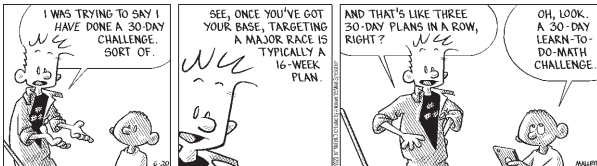
IV YOW ISC QISXZVISIPRDY'D
ZVDKUHRVP JZXORVU, OU
KIMSC RVDYHMYX XZSSUHD YI

"SQZ JUDDZPU."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SCALLYWAG WHO ENTERS STORES VIOLENTLY AND STEALS LIGHT TWO-WHEELED VEHICLES: A SCOOTER LOOTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals V

Frazz



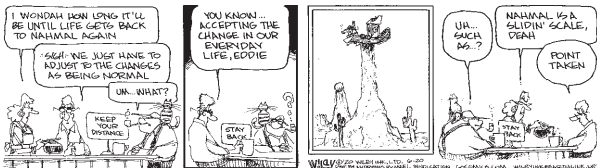
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



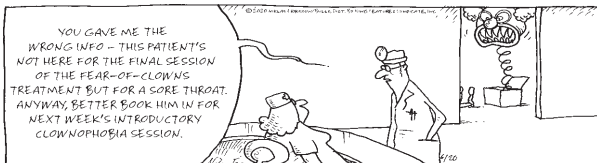
Non Sequitur



Candorville



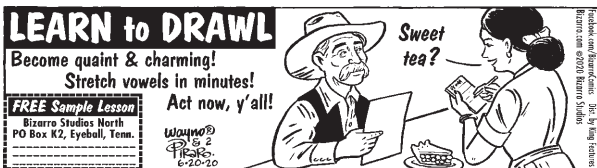
Carpe Diem



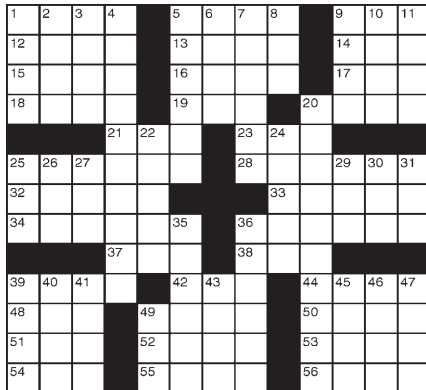
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Slightly wet
- 5 Tragic king
- 9 Spider's home
- 12 Sci-fi race
- 13 Guesser's words
- 14 Shock partner
- 15 Oodles
- 16 Golden rule preposition
- 17 Bee follower
- 18 Actress Moreno
- 19 Suffix with cash
- 20 Blog entry
- 21 Score units (Abbr.)
- 23 Latin 101 word
- 25 Long-haired cat
- 28 Desert plants
- 32 Pert
- 33 Avoid
- 34 Shout to a youngster
- 36 All-out attacks
- 37 JFK info
- 38 Play segment
- 39 Leave at the altar
- 42 A Bobbsey twin
- 44 Bigwigs
- 48 Gardner of Hollywood
- 49 South Pacific nation
- 50 "Tommy" actress Falco
- 51 Singer Starr
- 52 Aspiring atty.'s exam

DOWN

- 2 Beloved
- 3 "That's — need to know"
- 4 Academic say
- 5 — Midwestern sandwich bread
- 6 — May Alcott
- 7 Sea eagle
- 8 Off-course
- 9 Aussie hopper
- 10 Texas city
- 11 Woolly moms
- 12 Borscht veggie
- 13 President's option
- 14 "Have a taste!"
- 15 Mozart's output
- 25 Fireplace residue
- 26 Scot's denial
- 27 Chap
- 28 Smoke, for short
- 30 Exist
- 31 Rds.
- 35 From Copenhagen, say
- 36 Rational state
- 39 Actor Gyllenhaal
- 40 Infamous tsar
- 41 Potato chip brand
- 43 In — (stuck)
- 44 Notion
- 46 Half quart
- 47 Late-night host Meyers
- 49 "Alice" waitress

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-20

CRYPTOQUIP

P Y R Z Y N T V W Z H Z A S Z ' R
G N J E Y T V Z R Y M U S R Z A Y
I V C T Y H - C J T S Z V J T W S G V Z S M J U
Z A Y P J N M C : N Y T S M , T Y E S C S .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: ON THE OLD VOLCANOLOGIST'S ANSWERING MACHINE, HE WOULD INSTRUCT CALLERS TO "LAVA MESSAGE."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals D

BOXING/VIRUS OUTBREAK



MARTIN MEHA/AP

Ingrid Valencia, right, of Colombia and Ginny Fuchs, of the United States compete in the women's flyweight final at the Pan American Games on Aug. 2 in Lima, Peru. Valencia won the bout.

Bigger challenges

Pandemic just 1 of many hurdles for Fuchs

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

For a few days in March, Ginny Fuchs thought her biggest challenge of the year would be managing her obsessive compulsive disorder during a viral pandemic while still training to box at the Olympics.

And then 2020 got even crazier for the U.S. Olympic flyweight hopeful.

The Tokyo Games were postponed, adding another delay to the dreams of a tenacious fighter who has spent a decade working toward her first Olympic appearance.

She failed a U.S. Anti-Doping Agency test, only to be cleared by USADA on Thursday when the agency determined the two banned substances had been passed to her by her boyfriend.

And just last week, Fuchs' close friend and training partner, professional boxer Mikaela Mayer, tested positive for COVID-19. The former U.S. Olympian was forced to miss her comeback fight in Las Vegas, even though her test might have been a false positive.

Through it all, Fuchs is still fighting.

"Everybody is struggling right now," Fuchs said. "I'm not the only one."

Fuchs and the prospective U.S. Olympic team returned to Colorado Springs last week to begin its first training camp since the start of the pandemic. The fighters still don't know when they'll be able to participate in a qualifying tournament to earn a spot in Tokyo.

But Fuchs has overcome even

DID YOU KNOW?

The coronavirus isn't the most daunting challenge confronting U.S. Olympic flyweight hopeful Ginny Fuchs, who suffers from obsessive compulsive disorder. The hypervigilant cleanliness required to minimize COVID-19 exposure hasn't changed much for Fuchs, whose particular form of OCD forces her to think constantly about thorough cleaning and avoiding cross-contamination with everything she touches.

SOURCE: Associated Press

bigger obstacles already this year.

Fuchs said the coronavirus actually doesn't seem like the most daunting challenge of her Olympic preparation. The hypervigilant cleanliness required to minimize COVID-19 exposure hasn't changed much for Fuchs, whose particular form of OCD forces her to think constantly about thorough cleaning and avoiding cross-contamination with everything she touches.

"With this epidemic, I've been like, 'Hey, everybody, welcome to my world!'" she said with a laugh. "Everybody is disinfecting everything constantly. Everybody is wearing gloves, and whoever does this. It makes me less anxious because everybody else is doing it, too."

The biggest challenges of the pandemic have been about geography and the availability of cleaning supplies. Fuchs and

Mayer traveled around the country by car over the past three months, going to fight camps in Washington, D.C., and in Fuchs' native Houston before continuing to Las Vegas and Colorado Springs.

Each stop required a new plan for procuring the cleaning supplies Fuchs needs to satisfy her mind.

Fuchs' exoneration of guilt for her failed doping test capped another stressful period. USADA took the extra step of publicly proclaiming Fuchs' innocence with a news release.

Fuchs' positive test was administered in mid-February, and she found out about the results in March, according to USADA. When the Tokyo Games were postponed around the same time, the 32-year-old Fuchs admits she thought briefly about joining Mayer in the professional ranks.

But Fuchs has been focused on the Olympics since shortly after she took up boxing in her sophomore year of college at LSU. She didn't make the U.S. team for the debut of women's boxing at the London Olympics in 2012, and she fell just short of qualification for the Rio Olympics four years later.

Fuchs was determined not to miss out on her third and best shot, no matter what obstacles the world has thrown in her way.

"My first goal in boxing was always to be an Olympian and get a gold medal," Fuchs said. "That's why I waited another four years (after Rio). All of these last four years, I worked hard for it. It's not going to go to waste. I still want to get that gold medal."

Halls of fame adapt to COVID-19 worries

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

As part of a \$22 million, court-to-dome renovation, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame replaced the static plaques honoring inductees with touch screens that display videos and career highlights. Another exhibit allows visitors to put their hands inside an impression of Kevin Durant's, to compare sizes.

That was before a pandemic turned hands-on into "Hands Off!"

Now, for the museum's planned reopening on July 1, visitors will touch the touch screens with a stylus, and the players' hand prints will be covered by plexiglass.

"You can look, but you can't put your hand in it," hall President John Doleva said. "For obvious reasons."

As the world attempts to reopen from the coronavirus shutdown, every restaurant, retail shop and other public amenity is looking for ways to return to business while still keeping its staff and customers safe. But for the Springfield, Mass., basketball shrine and other sports museums, there is an added challenge: managing social distancing and other health protocols while preserving the interactive features they bring long leaned upon to help bring once-dusty archives to life.

"It's a much more engaging experience, and you can really only do that through touch," Doleva said. "It's a different world, but we want to be one of the first places people think about visiting. We're investing in all the protocols to make sure our museum is safe."

When it reopens — a date that has been pushed back two months to July 1 — the basketball hall will hand out styluses with a rubber tip to every visitor to diminish the chance of spreading the virus from their hands. On Center Court, where fans can shoot at hoops resembling James Naismith's original peach basket or dunk on rims of different heights, a staff member will hand out the basketballs and sanitize them after each use.

The World Golf Hall of Fame

in St. Augustine, Fla., has been handing out styluses since it reopened on May 18. At the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I., the plan is to keep the "touch" in touch screen but clean them frequently — once an hour, if not more. Among the other changes: A theater with a hologram of Roger Federer will now be limited to two people at a time, instead of eight.

"In the short term, we'll obviously have to adapt to it and how fans can interact with those," said Todd Martin, a former pro tennis player and the hall's CEO. "There's infinite challenges and imposed limitations on our businesses."

A room where visitors could sit and watch the Tennis Channel will be closed. Wands that provide audio tours will no longer be handed out, and guided tours will also be canceled. The hall also has public grass courts; those have reopened, but players can no longer rent or store rackets and they will have to bring their own water, too.

"We're going to be letting 20 people in a 12,000 square-foot museum at one time. That's just astounding math," Martin said. "It does demonstrate the gravity of the operational challenge."

Museum consultant Jim Richardson said exhibitors are making many of the same changes as other businesses — screening visitors, cleaning more frequently, making masks available, cutting capacity to allow for social distancing and adding plexiglass dividers and hand sanitizing stations.

Some interactive displays will need to be closed for now. But halls of fame can't abandon hands-on exhibits entirely.

"Research has shown that museums that include physical interaction as well as information and objects make it easier for people to learn and retain information," said Richardson, whose company, MuseumNext, works with exhibitors to keep up with the latest museum trends. "These playful interactives also spark creative thinking, especially for children."



JESSICA HILL/AP

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is seen in Springfield, Mass. The basketball shrine and other sports halls of fame have been forced to backtrack from a longtime trend in all museums toward interactives that are taboo in this pandemic era.

HIGH SCHOOL

Subject of race a challenge for Pahokee coach

Isolated Florida town turns out football players, but they struggle to adjust to racism in outside world

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

APAHOKEE, Fla. wide spot in the road running alongside Lake Okeechobee, Pahokee is a low-income, predominantly black town with two traffic lights and no chain restaurants, 40 miles and a world away from President Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

As the first-year football coach at Pahokee High School last fall, D.J. Boldin led a 48-player roster.

"The only Hispanics on the team were kickers," Boldin says. "Talk about setting a stereotype. I did not have a white player on my team."

Therein lies Boldin's challenge, or at least one of them, in this time of racial reckoning and awakening.

He's a black Pahokee native who played receiver at Wake Forest, majored in sociology and landed a coaching internship with the San Francisco 49ers.

His brother, retired three-time Pro Bowl receiver Anquan Boldin, returned to Palm Beach County to pursue a career in justice reform. Now D.J. is trying to make their hometown a better place.

At 33 the coach is an eager mentor. Recent events have provided even more opportunity to address the challenges his players will face when they leave the bubble that is their town.

"When I was coming up I didn't notice racism, because everybody looked like me," Boldin says. "The first taste of racism I ever encountered was when I went to college. Our kids in Pahokee are pretty shielded."

Not that life for them is easy. Pahokee, flanked by the lake and sugar cane fields, is a high-crime area with an average household income of \$39,312 and a poverty rate of 38%.

Lake Okeechobee, that dot in the middle of Florida, is literally visible from outer space. Pahokee (population 6,300) tends to go unnoticed.

"We've got to find ways to survive," says Geoffrey McKelton, who will be a senior defensive back for Boldin this fall. "There are not a lot of opportunities."

It has been that way for a long time. "Lord, I tried everything within my power, but I can't make but just a dollar an hour," goes the song "Mr. Dropout" by country music star Mel Tillis, Pahokee High School Class of 1951.

The Class of 2020 is preparing to leave the difficult but insulated environment to enter a world roiled by a pandemic, the death of George Floyd and the protests that have followed.

Most of Boldin's players are using football as a way out. At the end of last fall's 6-6 season, he had 12 seniors, and 10 plan to play in college, all with scholarship aid, including five in Division I.

Like much of Florida, Pahokee has long been a hotbed for the sport. And the town takes it seriously.

"When the football team is doing well, the crime rate goes down, the economy goes up and the whole city is more jolly," says Demetres Hampton, a Pahokee native and longtime assistant coach at the high school.



PHOTOS BY LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Above: D.J. Boldin throws a football outside of his home in Miramar, Fla. Boldin is the football coach at Pahokee High School, a predominantly black school located alongside Lake Okeechobee in Florida. Recent events have given Boldin an opportunity to use his position to prepare his players for the challenges they will face when they leave the bubble that is their small town. **Below:** Boldin throws a football with his children Madison, 10, left, and Dallas, 4, center, outside of their home in Miramar, Fla.

‘The first taste of racism I ever encountered was when I went to college. Our kids in Pahokee are pretty shielded.’

D.J. Boldin

Pahokee, Fla., football coach

City Manager Chandler Williamson says Pahokee has struggled economically for decades, but benefits from the support of the Boldins and other former football stars.

"D.J. has set the bar high and has that NFL pedigree," Williamson says. "Anquan is an active supporter in the community, and others have bought property and reinvested in Pahokee. Football has kept this community moving forward."

The Blue Devils are six-time state champions and play in Anquan Boldin Stadium, the name a reminder football can lead to fame and fortune. More than a dozen alumni have played in the NFL, including Pro Football Hall of Famer Rickey Jackson.

But are coach Boldin's players ready for what they'll encounter when they put the town's towering royal palms in the rear-view mirror to chase their dreams?

"Something like that is not talked about — the people you are going to see outside of Pahokee," Boldin admits. "You don't even think about it. Now, with racial identity in the forefront of the world, you can have that conversation and it doesn't seem far out."

Add the topic to a long list the coach covers with his players beyond blocking and tackling. He requires them to attend weekly mentoring sessions hosted by Hikeem

Banks, a Pahokee native and Pentecostal youth minister.

"Coach Boldin cares about the person as a whole, not just the athlete," Banks says. "In Pahokee, you can roll out of bed and play football. It's a question of what you're going to do when football is done. That's what coach Boldin has done — build the whole man."

Guest speakers at the mentoring sessions have included a lawyer, doctor, financial expert, realtor and sheriff's deputy. And on the subject of relations between blacks and police, Boldin can speak painfully from experience: His cousin was shot to death in 2015 by a plainclothes police officer who was convicted of manslaughter and attempted murder.

Boldin, the father of two young children, has thought a lot about what he next wants to say to his players about the police. He plans a seminar on what they should do if pulled over while driving.

"You need to talk about the possibility of how your interaction with police could go," Boldin says. "But you can also talk about what's the right thing to do, and the good officers, and the positive impact they can have on kids' lives."

Such is the national conversation following Floyd's death. The country has become a different place in the past few weeks, and much of the United States has long been very different from Pahokee.

"I've been around white people, but I haven't experienced racism at all," says McKelton, who just turned 17. "But I know how to handle it: ignore people if they say stuff, keep my head high, don't lose focus."

McKelton is considering scholarship offers to play at the University of South Florida or Indiana University beginning in 2021. That gives Boldin a little more time to help prepare the young man for what life may have in store.



BASKETBALL/HORSE RACING/SOCCER

Court grants Williamson's motion in suit with ex-agent

MIAMI — A Florida appeals court has granted Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson's motion to block his former marketing agent's effort to have the ex-Duke star answer questions about whether he received improper benefits before playing for the Blue Devils.

The order Wednesday shifts the focus to a separate but related case between the same litigants in federal court in North Carolina.

The Florida lawsuit, filed last summer by Prime Sports Marketing and company president Gina Ford, accused Williamson and the agency now representing him of breach of contract and seeks \$100 million in damages.

That came after Williamson had filed his own lawsuit a week earlier in North Carolina to terminate a five-year contract with Prime Sports after their decision to move to Creative Artists Agency.

Ford's attorneys had submitted questions in filings last month that included whether Williamson or anyone on his behalf sought or accepted "money, benefits, favors or things of value" to sign with Duke. They sought answers within 30 days to establish facts under oath in the pretrial discovery process.

Attorneys for last year's No. 1 overall NBA Draft pick had argued the questions were "nothing more than a fishing expedition." Florida circuit judge David C. Miller denied Williamson's original stay request, but that was overturned on a temporary basis by the state appeals court, which has now made that ruling permanent, siding with Williamson attorney Jeffrey S. Klein that the federal case takes precedence.

In a filing last week in the North Carolina case, Prime Sports-Ford attorneys continued to argue that last summer's No. 1 pick didn't meet the definition of a student-athlete because he was "ineligible" to play college sports. That filing referenced housing for Williamson's family during his time with the Blue Devils as well as three luxury SUVs registered by his mother and stepfather between December 2017 and April 2019 — the latter being the same month Williamson announced he would go pro



RUSTY COSTANZA/AP

New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson walks onto the court during the second half of his team's game against the Miami Heat in New Orleans. A Florida appeals court has granted Williamson's motion to block his former marketing agent's effort to have the ex-Duke star answer questions about whether he received improper benefits before playing for the Blue Devils. The order Wednesday shifts the focus to a separate but related case between the same litigants in federal court in North Carolina.

before ultimately being picked by the New Orleans Pelicans.

The argument about Williamson's eligibility is the center of the legal fight over Williamson's endorsement potential. Williamson's lawsuit stated that Prime Sports violated the state's sports agent law, both by failing to include disclaimers about the loss of eligibility when signing the contract and the fact neither Prime Sports nor Ford were registered as agents in North Carolina.

Attorneys for Prime Sports and Ford argue the Uniform Athlete Agents Act wouldn't apply if Williamson was ineligible to play college basketball from the start.

Duke has repeatedly declined to comment on the case because it isn't involved in the litigation, but issued a statement in January that the school had reviewed Williamson's eligibility previously and found no concerns.

Tiz the Law draws No. 8 post, is 6-5 favorite for Belmont

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

It wasn't quite the post position trainer Barclay Tagg wanted for Tiz the Law. Still, it wasn't far off for the colt who on Wednesday was made the early 6-5 favorite for the Belmont Stakes.

Tagg was hoping the Florida Derby winner would land anywhere between spots 5 to 7 in the starting gate for Saturday's beginning of the reconfigured Triple Crown series. Tiz the Law drew the No. 8 post in the 10-horse field and will be ridden by Manny Franco.

"It could have been worse," Tagg said from behind a mask worn to protect against the coronavirus pandemic that has upended the Triple Crown and pretty much every other sporting event this spring and summer. "He likes this track, so I'm glad to be back on it."

Instead of concluding the Triple Crown, the Belmont is kicking off the series. It will be run at 1 1/4 miles — shorter than its usual grueling 1 1/2 miles — without spectators or owners at Belmont Park in New York.

"It's going to be a far different scene for sure," trainer Todd Pletcher, who has two entries, said this week. "It's sad in some ways, but we're grateful we're getting an opportunity to run."

The starting gate will be positioned in the far corner of the sprawling track with the horses looking at a run down the back-

side rather than breaking from in front of the grandstand when the race is 1 1/2 miles.

Tagg is trying to win the race that eluded him in 2003. Funny Cide, a New York-bred horse owned by Sackatoga Stable just like Tiz the Law, won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness to set up a Triple Crown bid in the Belmont that year. But the hugely popular Frown Cide finished third, beaten by Empire Maker, on a rainy day.

At 82, Tagg is back to try again with Tiz the Law, who brings the strongest resumé to the race. He is the only colt in the field with a Grade 1 victory and actually has two: the Champagne and Florida Derby.

"He does everything we ask of him," the trainer said. "We're pleased with him."

Sole Volante is the 9-2 second choice. Dr Post is the 5-1 third choice, and Tap It to Win is the 6-1 fourth choice. Pneumatic at 8-1 is the only other horse listed at single-digit odds. Five others are 15-1 or higher.

The Belmont lost three top horses to injury: trainer Bob Baffert's undefeated duo of Charlatan and Nadal, and Maxfield.

"There isn't quite the star power we all expected," said Jack Knowlton of Sackatoga Stable, which paid \$110,000 for Tiz the Law.

Besides Dr Post, Pletcher is taking aim with Farmington Road, one of three 15-1 shots in the field.

Ronaldo may have lost a step during the lockdown

BY ANDREW DAMPE
Associated Press

ROME — At 35, Cristiano Ronaldo is struggling to regain his famous explosiveness following the three-month break for the coronavirus pandemic.

The Juventus striker failed to make an impact in his first two matches back, making his run of 19 goals in 14 consecutive matches before the break seem like a distant memory.

"Right now his (physical condition) numbers are not bad, maybe the best of the season, which means he trained a lot (during the lockdown)," Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said after his team lost to Napoli in a penalty shootout in the Italian Cup final following a 0-0 draw on Wednesday.

"In terms of his acceleration and top speed, his numbers are not what he's accustomed to. But that's normal for someone who hasn't been playing games."

In last week's semifinal match

against AC Milan, Ronaldo virtually disappeared after failing to convert a first-half penalty.

Against Napoli, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's impact lasted all of five minutes.

Ronaldo earned a corner kick with a series of his trademark step-over moves and then had his only chance of the match battled away by Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret.

Making matters worse, Ronaldo could only watch helplessly when Napoli sealed the 4-2 shootout victory before he was slated to take Juventus' last spot kick.

During the awards ceremony, Ronaldo appeared on the verge of tears.

The game coincided with his son Cristiano Jr.'s 10th birthday and a title would have given Ronaldo the 30th trophy of his career for club and country.

This was supposed to be the month when Ronaldo was leading Portugal in the defense of its European Championship title.

Instead, he's going to have to play himself back into shape with Serie A resuming next.

Juve's other key forwards are also racing to get back into shape.

Paulo Dybala has shown only flashes of brilliance after testing positive for COVID-19 for 50 days. His failure to convert the opening penalty of the shootout set the tone for the loss.

Gonzalo Higuain missed the two cup matches after injuring his right thigh upon the return to training, and Douglas Costa had a series of injuries before the break.

"These are all players who are used to resolving situations individually," Sarri said. "Right now we can't expect more considering our condition."

With little time for training, though, Ronaldo and Juventus will have to play their way back into shape with Serie A about to restart with games every three or four days.



ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP

Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during the Italian Cup final against Napoli at Rome's Olympic Stadium on Wednesday. Ronaldo had little impact on the match.

MLB



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Fans watch as Cincinnati Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart takes batting practice last week in Westfield, Ind.

Union quiet on possible terms to play 10-week, 60-game season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After days of angry exchanges over money between Major League Baseball and the players' association, Commissioner Rob Manfred started to doubt whether there would be a 2020 season and said as much on national television.

He then called union head Tony Clark and offered to fly from New York to Arizona to meet for the first time in three months. They spoke one on one for several hours Tuesday in a room at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale and emerged with what MLB considered a framework for each leader to sell to his side.

MLB thought it had terms to play the pandemic-delayed season in empty ballparks, not just a proposal.

The union said nothing publicly and staff conferred with the eight-man executive subcommittee and other players. Some on the players' side considered the framework merely another plan subject to more bargaining.

The framework includes full prorated pay, even if games are played in empty ballparks, people familiar with the details told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because details were not announced.

Each team would play 60 games over 10 weeks starting July 20, though a Sunday opener on July 19 could be added. The framework would result in players receiving about 37% of their salaries and would come to roughly \$1.48 billion from salaries originally totaling \$4 billion.

Baseball's postseason would expand from 10 teams to 16 this year, and the two wild-card games would transform into eight best-of-three series. That would create a minimum of 14 new play-off games whose broadcast rights

MLB, players take step toward agreement

MLB made a new offer to the players' association that called for full prorated pay even if games are played in empty ballparks.

ISSUES ON THE TABLE	MLB	MLBPA
Regular season games	60	89
Regular season start	July 19	July 10
Regular season end	Sept. 27	Oct. 11
Postseason teams	16	16
Postseason end	Oct. 28	November TBD
Salary	100% of prorated	100% of prorated
\$1 million salary	\$370,370	\$549,383

SOURCES: MLB, AP

Noah Amara/Stars and Stripes

could be sold, and MLB would have the option of 14 or 16 postseason teams in 2021.

MLB would guarantee a \$25 million postseason players' pool, creating postseason shares for players in the event no tickets are sold.

The designated hitter would expand to all games for the first time, also involving games between National League teams, for 2020 and 2021.

The luxury tax would be suspended for 2020, saving money for the Yankees, Astros, Dodgers and Cubs.

Both sides would contribute jointly to initiatives for social justice.

Players with so-called split contracts, who get paid at a lower salary rate when sent to the minor leagues, wouldn't have to repay the advance they already received: \$15,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000, depending on their contract, for a total of about \$33 million.

"At my request, Tony Clark and I met for several hours yesterday in Phoenix," Manfred said in a

statement Wednesday. "We left that meeting with a jointly developed framework that we agreed could form the basis of an agreement and subject to conversations with our respective constituents."

"Consistent with our conversations yesterday, I am encouraging the clubs to move forward, and I trust Tony is doing the same," Manfred added.

Manfred and Clark got into such detail during the meeting they recessed for a period to allow Manfred to consult owners on MLB's labor policy committee.

After considering the framework, players could counter with a higher amount of games, perhaps by adding doubleheaders.

Before this week, Manfred and Clark had not met since March 13-14 in Arizona, the two days after spring training was suspended due to the new coronavirus.

Manfred maintained last week he was "100%" sure there would be a season, but following angry exchanges last weekend he said Monday "there's real risk" of no season at all.

Asterisk: Statistical anomalies more likely in abbreviated season

FROM BACK PAGE

That's if there even is a Major League Baseball season, with players and owners currently caught in a bitter dispute over how to start amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Both sides occasionally mention fans, talking about doing right by them. But apart from taking sides, how do the fans feel — would they consider a severely shortened schedule legit?

To some, a limited MLB season would resemble a European soccer round-robin. That's how Brewers fan Matt Tobin from Wauwatosa, Wis., sees it.

"Frankly, a 50-game season is basically a playoff. I play Strat-O-Matic baseball regularly. If you play a third of a season, the numbers are so skewed," he said.

Suppose Christian Yelich got off to an incredibly fast start and wound up batting .402 in 48 games. Would that make him baseball's first 400 hitter since Ted Williams in 1941?

"I think any rate-based stat record — batting average, ERA — would have to be considered an anomaly," Oakland fan Adam Brooks said.

Brooks, an orthopedic surgeon in the East Bay suburb of Walnut Creek, Calif., had planned to bump up from a partial season-ticket package to a full plan this year.

"I mean a starter could go the whole season without giving up a run. Would we then consider that the best starting pitching season ever? Of course not. The stats in this season would just have to be compared only against itself as a bubble," he said.

Added A's fan Kimberlee MacVicar: "I don't see a reason for an asterisk for an individual game stat."

"If a player hits three home runs or the cycle in a single game, I would count that in their personal stats without an asterisk," she said.

Kay Kenaley of Waukesha, Wis., holds a 20-game ticket package at Miller Park and has her eye on a player prize. She would love to see her Brewers win their first World Series title.

"I'm sure there's a lot of purists out there who go, you have to play 162 games or whatever," she said. "But if the season's a month long, you play for that month."

"The season's the season. It's kind of like with the Bucks in the running for an NBA championship. A championship's a championship. The World Series is the World Series," she said.

Sort of, said Steve Palec, who's held season tickets since Milwaukee played at County Stadium.

"I definitely would put a giant asterisk next to it," he said. "I'd also put an asterisk next to that asterisk, which is like, 'Hey, you know what? If you want to give me a car, I'll take it. I'm not going to argue about what kind of car it is.'"

No one disputes the Los Angeles Dodgers' title in 1981 during a strike-split season in which every

'Everybody 100 years from now will know it was abnormal.'

Todd Montgomery

New York Mets fan, on a potential 50-game MLB season

team played over 100 games. And there's no debate about the third of four straight NL Cy Young Awards won by Greg Maddux in a 1994 season ended in August by a players' strike.

Ken Katz of Columbia, Md., has no illusions about seeing a 2020 championship flag flying over Camden Yards next year. He's been a Sunday season-ticket holder in Baltimore since 1995.

"I think a 50-game season is a joke. Sixty-five is a bit closer, but honestly, if you don't have three months of baseball, you don't have a season," he said.

Either way, he added, "I will be there in section 360, watching and rooting for the Orioles, seeing what's going on."

On a gorgeous Tuesday afternoon outside the locked gates of Progressive Field in Cleveland, co-workers Jenna Honsberger and Josiah Begg ate lunch next to the statue of Hall of Famer Larry Doby.

The pandemic has emptied the city's streets, which under normal circumstances would be filled with fans in the hours leading up to the first between the Indians and Orioles.

At this point, an abbreviated season would bring a welcomed lift.

"I would like that. It would be better than nothing," the 30-year-old Honsberger said. "That would be something good for this city and for other cities."

And Begg would gladly take the Indians' first World Series crown since 1948.

"Look, you got two championships in 118, 119 years. I was a kid when '95 and '97 happened, and 2016 broke all of our hearts, and I mean in Cleveland you can't really complain about anything," he said.

"The world is just out of control weird right now," he added. "So at this point if you have 50 games with a playoff and World Series or you have nothing — I watch Korean baseball at 6 o'clock in the morning sometimes, so I'd take it."

So would Montgomery, the New Yorker. As he says, it all counts — amazingly, he's tracked every home run he's hit since he was a kid, in any sort of game, ever. Current total: 892.

"Let's say the Mets or the Red Sox or the Yankees win the World Series this year. We'll take it, others won't. But that's OK," he said. "So we argue about it. That's what sports fans do — we argue. Nothing wrong with that."

AP Baseball Writer Jane McCauley and AP Sports Writers Tom Withers, David Ginsburg and Steve Megargee contributed to this report.

MLB/GOLF



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

On signing undrafted players, Tampa Bay Rays general manager Erik Neander, above, said, “(We’re) doing our best to prepare and if we can provide opportunity to more players, that’s something that we’re going to lean on our scouts and our staff to identify the right players to do that with.”

The wait continues

Undrafted players have uncertain futures

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

THEY sat anxiously by their phones, computers and TVs, hoping to hear their names called by big league teams.

Instead, the waiting continues for hundreds of young baseball players.

Major League Baseball’s amateur draft wrapped up June 11, shaved to only five rounds over two days from the usual 40 rounds over three because of the coronavirus pandemic — a move that figures to save teams about \$30 million. So, instead of more than 1,200 players celebrating the start of their professional careers, only 160 can do so right now.

For the rest, they must carefully weigh their options. And, so do teams.

“In terms of the post-draft signings, it’s going to be different,” said David Stearns, the Milwaukee Brewers’ general manager and president of baseball operations. “There are probably going to be all sorts of different mechanics in play there and market forces in play that we haven’t seen in the past.”

Major league clubs are scouring their draft boards and scouting reports while trying to identify the best of the remaining talent around the country.

“The fact we were only able to scout four college weekends and the high school kids, many of whom we didn’t see in their spring seasons, it’s difficult,” said Paul Toboni, the Boston Red Sox director of amateur scouting. “There’s a lot more uncertainty than there would be in a normal spring.”

Instead of the typical free-for-all immediately after the draft, when teams race to add undrafted players to fill out their minor league squads, the conclusion of this year’s event included a few important caveats.

For one, teams weren’t allowed to start signing or negotiating with undrafted players until the Sunday after the draft.

As part of the March 26 agreement between MLB and the players’ association, teams are permitted to sign an unlimited number of undrafted players. But,

clubs are limited to offering maximum signing bonuses of only \$20,000.

“It’s not ideal, but every team across baseball is being hurt by this on a number of levels,” Baltimore Orioles general manager Mike Elias said of the shortened draft. “It’s not fun that we can’t continue to add players to the system beyond the fifth round. We feel like we’re good at picking late. Last year, we took a number of pitchers on the second day of the draft and really bolstered our system. So we’re just not getting that.”

“We’re going to try to sign as many kids as we can after the draft.”

High school seniors could choose to go to college, but players at four-year programs are only eligible to be drafted again after their junior or senior seasons, or if they turn 21 before the draft.

In what could become an increasingly more popular scenario, players could opt to enroll in junior college — where there’s no limitations on draft eligibility.

“You start seeing some of the top players already commit to a junior college just to have that as a backup,” Seattle Mariners amateur scouting director Scott Hunter said.

But even that could be no sure thing since MLB teams have the option to cut the 2021 draft to as few as 20 rounds.

Another thing for current college seniors to consider: The NCAA granted players at every level an extra year of playing eligibility because of their seasons being shortened, or canceled in some cases, by the coronavirus pandemic.

Either way, undrafted players and talent-hungry teams have plenty to consider.

“We don’t know really what to expect,” Tampa Bay Rays general manager Erik Neander said. “But (we’re) doing our best to prepare and if we can provide opportunity to more players, that’s something that we’re going to lean on our scouts and our staff to identify the right players to do that with.”

AP baseball writers Ron Blum, Mike Fitzpatrick and Noah Trister, and AP sports writers Tim Booth, Jay Cohen, David Ginsburg, Jimmy Golen, Steve Megargee and Steven Wine contributed.

Hilton Head hides urgency of golfers

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — The ambience of Hilton Head doesn’t change, a most peaceful setting among shade of oaks along the Calibogue Sound. Adding to the serenity this week is the absence of spectators for the second straight week on the PGA Tour.

It’s the calendar that makes all the difference.

The RBC Heritage for years has been held the week after the Masters, a time to exhale after the buildup to the first major of the year. Thanks to this shortened season brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, now is not the time to relax for some players.

Dustin Johnson is No. 115 in the FedEx Cup standings with nine events left before the postseason starts. Brooks Koepka is at No. 204, and only one player over the last decade has been out of the top 200 this late in a season and made it to the playoffs.

Johnson still feels relaxed. Remember, this is a guy who said his pulse increases only when walking up a hill, the player who kept his cool even when he didn’t know the score in the U.S. Open he won.

Still, there is an urgency typically not found at Harbour Town Golf Links.

“I need to have a few good weeks here to kick off this restart, but I haven’t played a lot of golf,” Johnson said. “This is sixth tournament of the season. So, yeah, it’s time to start playing well.”

He will be competing against the best again. Golf was shut down for three months because of the pandemic, and players clearly are eager to get going. The top five in the world are in the field for the second straight week, and Hilton Head has a roster of stars it doesn’t always get.

“It feels great to look down the

range and see ... most of the top players in the world here,” said Rory McIlroy, at Hilton Head for the first time since 2009. “We all want to play against the best fields week in, week out. I guess its silver lining to all this is that it seems like all the top guys are going to play a little more often going forward, and that’s a good thing for the tour and for us and for the people at home that are watching.”

There will even be some watching in person.

Spectators are banned for the first five tournaments. Colonial still had a dozen or so people peer through a chain-link fence on the perimeter of the Fort Worth, Texas, golf course, and three houses had makeshift hospitality tents and grandstands.

Harbour Town is lined with villas and vacation homes, and even during a practice round Wednesday, several homeowners or guests were on the deck with their morning coffee or “5 o’clock somewhere” drink, watching players pass by.

Ropes line the fairway, giving it the feel of a regular PGA Tour event. In this case, ropes also run along backyards. People can watch from their homes, but they can’t come onto the course.

It was an eerie feeling for five-time champion David Love III, playing Hilton Head for the 31st time.

“When I turned the corner at 16, it was like, ‘Holy cow!’ I mean, and other holes looked strange, but when you turn the corner on 16 and there’s beautiful oak trees and you see all the way to Daufuskie (Island), I’m like: ‘Wow. Where are we?’” Love said. “You stand there on 17 green and can see all the way to the lighthouse without walking around the big sky box.

“It’s a strange feeling not to have the gallery.”



GERRY BROOME/AP

Fans watch from their condos along the course Thursday during the first round of the RBC Heritage in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

NFL

Bills' Allen kept busy despite all pandemic limits

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Josh Allen has hardly spent this coronavirus pandemic-altered offseason in self-isolation.

The Buffalo Bills quarterback instead kept himself busy in seeking advice from Peyton Manning and Brett Favre on Zoom calls, to gathering his teammates together for workouts on both coasts.

It's all been done with an intent to continue developing into a team leader entering his third season, and smooth the inconsistencies that have hampered Allen and the offense's production.

What fuels Allen is the still stinging memory of his up-then-down performance in a 22-19 overtime loss to Houston in an AFC wild-card playoff, in which the Bills squandered a 16-0 third-quarter lead.

"I was talking about last night, so I'm definitely not over it," Allen during a Zoom conference call with Buffalo-area reporters Thursday.

He was efficient in the first half by going 13-for-20 for 131 yards and catching a touchdown pass, before unraveling in going 11-for-26 for 133 yards and a lost fumble the rest of the way.

"I know that we had opportunities to win that game," he said. "That's something that continues to drive me in knowing I could've played better and I could've done more, and I could've eliminated a mistake here or there that could've been super easy to eliminate and given us a better chance to win that game."

It was a performance which encapsulated the best and worst of Allen, the Bills 2018 first-round pick, who has yet to shed his pre-draft reputation of being a strong-armed, but raw product with accuracy issues.

"I've got personal goals set out for myself," Allen said, noting his 11-0 career record when completing 60% or more of passes in games he starts and finishes.

"So I think that's the goal every game to at least hit 60%," he said. "I'm not going to try to force things and I'm not going to be Captain Checkdown either."

The test for Allen this offseason has been finding ways to improve without the benefit of on-field practices, with the pandemic wiping out the NFL's entire spring schedule.

He began by seeking advice from former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, whom he met at the Super Bowl. It continued with offensive coordinator Brian Daboll inviting Favre

— Allen's childhood idol — and Manning to provide tips during the Bills' virtual quarterback meetings.

Allen then took it upon himself to organize a workout with Bills offensive rookie draft picks in California in early May, followed by bringing together 19 offensive players for workouts in Miami a few weeks later.

Allen's take-charge approach drew praise from Daboll and coach Sean McDermott.

"He's our quarterback, but you can't force leadership. You can improve it, you can learn about it. You can grow from it," Daboll said. "But

Josh has innate leadership qualities that guys gravitate toward, and he understands his role on the team."

Added McDermott: "It's a critical step that he took it upon himself and his own initiative to put this together."

The Miami workouts were particularly important because they marked the first time Allen was able practice throws with receiver Stefan Diggs, the dynamic threat acquired in a trade with Minnesota in March.

"It was very, very awesome to see just the amount of detail he puts into his craft, how communicative he was, how willing he was to learn," Allen said of Diggs. "He's such an explosive player and a great player, and he's going to add a lot to our offense."

Scoring more points was general manager Brandon Beane's objective behind acquiring Diggs, who joins a well-established group of receivers rounded out by John Brown and Cole Beasley. Despite a 10-6 finish, the Bills scored 21 or more points just six times and ranked 23rd in the NFL in scoring and 24th in yards offense.

Allen made significant strides from his rookie season by showing poise and patience in the pocket.

Allen doubled his touchdowns passing total to 20 and threw only nine interceptions (down from 12 the previous year). Though he enjoyed a six-point jump in completing 58.8% of his passes, Allen still ranked last among NFL starters.

Allen particularly credited Romo for providing tips that have improved his throwing motion, which he saw pay off during the Miami workouts.



GERRY BROOME/AP

Buffalo Bills coach Sean McDermott said being at home during the pandemic has taught him patience.

New game plan: Pandemic helps coaches, GMs balance

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

First in, last out.

NFL general managers and coaches, and those who assist them, work within a highly competitive culture. Putting in extremely long hours is simply understood as part of the job.

They show up early in the morning and often leave late at night — if they even go home at all. Day after day, week after week, month after month.

"Everyone that works in football and other professional sports sacrifices a lot of family time," Detroit Lions general manager Bob Quinn says. "That is just the way it has always been."

Unless there's a pandemic.

The league closed team facilities in March due to the coronavirus outbreak, sending coaches and general managers home. Those with families wound up under the same roof with their wives and kids on a daily basis for an extended period for the first time in their careers.

Even though team headquarters were opened earlier this month, some teams such as the Lions opted to stay in place while continuing to connect with each other via computers and cell phones. And when the NFL allows doors to open for training camp this summer, the Lions will be among the franchises evaluating what standard operating procedures can be altered to help employees strike an improved life-work balance.

"I never thought I could be as efficient working exclusively from home since mid-March," Quinn said. "It has opened my eyes to be able to spend a little less time at the office."

League leaders found out it is possible to pull off a relatively regular offseason in some major ways, conducting the draft, free agency and owners meetings virtually, while making contingency plans for potential delays in the preseason and regular season.

"I've learned more about myself as a person through this," Buffalo Bills coach Sean McDermott said. "Just in terms of the patience that has to go into moments like this."

During the draft, kids were hanging out around their dads while picks were being made, and TV cameras captured the touching scenes not seen before because, well, they didn't happen before.

"I get emotional talking about this because I love these two kids, and I love my wife," Quinn said. "It's hard to be away from these guys, traveling around to pro days and jumping on flights, getting home late, then sleeping for six hours and going to the office the next morning."

Jacksonville Jaguars coach Doug Marrone tried



DUANE BURLESON/AP

Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia, left, said he often slept at the office before the pandemic but said he's learned to look for more of a work-life balance during it.

to take full advantage of the unique opportunity, sitting at the dinner table and stirring up conversations with his family on a regular basis.

"This is a time that I feel like I can make up for maybe some of the things I feel guilty about," Marrone said. "For so many years, I've been at work."

Dr. Michael Gervais, a high-performance psychologist, said the pandemic is an opportunity for successful people to explore other dimensions of their lives.

"When people are highly skilled at any craft, there's an identity trap that waits in the wings. It's called identity foreclosure," said Gervais, who has worked closely with Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll and his team.

Lions coach Matt Patricia sheepishly acknowledges he inhabits the team's headquarters in Allen Park, Mich., longer than he would like, and spends some nights there during the season. For the past few months, though, Patricia's wife and kids have had unprecedented access to him.

"I've never been around my family this much and I've never been home this much," Patricia said. "I've never been in a situation where I could make my kids breakfast, then go back down to work. Or run upstairs to have dinner, then go back to work. Or put my kids to bed and go back to work."

"I don't have a very good life balance. Hopefully, we'll try some things remotely and find out they work."

AP Pro Football Writers Teresa M. Walker and Mark Long, and Sports Writers Janie McCauley, Brett Martel, John Wawrow, Andrew Seligman and Steve Megargee contributed.

NFL



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The national conversation about racism has renewed calls for the Washington Redskins to change their name. D.C. mayor Muriel Bowser called the name an "obstacle" to the team building its stadium and headquarters in the District, but owner Dan Snyder has shown no indications he'd consider a change.

Debate on racism renews calls for Redskins to change name

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

The recent national debate over racism has renewed calls for the NFL's Washington Redskins to change their name, with Native American advocates believing the climate is right for action despite no evidence owner Dan Snyder is considering it.

It could take pressure from the other 31 owners and the league office itself to force Snyder's hand. A Redskins spokesman said the team had no comment, while the NFL did not immediately respond to questions about the future of the name.

"(It) might be easier if the NFL as an institution or a corporation mandates the change because then it takes the pressure off of the Washington team themselves and Dan Snyder," University of California, Berkeley, assistant professor of psychology Arianne Eason said Wednesday.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser last week called the name "an obstacle" to the team building a new stadium and headquarters in the District, which would likely be on land leased by the federal government. The site of the team's former home, RFK Stadium, is one option, along with locations in Maryland and Virginia when the current lease at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., expires in 2027.

"I think it's past time for the team to deal with what offends so many people," Bowser told Team

980 radio. "This is a great franchise with a great history that's beloved in Washington, and it deserves a name that reflects the affection that we've built for the team."

Snyder has owned the team since 1999 and shown no indication he'd make a change like Washington's NBA franchise did in 1995, going from the Bullets to Wizards. When a 2016 Washington Post poll found nine in 10 Native Americans aren't offended by the name, Snyder said the team, fans and community believe it "represents honor, respect and pride."

A peer-reviewed UC Berkeley study co-authored by Eason and University of Michigan diversity of social transformation professor of psychology Stephanie Fryberg that was released earlier this year revealed 49% of the 1,000 Native Americans surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the name was offensive. That number goes up to 67% among those who strongly identify as Native.

Since the death of George Floyd in Minnesota, protests have erupted around the world, with much of the conversation centered on systematic racism.

"We are very much in a moment of reckoning around equity concerns in this country," Fryberg said. "At some point, the NFL as an organization is going to have to make a decision whether teams like the Kansas City Chiefs and the Washington football team should be allowed to continue to systematically discriminate against Native people."



Bowser



Snyder



LINSEY WASSON/AP

Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray, who was the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2019 — wasn't particularly vocal about social issues during his first season but said that would change in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, a black man, while in police custody in Minneapolis.

Cardinals' Murray says he'll kneel for anthem

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

Quarterback Kyler Murray says he'll be kneeling during the national anthem this season.

The Arizona Cardinals' emerging star — who was the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2019 — wasn't particularly vocal about social issues during his first season but said that would change in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, a black man, while in police custody in Minneapolis.

"Yeah, I'll be kneeling," Murray said

Wednesday. "I stand for what's right, that's the bottom line. I call it like I see it. What's been going on is completely wrong. I'll definitely be taking a knee."

The 22-year-old Murray said he didn't have a lot of bad experiences with the police growing up but added that he was lucky because he's usually recognized as a famous football player. The quarterback said the "peaceful protests, I think they're amazing" and he is confident younger people will be the catalyst for real progress.

"I do feel like we'll see change," Murray said. "Just because my generation, we're so diverse. We know what racism is but I feel

like there's not a lot of it in my generation.

"I know generations above me, my parents' generation, there's a lot of racism, whether we want to believe it or not, there is. There's a lot of hate in this world, but I think what's happening, what we're seeing right now, is huge."

Murray joins other NFL players who have indicated they'll be kneeling during the anthem this season, including Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield. Murray and Mayfield are close friends who were teammates in college at Oklahoma and who won the Heisman Trophy in back-to-back seasons.

Lynn: Kaepernick fits Chargers, but no workout is set

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Colin Kaepernick is on the Los Angeles Chargers' workout list, but that doesn't mean he will be coming in anytime soon or at all.

Anthony Lynn said Wednesday that Kaepernick fits the style of quarterback Los Angeles is looking for, but the third-year head coach hasn't spoken to him. Lynn was also quick to point out that he first wants to see how the three quarterbacks he has on the roster perform — something he hasn't been able to do during the offseason due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It would be something I think any team would have to explore with a talent of that caliber that is available under these circumstances," Lynn said. "I know he has a high IQ at the position. It comes down to physical shape and his ability to do what he does. You can figure out real quick where he is in his career after an intense workout."

"Teams need to see if those three years (out of the league) helped him or hurt him. That is three years of not getting hit. It would really be nice to see him back in the league. I'm very con-

fident and happy with the three quarterbacks that I have but you can never have too many people waiting on the runway."

LA will have a new quarterback under center for its scheduled Sept. 13 opener at Cincinnati after not re-signing Philip Rivers. The 17-year veteran signed with Indianapolis after making 235 consecutive regular-season and playoff starts in powder blue.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Monday that he is encouraging teams to sign Kaepernick, who has been out of the league the past three seasons.

Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said last week that he received a call from another team about Kaepernick. Carroll and the Seahawks brought Kaepernick in for a workout in 2017 and had another planned in 2018 but it was canceled. Lynn said the Chargers were not the team that inquired.

Tyrod Taylor goes into training camp at the top of the depth chart. Los Angeles also drafted Oregon's Justin Herbert with the sixth overall pick and have second-year player Easton Stick. Lynn said he has been happy with the virtual offseason sessions, but that the lack of field work makes it harder to gauge the position.



ALLEN EYESTONE, THE PALM BEACH POST/AP

Colin Kaepernick waits to enter the field with the 49ers before a 2016 game against the Dolphins in Miami. He's on the Chargers' workout list and coach Anthony Lynn says he fits the team's offense.

SPORTS

**Insurmountable obstacle?**

DC's mayor suggests Redskins' name remains issue in stadium talks » **Page 55**

MLB

Question of legitimacy

Fans likely to place asterisk next to pandemic-shortened season

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Fresh off a robust round of batting practice in Central Park, softball slugger Todd Montgomery squared up his Mets cap and took a swing at hardball questions involving his favorite team.

Would Jacob deGrom be worthy of a third straight Cy Young Award if he goes 4-2 with a 1.45 ERA?

Does Pete Alonso get on the hallowed MVP list by hitting 19 home runs?

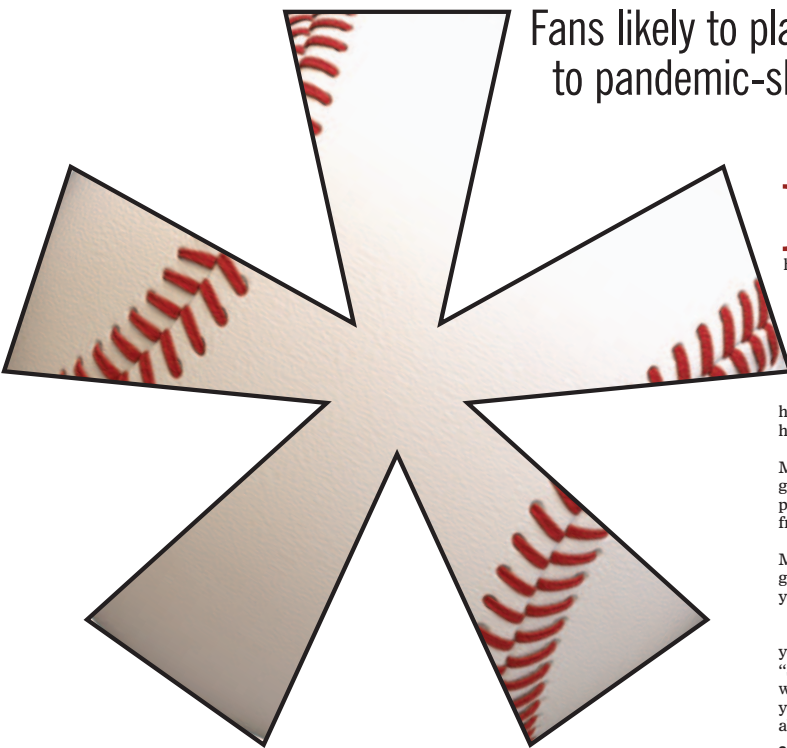
And the big one: If the New York Mets win the World Series in a 50-game season, does that pennant proudly flap alongside the banners from '69 and '86?

"Fly it high! It counts. It all counts," Montgomery said. "DeGrom doesn't get to have this year back. Whatever you get, it counts."

With a caveat, of course.

"It's abnormal," offered the 60-year-old songwriter who ran the "School of Rock" team in the Broadway Show League. "Everybody 100 years from now will know it was abnormal."

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NHL faces short-term losses from pandemic » Page 48

