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# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 66 @SS 2020

Monday, July 20, 2020

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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## President refuses to commit to vote results

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it's too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on "Fox News Sunday." "No, I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time either." The Biden campaign responded: "The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Trump also hammered the Pentagon brass for favoring re-naming bases that honor Confederate military leaders — a drive for change spurred by the national debate about race after George Floyd's death. "I don't care what the military says," the commander in chief said.

The president described the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as a "a little bit of an alarmist" about the coronavirus pandemic, and Trump stuck to what he had said back in February — that the virus is "going to disappear." On Fox, he said, "I'll be right eventually." The United States tops the global death toll list with over 140,000 and confirmed infections, with 3.7 million.

It is remarkable that a sitting president would express less

SEE RESULTS ON PAGE 7

**PACIFIC**

## S. Korea downplays reduction report

Officials say no discussions held on dropping US military presence

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Sunday played down a report that the White House is weighing options to reduce the U.S. military presence on the peninsula, saying the allies have not discussed the issue.

The Pentagon provided proposals for cutting the number of troops in South Korea

**'If U.S. troops are drawn down without reducing North Korean threats first, the U.S. will look weak.'**

Duyeon Kim  
Seoul-based senior adviser,  
International Crisis Group

to the White House in March as part of an overall review of how to reposition and potentially reduce military deployments around the world, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

It cited unnamed officials who declined to provide details and said no decision has been made.

SEE REDUCTION ON PAGE 3

U.S. soldiers use suppressive fire during an exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, South Korea, in 2018.

ELIZABETH BROWN/U.S. Army



# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## US lawsuits say Kuwait officials stole over \$100M

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Justice Department has filed a series of lawsuits seeking to recover at least \$104 million in funds allegedly embezzled by former officials in Kuwait's Ministry of Defense.

The seven lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles claim the laundered funds were used to purchase real estate, including a hilltop property in Beverly Hills that was once listed on

the real estate market for \$1 billion, a private jet, a yacht, sports cars and memorabilia of boxer Manny Pacquiao.

According to the complaints announced Friday, three unnamed individuals who were high-level officials in Kuwait's Ministry of Defense opened six unauthorized bank accounts between 2009 and 2016 and used the accounts to facilitate the transfer of over \$100 million in Kuwaiti public funds to California bank accounts connected to a convicted felon. Some

of the transfers were falsely described as for Kuwaiti military purposes, U.S. prosecutors said.

Court papers identified the felon as Victorino Noval, 58, a Los Angeles man who was convicted in 2003 of mail fraud and tax evasion in connection with a multimillion-dollar loan fraud committed against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Noval was sentenced to federal prison and was ordered to pay more than \$25 million in restitution.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (July 20)	\$1.11	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Dollar buys (July 20)	60.8543	British pound	\$1.2566
British pound (July 20)	\$1.22	Canada (Dollar)	1.3577
Japanese yen (July 20)	104.00	China (Yuan)	6.9922
South Korean won (July 20)	1,176.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.5108
		Denmark (Krone)	15.9551
		Egypt (Pound)	15.1436/8,714
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7538
		Hungary (Forint)	308.83
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4386
		Japan (Yen)	106.96
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3076
		Norway (Krone)	9.2768
		Philippines (Peso)	49.36
		Poland (Zloty)	3.92
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3888
		South Korea (Won)	1,204.06
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9385
		Thailand (Baht)	5.169
		Turkey (Lira)	6.8619

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

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.03
3-month bill	0.11
30-year bond	1.33

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### MONDAY IN EUROPE



### TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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



## MILITARY

## Foggo calls for new strategy in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

NATO needs a new maritime strategy to deal with the resurgence of Russia's submarine force and China's emergence as a military factor in Europe, the outgoing U.S. naval commander on the Continent said.

Adm. James Foggo, who relinquished command Friday of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, said the security situation has changed dramatically in the nine years since allies last crafted a formal sea strategy.

The current plan "misses the return, or the resurgence of the Russian submarine force ... it misses the rise of China as a great power (and) it misses completely the illegal annexation of Ukraine," Foggo said in a phone interview ahead of Friday's change of command ceremony at Navy headquarters in Naples.

"That's not a criticism of NATO. That's just something that, you know, I'm making my colleagues aware of," he said. "I think we need to do a refresh."

Foggo, who will retire later this summer, is being replaced by Adm. Robert P. Burke, who also will lead NATO's Allied Joint Forces Command. The dual-hatted job means Burke will be a key voice should allies follow Foggo's call to formally adopt a new strategy.

Burke, in a statement Friday upon assuming command, said China and Russia pose "overt challenges to the free and open international order."

"Maritime forces are going to be key in this era of great power competition," he said.

For Foggo, commanding the Navy in Europe capped a 39-year career, much of it focused on countering Russia. As a young submariner in the 1980s, Foggo patrolled the Arctic at the height of the Cold War.

His time in Europe also included command of the Navy's three-



Burke

star 6th Fleet headquarters in Naples from 2014-16, a time when a post-Cold War period of calm was upturned by a more assertive Russia. Moscow's 2014 intervention in Ukraine and ramped up naval maneuvers stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean are the chief reasons why an updated strategy is needed, Foggo said. So is China, which now describes itself as a near-Arctic state despite being far from it.

China is a "new player in town," Foggo said. For Beijing, the Arctic is an aspect of its "Belt and Road" initiative, which aims to drive global commerce in the decades to come. But for allies, a challenge will be choosing regions to prioritize, Foggo said.

"Is it the Arctic?" he asked. "Is it the Baltics? Is it the Mediterranean? Is it the Black Sea? Or are we going to run to the sound of the guns, which we have a tendency to do?"

The so-called GIUK Gap, a passage in the North Atlantic re-



KAYSEE LOHMANN/U.S. Navy

Adm. James G. Foggo III shakes hands with Capt. Daniel Prochazka, the executive officer of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, on the flight deck in the Mediterranean Sea in December. Foggo relinquished command Friday of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

garded as a possible choke point in the event of conflict between Russian and allied warships and submarines, is another area of concern for military planners.

"There're a lot of hot spots out there nowadays," Foggo said. But by forming a new strategy, the U.S. and its allies would be better positioned to advocate for resources that can be directed at such threats, he added.

Still, the idea of pushing for a new NATO strategy comes at a

time of political upheaval and questions about its durability, given President Donald Trump's frequent criticisms of the alliance. Trump's plan to cut 9,500 troops in Germany has renewed concerns among some in Europe about whether the U.S. remains strongly committed to the Continent.

Foggo, who is known to carry a copy of the alliance charter in his briefcase at all times, likes to say he was literally "born into

NATO."

The son of a Canadian military officer, Foggo was born in Mochenladbach-Reinholden, Germany, and spent time growing up on NATO bases.

Despite tensions with Germany, he says he remains bullish on NATO's future.

"I'm not buying any of it," Foggo said of questions about NATO's longevity. "I think it'll be around for another 70 years."

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## Reduction: Some worry troop withdrawal would be win for China, N. Korea

## FROM FRONT PAGE

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Sunday that it has had "no discussions about cutting the number of U.S. troops here" with the Defense Department.

## Call for options

However, the administration's call for options, which the Journal said was first made last fall, came against a backdrop of growing tensions between the two allies amid tough negotiations over defense cost-sharing.

President Donald Trump's administration also has signaled it's eager to restart nuclear talks with North Korea — which considers U.S. troops an existential threat — as a foreign policy win ahead of the November election.

Talks have stalled on both fronts, with South Korea rebuffing Trump's demands for a multibillion dollar increase in its contribution to offset the cost of stationing more than 28,500 troops on the divided peninsula.

Duyoon Kim, a Seoul-based senior adviser with the International

Crisis Group, said a proposal for cutting troops may be a negotiating tactic but would not likely succeed if so.

"I'd be surprised if Seoul gave him his asking price just to keep U.S. troops in Korea," she said in an email, adding that the South Koreans would likely wait to resolve the issue until after the U.S. presidential election in November.

"The report reiterates to South Koreans that Trump takes a transactional approach to alliances, instead of one based on common values, which is insulting and offensive to them," she said.

Kim also said a move to reduce the U.S. military footprint on the divided peninsula would send a negative signal about America's commitment to security in the region.

"It delivers an easy win for China, North Korea, and Russia that want to reduce American influence in the region," she said in an email. "If U.S. troops are drawn down without reducing North Korean threats first, the U.S. will look weak."

## Growing signals

Trump has often complained about the cost of stationing troops overseas and has said he would like to bring them home.

He agreed to end joint military exercises with South Korea in what was seen as a major concession during his first summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump also approved a plan last month to cut nearly a third of the 34,500 American service members in Germany, prompting speculation that South Korea could be next.

Richard Grenell, the former ambassador to Germany, stoked those concerns during a video interview last month with the German newspaper Bild.

"We want to bring troops from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, from South Korea, Japan and from Germany," he said.

"American taxpayers are getting a little bit tired of paying too much for the defense of other countries," he said. "This has been a very clear political point

that President Trump has made for a long time."

Daniel Davis, a retired Army officer and a senior fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Defense Priorities, said reducing the number of U.S. troops in South Korea "makes strategic sense."

"South Korea is wealthy with a capable military—it has the wherewithal to deter North Korea, a desperately poor, weak nation," Davis said in a commentary.

## Strong opposition

Any move to reduce the U.S. troop presence in South Korea would face many obstacles.

U.S. legislators on both sides of the political aisle have raised concerns, with Congress including restrictions on drawing down troops in last year's funding bill. Similar legislation is being considered this year.

"Troop withdrawal is not a popular idea in Washington," said John Delury, a professor at Yonsei University in Seoul.

But, he said, the context may not matter if Trump thinks it will im-

press his supporters as well as divert attention from criticism over his administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The underlying substance of negotiations with North Korea and South Korea are immaterial," Delury said in a telephone interview.

"It is about whether the optics work and the timing of the threats of bringing thousands of troops home ... and doing that to get a boost going into the November election. That's the logic we can expect from the White House," he added.

U.S. Forces Korea declined to comment on the report but stressed it remains committed to the alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War.

"USFK remains committed to providing a robust combined defense posture while maintaining our 'fight tonight' mission readiness posture to protect South Korea against any threat or adversary," spokesman Col. Lee Peters said on Sunday.

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PACIFIC

# 2 B-1Bs deploy to Guam

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force on Friday deployed two B-1B bombers to Guam as the Navy continued its dual-aircraft carrier operations in the contested South China Sea.

Both services described the operations as routine, but they follow a U.S. State Department announcement Monday explicitly embracing a 2016 decision by an international tribunal that rejected China's claim of sovereignty over certain reefs and isles in the South China Sea.

The pair of Lancer bombers — from the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 28th Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. — will conduct bilateral bomber task force operations out of Andersen Air Force Base, the Air Force said in a statement.

They will train with allies, partner nations and other U.S. servic-

es. The deployment also supports "strategic deterrence missions to reinforce the rules-based international order in the region," the Air Force said.

About 170 airmen also deployed from Ellsworth to Guam in support of the bomber mission, according to the statement.

The Air Force did not disclose the intended length of the deployment.

Before arriving on Guam, the bombers conducted intercept training over the Sea of Japan with F-15 fighter jets belonging to the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force, the Air Force said.

B-1s were last deployed to Guam in May when they flew in from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

Meanwhile, the more than 12,000 sailors and Marines aboard the vessel of the USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan carrier strike groups contin-

ued training Friday in the South China Sea, where they have been operating since early July. In addition, China conducted drills July 1-5 near the sea's Paracel Islands, which both China and Vietnam claim as their own.

The Pentagon issued a statement at the time calling China's actions "counterproductive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability" in the sea.

The current operations by the Nimitz and Reagan strike groups "continue to demonstrate operational commitment to allies and partners in the region, providing combatant commanders with significant operational flexibility if needed in response to regional situations," the Navy said in a statement.

"Nimitz and Reagan Carrier Strike Groups are operating in the South China Sea wherever international law allows, to reinforce our commitment to a free



CHRISTINA BENNETT/U.S. Air Force

## Two B-1B Lancers conduct a flyover before landing at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on Friday.

and open Indo-Pacific, a rules based international order, and to our allies and partners in the region," Rear Adm. Jim Kirk, commander of Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, said in the statement.

The tactical drills focus on the groups' offensive and defensive capabilities, the statement said.

"These carrier strike groups incorporate the capabilities of embarked fixed and rotary wing

aircraft, Aegis guided-missile cruisers and destroyers, and attack submarines," the statement said. "This opportunity for two carrier strike groups to train and operate together in the region provides combatant commanders with significant operational flexibility and capabilities that only the U.S. Navy can bring."

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# Combat aviator takes command of Pacific Marine Corps

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder, an aviator who deployed to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Qatar for Operation Enduring Freedom, assumed command Thursday of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

Stepping down was Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta, who has headed the Hawaii-based combatant command for nearly two years. He now heads to Quantico, Va., to lead the Marine Corps' Training and Education Command.

No formal change-of-command ceremony was held because of restrictions in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

In lieu of a ceremony, the service released a video featuring statements by Craparotta, Rudder, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger and Adm.

Phil Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Rudder, who most recently served as deputy commandant of the Marine Corps for aviation at the Pentagon, will now oversee about 86,000 Marines, sailors and civilians under the dual command of Marine Corps Forces Pacific and Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

Roughly 22,000 of those personnel are deployed west of the International Date Line at any given time, the statement said.

The units of Fleet Marine Force Pacific, which are spread across the Pacific region, is America's largest maritime landing force.

"The Indo-Pacific Theater is our nation's



Rudder

and the Marine Corps' primary theater," Berger said in the video. "It is where two-thirds of the world's population live, so it would probably make sense why two-thirds of the Fleet Marine Forces also operate."

Berger has emphasized the importance of integrating the operations of the Marine Corps and Navy in the Pacific, championing the concept of Expeditionary Advance Base Operations, which would have Marines operating out of a plethora of small bases throughout the theater.

"This is the focus for our National Defense Strategy," Berger said. "It's the focus for the military in general, and it is very much the focus for the Navy and the Marine Corps going forward."

In his parting words on the video, Craparotta said he could think of no better place to serve as a Marine than in the Pacific.

"It's about who we are; it's what we do," he said. "Marines will be critical to this region far into the future, and it really has

been my distinct pleasure and honor to serve alongside all the Marines and the sailors serving with us over these past two years."

Rudder — like Craparotta a Connecticut native — was commissioned in 1984 and served in the Pacific during several points in his career, including command of 1st Marine Air Wing on Okinawa, Japan, and as director of strategic planning and policy at U.S. Pacific Command, according to his official biography.

He was commander of Marine Aircraft Group 26 when it was deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.1.

His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat "V."

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# Veterans group sues VA over alleged use of toxic herbicides on Guam

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

Veterans who say troops were exposed to harmful chemicals on Guam in doing Vietnam-era defoliant Agent Orange, are suing the government.

Military Veterans Advocacy, a Louisiana-based group, filed suit against Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie in a Washington, D.C., court July 10 seeking a review of his decision not to issue the rules that would help veterans' claims for herbicide exposure on Guam, the group said in a statement Monday.

In its lawsuit the group decries the decision, outlined in a May 12 letter signed by Paul Lawrence, the VA's undersecretary for benefits, that conceded the use of commercial herbicides on Guam.

The letter stated that "despite

the presence of chemical components similar to tactical herbicides, injuries resulting from commercial herbicides were not compensable," the lawsuit states.

The VA went on to dismiss the presence of tactical herbicides on Guam, because of a lack of shipping documentation, the lawsuit states.

The advocacy group's chairman, former Navy commander John Wells, in the statement said the goal is to force the government to admit toxic exposure of troops in the Pacific.

"We have definitive proof of the presence of dioxin and other toxic chemicals on Guam 40 years after the last known use," he said. "We also have affidavits, that we have provided the VA, from personnel who sprayed the herbicide."

A report released May 11 by the National Veterans Legal Ser-

vices Program and the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School states veterans who served on Guam between 1962 and 1975 meet the legal standard for exposure and may have valid claims to service-related disabilities.

However, the VA disputed the report's findings in a May 19 email to Stars and Stripes.

"There is no evidence agent orange was ever used on Guam," wrote VA press secretary Christina Noel.

VA spokesman Randal Noller said in an email Thursday that the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation.

"However, VA encourages all Veterans who feel their military service has affected their health to submit a claim, which will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis and based on all relevant evidence, as well as any materi-

als submitted by the Veteran," he said.

The advocacy group cited another recent report prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that analyzed soil samples taken in October 2019. According to the statement, the report noted: "It is probable that TCDD dioxin congener concentrations detected in soils are associated with chlorinated herbicides."

The soil samples were taken at locations identified by former Military Veterans Advocacy board member Brian Moyer, who also founded the Agent Orange Survivors of Guam group. Moyer served as a Marine on Guam and remembers the spraying, according to the statement.

Agent Orange is an herbicide that was widely used during the Vietnam War that has been linked

to cancer, birth defects and other illnesses.

The advocacy group's executive director, former Air Force officer Rob Maness, who also served on Guam, said in the statement: "It is a shame that veterans have to fight for their benefits when the vast weight of the evidence indicates exposure. The VA's denial was simply irrational."

Wells, who along with Moyer has advocated in Congress and with the VA to provide coverage, predicted that the court would be sympathetic to the veterans.

"Unfortunately, the VA has a well-deserved reputation of delaying and denying claims until the veteran dies," Wells said. "Hopefully the court will force them to do their job."

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Troops coming to Europe from US must quarantine

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — Troops coming to Europe from the U.S. have to quarantine for 14 days and can no longer test out of it, military officials said Friday as they moved to contain a “significant spike” in coronavirus infections among incoming forces.

Military families and Defense Department civilians coming to Europe from international risk areas for the coronavirus, including the U.S., will also have to quarantine for two weeks, a general order issued by the 86th Air Lift Wing at Ramstein Air Base said.

Personnel arriving from risk areas who are passing through Ramstein en route to a final destination must also quarantine while on base. They may leave their lodging for takeout at the base food court or shopette, but are barred from going to the commissary or the main exchange, the order said.

Ramstein is shifting its posture back to “red,” which includes reintroducing a stop-movement order on official travel to and from the base in southwest Germany.

“Being a red installation will help us manage the inbound flow of travelers and balance our resources, such as lodging and dorms,” to ensure we have sufficient space on base for people

to quarantine,” officials said in a message posted on the base’s Facebook page.

Ramstein’s red designation will not affect leave policy, they said.

“Members and families already stationed here may continue to take leave outside the local area per previous guidance,” they said on Facebook. “Ensure your destinations are authorized using our Ramstein COVID-19 webpage, and continue to get your commander’s approval beforehand.”

As of Thursday, Ramstein’s COVID-19 page listed 26 countries in Europe as “green” for travel.

U.S. Army Europe also tightened up restrictions, announcing that quarantine waivers will no longer be granted to troops who test negative for the virus on arrival in Germany. Previously, some European commands allowed service members who tested negative to leave quarantine for impressing and to run essential errands.

But as of Thursday, all inbound soldiers, including those on temporary duty or returning from leave in the United States, along with Army civilians and their families “will enter into a strict, 14-day” restriction of movement, USAREUR said in a statement. “There are no exceptions to policy authorized.”

Anyone who tests positive for the coronavirus will only be released from quarantine by a public health worker after meeting



MARCY SANCHEZ/Regional Health Command Europe

**A medic at the clinic in Wiesbaden, Germany swabs a patient for coronavirus testing, June 12.**

certain conditions, including two negative tests, 24 hours or more apart, USAREUR said.

The tougher rules were imposed following a “significant spike” in cases of the virus at military installations across Europe in the past week, and instances where personnel have only started showing symptoms eight to nine days after travel. Stuttgart garrison commander Col. Jason Condrey said in a community announcement Thursday.

The only time quarantined personnel will be allowed to leave their hotel room or home is to walk a dog, take out trash or visit the health clinic, Condrey said.

Those who violate the new rules could face consequences, including punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and involuntary early return of dependents, USAREUR said.

Personnel from Public Health Command Europe, who have been screening people as they arrive,

have seen “an increasing rate of positive individuals coming from the United States,” said Col. Rodney Coldren, the agency’s chief of preventive medicine services.

But tests have shown “extremely low” infection rates among troops who travel within Europe for training or other purposes, he said.

Commands in the Pacific are also scrambling to contain the virus at their installations after numerous service members tested positive upon arrival from the U.S.

Military commands in Europe are restricted from providing precise infection data due to operational security.

The new restrictions seek to protect the overseas U.S. military community and to prevent a resurgence of the virus in Germany, Ramstein officials said. Only 534 new cases were reported in Germany on Thursday, said the country’s public health agency, the

Robert Koch Institute. Germany has seen just under 202,000 cases of coronavirus since the start of the pandemic early this year.

In contrast, 77,255 new cases were reported in the U.S. on Thursday. The total number of cases in the States is over 3.7 million, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

As the U.S. military tightened up its restrictions, health officials announced that anyone with a Defense Department ID card may be tested for the virus at Army clinics across Europe, including at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Screening previously was available only to those with symptoms such as a fever and a cough.

No appointments are necessary at LRMCC and test results are ready within 24 to 48 hours.

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## Japan’s defense minister wants troops tested before arrival

By AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — Four days after a U.S. military family in Japan tested positive for the coronavirus, the country’s defense minister on Friday called on the U.S. military to test all its personnel before they leave the United States.

“We believe that if we can detect these asymptomatic personnel prior to departure (from the U.S.), we can take different measures to contain the virus,” Taro Kono told reporters during a press conference in Tokyo.

U.S. military personnel who fly into U.S. air bases in Japan via the Patriot Express, a government-contracted flight, are not tested for the coronavirus, according to Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They are tested only if they enter the country via commercial airlines at Narita and Haneda



ANSEL AUSTIN/U.S. Marine Corps

**Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono visits Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, on June 20.**

airports in the Tokyo area. “I know the U.S. military quarantines SOFA personnel prior to entering Japan,” Kono said, “but

they have not tested them.” Service members, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors and their families are

covered by the status of forces agreement, or SOFA, between Japan and the United States.

U.S. Forces Japan did not immediately respond Friday afternoon for a request for comment on Kono’s remarks.

On Monday, a U.S. military family of three flew from Tokyo to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni via a Japanese airline after providing false information about their travel plans. Kono said earlier in the week. Later, results of tests taken at their arrival Sunday in Tokyo came back positive.

Kono said the U.S. and Japan are working to ensure another such incident never occurs again.

New U.S. military arrivals are barred from public transportation but must go directly into a two-week quarantine. A spokesman for MCAF Iwakuni on Thursday said contact tracing showed a low risk of further infection from the

three individuals.

Also Friday, the Marines reported two new virus cases at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and one at Camp Hansen, an Okinawa prefectural health official told Stars and Stripes.

Including three previously reported cases at Kadena Air Base, the U.S. military on Okinawa as of Friday has reported 141 cases, most of them associated with a cluster outbreak after the Fourth of July weekend.

The same health official said an 80-year-old taxi driver who tested positive for the virus this week is experiencing only mild symptoms. The driver often picked up fares at Camp Hansen.

“We are relieved to hear the patient in his 80s is in mild condition as we were very concerned because of his age,” the official said.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## DODEA-Pacific's school-year plan has options

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Students at Defense Department schools in Asia will be seated in classrooms or at home in front of computers depending upon the coronavirus risk at their families' duty stations, according to Department of Defense Education Activity-Pacific.

The coronavirus and its effect on military communities put the schools in uncharted territory when the school year starts Aug. 24, DODEA-Pacific director Lois Rapp said in a statement accompanying the DODEA school-year plan announced Thursday.

"We recognize that schools will look a bit different in our 'new normal,'" she said. "The health and safety of our students, employees and military communi-

ties is our priority."

Schools at bases with a moderate risk of the virus' spread — Health Protection Condition-Bravo, in military terms — will reopen for in-person classes, according to the 2020-21 school year plan. Currently, all U.S. bases on the Korean Peninsula and on the main islands of Japan are at moderate risk.

Those schools would incorporate "mitigating strategies" to help curb the coronavirus's spread, Rapp said.

Schools on bases at substantial risk for the coronavirus, or condition Charlie, will resume virtual instruction, which began in late winter as the pandemic worsened. All U.S. bases on Okinawa currently fall into this category.

Regarding DODEA schools on Guam, DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson said

by phone Friday that "we're still in communication [about] what that will look like."

Schools in South Korea were closed in February and in Japan in late March due to the pandemic.

"We know that students learn best in the classroom environment," Rapp wrote in her statement.

However, if health conditions deteriorate, DODEA-Pacific will switch from open classrooms to virtual instruction, according to the plan.

Also, children in any grade with health concerns or whose parents are not comfortable sending them to school may choose the virtual option. Families must register for that option by July 28 and agree to one semester with an option for the full year.

For schools with classroom instruction, the plan details miti-

gating strategies for students, teachers and employees to navigate classrooms, hallways, cafeterias and spacing aboard school buses; it calls for families to pre-screen students at home before they leave for school.

In the event a student, teacher or employee tests positive for the coronavirus, the plan calls for isolating the individual and potentially closing the school for thorough cleaning.

Responsibility for school supplies will fall more to the student and families.

"Limiting shared classroom supplies is the goal," Ferguson said.

Grab-and-go lunches will be available in cafeterias when possible, she added.

Extracurricular activities will also look different. Football, a staple of fall athletics, has been

sidelined for now, DODEA-Pacific instead plans "low-contact" sports.

As to what those might be, "we should know more soon," Ferguson said.

Far East activities such as music, art, journalism and Harvard Model Congress Asia might be reconfigured into virtual events. Due to travel restrictions, interscholastic competitions are limited to intra-district or virtual activities, the plan stated.

"Families can expect ... detailed, school-specific information" from their schools regarding what the "new normal" will look like, Rapp said.

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## Mother shares story of Fort Sill teen who died from virus

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

Anna Carter began to feel tired.

The 13-year-old had attended two days of socially distanced dance classes and thought she'd just overcome it. Her muscles were sore, so her parents encouraged her to stay home and rest.

For the past three years, Anna had battled scleroderma, an autoimmune rheumatic disease, which occasionally left her feeling this way, said Amber Carter, her mother.

On July 10, her parents decided it was best to take her to Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, the city just outside of Fort Sill, Okla., where the Marine Corps family is stationed.

"It happened so quick when I got there," Carter said. "She was literally just plucked from us."

Anna died shortly after arriving at the hospital. After her death, the family learned she had tested positive for coronavirus.

Six military dependents have died from the virus since the start of the pandemic, though the Defense Department declined Thursday to provide details on the ages of those military family members. Of the 2,478 reported cases among dependents, 89 have required hospitalization, according to the Defense Department.

Anna's father, who has served nearly 20 years in the Marine Corps, did not want to be identified, seeking to maintain his privacy.

Soon after Anna's death, her four siblings and parents would learn they too had somehow contracted the virus and have been confined to their home as they grieve. None of them have had similar or consistent symptoms, including Anna, who never had a cough or fever, Carter said. Through contact tracing, no one else the family has come into contact with had tested positive for the virus.

"It is hard because we're a really close family," Amber Carter said. Over the weekend, Carter began looking for photos to share that included only Anna, and she said she's struggled to find one. In most photos, Anna, the middle child, is smiling next to her siblings.

Children and younger people have fared better against contracting and becoming



Amber Carter

Anna Carter, 13, who died July 10 from complications with coronavirus, is seen with her brother, David.

seriously ill from that coronavirus, though researchers have said they don't have enough information on the new illness yet to understand why. There have been nearly 3.5 million confirmed cases in the United States with more than 137,400 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Children ages 5 to 17 account for about 0.1% of all U.S. coronavirus-related deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Oklahoma, Anna's death was the first for a person younger than 17.

"We cry. We cry at least once a day. Then we stop, pick up the pieces and find a reason to move on," Carter said. "It's hard to clean our house. It's hard to get up in the morning. The mornings are hardest. You doze off and wake to reality that she's not here with us."

The family had taken precautions — wearing masks, staying home as much as possible and avoiding crowds, she said.

"Before this all happened, I thought she would be OK. She's so tough. She never complained about chronic pain," Carter

said of Anna's strength in overcoming the challenges of scleroderma — a disease that required she take four daily medications and a slew of vitamins.

The disease is characterized by a build-up of collagen, which can make skin tough, so Anna had even begun a strict routine of moisturizer and stretching to keep herself in the best condition possible. She did, after all, want to become an actor.

"Since she was old enough to know what pretend play was, she has been an actress," said Carter, who now wishes she'd taken her daughter to auditions as she'd wanted, but military life didn't afford the opportunity. "She never had a drive to be anything else, because that was what she wanted to be. I think she would have become one. There was no other way. She's just one of those people who walks into a room and she's going to light it up."

As the family struggles to move forward, Carter credits her strong Catholic faith for pulling them through and is grateful for the outpouring of support and prayers she's received from family, friends and

strangers online.

"There is still good in the world, and she has shown us that," Carter said.

She's also comforted knowing Anna lived a full life in her short 13 years. She climbed Mount Fuji during the five years her father was stationed in Japan, she visited the Grand Canyon and toured the U.S. Capitol. In one long summer vacation, the family traveled through 13 states and two countries.

"She did more in her lifetime than a lot of kids," Carter said. "She really got to experience a lot of things, but I know she would have liked to have more years on this planet."

Though they are trying to remain as private as possible during this time, Carter said she wanted to share Anna's story at least once, because her daughter had a personality that made people gravitate to her. When they moved from Japan, she left behind countless friends.

"She was just a good-hearted kid that had a wild sense of humor. Sometimes that could be annoying but not with her, she just wasn't like that," Carter said.

She also fears her daughter's death could become politicized under the current debate over record-breaking growth in cases in some states and whether people should be required to wear masks. She does hope people will consider choosing to wear a mask out of "kindness and compassion toward others, not because they are mandated to."

However, Carter did consent to a friend to create a GoFundMe campaign in Anna's honor. Though she said the family doesn't need any financial support, it will be nice to be able to honor her daughter's memory.

Donations have reached more than \$27,000. Carter plans to use the funds to install a statue in Anna's honor in their church rectory. With the remaining money, the family plans to create a scholarship fund to go toward children diagnosed with scleroderma or their immediate family members, with priority given to students of medicine or acting.

Once it is safe, the family will hold a viewing, to provide Anna's siblings closure, and hold a Mass at their local Catholic parish.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Deaths hit 600K as rebound puts strain on world

Associated Press

BERLIN — The coronavirus pandemic has found fresh legs around the world, as confirmed deaths pass 600,000 and countries from the U.S. to South Africa to India struggle to contain a surge of new infections. Hong Kong issued tougher new rules on wearing face masks, Spain closed overcrowded beaches and Germany reported another outbreak at a slaughterhouse.

Rope Francis said “the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping” and urged compassion for those whose suffering during the outbreak has been worsened by conflicts.

The World Health Organization said that 259,848 new infections were reported Saturday, its highest one-day tally yet.

While the U.S. leads global infections, South Africa now ranks as the fifth worst-hit country in the pandemic with more than 350,000 cases, or around half of all those confirmed on the continent. Its struggles are a sign of trouble to come for nations with even fewer health care resources.

India, which has now confirmed more than 1 million infections, on Sunday, reported a 24-hour record of 38,902 new cases.

In Europe, where infections are far below their peak but local outbreaks are causing concern, leaders of the 27-nation European Union haggled for a third day in Brussels over a proposed \$2.1 trillion EU budget and coronavirus recovery fund.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there is “a lot of good will, but there are also a lot of positions” in the talks, which have laid bare divisions about how the countries hit hardest by the pandemic, such as Italy and Spain, should be helped. She said the talks, which were initially scheduled to end on Saturday, could still end without a deal.

As scientists around the world race to find a vaccine to halt the pandemic, Russia’s ambassador to Britain on Sunday rejected allegations by the United States, Britain and China that his country’s intelligence services have sought to steal information about vaccine efforts.

“I don’t believe in this story at all, there is no sense in it,” Ambassador Andrei Kelin said when asked in a BBC interview about the allegations. “I learned about their (the hackers’) existence from British media. In this world, to attribute any kind of comput-



MATIAS DELACROIX/AP

A street artist spray paints a protective face mask over an old mural featuring a Venezuelan Indigenous man, in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

er hackers to any country, it is impossible.”

Confirmed global virus deaths have risen to nearly 603,000, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins. The United States tops the list with over 140,000, followed by more than 78,000 in Brazil. Europe as a continent has seen about 200,000 deaths.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.2 million, with 3.7 million in the United States and more than 2 million in Brazil. Experts believe the pandemic’s true toll around the world is much higher because of testing shortages and data collection issues.

Infections have been soaring in U.S. states such as Florida, Texas, Arizona, with many blaming a

haphazard, partisan approach to lifting lockdowns as well as the resistance of some Americans to wearing masks. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Sunday that the situation was so dire in his California city that authorities were considering a new stay-at-home order.

Even where the situation has been largely brought under control, new outbreaks are prompting the return of restrictions.

Following a recent surge in cases, Hong Kong made the wearing of masks mandatory in all public places and told non-essential civil servants to work from home. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said the situation in the Asian financial hub is “really critical” and that she sees “no

sign” that it’s under control.

Police in Barcelona have limited access to some of the city’s beloved beaches because sunbathers were ignoring social distancing regulations amid a resurgence of coronavirus infections. Authorities in Amsterdam urged people not to visit the city’s famous red light district and have closed off some of the historic district’s narrow streets because they are too busy.

Slaughterhouses also have featured in outbreaks in the U.S., Germany and elsewhere. Authorities in northwestern Germany’s Vechta county said 66 workers at a chicken slaughterhouse tested positive, though most appeared to have been infected in their free time.

## Results: Trump disputes polls showing drop in popularity, calling them fake

FROM FRONT PAGE

than complete confidence in the American democracy’s electoral process. But for Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton, he said he would not commit to honoring the election results if the Democrat won.

Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he would abide by the voters’ will, Trump responded that he would “keep you in suspense.”

Trump has seen his presidential popularity erode over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of nationwide protests centered on racial injustice that erupted after Floyd’s death in Minneapolis nearly two months ago.

Trump contends that a series of polls that show his popularity eroding and Biden holding an advantage are faulty. He believes Republican voters are underrepresented in such surveys.

“First of all, I’m not losing, because those are fake polls,” Trump said in the taped interview, which aired Sunday. “They were fake in 2016 and now they’re even more fake. The polls were much worse in 2016.”

Trump was frequently combative with Wallace in defending his administration’s response to the pandemic, weighing in on the Black Lives Matter movement and trying to portray Biden, the presumptive



EWAN UCCOX/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during an event on regulatory reform on the South Lawn of the White House, on Thursday, in Washington.

Democratic nominee, as lacking the mental prowess to serve as president.

Among the issues discussed was the push for wholesale changes in policing that has swept across the nation. Trump said he could understand why Black Americans are upset about how police use force disproportionately against them.

“Of course I do. Of course I do,” the

president said, adding his usual refrain that “whites are also killed, too.”

He said he was “not offended either by Black Lives Matter,” but at the same time defended the Confederate flag, a symbol of the racism of the past, and said those who “proudly have their Confederate flags, they’re not talking about racism.”

“They love their flag, it represents the

South, they like the South. That’s freedom of speech. And you know, the whole thing with ‘cancel culture,’ we can’t cancel our whole history. We can’t forget that the North and the South fought. We have to remember that, otherwise we’ll end up fighting again. You can’t just cancel all,” Trump said.

Wallace challenged Trump on some of his claims and called out the president at times, such as when Trump falsely asserted that “Biden wants to defund the police.” The former vice president has not joined with activists rallying behind that banner. He has proposed more money for police, conditioned to improvements in their practices.

Trump continues to insist that Biden “signed a charter” with one of his primary rivals on the left, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. At one point in the interview, Trump calls on aides to bring him documentation to support his assertion. Trump, however, is unable to point to language from a Biden-Sanders task force policy document released this month by the Biden campaign.

Trump, 74, stuck to a campaign charge that Biden, 77, is unable to handle the rigors of the White House because of his age. As for polls showing the incumbent is trailing, Trump noted he was thought to be behind for much of the 2016 contest. “I won’t lose,” he predicted.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Donald Trump walks on the South Lawn of the White House before boarding Marine One for a short trip to Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Trump has limited his comments on the coronavirus recently.

# Trump talks less about virus; states look inward for answers

By AMER MADHANI  
AND FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has taken an increasingly hands-off approach to the coronavirus crisis in recent days even as COVID-19 cases and deaths have surged to record highs in a huge slice of the country, including areas where he has enjoyed strong support.

Meanwhile, governors and big city mayors in much of the United States are sending a blunt message to their constituents: Don't expect a federal cavalry to save the day.

Throughout the crisis, the president has been quick to convey certitude, with threats to state and local officials who did not heed his warnings. But as the pandemic has continued to ravage the nation, his actions have largely been muted.

Large districts in Los Angeles,

Houston and suburban Washington are among those to defy Trump's demand that schools fully reopen this fall. They announced last week that the escalating virus cases will cause them to delay opening their buildings for in-person learning. Other districts, including New York City and Chicago, have laid out initial plans for a combination of in-person and online learning.

At the same time, governors and mayors have largely stopped pleading for more federal government help. Instead, they are making it clear that it will be on the shoulders of communities to stem the accelerating spread of the virus.

"Our future truly lies in our own hands," Republican Gov. Mike DeWine told Ohioans.

The caution coming from many statehouses and city halls contrasts with the upbeat outlook from Trump. He has limited his

comments on the virus recently and shifted his attention to his administration's efforts to revive the economy and attack the presumptive Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden.

But with Trump's public approval ratings sinking over his handling of the crisis less than four months before Election Day, administration officials have said the president may need to pivot to a more aggressive approach.

Kellyanne Conway, a White House senior adviser, noted that polls early in the crisis showed a majority of Americans approved of his handling of the outbreak. This was when Trump was holding near daily briefings.

"I just think the people want to hear from the president of the United States," Conway said. "It doesn't have to be daily. It doesn't have to be for two hours. But in my view, it has to be."

## Base postal worker tests positive at home of US Forces Japan

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A postal worker at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo was tested positive for the coronavirus, Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing announced on its Facebook page Friday.

The news came the same day Tokyo counted a new daily record of 293 infections, according to the national Asahi newspaper.

The Yokota individual, whose infection was confirmed Thursday evening, has been quarantined, the wing's message said. Anyone who had close contact with the person has been identified and quarantined.

The post office will be closed until further notice for "thorough

sanitization and subsequent inspection," the message said.

"It is important to note that entering a facility where there was a positive COVID-19 case does not automatically equate to exposure," the post states, referring to the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus. "A close contact is a person who was within 6 feet of an infected individual for more than 10 minutes."

The infection was announced over a month after Yokota reported the first case within its military community, a person who tested positive after returning from the United States on June 12.

An undisclosed number of Navy sailors, however, tested positive in late April while quarantined

at the installation before boarding warships of the USS Ronald Reagan carrier strike group on an upcoming patrol. In May, the Air Force revealed that an undisclosed number of support staff accompanying the sequestered sailors had also tested positive.

Farther to the south, the Army's Camp Zama hasn't reported a positive coronavirus case since June 25. It has, however, been warning troops about off-base cases near the installation.

On Thursday, U.S. Army Garrison Japan posted alerts on its Facebook page informing troops about positive cases at a Starbucks and Yakimiku King barbecue restaurant close to Camp Zama.

At nearby Naval Air Facility

# Trump demands payroll tax cut in next relief bill

By JEFF STEIN  
AND ERICA WERNER  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump sought to draw a hard line on the upcoming coronavirus relief bill Sunday, saying it must include a payroll tax cut and liability protections for businesses, as lawmakers prepare to plunge into negotiations over unemployment benefits and other key provisions in coming days.

"I would consider not signing it if we don't have a payroll tax cut," Trump said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday." Democrats strongly oppose a payroll tax cut, and some Republicans have been cool to it, but Trump said that "a lot of Republicans like it."

Trump also said "we do need some kind of immunity" in the bill. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has repeatedly insisted that the legislation must include liability protections for businesses, health care providers, schools and others. Democrats oppose this, too.

Trump downplayed the work in coronavirus infections nationwide, arguing that it's because of high levels of testing, something health experts in his own administration dispute. And he argued that the economy is "expanding and growing beautifully," blaming Democratic governors for shutdowns he insisted were designed to hurt him in November.

Trump's comments come as Senate Republicans are exploring new limits on emergency unemployment benefits for people who were laid off or furloughed for losing their jobs, according to two people granted anonymity to discuss details of internal planning.

If the White House and Sen-

ate GOP priorities make it into the bill, the legislation would effectively cut taxes for people who have jobs while cutting benefits for the unemployed.

McConnell is expected to introduce an approximately \$1 trillion stimulus bill in the coming days that will include a limited extension of the federal unemployment benefits approved by Congress in March. Those benefits are set to expire as soon as this week.

Republicans are seeking to curb the current infusion of federal spending on unemployment benefits as they try to constrain the cost of the package, which is likely to include expensive priorities such as state aid and school funding, among other urgent policies to deal with the pandemic.

With a substantial number of conservative Republicans wary of the cost of the package, federal money, GOP lawmakers have discussed proposing that the federal benefit be cut from an additional \$600-per-week to between \$200-per-week and \$400-per-week. The lower number is viewed as the likelier outcome. But although aides cautioned negotiations are fluid and details remain in flux, McConnell is expected to release the legislation this coming week.

White House officials and GOP lawmakers have argued the current benefit creates a disincentive to work and must be phased out because they say Americans could make more money while collecting unemployment than in the workforce. Democrats and many economists have called for extending the \$600-per-week to create a pump money in the economy and provide a financial lifeline for more than 30 million households.

Atsugi, installation commander Capt. Lloyd Mack told troops in a letter Thursday that the base was approaching the end of a shelter-in-place ordered July 9 following the discovery of an undisclosed number of infections there.

"With treatment of the cases and a robust testing and quarantine process of close contacts, we also anticipate completing final testing and deliberations with our preventative medicine and health professionals soon," he wrote. "Once we complete that step and we deem there is no threat of community spread, I plan to transition back to a form of our previous less-restrictive health posture."

Things looked even brighter at Yokosuka Naval Base, where in-

stallation commander Capt. Rich Jarrett released a video message Friday announcing it's been nearly two months since the base has seen an infection that originated in Japan.

Still, he said the community cannot become complacent as cases appear at other installations.

"Like many of you, I am not looking forward to a day when we have to reimpose stricter limitations on liberty," Jarrett said. "We flattened our curve in Yokosuka, but it will return quickly unless we remain disciplined in our health-protection measures."

Stars and Stripes reporters Caitlin Doornbos and Seth Robson contributed to this report.  
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## VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

# Cases in Texas include more than 80 infants

From wire reports

AUSTIN, Texas — A health official on the Texas Gulf Coast said 85 infants have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Corpus Christi Nueces County Public Health Director Annette Rodriguez said Friday that the 85 infants are each younger than 1, but offered no other details, including how the children are suspected to have become infected.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott is also stressing that the widespread use of face coverings could avoid another lockdown, which he hasn't ruled out.

Texas health officials reported more than 10,000 new cases for a fifth consecutive day Saturday and said 130 more people have died due to COVID-19, bringing the number of reported cases to 317,730 and the number of deaths to 3,865.

## Montana

WOLF POINT — Cowboys lined the metal chutes that released bucking horses and their riders into the arena, Miss Rodeo Montana signed autographs for fans and coronavirus warning signs ended with "Face mask usage is of personal choice."

Most of the rodeo riders and audience at the Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede appeared to skip masks, despite public health recommendations and increasing pressure to stem the spread of COVID-19 cases spiking across Montana and much of the U.S.

Rodeos are a summertime staple across the West, but the pandemic has presented a dilemma for cities and towns dependent on the economic and cultural boost the events give.

## Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Division of Emergency Management closed down part of its facilities after 12 employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

The areas where the employees work were going through a deep clean over the weekend and were expected to reopen Monday, said agency spokesman Jason Mahon.

The agency has been going through biweekly virus testing of employees for several weeks. Four tested positive Thursday, raising the total to 12. That prompted the closure, Mahon said.

Employees who remained on the job were told to work in other areas of the division's complex or to work from home. None of those who tested positive showed symptoms of the disease, Mahon said.

## Maryland

ANNAPOLIS — Court clerks offices will be open in Maryland on Monday as the state judiciary begins reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Capital Gazette reported that clerks offices will be open to the public to file and review court records with restrictions in place to accommodate physical distancing.

District court judges will also start presiding over certain emergency protective hearings again that were being handled by court commissioners, and certain non-jury trials will be allowed to go forward in district and circuit courts.

## Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials Saturday reported a daily record 147 additional deaths from the coronavirus and 2,742 additional confirmed cases, but said both numbers reflected unusual circumstances.

The Department of Health Services said the additional deaths included 106 newly attributed to COVID-19 after health officials' latest periodic reviews of death certificates and that the additional cases did not include figures from a laboratory that missed the reporting cutoff.

The number of additional deaths reported in the previous six days ranged from eight to 97, while the number of additional confirmed cases reported during the same period ranged from 1,357 to 4,273.

The additional deaths reported Saturday increased the statewide total to 2,730, while the number of confirmed cases rose to 141,265. While the daily reports of additional deaths don't indicate when those reported deaths occurred, date-by-date data released Saturday indicated the current high for occurrences was on July 7 with 66 deaths.

## California

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — With no confirmed cases of the coronavirus, Yosemite National Park appeared to be a safe haven from the pandemic.

But tests of the park's raw sewage have confirmed the presence of the virus, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Saturday, and dozens of people are believed to have been infected.

No park employee or resident has tested positive at the park's health clinic, and no visitors have reported being sick since Yosemite



LM OTERO/AP

Richardson Independent School District worker Matt Attaway installs a plexiglass barrier where children wash their hands in the restroom at Bukharr Elementary School in Dallas on Wednesday.

it began a phased reopening June 11 after being closed for nearly three months.

Working with the National Park Service, Mariposa County health officials began taking samples of untreated wastewater and sent it to a lab in Cambridge, Mass., for analysis. The lab, Biobot Analytics, told the county that based on how much of the virus they counted, it's possible about 170 people were infected in Yosemite Valley.

## Connecticut

STORRS — The University of Connecticut said Saturday that residential students will return to its campuses two weeks before the first day of fall classes to be tested for COVID-19 and quarantined on campus.

The university outlined its testing strategy for the fall semester with different rules depending on whether students and faculty will be on campus. For instance, the university said it is arranging for testing for residential students during check-ins. Off-campus students and faculty involved only in online classes will not be tested.

"Our approach to testing for our community is straightforward: if a student or employee is coming to our campuses because they have to be there, they should be tested," UConn said on Twitter.

Students commuting to campus for in-person classes are encouraged to submit proof of a negative test result obtained within two weeks of the start of the fall semester on Aug. 31. The university will provide testing to those commuter students who don't obtain a test on their own.

## Alaska

ANCHORAGE — The largest city in Alaska has mandated residents wear masks in public to limit the spread of COVID-19, but several other cities and boroughs declined to follow suit, arguing the mandates weren't needed, would be difficult to enforce or were illegal.

Anchorage, Cordova, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Seward, Unalaska and Valdez were the only large cities to require masks in all public indoor spaces, including stores and restaurants, the Anchorage Daily News reported. The North-west Arctic Borough was the only borough to do so.

Some smaller communities, such as Gustavus in southeast Alaska, have also issued mask requirements, but they are outnumbered.

Dozens of lodges and hotels in the Lake and Peninsula boroughs require masks, but neither government has issued a general order.

## Mississippi

JACKSON — Mississippi is hiring more people to investigate the spread of COVID-19, but cases are expanding rapidly in the state and the work is outpacing the number of employees.

The state health officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, is imploring the public to take precautions against the pandemic. Resources such as hospital beds, personal protective equipment and coronavirus tests can be exhausted.

At the beginning of the pandemic during the spring, Mississippi had about 200 contact tracers. They communicate with people who test positive for a particular disease to find out who they've been near; the tracers then reach out to the others and suggest they get tested or take steps such as isolating themselves while they could be contagious.

Dobbs said the department now has about 240 contact tracers and is in the process of hiring about 100 more. In addition, another state agency is having its employees pitch in on the work.

## New York

ALBANY — The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 in New York state dropped to 743 and 11 more people died, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo urged residents Saturday not to let down

their guard.

Daily statewide statistics show New York with 754 newly confirmed cases, representing 1.08% of all tests performed. The number of people hospitalized Friday was down 22 from the previous day.

New York, once a pandemic hotspot, has so far avoided a surge in new cases like those plaguing other states in the South and West. But the Democratic governor has repeatedly warned New Yorkers could be at risk if they abandon social distancing and other practices adopted to check the spread of the virus.

Cuomo has been particularly critical of bars flouting outbreak control regulations and large, festive crowds along city streets. He announced a crackdown Thursday on bars and restaurants across the state.

## Nevada

LAS VEGAS — A union representing workers in Las Vegas casinos has reported 22 deaths and 352 hospitalizations of its members or their family members since March.

The Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and affiliated Bartenders Union Local 165 said in a joint statement Friday that hospitalizations for its members, their spouse or dependents have climbed 800% since Gov. Steve Sisolak allowed casinos to reopen June 4.

The union, representing 60,000 housekeepers, porters, bartenders, servers, cooks and other workers in Las Vegas and Reno, is calling on Sisolak, the state Legislature and casino companies to do more to protect workers.

The Culinary Union is asking for daily cleaning of hotel guest rooms, mandatory testing of all employees returning to work and regular testing after that, along with PPE for workers, the enforcement of social distancing and a safety plan posted publicly online.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Rural Oregon struggles as case numbers surge

BY SARA CLINE  
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Heather Griggs presses a phone to her ear in a makeshift office in the small brick courthouse that once served as a jail in rural Pendleton, a place best known for its annual rodeo.

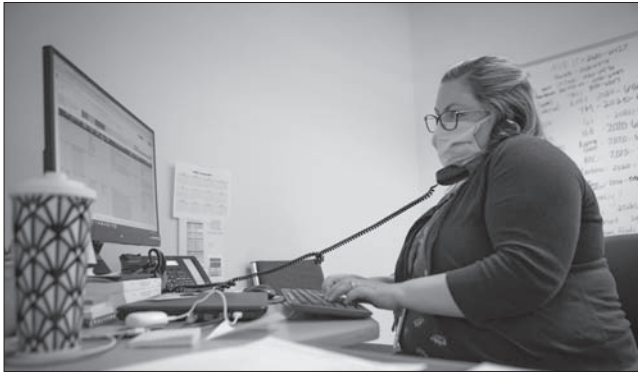
Her assured tone masks her exhaustion when she tells the person on the other end that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It's a call she has made thousands of times since March, but lately there has been a heightened sense of urgency.

The coronavirus has torn through the small Oregon community where farmers grow crops such as potatoes, onions and grains. In Umatilla County, where Pendleton is located, the rate of people testing positive for COVID-19 is about 16%. That's a measure of how widespread the disease is in the community, and the World Health Organization recommends it stay below 5%.

In the county with a population of 77,000, the virus has infected more than a thousand people and killed nine, overwhelming its limited resources and employees.

"I'm tired," said Griggs, who's working as a contact tracer.

The pandemic sweeping through major U.S. cities is now wreaking havoc on rural communities with some recording the nation's most new confirmed cases per capita in the past two weeks. The virus is infecting thousands of often impoverished rural residents every day,



BEN LONERGAN/AP

**Heather Griggs, operations chief of the Umatilla County Public Health Department COVID-19 contact tracing center in Pendleton, Ore., checks in with public health staff in neighboring Morrow County about a possible workplace exposure to COVID-19 on Tuesday.**

swamping struggling health care systems and piling responsibility on government workers who often perform multiple jobs they never signed up for.

Officials attribute much of the spread in rural America to outbreaks in workplaces, living facilities and social gatherings. Food processing plants and farms, where people typically work in cramped quarters, have proven to be hot spots.

Umatilla County has Oregon's highest number of confirmed infections per capita, sometimes reporting a figure this month above that of Multnomah County, which is 10 times larger and includes Portland. The surge in Umatilla and most of Oregon's rural counties is driving the state's rise in confirmed cases.

Officials recognize that rural case numbers are low compared with city totals, but even a slight

increase can push a small community over the edge.

"We've discovered we are getting really overwhelmed by the rapid numbers in the rise we are seeing now," Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said. "We really need help."

The fact that many rural jobs cannot be done from home has exacerbated the virus's impact, Murdock said. Officials have noted cases where people contin-

ued to work despite having minor coronavirus symptoms, which led to outbreaks.

"They are forced to go to work in order to survive. They don't have benefits. You can't telecommute on a production line," he said.

Of Oregon's 23 rural counties, 12 have reported workplace outbreaks at farms or meat and seafood processing plants. Umatilla County has reported six workplace outbreaks since mid-June. To confront the surge in cases, rural governments are rearranging and shuffling responsibilities for workers already juggling multiple roles.

Those communities are relying on already limited medical systems.

Lata County, where southern Oregon meets California and Nevada, has just one hospital. The next one is 90 miles away.

To serve its 7,000 residents, the county took the unusual step of asking the Lake Health District to not only run the hospital but also oversee its health department during the pandemic.

"We think that works better on coordinating care for our entire population," district CEO Charles Tveit said. "That's why we got involved."

Murdock of Umatilla County said that while rural areas have fewer resources than major cities, they have the same responsibility to keep people safe.

"Out here, we are kind of used to being on our own," he said. "But this is bigger than us."

## Doctor who survived COVID-19 bewildered by public disregard

BY JAY REEVES  
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Dr. Michael Saag spends much of his time treating patients fighting for their lives and working with colleagues who are overwhelmed and exhausted by the relentless battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

But he enters a different world when he walks out the door of his Alabama clinic: one where many don't wear masks, keep their distance from others or even seem aware of the intense struggle being waged against a virus that has cost about 140,000 lives nationwide and made so many — including the doctor — seriously ill.

The disconnect is devastating. "It's a mixture of emotions, from anger to being demoralized to bewilderment to frustration," Saag said.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have increased an average of more than 1,500 a day over the past week in Alabama, bringing the total to more than 62,100 since the pandemic began in March. At least 1,230 people have died and

health officials say fewer than 15% of the state's intensive care beds are available for new patients. Some hospitals are completely out of room.

Inside the hospital at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, doctors and nurses in protective gear rush from one emergency to another. They struggle to comfort heartbroken visitors forced to say goodbye to dying relatives long distance via cellphone, Saag said, all while coping with the stress of whether they'll be infected next.

The sharp increase in confirmed virus cases in Alabama has coincided with the reopening of restaurants, bars, theaters, gyms, sports leagues and churches that were all closed down when the virus first hit. Although most have opened at a diminished capacity and with restrictions in place, many patrons haven't been following recommended precautions.

In metro Birmingham, where Saag lives, it has been common to see fewer than half the people inside stores wearing masks. The doctor said he got particularly dispirited recently after stopping by a restaurant on the way home

from work to pick up a takeout order of sushi. There were as many as 60 people inside, he said.

"Myself and one other person were the only two people wearing masks. And everybody else, not only were they not wearing masks, they were congregating together," he said. "And they look at me like I'm some sort of pariah wearing a mask."

In response, Gov. Kay Ivey this week ordered all Alabama residents 6 and older to wear masks when in public and within 6 feet of someone who is not a relative. Cast against a pandemic that has become increasingly political, the move drew both praise as a potentially life-saving step and harsh criticism from those who called it an unnecessary affront to freedom.

Saag said he hopes the order helps, but it all depends on compliance. Ivey herself said the rule will be hard to enforce, and some police and sheriff's offices have said they won't even try.

For Saag, the fight is personal. In early March, both he and his adult son came down with the virus after a trip to Manhat-



AMANDA CHAMBERS, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM/AP

**Dr. Michael Saag, left, speaks with an unidentified coworker July 10 in Birmingham, Ala. Saag survived COVID-19 and now treats patients with the disease.**

been doing this 40 years," Saag said.

Outside the examination room, Saag has participated in news conferences and done media interviews to encourage basic public health practices, but he knows many people just aren't listening. He said it is disheartening to see a widespread disregard for safety measures and worries about Alabama's future at a time when the virus is posing more of a threat than ever.

"I'm just thinking, 'Oh, my goodness. We're going to be in trouble very soon,'" Saag said.

During eight suffocating nights, Saag wasn't sure whether he'd survive without a ventilator. It never came to that. He is now fully recovered and feels closer than ever to the people he treats.

"When I talk to a patient and I say, 'Hey, I've had it, too,' it's like we're connected in a way that I really, honestly haven't felt with patients ever before — and I've

## NATION

# Portland police call protest a riot as fires set

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
and **GILLIAN FLACCUS**  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Protesters broke into a building, set it on fire and started dumpster fires late Saturday night in Oregon's largest city, police said, as demonstrations that have been taking place since the death of George Floyd intensified for another night in Portland.

The fire at the Portland Police Association building was put out a short time later, Portland police said on Twitter. The department declared the gathering a riot, and began working to clear the downtown area.

"As the crowd was dispersed, several people in the crowd were arrested and officers were able to extinguish the fire. Portland Police did not use any CS gas," the bureau said in a statement early Sunday. Several arrests were made.

Tear gas was deployed, according to pictures and video from the

scene, but it was not necessarily CS gas. Fencing that had been placed around the federal courthouse had also been removed by protesters and made into barricades, police tweeted.

Police also said protesters had gathered Saturday evening at the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct, vandalizing patrol vehicles and taunting officers who were reporting for work. Later, as police dispersed a group that had gathered near North Interstate Avenue, people threw rocks and paint-filled balloons at officers. Some were injured, the statement said.

President Donald Trump has decried the demonstrations, and Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf blasted the protesters as "lawless anarchists" in a visit to the city Thursday.

"We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it," Trump tweeted Sunday. "Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are



MARK GRAVES, THE OREGONIAN/AP

**Protesters relocate a fence in front of the Justice Center on Saturday during another night of protests in Portland, Ore.**

missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE. These were not merely protesters, these are the real deal!"

Before the aggressive language and action from federal officials, the unrest had frustrated Mayor Ted Wheeler and other local authorities, who had said a small cadre of violent activists were drowning out the message of peaceful protesters in the city. But Wheeler said the federal presence in the city is now exacerbating a tense situation and he has told them to depart.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Wheeler said Friday.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum late Friday sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court. The complaint said unidentified federal agents have grabbed people off Portland's streets "without warning or explanation, without a warrant, and without providing any way to determine who is directing this action."

Rosenblum said she was seeking a temporary restraining order to "immediately stop federal au-

thorities from unlawfully detaining Oregonians."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., issued a joint statement Saturday denouncing the Trump administration's actions.

"We live in a democracy, not a banana republic. We will not tolerate the use of Oregonians, Washingtonians — or any other Americans — as props in President Trump's political games. The House is committed to moving swiftly to curb these egregious abuses of power immediately," they said.

## Activists, politicians mourn Rep. Lewis

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
Associated Press

Rights activists, politicians from both parties and many other people touched by the legacy of John Lewis mourned the congressman and pillar of the civil rights movement Saturday, lauding the strength, courage and kindness of a man whose lifelong struggle against racial discrimination took him from a bridge in Selma to the nation's Capitol.

"As a young man marching for equality in Selma, Ala., John answered brutal violence with courageous hope," said former President George W. Bush. "And throughout his career as a civil rights leader and public servant, he worked to make our country a more perfect union."

Former President Barack Obama, America's first Black president, recalled being sworn in for his first term: "I hugged him on the inauguration stand before I was sworn in and told him I was only there because of the sacrifices he made."



KHALID NAJI-ALLAH, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/AP

**John Lewis looks over a section of 16th Street that's been renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington on June 7.**

Lewis died Friday, several months after the Georgia Democrat announced that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

Lewis, 80, often recalled his upbringing in the segregated South, including how he was denied a library card because the library was for "whites only."

He went on to make a career in politics, representing Atlanta in Congress for more than 30 years, and all the while imploring people to press for justice — "to make what he came to call "good trouble, necessary trouble."

Those mourning included baseball legend Hank Aaron, who said he and Lewis "connected to the roots."

"By that I mean we were born and grew up in the highly racist

and segregated south, in the state of Alabama," Aaron said. "He committed his life to the struggle for justice and equality for all people."

There was no immediate announcement on funeral plans, which could be affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In an order, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said flags on state buildings would be lowered through sunset on the day of Lewis' interment.

State law says Kemp must schedule a special election to fill the current term of Lewis, who was first elected to represent Georgia's majority Black 5th District in 1986, said Georgia Deputy Secretary of State Jordan Fuchs. A vote would have to be held within 30 days.

## 2 women arrested for paint smeared on NYC mural

By **ELIZE MANOUKIAN,**  
**THOMAS TRACY**  
and **LARRY MCSHANE**  
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Two women were arrested Saturday afternoon for smearing black paint across the "Black Lives Matter" mural outside Trump Tower, with a city cop injured after he slipped while grabbing one of the suspects, police said.

The chaotic scene, the third attack by vandals targeting the Midtown street art in a week, began when a car carrying four women and 10 cans of paint arrived at the Fifth Avenue site, according to witness/street artist Nina Khan.

A video captured one of the two Black women involved in the incident pouring paint on the street, then getting down on her knees and using gloved hands to spread paint across the mural.

"Refund the police!" the woman shouted as the cops moved in and an angry eyewitness shouted obscenities at her. "Refund the police! Jesus matters! Jesus matters! We will never support Black Lives Matter!"

One of the officers, trying to keep his feet in the wet paint, slipped and fell with a loud thump on his shoulder and head,

the video showed. The scene later degenerated into a confrontation between supporters and opponents of President Donald Trump.

"My whole body was shaking," said Khan, who recorded 10 minutes of video. "It was very intense. I didn't want the police to get hurt. I didn't want anyone to get hurt."

Julie Calb and her 15-year-old daughter, Eleanor, came to Manhattan from Larchmont to visit the mural, only to catch the tail end of the incident. The mural, with help from Mayor Bill de Blasio, went up a week ago — with vandals now three times targeting the "Black Lives Matter" message.

"I wanted to bring her and show her everything that's going on," said Julie Calb. "We're very (much) for BLM. He's not perfect, but we're very proud of the mayor."

Police said the two women, ages 29 and 39, were arrested and likely to face charges of criminal mischief. The officer was taken to a nearby hospital and was expected to recover, police said.

The NYPD was still searching for the man who splashed red paint on the mural last Monday before fleeing.

NATION

# States debate stamps as mail-in voting rises

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Even if it weren't for her disability and fear of catching COVID-19, Delinda Bryant said getting the necessary postage to cast a ballot this year will be a struggle.

Bryant, 63, doesn't have \$10 for a book of stamps, a printer to make them at home or a working car.

"My car needs its transmission fixed, but my utilities are so high I can't afford it," she said. "Georgia woman said in testimony for a federal voting rights lawsuit. 'Ten dollars for a book of stamps is a hardship.'"

As more states embrace mail-in voting amid the coronavirus pandemic, the often overlooked detail of postage has emerged as a partisan dividing line.

Questions over whether postage will be required for absentee ballot applications and the actual ballots, who pays for it and what happens to envelopes without stamps are the subject of lawsuits and statehouse political battles.

Lawsuits filed in Florida by the Democratic super PAC Priorities USA, in Georgia by Black Voters



TONY DEAK/AP

Mike Babinski opens applications for voter ballots at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections on Tuesday, in Cleveland.

Matter and elsewhere argue that stamps constitute a monetary requirement akin to an illegal poll tax. Voting-rights groups say stamp requirements are another impediment that hits lower-income and minority communities hardest.

"Charging money for the right to vote is unconstitutional, whether it's a penny or a dollar," said Sean Young, legal director of the ACLU of Georgia, which is representing Black Voters Matter. "Many voters lack internet ac-

cess. Many voters lack a credit card, which is required to buy stamps online. One voter did not receive his book of stamps for two weeks after he ordered it." The postage debate has become vehement in Ohio, where

the state elections chief, a Republican, has asked for the authority to pre-pay postage on absentee ballot applications and the ballots themselves. So far, the GOP-led Legislature has resisted.

Opponents of the proposal by Secretary of State Frank LaRose argue that pre-paying postage could lead to more mail-in ballots being requested than used. Voters who requested a mail-in ballot but for whatever reason — choose to vote in person on Election Day will have to cast a provisional ballot so local election boards can be sure they did not vote twice. About 20% of provisional ballots are typically rejected.

During floor debate in June, state Rep. Bill Seitz, a Cincinnati Republican, said it's also an added expense in a year the virus has ravaged government budgets. It would cost the state \$1.5 million on top of the \$1.5 million Ohio already is paying to mail ballot applications for November's presidential election.

"So it would be expensive at a time when we're facing economic depression, economic problems throughout the state," he said. "And this is not the time to be needlessly spending money."

## Trump's trouble in suburbs key to competitive Ohio

Associated Press

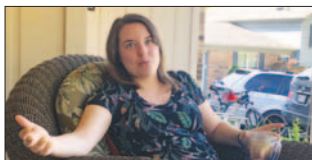
CINCINNATI — During a background briefing with reporters in December, President Donald Trump's reelection campaign team gave only passing mention of Ohio. Certainly, no one suggested a full-scale fall advertising strategy for the state he carried convincingly in 2016.

But less than four months until this November's election, Trump is facing an unexpectedly competitive landscape in Ohio because he has lost ground in metropolitan and suburban areas, threatening the overwhelming advantages he has in rural areas, state data show.

Trump's campaigning has budgeted \$18.4 million in television advertising in Ohio for this fall, second only to Florida, according to campaign advertising tracking data.

Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has named Aaron Pickrell, a former top Ohio adviser to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, as a senior strategist. Biden campaign officials said. But the Biden campaign has not gone so far as to book its own television advertising in Ohio, where 18 electoral votes are at stake.

Still, Trump's heavy investment in Ohio and a se-



DAN SEWELL/AP

Andrea Granieri, a lifelong Republican, talks Friday about her opposition to President Donald Trump, in the Cincinnati suburb of Anderson Township.

ries of midterm and municipal government gains by Democrats since 2016 suggest the president probably will have even more difficult terrain in other pivotal states in the industrial heartland that he won by much smaller margins.

Republican presidential candidates have been steadily losing support in Ohio's once reliably GOP suburbs around Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. But Trump's fall was particularly sharp, according to state voting data and census records compiled by Mike Dawson, a public policy consultant and creator of ohioelectionresults.com.

"College educated suburbanites in Ohio, particularly college educated women, were not as supportive of the president in 2016 as they've traditionally been of Republican presidential nominees, and that will continue in 2020," said Karl Rove, senior adviser to President George W. Bush's presidential campaign in 2004.

## Trump may push court pick before election given chance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have tried to make it clear: Given the chance, they would push through a Supreme Court nominee should a vacancy occur before Election Day.

The issue has taken on new immediacy with the disclosure Friday that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is receiving chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer after four earlier bouts with the disease. The 87-year-old liberal, who apologized in 2016 for her pointed public criticism of Trump during his first campaign, says she has no plans to retire.

The development has focused even more on what's at stake this election, with the winner in position to help shape the trajectory of the court for years to come.

Trump administration officials have underscored that Trump would not hesitate to fill an opening before voters have their say

Nov. 3, less than four months away, on whether to give him a second term.

Four years ago, also in a presidential election year, the GOP-controlled Senate refused to hold a hearing or vote when President Barack Obama, a Democrat, nominated federal judge Merrick Garland to succeed Justice Antonin Scalia after his death in February. Nine months before that year's election, McConnell said voters should determine who would nominate the person to fill that seat.

Past forward to this past week. Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, told reporters: "I can't imagine that if he had a vacancy on the Supreme Court that he would not very quickly make the appointment and look for the Senate to take quick action."

Trump sees his efforts at reshaping the judiciary as a signature achievement of his presidency. Last month he marked his 200th judicial appointment.



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WORLD

# Netanyahu's graft trial set to resume in January

By TIA GOLDENBERG  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial will resume in earnest in January, with three-weekly evidentiary hearings set to begin then, a Jerusalem court decided Sunday.

It was not immediately clear if Netanyahu would be required to be present at each hearing,

although some Israeli media reported he would. Regardless, the grueling judicial schedule will keep Netanyahu's legal woes firmly in the national consciousness and conversation — and continue to raise questions over whether he can keep serving while simultaneously standing trial.

The court's decision came after the trial's second hearing, a pro-

cedural deliberation that set the pace for the remainder of the proceedings.

According to Israeli media, the judge decided that the trial's evidentiary stage would begin in January and would take place three times a week.

Media also reported that Netanyahu's lawyer asked for a delay in the proceedings because of the virus, saying mask-wear-

ing impeded his job of questioning witnesses.

The trial resumes as Netanyahu faces widespread anger over his government's handling of the coronavirus crisis.

Netanyahu and his government have been criticized for a baffling, halting response to the new wave, which has seen daily cases rise to nearly 2,000. It has also been slammed for its handling of

the economic fallout of the crisis.

The trial's resumption thus comes at inopportune timing for the long-serving leader. Netanyahu had hoped to ride on the goodwill he gained from overcoming the first wave of infections going into his corruption trial but the increasingly souring mood has dropped his approval ratings and may deny him the public backing he had hoped for.

## China blasts dam to release floodwaters

BEIJING — Authorities in central China blasted a dam Sunday to release surging waters behind it amid widespread flooding across the country that has claimed scores of lives.

State broadcaster CCTV reported the dam on the Chuhe River in Anhui province was destroyed with explosives early Sunday morning, after which the water level was expected to drop by more than 2 feet.

Last week, the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze opened three floodgates as the

water level behind the massive dam rose more than 50 feet above flood level. Another flood crest is expected to arrive at the dam on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, soldiers and workers have been testing the strength of embankments and shoring them up with sandbags and rocks. On Saturday, firefighters and others finished filling in a 620-foot break on Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, that had caused widespread flooding across 15 villages and agricultural fields in Jiangxi province. More than 14,000 people were evacuated.

About 1.8 million people have been evacuated and direct losses

attributed to flooding are estimated at more than 49 billion yuan (\$7 billion), according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

## Rallies in Khabarovsk challenge Kremlin

KHABAROVSK, Russia — Mass rallies challenging the Kremlin rocked Russia's Far East city of Khabarovsk again on Saturday, as tens of thousands took to the streets to protest the arrest of the region's governor on charges of involvement in multiple murders.

The massive unauthorized crowds gathered despite local officials' attempts to discourage

people from taking to the streets, citing the coronavirus epidemic and an alleged averted terrorist threat.

Sergei Furgal, the Khabarovsk region governor, was arrested on July 9 and flown to Moscow where he was put in jail for two months. Russia's Investigative Committee says he is suspected of involvement in several murders of businessmen in 2004 and 2005.

## Famed French cathedral organ destroyed in fire

NANTES, France — French officials launched an arson inquiry Saturday after a fire broke out in the famed Gothic Cathedral of St.

Peter and St. Paul of the western French city of Nantes. The blaze destroyed the organ, shattered stained glass windows and sent black smoke spewing from between the cathedral towers.

Residents and tourists watched aghast, and emergency workers cordoned off the area around the monument, in the historical center of this city on the Loire River.

Saturday's fire broke the main stained glass windows between the two towers of the 15th-century cathedral, and destroyed the organ, which dated from the 17th century and was called the "soul of the cathedral" by faithful.

From The Associated Press



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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Store workers lock in man wanted in killing

**LA** LAKE CHARLES — Workers at a Dollar General store recognized a convicted sex offender accused of killing two teenagers and kidnapping a third — and locked him in after quietly escorting other customers out.

“Thank you Sallye Salter and Tiffany Cook, you both exemplified great character in a high pressure situation,” the Beaurgard Parish Sheriff’s Office said in a Facebook post after Neil Broussard was arrested.

Broussard, 51, of Lake Charles surrendered to police after Salter and Cook alerted authorities, the American Press reported.

Broussard, a registered sex offender, is accused of killing Kyla Hidalgo, 17, and Kaleb Chariton, 18; wounding the girl’s mother, Catherine Hidalgo, 40, and kidnapping her other daughter in the Calcasieu Parish town of Westlake.

## Violence prompts park to limit homeless tents

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Park Board is placing limits on the number of tents allowed in the city’s parks.

It’s a reversal for the commission that voted overwhelmingly a month ago to allow all city parks to be used indefinitely and with no limits by people who are homeless.

The commission voted to limit encampments to 25 tents at each of 20 city parks, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

Residents of the Powderhorn Park neighborhood have been pressuring the board to make changes.

Park police say violence in Powderhorn Park is rising. In the last week, drivers have responded to an armed kidnapping and robbery, a man out running who was struck by a rock, and the sexual assault of a person who had overdosed.

## State police return gun 26 years after burglary

**VT** SWANTON — Vermont State Police troopers returned to its rightful owner a stolen .38 Smith & Wesson revolver in 1994 in the town of Alburgh.

They determined that the Swanton resident in possession of the gun was not involved in the burglary 26 years ago and had only recently taken possession of it.

The firearm, a Remington-Union, has since been returned to its owner.

Also stolen in the original burglary were a television and VCR, a second shotgun, a handgun and some baseball and football cards. The investigation into the original burglary is continuing.

## Utility worker healing after being impaled

**NE** FIRTH — A Nebraska power utility worker is recovering from surgery after



MIKE SIMONS, TULSA (OKLA.) WORLD/AP

## Masked mascot

Artist Adam Carnes, left and Gary Coulson place a mask on Buck Atom, the mascot of Buck Atom’s Cosmic Curios Route 66 in Tulsa, Okla. The city now has a mask mandate to protect against the coronavirus.

being impaled by a 2-foot long steel rod while on the job near Firth, authorities said.

The incident happened while Nebraska Public Power District worker Roger Kempf, 46, and a coworker were clearing brush from underneath power lines, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

The coworker was operating a skid loader with a front-mounted disk grinder when it struck a piece of rebar from an electric fence post concealed in the brush, Chief Deputy Todd Duncan said. Duncan said the disk grinder

launched the steel post about 60 yards at high speed, impaling Kempf in the lower back.

Kempf was rushed to a Lincoln hospital, where he had surgery to remove the rebar.

## Jesus statue beheaded at Catholic church

**FL** MIAMI — Someone beheaded a statue of Jesus Christ in the courtyard of a South Florida church, an act of vandalism now being investigated by the Miami-Dade police and the De-

partment of Homeland Security.

The statue was destroyed in the courtyard of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in West Kendall. “This is an attack on the church,” Mary Ross Agosta, a spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Miami, told the Miami Herald. “This is not only private property, it is sacred property.”

“This is not something you can trip over and say, ‘Oh, sorry,’” she continued. “Someone did this intentionally.” She said surveillance video has been handed over to police.

## THE CENSUS

### \$700K

The amount of money a former office manager for the Rapid City Rush is accused of embezzling from the South Dakota hockey team. Jennifer Durham, 42, pleaded guilty to tax evasion and two counts of wire fraud. Durham, who worked for the Rush from 2008 through June 2019, agreed to pay full restitution to the team and about \$186,000 to the IRS as part of a plea deal. She faces up to 20 years for each wire fraud count and five years for tax evasion.

## Toxic bacteria found in river after death of dog

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Toxic levels of a cyanobacteria have been detected in a Utah river for the first time after a dog suffered seizures and died at Zion National Park, officials said.

Public health officials cautioned people against swimming or letting their animals enter the Virgin River’s North Fork, which flows out of the park and through several towns.

The dog died July 4, an hour after clawing at and ingesting the algae in the river, according to park spokesman Jeff Axel.

“When the dog was pawing at the rocks, it freed up the toxins from the bacterial mat,” he said.

## Police chief helps subdue stabbing suspect

**VA** CHANTILLY — The police chief of Virginia’s biggest county was injured when subduing a suspect who stabbed two people at a church.

WRC-TV reported that Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler was in a Bible study class at Grace Covenant Church when a man walked into the room and stabbed the pastor leading the class. Roessler and another person disarmed the suspect, police said.

Police said two people suffered injuries that weren’t considered life threatening.

## Hail damages area’s best crop in 5 years

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Agricultural experts have been tallying the crop damage caused by a recent storm that packed 50 mph winds and baseball-sized hail in parts of Minnesota.

The storm was a blow for farmers from Kandiyohi County to Nicollet County at a time when commodity prices are already down.

“We had a wonderful crop. Best we’ve had in this area in five years,” Curt Burns, farmer and crop consultant, told WCCO-TV.

The hail storm was up to 60 miles long and six miles wide and caused extensive damage.

“This affected thousands of acres of corn, soy beans, kidney beans, sugar beets, peas, sweet corn and alfalfa,” all adding up to millions in losses, Burns said.

From wire reports

## FACES



Peacock

James Roday, left, shown with "Psych" costar Dule Hill, says shooting an episode on a boat was his most miserable acting experience.

## 'Psych' star: Best gig, but worst day

By NINA METZ  
Chicago Tribune

Running eight seasons on USA Network, the detective comedy "Psych" was distinctive for the friendship between its central duo, Shawn and Gus. Two years ago the "Psych" gang reunited for a TV movie and they are back again with another movie installment, "Psych 2: Lassie Come Home," premiering on NBC's streaming service Peacock.

It's easy for stars James Roday and Dule Hill to regenerate that Shawn-Gus camaraderie again?

"It is," said Roday. "It's something of a phenomenon because even though Dule and I have grown very close and have remained close outside of 'Psych' over the years, our relationship as dudes and our rhythms and cadences with one another are not the same as these two characters. So it really is like flipping a switch."

He counts "Psych" as a high point in his career. "You do this for a long time and it becomes very clear the good gigs from the bad gigs, and the older you get, the more you appreciate the good ones — and this was the best one."

When asked to share a cringe-y moment in his career, he says it happened on the set of "Psych."

"His worst moment ...  
"I want to say it was Season 5, we were doing one of our theme episodes. I think it was called 'The Head, the Tail, the Whole

Damn Episode' (from 2010). This one we were kind of riffing on 'Jaws' and water movies, so we had a lot of boat work. And yes, we had been out on boats before — speedboats, a couple big freighters; you're in Vancouver (where the series filmed), you're going to incorporate the water here and there. But we had never done a dedicated 'You're going to be out there acting full scenes on a barge the whole day and only coming back to land for lunch-type stuff that we did in this episode.

"And I made a choice the first day we were out there on the barge not to come back to land for lunch. It just seemed like it entailed a lot: Getting on the boat, going all the way back, you have just enough time to scarf something down before you have to turn around and get back on the boat to take you out to the barge. So I was like, you know what I'm good, I have a Power Bar and I'm going to get down below deck and grab some zzz's.

"So I end up napping for about 50 minutes while everyone went back to shore for lunch.

"So I woke up and I'm feeling a little groggy but I'm working through it, it's all good. And then the nausea hits. And it hits hard. Really hard. And it hits while the cameras are rolling and I'm in the middle of a scene.

"There's just no way around it and I was like (long sigh), I have two options: I can make a big deal out of this and I can yell cut and run to a nook or try to get to a bathroom, or I can recognize that I brought this on myself, that this is my own doing and we have a limited amount of time to get the work done.

"So I just started puking. (Laughs) Right there on camera. In the middle of the scene, over the side of the boat. And it happened over and over. I'd hold up a finger. I'd puke. I'd go back and get in another three or four lines. I'd puke. I'd come back. And we proceeded to do about two hours worth of work that day with me interstitially vomiting over the side of the boat because I didn't want to say 'cut.'

"I think a couple times between takes they might have run in with a wet wipe for me and maybe a breath mint or two. But the work had to go on. And I wasn't going to stop puking. And unfortunately — or fortunately, now that this story is being memorialized — that footage exists. It's archival. Someone has footage of me puking on and off in between lines.

"Dule was pretty disgusted, but I think also impressed. I think I might have earned a little bit of respect from him that day because that's not how he rolls. He wouldn't have puked and acted; he would have said 'cut.' So I think even though he was revolted by me, he had to give me props."

"The takeaway ...  
"Don't go down below to nap. That's an obvious one, right?"

"But also, in a situation where it's time-sensitive and money-sensitive and you have 150 people on a crew who all want to get home to their families at the end of the day, unless you are bleeding out, you push through it. That's what you do."

## Trek says cancer treatment 'paying off'

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek again says he's "feeling great" as he continues to be treated for pancreatic cancer.

The iconic game-show host, 79, who marked the one-year anniversary of his diagnosis in March, said July 16 that he has continued to actively fight the disease while his syndicated show is on hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And during that time, he even wrote a book.

"I am doing well. I've been continuing my treatment, and it is paying off, though it does fatigue me a great deal," the now-bearded host said in his latest video update. "My numbers are good. I am feeling great."

His memoir, "The Answer Is ... Reflections on My Life," is due to be published Monday by Simon & Schuster.

Trekbed added that he's recording show openings at home for some "very special 'Jeopardy!' episodes" that will be coming up in July. The prerecorded series will helm the "Jeopardy!" vaults to take another look at favorite episodes from the past, including the first one he ever hosted — "mustache and all," he said.

The Canadian-born, Emmy-winning host has become an American institution since taking the helm of the syndicated game show in 1984.

The TV personality is now among the 18% of stage 4 pancreatic cancer patients who make it to the one-year survival mark with the often-terminal disease.

## 'God Bless the U.S.A.' finally a chart-topper

What's the hottest song on the digital charts? Well, believe it or not, it's a tune that's been around now for 36 years.

It's Lee Greenwood's patriotic number, "God Bless the U.S.A.," which was released in 1984 but just finally hit No. 1 on Billboard Magazine's Digital Song Sales chart.

It sits atop the chart — right above Song of Summer 2020 nominee "Rockstar" by DaBaby featuring Roddy Rich — in the July 18-dated chart. It zoomed all the way to the top from No. 50 in one week. It seems that the patriotic favorite got a big push from the Fourth of July holiday, as its sales surged 366% to 15,000 units sold during the week ending July 9.

"I'm always humbled to see how 'God Bless the U.S.A.' resonates with the American spirit of pride and love of country," Greenwood says in a news release. "Thank you proud Americans for using 'God Bless the U.S.A.' as you celebrated our wonderful country — It is still the best place on earth!" This marks the first time that the platinum-plus-selling single has hit No. 1 on any chart.

Greenwood recently teamed with a capella troupe Home Free as well as the United States Air Force Band on a new version of "God Bless the U.S.A.," which has already garnered millions of views on social media and streaming sites.

From wire reports

## Nick Cannon will keep 'Masked Singer' gig after apology

By KATE FELDMAN  
New York Daily News

Nick Cannon's belated apology was good enough for at least one of his bosses.

Amid controversy over the actor's anti-Semitic comments on his podcast, Fox announced July 15 that Cannon will keep his gig as the host of "The Masked Singer," hours after ViacomCBS cut ties with him completely.

"When we were made aware of Nick Cannon's interview with Richard Griffin on YouTube, we immediately began a dialogue with Nick," the network said in a statement.

"He is clear and remorseful that his words were wrong and lacked both understanding

and context, and inadvertently promoted hate. This was important for us to observe. Nick has sincerely apologized, and quickly taken steps to educate himself and make amends. On that basis and given a belief that this moment calls for dialogue, we will move forward with Nick and help him advance this important conversation, broadly. Fox condemns all forms of hate directed toward any community and we will combat bigotry of any kind."

Cannon caused a stir with the June 30 episode of his podcast, "Cannon's Class," on which former Public Enemy member Professor Griff appeared.

"It's never hate speech; you can't be anti-Semitic when we are the Jewish people," the

39-year-old actor said on the podcast. "When we are the same people who they want to be. That's our birthright. We are the true Hebrews."

On Wednesday, Cannon issued a public apology for his "hurtful and divisive words."

"They reinforced the worst stereotypes of a proud and magnificent people and I feel ashamed of the uninformed and naive place that these words came from," he tweeted.

Cannon said video of his interview with Griff has been taken down.

But before his apology, Cannon spent the day reweaving people defending him, including one that called executives at ViacomCBS "racist bullies" for firing him.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It is 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002.

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OPINION

No, Texas is not a swing state — yet

By STUART ROTHENBERG  
 CQ Roll Call

When I saw the headline on CNN analyst Harry Enten's July 12 column — "Texas is a swing state in 2020, new polls reveal" — I did a double take. Really?

"It's pretty clear looking at the data that Texas is a swing state in the 2020 election," wrote Enten, a thoughtful observer of American politics.

But just a few paragraphs later, he used a different term, observing that "Texas really is competitive at this point."

I can be a stickler for language, but I think we should all be on the same page when it comes to what these words mean. Texas is not a "swing state," and it hasn't been one for years, at least since it realigned in 1980. It hasn't voted to send a Democrat to the White House since 1976. It leans Republican.

Swing states are divided roughly evenly along partisan lines, with both parties having close to an equal chance of winning as long as a strong partisan electoral wave is not favoring one party. Florida and Wisconsin are good examples of swing states, and I'm certain you could spend countless hours debating which other states fall into that category. (I won't.)

On the other hand, to find out whether a state or a race is "competitive" in a given election year, all you need to do is ask whether the race is close. If the answer is "yes," as is the case with Texas this year, the state is "competitive" at that moment.

Florida has been a "swing state" for years because voters in the state are split evenly between the two parties. That makes the state "competitive" in most elections, putting Florida in a different category than, say, Indiana and West Virginia.

Indiana voted Democratic for president in 2008, but that didn't make it a swing state or even a competitive state in presidential elections. It clearly has favored the GOP. Similarly, West Virginia is certainly not a swing state, and statewide contests are rarely competitive. But the 2018 Senate election in the state was very competitive, even given the state's strongly Republican fundamentals.

Given the current polling, Enten is unquestionably correct that Texas is competitive now and looks likely to be that way until November. And Texas may be transitioning from a Republican state into a swing state, but I doubt that it is there yet. It could still take five or 10 years for the transition.

Texas looks competitive now largely because the intention forces have swung voters who normally vote Republican over to the Democratic column. Those suburban, college-educated whites were turned off by President Donald Trump. Many of those same Republican voters defected to the Democrats during the 2018 midterm elections.

But we can't know now whether Texas voters have switched their partisan preferences from Republican to Democrat, or whether they are merely showing their dissatisfaction with Trump.

Have voters changed their attitudes about the parties — and therefore their future voting intentions — or are their votes in 2018 and 2020 mere aberrations, based on a very odd set of circumstances (Trump in the White House)? We don't know yet.

States do change in their partisanship. Sometimes, in the case of West Virginia and some Southern states, it occurs quickly. That is rare, but it happens. More often, the realignment proceeds slowly.

I want to see my students, but risks stand in the way

By CHRISTINE ESPOSITO  
 Special to The Washington Post

One September, there is no place I would rather be than in school with my students, but I don't know that that will ever happen safely. The American Academy of Pediatrics "strongly" advocated last month that "all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." As a teacher, I have concerns about how that can be managed while prioritizing the safety of both children and the adults who make schools function.

I accept that teaching is only one aspect of the job I love. I've accepted that I spend hundreds of dollars of my own money every year to buy books, supplies and other classroom materials because schools are chronically underfunded. I've accepted that in the absence of humane paid-leave policies, parents often choose between sending sick children to school or risking their jobs. I've accepted that I ask friends at least twice a year to donate food to our "snack closet" to help support the needy and the many hardships that we encompass it seem to be beyond our society. I've accepted that I might have to lock my students in that snack closet one day because reasonable gun control seems to be beyond our society.

Now, I'm being asked to accept returning to our classrooms during a pandemic. Many U.S. classrooms are in aging, neglected buildings. Some classrooms have no windows; others, no windows that open. Some support staff — occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists — are in short supply. Some school buildings have questionable HVAC

systems. Even before the pandemic, the basic supplies in many classrooms, including hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and tissues, were donated by parents. In many places, class sizes would need to be halved or cut by two-thirds to enforce safe distancing.

We've all seen how a lack of a coordinated federal response affected hospitals and essential workers. Reopening schools will not mean a return to the school experience we remember. It's unclear what school looks like going forward. What happens when a student or teacher gets sick, or when one of their family members gets sick? How do we help parents when their child is sick yet they still must go to work? How will inevitable staff absences be dealt with when substitute teachers are hard to find in ordinary conditions? What steps are being taken now to ensure that instruction is not interrupted if a teacher needs to return to distance learning? How do we better support parents when that day comes? What does recess look like? What do school breakfast and lunch look like? How can movement be safely incorporated into classrooms — not just for activities but because of our need to still go for long — while maintaining safe distances?

I'm worried for my students. I want them in school. They need social interaction; they need to learn. School has always been about more than academics, a fact painfully hammered home this spring. We would all like to get back to normal, and going back to school offers a glimpse of the existence we miss.

Whether schooling takes place in person or at a distance, though, this academic year will be unlike previous years. Children will be dealing with layer upon layer of trauma; educators need to make time

and space for that. Most U.S. schools closed for some portion of the spring. If students are behind, they're behind some arbitrary lines that educators and administrators drew that might need to be amended to reflect today's reality. We need to meet kids where they are. I don't want to hear one word about testing, unless it involves a nasal or throat swab. Not. One. Word.

Teachers might be expected to teach more content in less time to more students. Parents will be juggling work and children who might be distance-learning or participating in a hybrid schedule. We need policies that reflect that we all want what's best for our children. Teachers and families need to offer each other grace.

The American Academy of Pediatrics said this month: "The pandemic has redefined how we think about educators as invaluable in children's lives and that attending school in person offers children a wide array of health and educational benefits. For our country to truly value children, elected leaders must come together to appropriately support schools in safely returning students to the classroom and reopening schools."

Teachers, custodians, bus drivers, instructional assistants and other school staff need the public to help us open schools safely in the coming months. That means wear a mask. Stay home. Support favorite restaurants by continuing to order takeout. Be intentional about when and why you go out. People who don't do those things but want me in class in September are asking me to make far bigger sacrifices than the ones they've been willing to make so far.

Christine Esposito teaches third- and fourth-graders in Charlottesville City Schools in Virginia.

When I first came to Washington, most political observers considered Delaware a "swing" state. But that changed. Delaware hasn't gone Republican for president or elected a GOP governor since 1988. GOP Sen. William Roth was first elected in 1976 and reelected in 1982, 1988 and 1994. He wasn't ousted until 2000, but in many ways, he constituted the last gasp for the GOP in a state that had already moved toward the Democratic Party.

Nobody would put Delaware on a list of swing states now, and it is rarely, if ever, competitive.

Like Texas, Georgia has become increasingly competitive. But Republican presidential nominees have won a majority of the statewide vote in each of the past five presidential contests, and Democrats must prove they can carry the state in a neutral, presidential year, not just do well when an unpopular Republican president is in the White House.

The same goes for Texas. Are we seeing a fundamental shift in the state because of new voters and new allegiances? Or will Texas return to its Republican moorings of former Vice President Joe Biden wins the presidency, national Democratic voters to the left, and more traditional Republicans once again define the party nationally and in the state? The burden is on the Democrats to prove Texas has become a swing state.

Now, all we can say is that Texas is competitive. We won't know whether it has become a swing state until we look back on its subsequent electoral behavior. My guess is that it will take at least a few more years to get there.

Swing states are inevitably competitive. But not every competitive state in a particular cycle is a swing state.



## OPINION

## Putin painstakingly preserves his thugocracy

By GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

**T**yrants can be especially ominous when they are ludicrous. In 2011, Vladimir Putin, scuba diving in the Black Sea, emerged clutching two 6th-century Greek urns — remarkably without a trace of moss — which had lain undiscovered in six feet of water, even though Russian archaeologists had scoured the seabed while studying an ancient Greek city. Putin's flaunted contempt for his audience, the Russian masses, is calculated to breed in them an enervating cynicism that will prevent restiveness and the necessity of assassinations, such as that of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow in 2006, on Putin's 54th birthday.

In Putin's ramshackle Russia — successor to the Soviet Union ("Upper Volta with ICBMs") — as recently as 2018 almost a third of medical facilities lacked running water, 40% lacked central heating and more than half lacked hot water. But a fortunate few people live large, as is explained in Catherine Belton's exhaustive new book (500 pages, 1,735 endnotes) "Putin's People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took On the West."

Mikhail Khodorkovsky was the richest Russian, and the world's richest person under 40, until Putin's 2003-05 destruction of him, in a fraudulent judicial process, on bogus charges of fraud and tax evasion. This episode, the hinge of recent Russian history, taught the rest of Russia's elite, who had grown fabulously wealthy in the 1990s by buying and plundering former state enterprises, this lesson: Russia's private sector was only provisionally private, subject to Kremlin whims.

Belton says that "by 2012 more than 50% of Russia's GDP was under the direct control of the state and businessmen closely linked to Putin." Belton calls the takeover of Russia's political, economic and legal



ALEXEI DRUZHININ, SPUTNIK, KREMLIN POOL PHOTO/AP

Russian president Vladimir Putin chairs a Security Council meeting via videoconference at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on Friday.

systems by Putin and other KGB alumni "hybrid KGB capitalism." But state-directed capital allocation actually is crony socialism.

Belton, the Financial Times' Moscow correspondent from 2007-13, detects in today's Russia a residue of the incense of the old Communist church, but without even the Soviet pretense that the interests of the governing kleptocrats coincide with those of the governed. One former Russian insider, now in luxurious London exile, says Putin's cohort are "mutants," a "mixture of homo-sovieticus with the wild capitalists of the last twenty years." Belton says that

when capitalists of the 1990s "began to eclipse their former sponsors in the KGB," Putin broke the successful to the saddle of the state.

Putin cut his sharp teeth controlling St. Petersburg's port, in collaboration with an organized crime group. Belton reports that a city official, who tried to reclaim the city government's rights that were lost when the port was privatized, "was shot dead by a sniper as he drove to work." In November 1998, four months after Putin became head of the KGB's successor agency, St. Petersburg's "leading democrat" and "most vocal crusader against corruption" was "shot

dead at the entrance to her apartment."

Assassinations, blackmail via sex tapes and other gamy practices propelled Putin to the top in what Belton calls "a creeping coup by the security men." He was installed partly by nouveau riche oligarchs who — like the German grandees who made Adolf Hitler chancellor on Jan. 30, 1933 — "thought Putin was a temporary figure they could control."

Belton's concluding chapter, "The Network and Donald Trump," is devastatingly judicious: She says his Russian partners were alleged associates of Russian mobsters who funneled cash through real-estate developments with Trump, on behalf of the sometimes-melded interests of Russian intelligence services and organized crime. When in the 1990s Trump's precarious finances caused other banks to shun him, Deutsche Bank, which Belton says had "a special relationship with Putin's Kremlin," became "Trump's lender of last resort," in one 2011 instance providing more than \$300 million, even though he had defaulted on a \$334 million payment.

Earlier this month, Putin demonstrated that Russia's constitution is essentially fictitious by adding 206 amendments. They were ratified by a preposterous referendum. (COVID-19 spoiled Putin's plan to hold it on April 22, Vladimir Lenin's birthday.) Copies of the amended "constitution" were in bookstores before the referendum. One amendment reset the presidential term-limits clock, so in 2036 an 84-year-old Putin could enjoy his 36th presidential year (counting the four years, 2008-12, when Putin allowed a sock puppet to pretend to be president). Joseph Stalin ruled for 29 years, Catherine the Great for 34.

Barack Obama in 2014 dismissed Russia as merely a "regional power." Some region: The Eurasian landmass is dominated by, and Europe is menaced by, a thugocracy whose president is pleased with the U.S. president.

## US diplomacy must be true to nation's founding principles

By MICHAEL R. POMPEO

Special to The Washington Post

**T**o secure freedom at home and abroad, Americans must rightly understand the nation's founding principles. That's why, last year, I convened the State Department's Commission on Unalienable Rights. I asked its members not to make policy, but to elaborate the principles through which we can ground America's commitment to championing human rights in our enduring dedication to unalienable rights and our tradition of constitutional self-government.

After almost a year of work, the commission issues its report to the public Thursday at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Some say the report's timing couldn't be worse. I say the timing couldn't be better.

Never before have America's founding principles been under such relentless assault. For decades, our institutions of higher education have sought to debunk or disown them. Last summer, The New York Times launched the 1619 Project, which contends that the essence of America is entwined with slavery and racism. In recent weeks, justified outrage at the actions of a rogue Minneapolis policeman has given way to outrageous efforts to erase American history by tearing down statues of our nation's founders.

Never has knowledge of our founding

principles been more urgent. As President Donald Trump has recognized, we face many mighty challenges from abroad. Ruled with an iron fist by the Chinese Communist Party, for instance, China seeks to remake the world in its autocratic image and subordinate other nations to its hegemonic ambitions. We can't confront Beijing or other gross human rights violators throughout the world without understanding the roots of our foreign policy, through the lens of our Founders' intent.

Just when unity of purpose is called for, confusion sweeps the land about the convictions that undergird our great experiment in ordered liberty. Some of our best-educated and most highly credentialed citizens have lost sight of the fundamental difference between autocracies, which subordinate the individual to the will of a dictator, and liberal democracies, whose overriding purpose — notwithstanding their inevitable shortcomings and constant need for vigilance and reform — is to enable individuals, families and communities to flourish.

Freedom has always been at the center of the American political order. The Declaration of Independence proclaims that every human being is endowed with certain unalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that governments are instituted to secure these rights; and that all legitimate power springs from the consent of the governed. The Constitution

structures our fundamental political institutions to provide the energy and flexibility to secure rights while circumscribing the exercise of political power to prevent government from violating rights. And the American political tradition records the continuing struggle to honor the nation's founding promise.

Freedom has always been at the center of American diplomacy. In the republic's early years, Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson urged the nation to protect the American people's freedom by avoiding, in Jefferson's words, "entangling alliances." In 1823, President James Monroe declared that to safeguard liberty and individual rights at home, the nation must protect the Western Hemisphere from the unfree forms of government that then characterized Europe.

Two years earlier, his secretary of state, John Quincy Adams, asserted in a July 4 address that the United States speaks "the language of equal liberty, of equal justice, and of equal rights. . . . But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator of her own."

The 19th and 20th centuries brought great changes. Two world wars and successive revolutions in transportation and communications shrank the globe, leaving nations vastly more interconnected and interdependent. The United States

was compelled to revise its diplomacy, the better to honor its founding principles. In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly, with the United States taking a leading role, passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although it inspired human rights treaties to which the United States is signatory, the UDHR is not itself binding law. Rather, it establishes "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations."

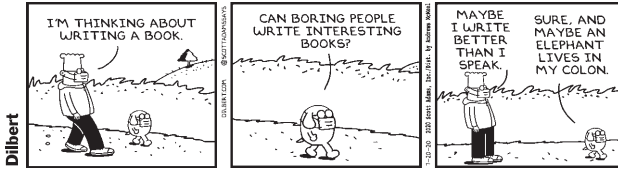
Since 1948, presidents of both parties have insisted the United States must champion human rights abroad. But hard questions abound: What is the connection between the nation's constitutional system and its international obligations? How do we apply old rights to new circumstances and assess the validity of new rights claims? How do we balance the commitment to champion human rights with diplomacy's complex and multifarious demands?

By recovering our nation's founding principles — and elaborating them in that spirit of toleration and civility on which constitutional government depends — the State Department's Commission on Unalienable Rights enables the nation to better answer these always-pressing questions and thereby makes an important contribution to securing freedom. I encourage everyone to read its fine work.

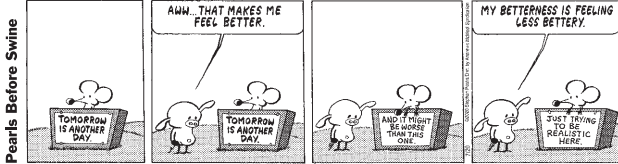
Michael R. Pompeo is U.S. secretary of state.



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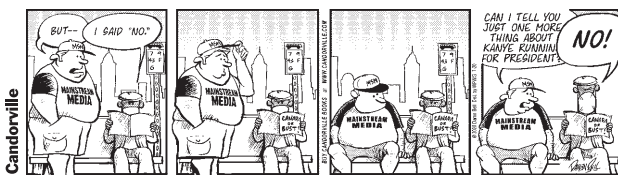
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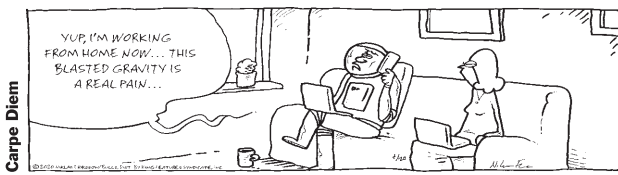
Pears Before Swine



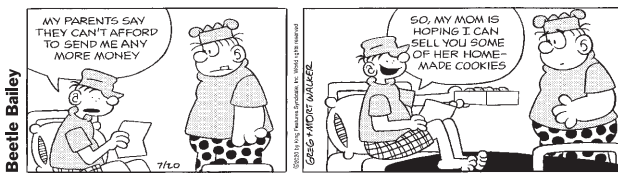
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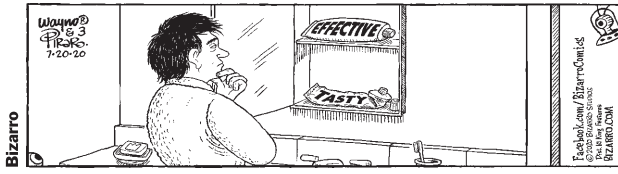
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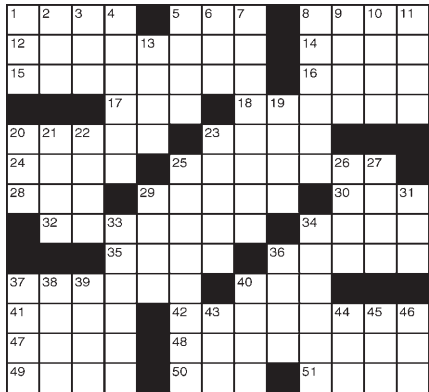


Beetle Bailey

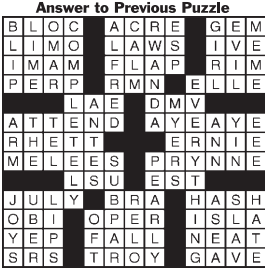


Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



- |                                    |                           |                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                      | <b>DOWN</b>               |                       |
| 1 Asset                            | 1 Adobe file format       | 25 Productive         |
| 5 Econ. measure                    | 2 Actress Lucy            | 26 Create             |
| 8 Jupiter's wife                   | 3 Admiral's org.          | 27 New Age singer     |
| 13 Fade in the wash, e.g.          | 4 Instruct                | 29 Deco artist        |
| 14 Barack of Israel                | 5 Oversupply              | 31 Composer Form      |
| 15 Theme park attraction           | 6 Refusals                | 33 Kvetched           |
| 16 Lincoln in-law                  | 7 Santa's bagful          | 34 Make into bundles, |
| 17 Select, with "for"              | 8 Lakeside rental         | as grain              |
| 18 Obis                            | 9 "Oops!"                 | 36 — Romeo            |
| 20 Hungarian-born financier George | 10 Undressed              | 37 Stadium event      |
| 23 Cubicle fixture                 | 11 Probability            | 38 Shortly            |
| 24 Midcast airline                 | 13 "I'm a klutz!"         | 39 Surrealist         |
| 25 Merriment                       | 19 Regarding              | Salvador              |
| 28 Label                           | 20 Congeal                | 40 "Meet Me           |
| 29 Poet's muse                     | 21 Norwegian              | — Louis"              |
| 30 New England cape                | 22 Pasta sauce brand      | 43 Half of bi-        |
| 32 Charity races, perhaps          | 23 Gregg Allman's brother | 44 New England cape   |
| 34 Terrier type                    |                           | 45 Three, in Rome     |
| 35 End in — (require overtime)     |                           | 46 Wd. from Roget     |



7-20 CRYPTOQUIP

EAMPU MH TJMPJ BRAMPZIH  
 IHQKQIG MH K BVDOVMC RE K  
 AKTAIOO UMACIG ZVOMPMKH:

"CJI BMBID PJKOI."  
**Saturday's Cryptquip:** WHAT COULD ONE CALL SPECIAL SHEETS OF GLASS USED IN WINDOWS FOR PASSENGER FLIGHTS? AIRPLANES.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals N



NBA/NFL

# NBA will shorten game times for first exhibitions

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The first exhibition games of the NBA restart will go a little more quickly than usual.

The NBA is tweaking the rules for those initial matchups, going with 10-minute quarters instead of the usual 12 minutes. The change is for several reasons — among them, not wanting to overly tax players after they went more than four months without games, and because some teams do not have their full rosters at Walt Disney World yet because of coronavirus and other issues.

The change will apply only to the first exhibition for teams; their second and third exhibition games at Disney will use standard timing. All teams are slated to play three exhibitions.

“This is a different situation,” Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said Saturday. “In all areas, really. ... I do think that there’s some latitude to do some different things.”

Exhibitions start with a four-game slate Wednesday and continue through July 28. Plans call for all 33 exhibitions to be televised by some combination of local TV, national TV, NBA TV or NBA League Pass.

“I believe that it’s done just trying to get safety first for the players,” Orlando coach Steve Clifford said of the shorter first exhibition. “I think most teams are like

us, where everybody is just feeling their way and guys aren’t in the type of condition they would normally be in in a training camp situation.”

The league is still working on some of the specifics for the first games, even whether to give teams the option of wearing uniforms or practice gear. Most teams, as of Saturday, were still planning to wear their usual regular-season uniforms for all three of their exhibitions — the new jerseys featuring social justice messaging will not debut until the seeding games that count begin July 30.

Other changes for the exhibition games may include using more than three referees in a rotating system, though that also remains under discussion.

Players apparently had not been told the first exhibitions will go faster.

“I don’t know about that yet,” said Oklahoma City guard Chris Paul, the president of the National Basketball Players Association. “So, I’ll find out.”

The exhibitions will be played like normal games — score and stats will be kept, and it will be a chance for the league’s star crews that were hired to work for three months at Disney to work out any kinks in the system.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said he’s taking a different view than he does for typical preseason matchups. For the first time, he’s talking with the coaches of the



NELL REDMOND/AP

With various fitness levels and with some players just joining their teams, such as Houston Rockets guard James Harden, above, the NBA trimmed the first exhibition games to 40 minutes.

**‘I think most teams are like us, where everybody is just feeling their way and guys aren’t in the type of condition they would normally be in in a training camp situation.’**

Steve Clifford  
Orlando Magic coach

teams the Heat will face — Sacramento’s Luke Walton and Utah’s Quin Snyder — to see if there are any specific situations those clubs want to work on in those games.

Spoelstra simply bumped into Snyder in the lobby of a Disney hotel and from there, the idea of one team helping out another

in the exhibitions was born. The Heat and Jazz will not play in a seeding game and couldn’t meet in a game that counts at Disney until the NBA Finals.

“You have to fast-track so much before you get to that eight-game regular season. ... We’ll approach it that way and play probably ev-

erbody available, but definitely work on some things and do a little bit of evaluating as well,” Spoelstra said.

The exhibitions will be helpful in breaking up the monotony of practice, Denver coach Michael Malone said, but he stressed that player health will come before anything else in those games.

“The No. 1 thing for me is can we get through these three scrimmages healthy and not getting guys put in a position where they’re overworked, playing too many minutes and getting hurt,” Malone said. “I think the vast majority of the 22 teams will approach it the same way.”

# NFL tells teams training camps will open on time



BYRON ANDERSON/AP

NFL vice president Troy Vincent sent a memo to general managers and head coaches on Saturday informing them rookies are to report by Tuesday, quarterbacks and injured players by Thursday and all other players should arrive by July 28.

By **ROB MAADDI**  
Associated Press

The NFL has informed teams their training camps will open on time.

League executive Troy Vincent sent a memo to general managers and head coaches on Saturday informing them rookies can report by Tuesday, quarterbacks and injured players by Thursday and all other players can arrive by July 28.

Rookies for Houston and Kansas City are set to report Monday.

The league and the NFL Players Association are still discussing testing for the coronavirus and other health and safety protocols. Union leadership expressed several concerns in a 90-minute conference call with reporters Friday.

However, under the collective bargaining agreement, the NFL can impose repeat dates.

The NFLPA could file a grievance to argue the league isn’t providing a safe work environment under the labor deal.

“The league is management,” NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said Friday. “They have the exclusive right, just like somebody who owns a plant, regarding when it opens and when it closes. They want training camps to open on time. The role of the union is to hold them accountable about

whether it’s safe to open now.”

The players’ union wants players tested daily for the virus. A joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the NFL and NFLPA recommended testing every other day.

**‘They have the exclusive right, just like somebody who owns a plant, regarding when it opens and when it closes.’**

DeMaurice Smith  
NFLPA executive director

Other outstanding issues include number of preseason games. The league has planned to cut the exhibition schedule from four games to two while the union wants none.

Both sides are also negotiating economic issues and questions remain on players’ rights to opt out of playing.

“I’m definitely concerned because it’s been going on for a while,” Dolphins running back Jordan Howard told the South Florida Sun Sentinel of the pending start of training camp.

“I definitely didn’t think it would be this big or go on for this while, and it seems like they can’t really get a hold of it or a trigger of what’s causing it.”

## GOLF/SOCCER/MMA

## Rahm builds 4-shot lead at Memorial

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio — Jon Rahm showed Saturday in the Memorial why he's one of the most explosive players in golf.

With his clubs. A back nine that capped off what he considers one of the best rounds of his careers gave Rahm a 4-under 68, turned a four-shot deficit into a four-shot lead and put the 25-year-old Spaniard on the verge of reaching No. 1 in the world.

"Today could be one of the best rounds of golf I've played in my life," Rahm said, a tribute to a Munirfield Village getting so close to the edge it drew comparisons with a major. "And it's hard to believe how passively it came, compared to how I played usually."

His passion is so great it can hurt as much as it helps. On this day, facing this test, Rahm kept his cool. He watched Tony Finau reach the par-5 11 in two for a sure birdie that would leave the Spaniard four shots behind.

There was no panic. Rahm said he told his caddy on the 13th tee, "If we can finish the last six holes under par, it's a great finish. And whatever we have to do to make a comeback, we'll make a comeback."

Birdie. Birdie. Birdie. Birdie. With help from Finau and his two double bogeys, and Ryan Palmer with bogeys on two of his last three holes, that turned into a four-shot lead for Rahm.

A victory allows him to join Seve Ballesteros as the only Spaniards to reach No. 1, provided that Rory McIlroy doesn't finish as a runner-up. McIlroy shot 72 — not a bad effort on a day when the average score was 73.7 — and was 10 shots back.

"I've got to get out there tomorrow, play solid again and get the job done and think about the No. 1 afterward," Rahm said.

Rahm was at 12-under 204 as he goes for his fourth PGA Tour victory, and 10th worldwide. Finau and Palmer, each with a 73, were three behind. Former Masters champion Danny Willett (70), was next in line at six shots back.



RICK BOWMAN/AP

**OL Reign goalkeeper Casey Murphy misses on a save during penalty kicks in her team's loss to the Chicago Red Stars in an NWSL Challenge Cup quarterfinal Saturday in Herriman, Utah.**

## Red Stars, Sky Blue advance to semifinals with wins in penalties

Associated Press

HERRIMAN, Utah — The Chicago Red Stars advanced to the semifinals of the National Women's Soccer League's Challenge Cup tournament, prevailing 4-3 on penalties after a scoreless draw with OL Reign on Saturday night.

Lauren Barnes' attempt for the Reign hit the post to seal it for Chicago, which will play Sky Blue on Wednesday night with a chance to play for the title.

Three of the four quarterfinal matches went to penalties. Under tournament rules, tie games after regulation go straight to a shootout rather than to extra periods.

Sky Blue advanced 4-3 on penalties after a scoreless draw with the Washington Spirit earlier Saturday. Sky Blue goalkeeper Kaitlyn Sheridan secured the victory when she stopped Bayley Feist's attempt.

The eighth-seeded Portland Thorns, 1-0 winners over two-time defending champion North Carolina on Friday, will play the Dash in the first semifinal on Wednesday morning. The Dash also advanced on penalties after a scoreless draw Friday night against the Utah Royals.

The Reign's Jessica Fishlock got her first start since tearing her ACL in a game last July. She had one of the best attempts in the first half, but was thwarted by Chicago goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, who was solid throughout the game.

Naeher, who was in goal last summer for the U.S. team that won the World Cup, punched away a header from a wide open Sofia Huerta in the 59th minute. Later in the half, she tipped Kristen McNabb's shot from some 30 yards out.

Kealia Watt had a good chance for Chicago out in front of the goal in the 67th minute but it went just wide.

Goalkeeping has been highlighted in the quarterfinals, with just one goal scored — by Portland's Morgan Weaver — in the three other games.

The Reign were playing without U.S. national team star Megan Rapinoe, who opted out of the tournament. Group results determined seeding for the eight teams in the Challenge Cup. The league's ninth team, the Orlando Pride, withdrew before the tournament because of positive coronavirus tests.

## Figueiredo claims UFC flyweight title

Chokes out Benavidez in first-round win

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Deiveson Figueiredo won the vacant UFC flyweight championship Sunday, finishing a dominant performance against Joseph Benavidez with a rear naked choke with 12 seconds left in the first round.

Jack Hermansson also stunned Kelvin Gastelum with a first-round submission by head hook in the penultimate bout of the third UFC show in eight days from Fight Island, the UFC's base of operations on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi.

Figueiredo (10-1) became just the third 125-pound champion in UFC history by thoroughly dominating his second victory in five months over Benavidez. The Brazilian veteran earned down Benavidez three times with punches and barely missed on several choke attempts before finally landing a choke that appeared to render Benavidez unconscious.

**Deiveson Figueiredo**  
Flyweight fighter from Brazil

**"I wanted to come here and take this belt home to my city, my state."**

Lauren Figueiredo (21-5), a Swede who trains in Norway, rebounded impressively from a knockout loss last September with his fifth win in six bouts overall since 2017.

After a solid opening exchange with Gastelum, the former middleweight title contender, Hermansson alertly grabbed Gastelum's leg out of a ground exchange and violently twisted it to force Gastelum to tap.

"We knew he wanted to engage in the grappling, but then he's in my game," Hermansson said. "You're in my world when we get down there."

Afterward, Hermansson called out the winner of former middleweight champ Robert Whittaker's showdown with Darren Till next weekend in Abu Dhabi.

Gastelum (15-6) took his third consecutive loss and just the second stoppage defeat of his pro career.

one-punch knockdown.

Figueiredo, the first non-American UFC flyweight champ, joins Demetrious Johnson and Cejudo as the only UFC fighters ever to hold the 125-pound title. Johnson beat Benavidez in that inaugural title bout in 2012, and Mighty Mouse reigned for nearly six years before Cejudo dethroned him in 2018.

The 32-year-old Figueiredo is 8-1 since joining the UFC in 2017. He had previous fought only in Brazil.

"I wanted to come here and take this belt home to my city, my state," said Figueiredo, who grew up near the mouth of the Amazon River. "I'm so proud to get this belt. I said I was going to take it, and here I am."

Benavidez is one of the top lighter-weight fighters of his generation — but just like longtime friend Urijah Faber, he has repeatedly fallen just short of a UFC title. Benavidez has lost twice to Johnson and twice to Figueiredo, but has lost only one other fight in the past decade.

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## MLB

# From a distance: Fans see Harper homer off Scherzer

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Max Scherzer and the reigning champion Washington Nationals hosted baseball's first exhibition game in more than four months Saturday, a handful of fans watched from afar — really far, seated on a high-rise building's glass balconies beyond left field.

Nationals owner Mark Lerner and general manager Mike Rizzo each had a better view from the Nationals Park stands, nowhere near each other and both wearing masks, part of many unusual sights and fane, piped-in sounds as Major League Baseball crept closer to next week's opening day amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"You just have to accept it. Seems like every day there's a challenge and you just have to overcome it. If this is what it's going to be, this is what's going to be," said Scherzer, the three-time Cy Young Award winner who gave up three-run shots to old friend Bryce Harper and mask-wearing Didi Gregorius in Washington's 7-2 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies, who rode to the game in a bus.

Red-white-and-blue signs proclaiming the home team the "2019 world champions" adorned the mostly empty ballpark even if no spectators were present to see them for Washington's first game there against an opponent since earning the franchise's first title.

This was also the first exhibition game between two teams

since spring training got called off March 12 because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Not too many folks got to see Scherzer throw 87 pitches and allow seven runs in five innings or Phillies starter Aaron Nola go five scoreless, one-hit innings as both tuned up for opening day: In addition to closed gates, there was no TV coverage.

The umpires sported masks. There was so much silence, occasionally interrupted by the hum of artificial crowd noise — cheers even accidentally blared as Philadelphia's homers landed, before the volume was decreased — or a stadium announcer.

"It's better," Washington manager Dave Martinez said, "than it being totally quiet."

It was a fact of what everyone can expect when games matter: Washington hosts the New York Yankees on Thursday, the first day of the delayed regular season; Philadelphia hosts Miami on Friday.

"All of us are wondering what it's going to be like in Game 3, Game 4, Game 10, Game 20 — without fans in the stands, because I think players use fans for energy," Phillies manager Joe Girardi said. "But there was a different feel tonight, which made me feel better about what we're doing."

The area around the ballpark was eerily quiet an hour before first pitch; restaurants and bars that normally would be bustling on such a sunny summer afternoon were mostly empty.

## Army OF Hurtubise signs deal with Reds

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Former Army outfielder and captain Jacob Hurtubise has agreed to a minor league contract with the Cincinnati Reds for the \$20,000 maximum signing bonus allowed to players by-passed in last month's amateur draft.

The Zionsville, Indiana, native becomes the first baseball player to receive a professional offer since the U.S. Department of Defense endorsed a policy last November to allow service academy athletes to pursue professional sports after graduation.

Once approved, Hurtubise will be allowed to delay his commissioning and subsequent service obligation.

"We are very proud and excited for Jacob to get this opportunity with the Cincinnati Reds," Army head coach Jim Fournier said in a statement. "He has been a huge

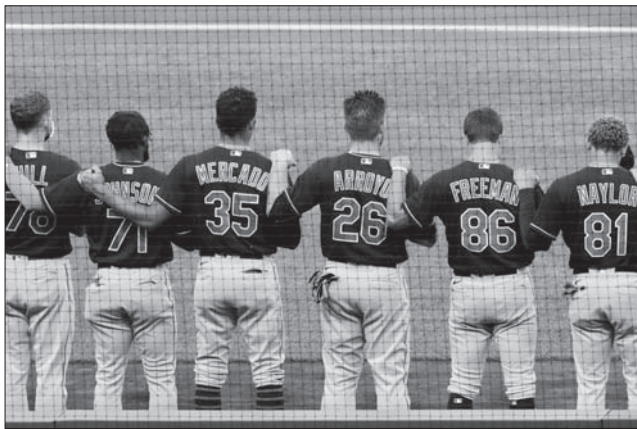
part of our baseball program and will be remembered as one of the greats in program history."

Hurtubise graduated in June as the Army and Patriot League all-time leader in stolen bases (105) and walks (142). In 2019, he set Army season records for runs (71), walks (69) and stolen bases (45), and was named Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year.

Hurtubise's senior season was wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic after he played in only five games.

Hurtubise was drafted in the 39th round last year by the Seattle Mariners before returning to West Point for his senior season. He was not selected in the June draft, which had only 160 players picked in five rounds.

Pitcher Chris Rowley is the only Army player to reach the major leagues, making his debut in 2017 for the Toronto Blue Jays.



Gene J. Puskar/AP

Cleveland Indians players line up to show support for social justice during the national anthem before an exhibition baseball game against the Pirates in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

## Dress: Players get glimpse of new protocols

FROM BACK PAGE

coronavirus-era games — cardboard cutouts for fans, sound effects for crowds and more. Still, for clubs limited to practices and intrasquads in their own ballparks for the past two weeks, Saturday stood as an important mile marker as the sport tries to start a shortened 60-game season next Thursday amid a pandemic.

"In some ways, this is very much a dress rehearsal for the new world we're in," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said before an exhibition at the cross-town Mets.

No fans rushed off the 7 train in Flushing at Citi Field, and no masses hurried over the Clemente Bridge in Pittsburgh — not with MLB planning to start this pandemic-shaken season at empty stadiums. At Nationals Park, several people watched from a building balcony far beyond the left field wall.

Umpires wore face masks, as did some players. Backups watched from the stands to maintain social distancing in dugouts. They all tried to follow safety protocols, including a ban on licking fingers or spitting.

Another new look — the Mets became the first club to sell ad space on the field itself, spray painting a Ford logo on the back of the pitcher's mound.

Gregorius drilled a three-run homer in the first inning in Washington, the first big fly by a player in any of Saturday's games.

The 30-year-old Phillies newcomer is one of a handful of players who has said he'll wear a mask full-time this season. Gregorius has a chronic kidney disorder that makes him high risk for the coronavirus.

Scherzer is expected to throw the first pitch of the regular season when the Nats host new ace Gerrit Cole and the Yankees on Thursday night. The right-hander struggled in his final tuneup, also allowing a three-run shot to former teammate Bryce Harper.

Bood heavily last season after spurning Washington in free agency, Harper heard no such jere this time.

For their first exhibition game since the virus outbreak shut down spring training in mid-March, Yankees players took a team bus from the Bronx to Queens to meet the Mets — no busways for this series.

The pregame routine looked familiar enough — soaring batting practice homers from Giancarlo Stanton and Pete Alonso, ground ball work for Gleyber Torres and Robinson Cano.

Signs of the times were certainly there. Some coaches hit fungoes in face masks, and the usual high fives and hugs between opponents around the batting cage were replaced by elbow taps and dis-

tanced chats — including one between Yankees general manager Brian Cashman and Mets counterpart Brodie Van Wagenen.

With no fans filing in for first pitch, nearly 1,000 cardboard likenesses of Mets supporters were set up behind home plate. The team plans to have 5,000 in place by opening day.

Reserve players watched from under large awnings built behind both dugouts. Mets backups gave a standing ovation to scheduled starter Rick Porcello as he returned from the bullpen, then started a chant of "Let's go, Mets!"

The first homer in Flushing also came from a masked player — Yankees outfielder Clint Frazier. The 25-year-old, who says he's taken heat on social media for his decision to wear a face covering at all times, drove a two-run homer into the second deck in the fourth inning.

The Cleveland Indians loaded into three buses Saturday for the 2-hour-plus drive to Pittsburgh. Manager Terry Francona said the team adhered to social-distance guidelines — and staggered arrival times — for the team's first trip since camp re-opened.

"I think it's a good experience for all of us," he said. "We're not used to getting on a bus and get your temperature taken and things like that, so it's good to go through that."

Cleveland made a public show of support for social justice before its 5-3 win, standing with their right hands over their hearts and their left hands on the right shoulder of their teammates during the national anthem.

A few fans gathered outside PNC Park, hoping to catch some sort of game action.

Michael Kirkpatrick, 73, and his son, Zac, stood on the Clemente Bridge beyond center field — the same place they crammed shoulder to shoulder during the NL wild-card game in 2013. No trouble finding a spot this time.

"I just need to hear a bat hit a ball," Zac said. In Washington, a moment of silence was held for late civil rights trailblazer John Lewis. Players stood socially distanced for the national anthem — an acoustic rendition by the U.S. Army Brass Quintet performed before Game 4 of last year's World Series and replayed on the video scoreboard.

"Definitely has a different feeling to it," Nationals center fielder Michael A. Taylor said.

Postgame handshake lines got a shake-up, too. The Yankees air-fived each other outside the dugout after finishing a 9-3 win, and Cleveland celebrated its victory by tapping toes with teammates.

AP Sports Writers Will Graves and Howard Fendrich and Associated Press Writer Bob Gilles contributed to this report.

MLB

# No, Canada

## Blue Jays barred from playing in Toronto

By ROB GILLIES  
Associated Press

TORONTO — The Blue Jays won't play their home games in Toronto this year because Canada's government doesn't think it's safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States, one of the countries hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino said Saturday the federal government had denied the Blue Jays' request to play at Rogers Centre, confirming what an official familiar with the matter had told The Associated Press ahead of the announcement.

The Blue Jays were informed via a phone call. The team's alternate sites for home games include its training facility in Dunedin, Fla., which is among the states that are virus hotspots, as well as Sahlen Field in Buffalo, N.Y., which is home to Toronto's Triple-A affiliate and just across the Niagara River from Canada.

The Blue Jays are scheduled to start the season July 24 at Tampa Bay. Their home opener was set for five days later against Washington.

Mendicino told the AP frequent travel to the U.S., where COVID-19 cases are surging, was the biggest issue.

"There were serious risks if we proceeded with the regular-season proposal of the MLB and the Jays and therefore we concluded it was not in the national interest," Mendicino said.

The team had been given clearance by city and provincial governments to play in its home stadium and was awaiting approval from Canada's federal government. The other 29 Major League Baseball teams plan to play in their home ballparks, without spectators, during the pandemic-shortened 60-game season

begins on Thursday.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz have pushed for the team to relocate to the city.

"Let's find a way to make them the 'Buffalo Blue Jays' this year," Poloncarz wrote in a text to the AP.

Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro said player health is a concern in Florida. He said the team has spent more time examining Buffalo in recent days but said the stadium has infrastructure challenges. A lack of space in the clubhouse makes social distancing difficult, but Shapiro said some players could have their lockers set up in suites.

Sahlen Field also needs upgrades to its field lights and its training facilities, he said.

"Dunedin is the only one that is 100% seamless right now and ready to go. That from a player-health standpoint has some challenges," Shapiro said. "Buffalo is certainly one that we've spent an increasing amount of time on in the past few weeks. That is not done. There are some infrastructure and player-facility challenges to get that up to major league standards. And then we have other alternatives that are real that we continue to work through that may be better for us."

He declined to say other sites they are considering but the team would look to improve batting cages, weight rooms and training rooms in Buffalo if it is picked.

"Buffalo is the place we've spent the most time on in the last 10 days," Shapiro said. "There is a lot we have to do. Some of it might get done after we start playing but I'm confident Buffalo is a viable alternative. With the amount of resources that we would marshal if we focused solely on Buffalo we can make it what it needs to be for us in time to play games."



NATHAN DENETTE/The Canadian Press, AP

Toronto Blue Jays left fielder Lourdes Gurriel Jr., left, watches teammate Teoscar Hernandez spray sanitizer in the dugout during the first inning of an intersquad game in Toronto on Friday. The Canadian government has denied approval for the Blue Jays to play regular-season games in Toronto.

### 'We concluded it was not in the national interest.'

Marco Mendicino

Canadian immigration minister, on the decision

No affiliated minor league teams are playing this year, so the Bisons' stadium is empty.

"We are continuing to explore the best ways to adapt the available spaces in our ballpark to meet the needs of the Blue Jays," said Mike Buczkowski, the president of Rich Baseball Operations, which oversees the team.

Washington pitcher Max Scherzer said the Blue Jays' situation is the latest wrinkle in the virus-delayed season.

"Whatever the challenge is, wherever you've got to play, wherever you've got to go, just keep a smile on your face," Scherzer said. "Who knows where we're

going to play them — but we're going to play baseball."

Shapiro called Canada's decision disappointing but gave health officials credit for mitigating the spread of the virus.

"Without any hesitation we respect the decision. It's not hard to think about how well managed and well led the virus has been throughout Toronto and Canada by public health and political leaders," Shapiro said.

Mendicino said the government is open to considering future restart plans for the postseason should the risk of virus transmission diminish.

"We've committed to main-

taining an open line of communication with both MLB and the Toronto Blue Jays and we will reassess in due course," he said.

MLB needed an exemption to a requirement that anyone entering Canada for nonessential reasons must self-isolate for 14 days.

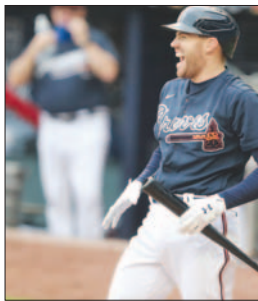
The U.S.-Canada border remains closed to nonessential travel until at least Aug. 21.

"In Canada you've seen us flatten the curve. You've seen that cases have decreased significantly and that is largely attributable to the sacrifices Canadians have made," Mendicino said.

The NHL has received an exemption for its restart to the season, but that was a far simpler case because the games are restricted to two hubs — Edmonton and Toronto.

The Blue Jays received an exemption for summer camp, during which the players agreed to isolate in the hotel attached to Rogers Centre.

## Freeman grateful to be back with Braves after COVID-19 fight



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP  
Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman reacts Saturday during his first game since his battle with COVID-19.

By CHARLES ODUM  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Freddie Freeman doesn't know if he has time to be ready for the Atlanta Braves' opener.

Following a scary journey in his battle with COVID-19, Freeman is grateful to even have a chance.

On Saturday, the four-time All-Star revealed he had a high temperature of 104.5 degrees early in his battle with the disease and prayed for his life.

"I said a little prayer that night," Freeman said in a video conference call. "I've never been that hot before. My body was really, really hot. ... I said 'Please don't take me' because I wasn't ready."

Freeman said the fever was down to 101 the following morning and broke two days later. He said Saturday was his ninth consecutive day without symptoms, which also included body aches, chills and a temporary loss of his senses of taste and smell. He said two other members of his house-

hold, his wife and aunt, are recovering after positive tests.

"I feel great," he said. "I only lost one pound. ... I didn't lose any strength."

Freeman reported to Truist Park for a workout on Friday only about an hour after receiving his second negative test for the coronavirus.

The Braves plan to give Freeman as many at-bats as possible before the season. He had a run-scoring triple over the head of night fielder Ronald Acuna Jr. in the Saturday night's intrasquad game and also caught a foul popup over his shoulder.

The Braves posted video on the team's Twitter account of Freeman, carrying his bat and glove, saying "This is wonderful" as he walked out of the dugout and looked out at the field on Friday.

"I feel like I'm a kid in a candy store again," he said Saturday. "You forget sometimes how much you love this game. I did truly miss it. I was so excited when I got to the yard."

The Braves are thrilled Freeman is

back.

"Obviously when you get your best player back, it's a positive thing and a good thing," manager Brian Snitker said. "I'm excited for him and us, too."

Freeman set career highs with 38 home runs and 121 RBIs last season to help Atlanta win its second straight NL East title. He placed fourth in the MVP voting in 2018.

Freeman's return was well timed. Free agent outfielder Yasiel Puig tested positive for the coronavirus after agreeing to sign with Atlanta. The positive test voided the deal.

Puig had been seen as a replacement for Nick Markakis, who opted out for the season after talking on the telephone with Freeman.

"Unfortunately that was my worst day," Freeman said, adding he didn't try to influence the decision by Markakis. When the two spoke again days later.

"He just wasn't into it and I totally, totally got it," Freeman said.

# SPORTS



**Timing issue**  
First exhibition games to have 10-minute quarters » **Page 20**

MLB

# DRESS REHEARSAL



Empty seats, fake cheers greet players as baseball holds first COVID-era exhibitions

By JAKE SEINER  
Associated Press

**‘This is 2020 baseball. Embrace it and have fun with it.’**

**Max Scherzer**  
Washington Nationals pitcher

**D** NEW YORK  
idi Gregorius watched over the top of his face mask as his drive off Washington ace Max Scherzer sailed into empty outfield seats.

Philadelphia Phillies shortstop rounded the bases. After touching home plate, he pantomimed air-fives to teammates. “This is 2020 baseball,” Scherzer said. “Embrace it and have fun with it.”

Exhibition games in Washington, New York and Pittsburgh on Saturday gave Major League Baseball its first look at

**SEE DRESS ON PAGE 22**

**Inside:**

■ Blue Jays must migrate south after Canada bars travel from U.S., **Page 23**

Mets catcher Tomás Nido, right, looks on as the Yankees’ Clint Frazier watches his two-run home run in the fourth inning of Saturday’s exhibition at Citi Field in New York.

ADAM HUNGER/AP

**Figueiredo chokes out Benavidez for title** » MMA, Page 21

