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ANALYSIS

AFGHANISTAN



NATO troops wounded in bomb blast

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb blast in southern Afghanistan wounded two Romanian soldiers, NATO Resolute Support said in a statement Thursday.

The soldiers were on a patrol in Kandahar province Wednesday when the improvised explosive device detonated, the statement said.

The Romanian government identified the soldiers as Sgt. Adrian Ioan Cizfrak and Cpl. 2nd Class Iosif Ioan Reman, who are both in stable condition at a Kandahar Airfield hospital. The two soldiers were traveling in a convoy of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles when they were injured, the statement said.

Violence has raged across Afghanistan in recent days, threatening 6-week-old peace talks in Qatar between the Taliban and the government.

A deadly offensive last week by the Taliban in Helmand province drew accusations that the militant group was openly flouting a deal it signed with the U.S. in February, under which all foreign troops could leave the country by mid-2021.

The U.S. launched airstrikes to defend Afghan forces during those attacks, and the head of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, called on the Taliban "to immediately stop their offensive action in Helmand province and reduce their violence around the country."

But the United Nations said Wednesday that the offensive in Helmand was continuing, and tens of thousands of Afghans had been displaced by the fighting.

Miller repeated his call for a reduction in violence in an interview with the BBC on Wednesday during a visit to the southern province.

SEE BLAST ON PAGE 4

Two-party problem

North Korea poised to provoke US regardless of election outcome

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — With the U.S. election less than two weeks away, it appears clear that North Korea's leader would like to continue his bromance with President Donald Trump.

Kim Jong Un has heaped praise on Trump in more than two dozen letters even as nuclear talks between the two countries faltered. Meanwhile, the North has called Democratic rival Joe Biden a "rabid dog" who is "greedy for power."

No matter who wins, the new U.S. administration will face a growing nuclear threat from the North, which recently rolled out a huge new intercontinental ballistic missile that may be able to target the United States.

President Donald Trump speaks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the North Korean side of the Joint Security Area on June 30, 2019. Kim has praised Trump, but that's likely not enough to keep the North at bay.

KCNA

Testing a new administration

The North's next step will likely be to test-fire a long-range missile, but probably not until after the results are in from the Nov. 3 vote, experts said.

"The North Koreans are perhaps more inclined to teach a lesson and to housebreak a new Biden administration than they are to throw a monkey wrench into what's already a kind of wild and crazy U.S. election," Daniel Russel, former assistant secretary of state for the region, said during a virtual panel this month.

Despite the weapons advances, Trump has consistently touted North Korea as a foreign policy success, saying in 2018 that he and Kim "fell in love" after months of high-profile summits and diplomatic efforts tamped down hostilities that pushed the divided peninsula to the brink of a new war in 2017.

SEE NORTH ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	Change in price
Germany	\$2.425	\$2.640	\$3.090	\$2.663	--	-\$3.990
Change in price	-1.7 cents	-1.4 cents	-1.4 cents	-0.7 cents	--	-1.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.334	\$3.552	\$3.178	--	\$2.530
Change in price	--	-4.0 cents	-4.1 cents	-0.4 cents	--	No change
U.K.	--	\$2.739	\$2.989	\$2.562	--	-\$3.397
Change in price	--	-1.4 cents	-1.4 cents	-0.7 cents	--	-1.4 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	Change in price
Japan	--	\$2.079	--	\$2.449	\$3.229	-2.0 cents
Change in price	--	-1.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.219	--	--	\$2.449	\$2.229**	-2.0 cents
Change in price	-1.0 cents	--	--	-1.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents

* Diesel EFF ** Midgrade
For the week of Oct. 23-29

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	Switzerland (Franc)
Euro costs (Oct. 23)	0.9072
Dollar buys (Oct. 23)	131
British pound (Oct. 23)	79.287
Japanese yen (Oct. 23)	110.00
South Korean won (Oct. 23)	1,105.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3103
Canada (Dollar)	1.3155
China (Yuan)	6.6828
Denmark (Krone)	6.2931
Egypt (Pound)	15.7191
Euro	\$1.1823/0.8458
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7504
Hungary (Forint)	306.42
Israel (Shekel)	3.3821
Japan (Yen)	104.72
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3057
Norway (Krone)	9.2348
Philippines (Peso)	48.63
Poland (Zloty)	3.88
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3569
South Korea (Won)	1,135.72

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.62

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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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



MILITARY



ALEXANDER WILLIAMS/U.S. Navy

Capt. Brett Crozier addresses his USS Theodore Roosevelt crew in January. Crozier was relieved of command April 2 after his pleas for help responding to the coronavirus pandemic appeared in the news.

Removal of fired Roosevelt chief's name from plaque causes uproar

By **CATLIN DOORNBOS**
Stars and Stripes

Whoever removed Capt. Brett Crozier's nameplate aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt set off a social media storm this week.

Crozier steered the carrier through a coronavirus episode in March that ended with then-Navy Secretary Thomas Modly relieving him of command. Crozier's firing elicited an immediate backlash felt from the carrier deck to Capitol Hill.

Many commenters on Facebook assumed a vindictive move on someone's part when Crozier's nameplate went missing from a plaque listing all the carrier's commanders past and present since 1986, but the carrier's executive officer, Capt. Daniel Keeler, settled for a less sinister motive.

"(Sigh) It's getting fixed — not

a directed removal," Keller wrote on the original Junior Officer Protection Association Facebook post drawing attention to the missing nameplate. "We think someone took it as a souvenir."

About eight hours later, Keeler posted an updated photo of the plaque, now featuring a new nameplate for Crozier; two new plates for his predecessor and successor, Capt. Carlos Sardiello; and one for the current commander, Capt. Eric Anduze, along with corrected service dates.

"Done. (Until someone else decides they want a 'souvenir,')" Keeler captioned the photo.

Roosevelt spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Pau told the Navy Times on Thursday that the nameplate was removed because the ship was in the process of updating the commanding officers' nameplates on the ceremonial quarterdeck.

Crozier commanded the aircraft carrier when it diverted to Guam on March 26 to deal with a coronavirus outbreak that ultimately resulted in more than 1,150 positive cases. Modly removed Crozier from command on April 2 after a letter Crozier emailed his Navy superiors pleading for help surfaced in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Crozier's firing was unpopular with much of the carrier's crew. Sailors shared to social media videos of Roosevelt crew members cheering and chanting Crozier's name the night he left the carrier for the final time. National news picked up the story, along with an audio recording of Modly denigrating Crozier during a later address aboard the carrier. Modly resigned shortly afterward.

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Airman's sexual abuse post gets high-rank notice

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The chief master sergeant of the Air Force has reached out to a female airman in Japan who said on Instagram that she experienced sexual harassment and retaliation.

Airman 1st Class Sarah Figueroa posted her claims Oct. 14 along with a photograph of herself in uniform that tagged President Donald Trump, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and numerous media outlets.

"My name is Sarah Figueroa and I am a victim of sexual harassment in the air force," she wrote. The post claims she was sexually harassed by a coworker at Misawa Air Base, an installation in northeast Japan that's home to the 35th Fighter Wing and about 5,700 U.S. personnel.

"Since I reported this, I've faced retaliation in ways you wouldn't believe. The retaliation has even reached a point of 'mistakes' being made for my career development," she wrote without providing details.

"Last week, I was followed (while driving) by the airman who sexually harassed and I feared for my life," she continued.

Figueroa said she reported the incident to military police and her chain of command but that her commander said it was coincidence that her alleged harasser drove behind her on a small installation.

The Instagram post attracted numerous comments, including one from Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass, who asked Figueroa to contact her via email.

"The CMSAF deeply cares about the safety and well-being

of all Airmen, and her interest in Airman 1st Class Figueroa's situation is no exception," a Pacific Air Forces spokesperson, Sgt. Renae Rittman, wrote Thursday in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Figueroa told Stars and Stripes that she wanted to talk Oct. 16 via an Instagram message but did not respond to subsequent emails and messages.

In follow-up Instagram posts, Figueroa said she wasn't trying to defame the Air Force or the military.

"For now I will be taking some personal time and will be staying off social media for a while," she wrote. "It isn't easy to have my life on display but this needed to be done, not only for myself but for the countless others that are in this same or worse situation."

Pacific Air Forces has been looking into the allegations, the public affairs office wrote in an Oct. 16 email to Stars and Stripes.

"We take allegations like this seriously and are dedicated to the safety and well-being of all of our Airmen," the message said. "An investigation into those claims was done by the Airman's chain of command. Equal Opportunity office was made aware and provided subject matter expertise on the matter."

Earlier this year, a memo to airmen and space professionals from Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, then-Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and Chief of Space Operations Gen. John Raymond denounced interpersonal violence and urged affected service members to ask for assistance, according to PACAF.

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NCOs to rank assignment choices under new Army system

By **NORMAN LLAMAS**
Stars and Stripes

Noncommissioned officers will get to rank their assignments by choice for the first time when the Army rolls out a new preference system next month.

The newly introduced Assignment Satisfaction Key—Enlisted Module applies primarily to NCOs eligible in the ranks of staff sergeant through master sergeant for the 2021 enlisted manning cycle, the Army's Human Resources Command said in a statement earlier this month.

While officers have had a similar system of ranked choices in place since 2016, this is the first time it has been introduced for NCO ranks. It will allow them more input into where they would like to be assigned

“Don't miss out on the opportunity to influence your future.”

Col. Bryan Harris
U.S. Army

based on their knowledge, skills and preferences, HRC said.

The new system was preceded by two pilot programs in June and September involving a total of 1,700 NCOs.

"Seventy one percent of the NCOs participated in the (pilot) process and 55 percent received one of their top five choices," Col. Bryan Harris, armor enlisted branch

chief at HRC, said in the statement.

In early October, thousands of enlisted soldiers received an email from the command, letting them know they will be participating in ASK-EM, which will support interaction between the soldiers and their branch talent managers.

Soldiers may enter the site as many times as they like during the roughly 30 day marketplace is currently set to remain open. While soldiers' choices will be considered, the Army's readiness requirements ultimately will remain a priority in determining assignments, HRC said.

Promotable E-5s will only be included by Army branches based on the number of available E-6 slots they have. If a branch is short of E-6s during a specific manning

cycle, they will be allowed to open the marketplace to their promotable E-5s.

ASK-EM will cover five enlisted manning cycles per year, compared with just two for officers, allowing eventually for up to 35,000 NCOs to participate, the HRC statement said.

There were no plans announced to open the system to junior enlisted ranks.

Harris urged all NCOs to take advantage of the new assignment system.

"If they don't speak up, their assignment manager will reassign them in accordance with priorities and the needs of the Army," he said in the statement. "Don't miss out on the opportunity to influence your future."

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MILITARY

Military working dogs in Iraq get blood bank

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Military working dog handlers in Iraq have set up a "walking blood bank" for their four-legged partners who help secure bases, hunt explosives and assist in combat missions such as the raid that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi last year.

"The bank will allow for rapid treatment of injured working dogs," Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS in Iraq and Syria, tweeted Wednesday.

Boni, Bubo and Rexo, all patrol explosive detector dogs at Al Asad Air Base, were among the pups who had their blood drawn and tested earlier this month to identify their blood types, online photos show.

"This is the first time [Operation Inherent Resolve] has established a mobile blood bank for military working dogs ... and multi-purpose canines," said Army Col. Wayne Marotto, a coalition military spokesman.

The canine blood bank was started in response to a policy the Army Medical Command surgeon general's office issued that requires the service's veterinarians to record blood types for all working dogs, Marotto said. For human casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military has long relied on "walking blood banks" in which prescreened donors can be called up to give blood at a medical facility in case of a mass casualty event or a trauma patient in need of numerous transfusions.

Blood loss is one of the top preventable causes of combat death. Earlier this year, the Marine Corps also began testing a program in the Middle East modeled on one used by Army Rangers in Afghanistan last year to analyze lifesaving transfusions on the battlefield.

The 994th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support and medical personnel has set up emergency response capabilities and trained health care providers to ensure the animals receive "the highest level of emergency care," Marotto said.



ARMANDO VASQUEZ/U.S. Army

Army Sgt. Anthony Catania, a military working dog handler with the K9 Task Force at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, embraces his patrol explosive detector dog, Boni, on Oct. 7.

Inherent Resolve did not have military canine casualty data, he said. But at least two working dogs in the U.S. Central Command area of operations were medically evacuated following injuries this year, including one from Iraq that suffered cardiac arrest, according to military statements.

Military working dogs like Conan, a Belgian Malinois who was wounded during the mission that killed Baghdadi last October, are "critical members of our forces," U.S. Central Command boss Gen. Frank McKenzie said last year. Conan had accompanied special operations troops on

some 50 missions.

In Middle Eastern weather, the availability of donor blood can also be critical for dogs off the battlefield. In June, an Air Force pup named Cvokoy was rushed by helicopter from Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia to Kuwait's Camp Arifan after its body temperature was nearly 110 degrees.

At 104 degrees, dogs begin suffering heat stroke, the Humane Society of the United States website says. Heat injuries can cause internal organ damage and hemorrhage, and few dogs survive if they reach

as high a body temperature as Cvokoy, a military veterinarian said in a statement after the incident.

In that case, a pint of blood from a Navy dog named Army helped save his life, the statement said.

"We got the call that my dog, Army, might be a match," it quoted dog handler Petty Officer 2nd Class Sera Tamez as saying. "It feels really good to help one of our own!"

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Mold in Fort Bragg barracks forces troops to move

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some 200 Fort Bragg soldiers were forced from their barracks this month after mold was found in two buildings housing troops with the 528th Special Operations Sustainment Brigade on the Army post in North Carolina, service officials said Thursday.

An air-quality inspection by Fort Bragg's Department of Public Works was conducted Oct. 10 after a soldier's report of mold led 1st Special Forces Command leaders to order the troops out of the two impacted barracks buildings, according to Maj. Dan Lessard, a spokesman for the command that oversees the 528th Special Operations Sustainment Brigade. Lessard said as of Thursday that none of the affected soldiers had displayed illnesses or other issues related to the mold, but officials were continuing to monitor their health.

"Our soldiers are our most valuable asset, and it is our responsibility

"Our soldiers are our most valuable asset, and it is our responsibility to protect their health and welfare."

Maj. Gen. John Brennan
Commander of 1st Special Forces Command

to protect their health and welfare," Maj. Gen. John Brennan, the commander of 1st Special Forces Command, said in a prepared statement. "This issue has the full attention of our entire command team, and we are continuing to work with DPW to resolve these issues as soon as possible."

The displaced soldiers were moved to other units' barracks on post or hotels in the area. Lessard said only 18 soldiers remained in off-post hotels of the 103 that were initially placed in them on Oct. 10. He said the Army expected to find barracks on Fort Bragg for those soldiers by the weekend.

The mold in heating and air

condition systems was first reported by a soldier through an online tool 1st Special Forces Command leaders set up to allow their troops to anonymously report grievances, ask questions or share ideas.

Lessard said officials issued a "short notice" alert to the troops to move to alternate lodging "because the command team concluded after conducting leader walk-throughs and air-quality surveys that the conditions warranted immediate action."

Military housing has been a hot-button issue for leaders in the Army and other services in recent years as they have worked to address widespread reports of prob-

lems including mold, infestations and disrepair in housing facilities at posts worldwide. Most of those issues have been reported in on-post family housing units run by private companies, but the Army has also signaled it plans to make major improvements to its about 6,700 barracks facilities.

Last week, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, the service's top enlisted soldier, announced the Army will seek about \$9.6 billion for repairs and construction of Army barracks during the next decade.

But Grinston also said soldiers had the responsibility to ensure their living quarters were maintained. If there were a problem in his housing, he said, he would demand it be fixed.

"We have to demand the same thing in our barracks," he said. "You have to do your part to maintain the barracks ... If something is not right, demand — not just ask — demand that we fix it."

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Blast: NATO calls on Taliban to reduce violence after latest attack

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I am specifically asking the Taliban to bring down the violence and it can't be one-sided; all sides need to bring it down," he told the BBC.

Elsewhere in the country, officials in the northern province of Takhar said 12 people, including children, were killed in an airstrike by government forces on a religious school.

The airstrike, which Kabul claimed killed Taliban fighters, was launched after militants ambushed and killed at least 37 government troops, Reuters news agency said.

A spokesman for the provincial governor, Mohammad Jawad Hiji, said a religious imam and students were killed in the attack while 14 others were wounded.

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MILITARY

Tokyo train schedule changes will affect US service members

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Service members wanting to catch the last train to Fussa, near the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, will have to depart a bit earlier starting in spring.

Seventeen lines will stop operating each day as much as nearly 40 minutes earlier to allow more time for repairs and maintenance, according to a new release Wednesday from East Japan Railway Co., also known as JR East. Fewer riders on late-night trains because of the coronavirus pandemic also contributed to the schedule change, according to a Kyodo News report.

The final schedule, detailed timetable and starting date will be announced in December, JR East said.

In addition to the Ome line, the Chuo, Yokosuka, Yokohama, Yamanote, Tokaido, Keihin Tohoku, Negishi and Nambu lines will stop

running earlier each night.

The Ome and Takasaki lines will be most affected; their last trains will depart 37 minutes earlier than now, according to the JR East news release.

The rail lines are a staple form of travel in and around Tokyo for all U.S. personnel, and some bases are close to stops on JR East rail lines. The Ome line, for example, stops at Fussa city, near Yokota Air Base, and Yokosuka Naval Base is close to Yokosuka Station on Yokosuka line.

Changes to schedules will vary, according to JR East. The last train bound for Mitake or Okutama on the Ome line will depart 37 minutes earlier, for example.

However, the last train from Tachikawa to Hajima will leave 22 minutes earlier at 12:21 a.m., rather than the current 12:43 a.m. departure time, according to the release.

Shinkansen, or bullet trains, and limited express services won't be affected, the release said. Travel-



THERON GOBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Passengers ride an Ome line train near Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.

ers will be able to make connections to local lines at shinkansen stations such as Tokyo, Shinagawa and Shin-Yokohama.

However, the schedule change means some connections will be out of reach for some late-night travelers, according to the railway. For example, travelers arriving on the bullet train at 11:38 p.m. at Shinagawa will miss the

last train to stations on the Ome line between Nishi-Tachikawa and Ome.

The commuter rail network last trimmed its schedule for so many trains in the Tokyo metropolitan area 33 years ago, the Asahi newspaper reported Thursday.

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2 DODEA schools to reopen soon

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Two more schools overseen by the Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe will soon return to in-person instruction.

At the U.S. Navy base in Bahrain, classes will resume for grades nine to 12 at Bahrain School on Sunday, the start of the school week there, DODEA-Europe spokesman Stephen Smith said.

Elementary and middle school students at the base returned to school in late September.

Ankara Middle/High School in Turkey will begin in-person instruction for grades six to 12 on Monday, Smith said.

Both Ankara and Bahrain's high school have been conducting classes through remote learning since the start of the school year due to the local coronavirus risk level. At Bahrain, staffing levels have also been a problem.

Sevilla Elementary/Middle School at Moron Air Base, Spain, will continue remote instruction until further notice, Smith said. The installation is in the highest health protection condition level, HPCON Charlie, due to the high coronavirus risk in Spain.

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MILITARY

NATO OKs space center to protect sky, sea

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO defense ministers officially agreed Thursday to launch a new space center at Ramstein Air Base, where more personnel will likely be added as allies seek to better protect military assets in orbit and elsewhere.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the space center, which falls under NATO's air command at Ramstein, will coordinate space activities and share communication and satellite imagery with member states.

"The overall aim is to 'protect allied space systems by sharing information about potential threats,'" Stoltenberg said.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and other NATO defense ministers met virtually Thursday for the start of two days of talks largely focused on making sensitive infrastructure — in space and undersea — more secure.

"The challenge is serious and growing," Stoltenberg said, adding that the new center will build upon capabilities already in place at the NATO air command headquarters. It's not clear how many personnel will be added to the growing mission, but the numbers are expected to increase as

the mission develops.

Space operations have taken on greater importance for the U.S., which is concerned about the ability of Russia and China to jam GPS communication satellites or use ground-based missiles that can intercept and destroy satellites.

Meanwhile, there are other vulnerabilities that have allies concerned, including those of undersea cable networks. Military officials have in recent years noted increased Russian undersea activity and raised the possibility that Moscow could seek to damage cable networks in a potential conflict.

Stoltenberg didn't address Russia specifically but did say allies are taking a closer look at undersea network security. The cables transmit the vast majority of global communication data, something international markets rely heavily on, Stoltenberg said.

"I think it is important to address this," Stoltenberg said.

The array of cables are privately owned, but their locations are publicly known, which "makes them potentially vulnerable," Stoltenberg said.

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CTK, ROMAN VONDROUS/AP

Czech soldiers prepares equipment in a field hospital, which will function as a backup device for patients with coronavirus, in the Letnany neighbourhood at the Prague outskirts, Czech Republic, on Thursday.



NATO

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and General Tod D. Wolters, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, greet each other at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on Thursday.

NATO, EU health workers to help Czech Republic amid virus surge

Associated Press

PRAGUE — The Czech government has approved a plan for up to 300 military health personnel from NATO and EU countries to come to the Czech Republic to help treat the influx of coronavirus patients.

The day-to-day increase of new coronavirus infections soared to almost 15,000 on Wednesday. It is almost 3,000 more than the previous record set a day earlier.

Parliamentary approval is still needed for the plan because they are members of foreign armed forces. They will help their Czech colleagues at Prague's military hospital and at a field hospital the

armed forces have been building at Prague's exhibition ground for 500 patients.

The first group of 28 National Guard doctors from the United States is scheduled to arrive in the country next week.

The government is acquiring 600 ventilators and other medical equipment needed at intensive care units. Defense Minister Lubomir Metnar says NATO will send another 60 ventilators.

The Czech Republic has been facing a surge for two months and a third of the cases have been recorded in the last seven days. It has a total of 208,915 confirmed cases and 1,739 deaths.

Army adding \$190M expansion to Germany training area

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The Army has announced a \$190 million project to expand its training area at Grafenwoehr in southern Germany, even as the Pentagon moves forward with plans to withdraw troops from the country, U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria said.

The expansion would establish an "operational readiness training complex" at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, which U.S. troops based in Germany and elsewhere in Europe visit for major combat drills.

The complex will include new barracks, dining facilities, a fitness center and other support buildings to accommodate the greater number of U.S. soldiers who are expected to rotate through the area for training, garrison spokesman Donald Wrenn said.

The project, which is still in the early

stages, was in the works before President Donald Trump ordered the Pentagon to draw up plans to reduce troop numbers in Germany by 12,000, Wrenn said.

The Army has said it will proceed with the Grafenwoehr expansion as the Pentagon works through details of the troop reduction in Germany. The training area in Bavaria wasn't tapped for closure when the Defense Department outlined preliminary plans in the summer for how and where the drawdown might occur.

"We will continue to move forward on projects that Congress has directed us to complete," Wrenn said.

The construction project will improve living conditions for troops as they train at Grafenwoehr, contributing "to our primary mission of strengthening security throughout the region," he said.

Some of the buildings that will be replaced by the new construction have been

in use since the 1950s, he said.

Construction, which will focus on the Camp Aachen and Camp Normandy areas, will begin in fiscal year 2022 and take 10 to 12 years to complete, Wrenn said.

The project is one of two major initiatives announced in recent weeks to upgrade facilities at Grafenwoehr. The German Armed Forces said earlier this month it is launching a multiyear, \$141 million project to construct 25 buildings in the Camp Normandy part of the training area. The new buildings will replace outdated facilities used by German troops and will help address an accommodation shortage caused by increased troop rotations, Lt. Col. Florian Rommel, commander of the German training area at the site, said at the time. That project will be funded entirely by Germany, he said.

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GERTRUD ZACH/U.S. Army

The construction site for the future Training Support Center Grafenwoehr building, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on Aug. 6.

MILITARY

Explicit tweets spark Fort Bragg uproar

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, Fort Bragg said its Twitter account was hacked. By Thursday, the Army changed its story on how lewd comments to a pornographic model were posted.

A spokesman at Fort Bragg, N.C., said Thursday that someone with official access to the Army post's account was the culprit in a series of explicit tweets posted Wednesday after offering the explanation later Wednesday that the account was hacked.

"This morning, at the initiation

of an investigation into yesterday's incident regarding inappropriate tweets on the Fort Bragg Twitter account, an administrator for the account identified himself as the source of the tweets," Col. Joseph Buccino, a spokesman for the XVIII Airborne Corps, which is based at Fort Bragg, said in a statement.

An Army official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Thursday afternoon that the person is a public affairs civilian employee.

The civilian worker had posted several lewd comments to a woman who displays nude photo-

tos on OnlyFans, a subscription-based pornographic website.

In one case, the @FTBragg account commented on the physical attributes of the woman. In another tweet, sexual acts were discussed.

The comments were deleted after about 30 minutes, and a statement from officials was then tweeted from the Fort Bragg account that stated it had been compromised. Fort Bragg's account has been removed from Twitter.

It was unclear Thursday what consequences the civilian employee will face.

"Appropriate action is under-

way," Buccino said.

The lewd comments posted to Fort Bragg's account follow other recent controversies over social media posts by troops.

In September, the Army suspended 2nd Lt. Nathan Freihofner from his duties at Fort Stewart, Ga., and launched an investigation into a post he made on TikTok.

In the short video, Freihofner said he would never become a "verified" user because of the content that he shares, before telling his so-called joke about the Holocaust and Jewish people.

Earlier this month, Marine Corps Pfc. Jarrett Morford post-

ed a TikTok video of him using racial slurs and issuing threats of shooting Chinese people when he deploys with the fleet.

Fort Bragg has roughly 57,000 military personnel and is the home of the 82nd Airborne Division, the XVIII Airborne Corps, 1st Special Forces Command, and the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The Washington Post reported the woman at the center of the controversy, who identifies herself as Quinn Finite online, Wednesday offered a 50% military discount on her OnlyFans account.

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North: Most experts say 'strategic patience' policy is no longer viable

FROM FRONT PAGE

The North agreed to "work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" during Kim's first summit with Trump in June 2018 in Singapore. But the sides subsequently failed to agree on how to accomplish that, with Kim demanding extensive sanctions relief in exchange for incremental disarmament steps.

Amid the stalemate, North Korea has advanced its missiles and delivery systems while stopping short of a long-range missile test that Trump has signaled would be a red line.

A Trump win would likely mean a return to the fitful diplomatic efforts that characterized his first term, according to David Maxwell, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

"I think President Trump's unconventional, experimental, top-down, pen-pal diplomacy will continue," Maxwell said Wednesday in an email.

"My concern is that he could make a deal that would be counter to all the advice of his national security team that would involve some kind of trade of U.S. troops for a reduction in the North's ICBM and nuclear capabilities," he added.

A new approach

Biden, meanwhile, accused Trump of making the United States less secure by embracing "all the thugs of the world," including Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a televised town hall last week.

"You have Iran closer to having enough nuclear material to build a bomb. North Korea has more bombs and missiles available to it," he said.

The former vice president is widely ex-

pected to seek a return to a reliance on allies and working-level talks if he wins, saying that he wouldn't meet with Kim until diplomats from both sides hammer out a draft agreement.

But most experts agreed a return to President Barack Obama's policy of "strategic patience," which relied on pressuring the North and its ally China with sanctions, is not in the cards.

"Strategic patience didn't work so Biden can't totally go back, but his new policy won't be that much different," Park Wongon, a professor of international politics at Handong Global University, said in a recent telephone interview.

Obama began his presidency declaring American would "extend a hand" to old adversaries, including North Korea, willing to "unclench" their fists.

North Korea responded within months by firing a long-range missile and conducting its second nuclear test in 2009.

The communist state ramped up tests in Trump's first year in office, culminating with a suspected hydrogen bomb and an ICBM fired toward the waters off Japan in 2017 while the U.S. and North Korean leaders traded threats and personal insults.

Many pundits have called for a new approach to North Korea policy, including possible acceptance of the communist state as a de facto nuclear power.

Michelle Flournoy, a former defense adviser under Obama who reportedly could be a candidate for defense secretary in a Biden administration, echoed that idea in a Sept. 30 video interview with Defense News.

"This is a really hard problem that many, many administrations of all different political stripes have tried to deal with," she said, calling for a layered approach including defenses, deterrent measures and en-



CHRIS CHURCH/U.S. Navy

Then-Vice President Joe Biden points out an area of North Korea to his granddaughter, Finnegan Biden, during a visit to the Demilitarized Zone on Dec. 7, 2013.

gagement to discourage bad behavior.

"But it's, I think, from a disarmament perspective hard to see this leader and this regime completely accepting nuclear disarmament because it is their survival card," she added. "So, I think it's more of a risk management in my view, realistically, even though we should keep disarmament out there as the ultimate long-term goal."

The standoff hasn't featured much on a campaign trail that has been overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, racial tensions and other domestic woes.

But North Korea has a pattern of conducting provocations to force itself onto the U.S. agenda.

Embracing diplomacy

"North Korea knows very well that if there's anything that can make the United States come to the negotiation table that's nuclear weapons and ICBMs," Hakssoon Paik, the president of South Korea's Sejong Institute, said during a virtual meeting this week with the Council on Foreign

Relations.

"The next U.S. administration has to resume negotiations with North Korea, like it or not, to protect its security interests," he added, advising whoever wins not to waste too much time on policy reviews.

"We need to freeze North Korea's existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs capabilities," Paik said, calling that an "urgent first step" toward denuclearization.

Jessica Lee, a senior research fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, urged Biden to embrace diplomacy if he's elected.

"President Donald Trump deserves credit for doing what no sitting American president has done before — meet with the North Korean leader," she said in an email. "If Biden were elected president, he should take full advantage of the diplomatic opening by declaring the Korean War over and moving toward establishing a peace regime that addresses the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula."

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PACIFIC

Patriot Express to test randomly for virus

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Passengers boarding Patriot Express flights departing from Seattle-Tacoma and Baltimore-Washington international airports will be subject to random testing for the coronavirus beginning Oct. 30.

The rapid, onsite tests are intended to abate the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, according to an advisory issued Friday by the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center.

Anyone testing positive will not be allowed to take the flight, the advisory said.

The United States has had more than 8 million confirmed coronavirus infections since the

pandemic began this spring, with more than 221,000 deaths. With tens of thousands of new cases reported in the U.S. each day, the nation is by some metrics the hardest hit in the world.

Many new infections reported by U.S. military installations in Japan and South Korea have come from newly arrived personnel from the United States.

Patriot Express — also called the Rotator or Cat B — is the Defense Department's contracted commercial charter flight system used by service members and their families for official international travel. Unfilled seats are provided on a standby basis to certain qualifying veterans, retirees and federal employees under what is called space-available travel. Restrictions placed

on space-available seats were instituted in March due to the virus and remain in place.

"The Department of Defense is aggressively working to keep passengers safe and help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on Patriot Express flights by developing a plan for rapid, on-site testing," Capt. Nicole Ferrara, a spokesperson for the Air Mobility Command, said in a written statement to Stars and Stripes.

Air Mobility Command has oversight of the charter system.

"On-site testing will give the traveler, the DoD and others increased confidence that passengers meet all requirements for safe travel into and out of allied countries," Ferrara said. "The purchase of test equipment is underway, and testing at departure

airports in the continental U.S. is scheduled to begin in a phased manner starting next month."

Passengers should be prepared to check in earlier because of the onsite testing, she said.

A Defense Department study released last week found that passengers wearing face masks had a very low chance of becoming infected with the coronavirus through the air while aboard crowded commercial airliners.

Tests conducted using mask-wearing mannequins "breathing" out simulated virus particles found that 99.99% of those particles were scrubbed from the cabin within six minutes of release.

The study, however, did not explore risks to passengers from larger droplets, the kind that can be spread while eating without

masks, for example. The study also did not consider risks of exposure while passengers are in terminals and boarding channels.

The Air Force is in the process of implementing a service-wide "sentinel surveillance strategy" with the goal of randomly testing Air and Space Force active-duty and civilian personnel to identify pockets of the coronavirus before it has the chance to spread.

Air Force Materiel Command began a phased roll-out of testing Oct. 1 beginning with Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.; Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.; and Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The testing is voluntary.

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South Korea sees triple-digit rise in coronavirus cases

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea reported 121 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, the first triple-digit increase in a week, while seven more American troops tested positive after flying to the peninsula from the United States.

The South has seen its caseload decline in recent weeks, prompting local and military authorities to ease restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the respiratory virus. However, health authorities continued to express concern about cluster outbreaks and imported cases, including U.S. Forces Korea personnel.

The latest arrivals raised the total number of confirmed cases affiliated with USFK to 238.

Only 26 of those were contracted locally.

Four of the infected service members arrived on government-chartered flights at Osan Air Base on Oct. 5, 9, 17 and 19, according to a press

release. The other three traveled on commercial aircraft that landed at Incheon International Airport on Oct. 18 and 19.

The command has implemented a strict testing and two-week quarantine process to prevent the virus from spreading in local communities.

Four service members received positive results on the initial test required shortly after arrival, while three initially tested negative but went positive on a subsequent test after entering quarantine, USFK said. It said the seven patients were transferred to an isolation facility designated for coronavirus patients on Camp Humphreys.

The overall spike reported Thursday, which officials said was driven by infections at elderly care centers and other medical facilities, raised South Korea's total to 25,543, with 453 deaths, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

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MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A child wears his mask while browsing local shops with his mother outside Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Tuesday.

DODEA school at Yokota Air Base announces coronavirus infection

By JOSEPH DITZLER
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. military in Japan announced one new coronavirus case Thursday at the Defense Department high school at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.

The patient is "a member of our Yokota High School family," according to a letter to families and school staff from Principal Marian Leverette.

She wrote that depending upon the results of contact tracing, "some of our students (and family members) may be quarantined and will be transitioned to remote learning for the length of the quarantine."

Yokota is the home of U.S. Forces Japan, the 5th Air Force and the 374th Airlift Wing. It has just one active case, according to

the base Facebook page. The base last reported three new coronavirus cases on Oct. 2, all new arrivals to Japan.

Students and their families deemed a contact risk will be notified by public health authorities, Leverette wrote on Thursday. "If you are not contacted by public health officials, you have not been deemed to have been in close contact," the letter said.

Students returned to classrooms at Yokota when the new school year started Aug. 24. Classes were not interrupted Thursday, according to an email from Miranda Ferguson, spokeswoman for the Department of Defense Education Activity, Pacific Region.

The school will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according to guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and military public

health authorities, according to Leverette's letter and a Facebook post by Yokota Air Base.

Tokyo reported 185 new coronavirus cases Thursday, according to public broadcaster NHK. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has reported 29,335 coronavirus cases during the pandemic, of which more than 27,000 have recovered. Another 439 have died, according to metro government data.

Also Thursday, two U.S. military installations placed parts of Japan off-limits to their personnel due to a rising number of infections in those areas.

At Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, the western portion of Aomori prefecture is now off-limits to U.S. military personnel, civilian employees, family members, contractors, Japanese employees, Defense Department retirees and "any other persons accessing

Misawa Air Base," according to a message on the base website.

On Okinawa, the Navy placed tested neighboring islands Ishigaki and Miyako off-limits to its personnel "due to a recent rise in coronavirus cases," according to a Facebook post.

On Ishigaki, a cluster at Kariyushi hospital resulted in 33 patients and hospital workers testing positive, according to the hospital website. The cases on Miyako were traced to bars and restaurants, according to the prefectural website.

Also Thursday, a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau said a Japanese worker at the Camp Schwab construction site tested positive for the virus on Sunday. The Marine Corps is building a new airfield there to relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The man in his 50s felt ill,

sought medical attention and tested positive the same day, the spokesman told Stars and Stripes. Another worker who had close contact was also quarantined, the spokesman said. Both employees worked on a boat and had no contact with U.S. military personnel, the spokesman said.

Government officials in Japan often speak on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

Okinawa prefecture announced 38 new coronavirus cases and one death Thursday due to coronavirus complications, a prefectural health official told Stars and Stripes.

Okinawa has reported 3,051 cases of the coronavirus and 57 deaths during the pandemic.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

CDC redefines close contact

By **MIKE STOBBE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials Wednesday redefined what counts as close contact with someone with COVID-19 to include briefer but repeated encounters.

For months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said close contact meant spending a solid 15 minutes within 6 feet of someone who tested positive for coronavirus. On Wednesday, the CDC changed it to a total of 15 minutes or more — so shorter but repeated contacts that add up to 15 minutes over a 24-hour period now count.

The CDC advises anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient to quarantine for two weeks.

The change may prompt health departments to do contact tracing in cases where an exposure might previously have been considered too brief, said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert.

It also serves notice that the coronavirus can spread more easily than many people realize, he added.

The definition change was triggered by a report on the case of a 20-year-old Vermont correctional officer, who was diagnosed with a coronavirus infection in August. The guard, who wore a mask and goggles, had multiple brief encounters with six transferred prisoners before test results showed they were positive. At times, the

prisoners wore masks, but there were encounters in cell doorways or in a recreational room where prisoners did not have them on, the report said.

An investigation that reviewed video footage concluded the guard's brief interactions totaled 17 minutes during an 8-hour shift.

The report didn't identify the prison, but Vermont officials said that in late July, six inmates tested positive when they arrived at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland.

In a statement, CDC officials said the case again highlights the importance of wearing masks to prevent transmission, and that the agency's guidance can change as new information comes in.

"As we get more data and understand this COVID, we're going to continue to incorporate that in our recommendations," CDC Director Robert Redfield said at a press conference in Atlanta.

The CDC also says close contact can include hugging and kissing, sharing eating or drinking utensils with someone infected and providing home care to someone who is sick. Someone sneezing or coughing on you also counts.

The risk of spread is considered to be lower outdoors, but the CDC guidance update "makes scientific sense," said Dr. Michael Saag, an infectious disease researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



MICHAEL PROBST/AP

A man holds a sign leading the way to a COVID-19 test center at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday.

German disease control center urges vigilance as cases rise

Associated Press

BERLIN — The head of Germany's disease control center urged people on Thursday to be vigilant about following coronavirus precautions as the country posted a record number of new cases, saying a rapid increase in infections could be reversed, but only if everyone works together.

Robert Koch Institute President Lothar Wieler said the daily number of confirmed cases hit 11,287, the first time Germany's 24-hour tally has been over the 10,000 mark since the beginning of the pandemic and shattering the previous daily record of 7,830 set on Saturday.

The country had a nationwide infection rate of 56.2 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past week. Some hot spots, including several districts of the capital, had rates well over double that.

"We have to assume that the number of serious cases will increase, and that the number of dead will also rise," Wieler said.

He dismissed the idea that more testing is behind the higher numbers, saying Germany has carried out around 1 million tests a week for some time and has seen the rate of positive results jump to more than 3% now from less than 1% at the beginning of August.

Wieler did note that Germany

— which has been widely praised for effectively slowing the virus's spread at the outset of the pandemic — is still doing better than most of its neighbors in Europe.

The country's three-point strategy of "contain, protect, mitigate" to quickly track outbreaks, maintain hygiene and safety rules, and effectively treat infections needs the public's help to continue succeeding, he said.

"We have a good strategy in Germany that we have followed from the beginning," Wieler said. "We are all affected by this pandemic, and we can only get through it together."

Pandemic relief faces uncertainty, closing window in postelection session

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Negotiations on a COVID-19 relief bill are inching forward, but it's clear the window for action before the Nov. 3 election is closing and the issue will be tossed to a postelection lame-duck session of Congress. The only thing that seems certain beyond that is uncertainty, with Capitol Hill veterans cautioning against expecting a quick and smooth resolution for an aid package that has tied Washington in knots for months.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke again Wednesday, but her office signaled no real progress, and she acknowledged for the first time publicly that the measure won't pass before the election.

President Donald Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, accused Pelosi of slow-walking the talks. Trump's most powerful Senate GOP ally, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is warning against a costly deal that could drive a

wedge between the president and his fellow Republicans.

No one knows if Election Day will bring much more clarity.

"I'm never very optimistic about the lame duck and I've never been surprised," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. "You don't get near as much done as you think you're going to get done."

Those Republicans willing to speculate about a Trump loss in two weeks say not to expect much, either.

"I think Democrats would want to wait until the new president is sworn in and do it then, and I think Republicans probably would say ... the economy's taking care of it," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa.

At issue is a huge virus relief bill that would send another \$1,200 direct payment to most Americans, restart bonus unemployment benefits, fund additional testing and vaccines, provide aid to schools and allocate money to states and local governments, a Democratic priority.

A \$1.8 trillion rescue plan in March passed virtually unanimously. The Pelosi-pushed package today is even larger, but has run into resolute opposition from Republicans. Taking care of the issue would clear the decks for a fresh start on the congressional agenda next year.

Pelosi remains optimistic, even after Washington was blanketed with media reports that McCon-

nell, R-Ky., has warned the White House against sealing a \$2 trillion or so relief deal with Pelosi before the election.

"Let's keep working so that we can do it after the election," Pelosi said Wednesday on MSNBC.

"We obviously want to have a deal by Nov. 3," Pelosi told SiriusXM radio. "That really is going to be up to whether the president can convince Mitch McConnell to do so."

McConnell says the GOP-controlled Senate is not buying the need for legislation as large as Trump wanted. And Meadows told reporters that Pelosi is still too uncompromising.

"We haven't seen a lot of action from Speaker Pelosi," Meadows said. "Most of the progress we've made has been concessions that the president has made."

Senate Democrats blocked a Senate GOP plan that McConnell brought to a vote Wednesday. The measure contained more than \$100 billion for schools, a \$300 per week supplemental unem-

ployment insurance benefit and more subsidies for businesses especially hard hit by pandemic-related downturns and closures. It does not include the \$1,200 direct payments that are so important to Trump.

Trump has said that if he wins reelection, aid will flow immediately. When former President Barack Obama won reelection in 2012, for instance, he went on to prevail in "fiscal cliff" negotiations on taxes.

If he loses, it's unclear whether Trump's enthusiasm for delivering it will be as strong. Lame-duck sessions during White House changeovers in 2008 and 2016 didn't deliver much.

But Pelosi said she believes McConnell "might not mind doing it after the election."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., acknowledged that lame-duck sessions typically aren't very productive, but he added, "Normally they don't have this kind of emergency, either."

"Let's keep working so that we can do it after the election."

Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

VIROUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

US jobless claims drop to 787K, layoffs stay high

Associated Press

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week to 787,000, a sign that job losses may have eased slightly but are still running at historically high levels.

With confirmed infections having neared 60,000 in the past week, the highest level since July, many consumers have been unable or reluctant to shop, travel, dine out or congregate in crowds — a trend that has led some employers to keep cutting jobs.

Several states, such as Ohio and Idaho, are reporting a record number of hospitalizations from the virus.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department said that the number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits tumbled by 1 million to 8.4 million. The decline shows that some of the unemployed are being recalled to their old jobs or are finding new ones. But it also indicates that many jobless Americans have used up their state unemployment aid — which typically expires after six months — and have transitioned to a federal extended benefits program that lasts an additional three months.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Two Arkansas lawmakers on Wednesday said they tested positive for the coronavirus, the latest in an outbreak among legislators that has prompted the suspension of state budget hearings this week.

State Sen. Missy Irwin and state Rep. Joe Cloud announced that they contracted the virus, the fourth and fifth lawmakers to do so this week.

Cloud, who said he developed symptoms on Saturday, noted that he had been at budget hearings at the Capitol last week.

Three senators and six House members have now tested positive for the virus since the pandemic began in March. Meanwhile, Gov. Asa Hutchinson's office said in a statement that the Republican tested negative twice Wednesday for the coronavirus. He received one negative antigen test in the morning and later returned a negative PCR test, the most accurate one available. Those genetic tests, using long cotton swabs that collect samples from deep inside a person's nose and throat, can detect an active case of the coronavirus.

California

SACRAMENTO — A California appeals court has ordered state corrections officials to cut the population of one of the world's most famous prisons to less than half of its designed capacity, citing officials' "deliberate indifference" to the plight of inmates during the coronavirus pandemic.

State prison officials said Wednesday that they are deciding whether to appeal the order, which will otherwise force them



ALEXANDRA WIMLEY, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

People have dinner in greenhouses used for outdoor dining amid the coronavirus pandemic at North Park Lounge in McCandless, Pa., on Tuesday.

to parole or transfer about 1,100 inmates serving time in San Quentin State Prison north of San Francisco.

California's oldest prison, home to its death row, was the site of one of the nation's worst coronavirus outbreaks, with 28 inmate deaths and 2,200 infections at its peak — about 75% of the inmate population. Nearly 300 employees were sickened and one died, though all but nine employees are now back to work.

The three-justice court said officials' decision not to cut the inmate population by half, as recommended by prison officials' outside advisers in June, was "morally indefensible and constitutionally untenable."

Idaho

COEUR D'ALENE — People with COVID-19 in Northern Idaho may soon have to be sent to Seattle or Portland, Ore., because the region's hospitals are nearing capacity.

Kootenai Health hospital said in a statement Wednesday that their hospital is at 99% capacity for patients. The facility is also short-staffed, as demand for nurses grows with the rise in COVID-19 cases throughout the country, the statement said.

As of Wednesday morning, Kootenai Health had 31 COVID-19 inpatients and 11 required critical care. Chief Physician Executive Karen Cabell told KREM that the hospital nearing capacity at its current levels is "unprecedented."

Kootenai Health will not turn anybody away, but there may be long wait times and patients might receive treatment in different locations such as the waiting room, Cabell said.

Kansas

MISSION — Democratic Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly is again calling for a statewide mask mandate as the coronavirus case count continues to climb in rural parts of the state that don't require them.

Kelly said Wednesday that two-thirds of the state's COVID-19 cases are now coming from outside the Wichita and Kansas City region. Over the summer, she issued an order requiring Kansas residents to wear masks, but more than 90 counties chose to opt out. She said she now plans to speak with House and Senate leadership to work toward a bipartisan requirement with more teeth.

Her announcement came after the state health department reported that Kansas had 1,488 new confirmed and probable coronavirus cases since Monday, bringing the total number of infections reported in the state to 74,456. That pushed the rolling seven-day average for new cases to another record of 757. The department also reported 80 additional COVID-19-related deaths, most of them stemming from a review of death certificates, bringing the state's fatality toll to 952.

According to data from The COVID Tracking Project, the seven-day rolling average of the positivity rate in Kansas has risen over the past two weeks from 15% on Oct. 6 to 19.4% on Tuesday. Only four other states are faring worse.

Michigan

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer warned Wednesday that Michigan has more confirmed daily cases of the coronavirus than ever, noting a sharp increase

since the state Supreme Court invalidated her sweeping orders earlier this month.

The number of COVID-19 cases had been gradually rising for months prior to the Oct. 2 ruling, from a seven-day average of 119 in June to 984 — as the Democratic governor loosened economic restrictions and allowed schools to reopen. Since the court decision, the seven-day average is up to 1,818 — surpassing the April peak and nearly double what it was almost three weeks ago — though surrounding states without legal rulings have also seen similarly big spikes over the same time period.

Virus-related hospitalizations, roughly 1,000, are double what they were a month ago but about a quarter of the April high. The daily death rate has nearly doubled to 20, while remaining far below the high point. The seven-day average of tests coming back positive, 4.64%, was last that high five months ago.

Whitmer, whose administration has quickly reinstated virus measures under a different law but says the ruling caused confusion, pleaded with people to wear a mask and maintain distance from others.

Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN — Both of Puerto Rico's 911 call centers were shut down Wednesday night after several employees tested positive for the coronavirus, officials announced.

Public Safety Secretary Pedro Janer said people should call the island's emergency management agency at 787-724-0124 or police at 787-343-2020 in an emergency. He said both agencies are operating 24 hours a day.

People calling the first number that Janer provided, however, get a recording asking them to call 911 for an emergency. They the recording provided callers with a directory.

"This is serious," Nazario Lugo, president of Puerto Rico's Association of Emergency Managers, told The Associated Press. He said he was shocked at the government's temporary plan in place to handle emergencies in the U.S. territory of 3.2 million people.

Lugo said officials should relay 911 calls through to another number, rather than forcing people to call a long number that they would have to read or hear about on the news.

Texas

AUSTIN — The second coronavirus wave in Texas continued with more active cases than at any time since the summertime peak, according to numbers state health officials reported Wednesday.

An estimated 84,538 cases of COVID-19, the illness the coronavirus causes, were active Wednesday, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. That was the most since Sept. 1. Of those, 4,782 cases required hospitalization, the most since Aug. 26.

The 4,991 new cases, along with 261 unreported cases from earlier, increased the Texas total for the eight-month outbreak to 838,809 cases. The true number of cases in Texas is likely higher, though, because many people haven't been tested and studies have suggested that people can be infected and not feel sick.

The Texas COVID-19 death toll of 114 Wednesday raised the outbreak toll to 17,201.

NATION



NELL REDMOND/AP

President Donald Trump dances after speaking at a campaign rally in Gastonia, N.C., on Wednesday.

Trump's dad dance a hit at rallies

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — He adjusts his coat. He gazes out at the crowd. And then he goes for it.

President Donald Trump, a man who is famously particular about his appearance, is fully embracing doing a dad dance to the Village People's "YMCA" as the finale to his rallies in the campaign's closing stretch.

He starts with the arms, clenched fists pumping back and forth — sometimes to the beat — as though he's on an elliptical trainer. He claps. He waves. And then he starts to hop his head and move his knees. On some nights, he sticks mostly to pointing and clapping. But on others, he lurches from side to side and jerks his body as the crowd cheers.

Backstage, top staff and campaign aides often join in with the more traditional take, using their bodies to spell out Y-M-C-A

to the strains of the cheesy '70s anthem.

Trump's rally dance has become a rare moment of levity in an otherwise miserable campaign year marked by a deadly pandemic, an economic recession and racial turmoil. And while Trump has largely been shunned by pop culture, the dance has spawned a viral TikTok video challenge (even though he's threatened to ban the site in the U.S.) and a parody on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

"Do you want to shake your groove thing but don't know the steps? Then order 'Dancing with The Don' and let President Trump teach you all the hottest moves!" Colbert's show advertised.

Trump's campaign staff and family members have also been promoting clips and copycats as the president trails in most national polls and in many battle-

ground states just two weeks out from Election Day.

"Love it!" the president's daughter and senior adviser, Ivanka Trump, wrote as she retweeted a video posted by a young woman replicating the president's moves.

When a reporter tweeted a video showing some of Trump's campaign aides dancing along — but not Ivanka Trump's husband, Jared Kushner, a top White House adviser — Ivanka tweeted back: "Party Foul!"

The efforts to make the dance "a thing" come as the president has been trying to demonstrate his vigor after returning to the campaign trail following his infection with the coronavirus, which put him in the hospital.

It has drawn a scowl from others, including CNN's Don Lemon, who criticized Trump for dancing to the song during a pandemic that has killed so many.

US links Iran to emails meant to intimidate voters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have accused Iran of being behind a flurry of threatening but fake emails sent to Democratic voters in multiple battleground states in a late-stage effort to sway public opinion and interfere in the presidential election.

Purportedly from far-right, pro-Trump groups like the Proud Boys, the fake emails were apparently aimed at intimidating voters. John Ratcliffe, the government's national intelligence director, said the aim was to hurt President Donald Trump in the contest against Democrat Joe Biden, though he did not elaborate on how.

One possibility is the messages may have been intended to align Trump in the minds of voters with the Proud Boys after he was criticized for failing to unequivocally denounce the group during the campaign.

Officials did not lay out specific evidence for how they came to pinpoint Iran as the source of the threatening emails, but the activities attributed to Tehran would mark a significant escalation for a country some cybersecurity experts regard as a second-rate player in online espionage. The announcement was made late Wednesday at a hastily called news conference 13 days before the election.

The allegations underscored the U.S. government's concern about efforts by foreign countries to influence the election by spreading false information meant to suppress voter turnout and undermine American con-

fidence in the vote. Such direct attempts to sway public opinion are more commonly associated with Moscow, which conducted a covert social media campaign in 2016 aimed at sowing discord and is again interfering this year, but the idea that Iran could be responsible suggested that those tactics have been adopted by other nations, too.

"These actions are desperate attempts by desperate adversaries," said Ratcliffe, who, along with FBI Director Christopher Wray, insisted that the U.S. would impose costs on any foreign countries that interfere in the 2020 U.S. election and that the integrity of the vote remains sound.

"You should be confident that your vote counts," Wray said. "Early, unverified claims to the contrary should be viewed with a healthy dose of skepticism."

The two officials called out Russia and Iran for having obtained voter registration information, though such data is sometimes easily accessible and there was no allegation either country had hacked a database for it or had altered any vote tallies. Iran sent spoofed emails designed to intimidate voters and sow unrest and also distributed a video that falsely suggested voters could cast fraudulent ballots from overseas, Ratcliffe said.

Wray and Ratcliffe did not describe the emails linked to Iran, but officials familiar with the matter said the U.S. has linked Tehran to messages that Democratic voters in multiple states, including Alaska and battleground locations like Florida, have received.

In pitch for Biden, Obama urges voters to cast Trump out

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Former President Barack Obama blasted President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus, his culpability in national discord and his overall fitness for the job on Wednesday as he made his first in-person campaign pitch for his former vice president, Joe Biden.

With less than two weeks before Election Day, Obama used a drive-in campaign rally in Philadelphia to assure voters that Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris, can mend a fractured country. He lauded the merits of democracy and citizenship as "human values" that the United States must again embrace.

"America is a good and decent place, but we've just seen so much nonsense and noise that sometimes it's hard to remember," Obama said, after spending much of his 35-minute speech upbraiding Trump as "incapable of taking the job seriously" and "interested only in himself."

"I'm asking you to remember what this



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Former President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign stop for former Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday in Philadelphia.

country can be," Obama said. "I'm asking you to believe in Joe's ability and Kamala's ability to lead this country out of these dark times and help us build it back better."

Obama's visit to Philadelphia underscores the significance of Pennsylvania, the Rust Belt state that helped deliver

Trump the White House four years ago. Pennsylvania is the battleground state that Biden has visited the most this campaign season. Trump has prioritized the state as well, aware that his path to victory would narrow considerably without the state's 20 electoral votes. The president on Wednesday was in Erie, one of a handful of Pennsylvania counties that Obama won twice before it flipped to Biden.

Obama said heed especially to disillusioned voters, including Black men and progressives wary of Biden. He urged them not to sit out the Nov. 3 election, warning that complacency from some liberal voters is what helped Trump get elected four years ago. "What we do these next 13 days will matter for decades to come," Obama said. "The fact that we don't get 100% of what we want right away is not a good reason not to vote."

As with his Democratic National Convention speech two months ago, Obama pulled no punches on his successor: "This time,

though, he employed humor, sarcasm and outright incredulity befitting the trappings of a campaign rally. Steeled and with his sleeves rolled up, Obama stood on a stage facing car-bound supporters watching him on screen and rewarding his attack lines with a cacophony of honking horns.

Beneath the scorn was a defense of his own record.

"I never thought Donald Trump would embrace my vision or continue my policies, but I did hope for the sake of the country that he might show some interest in taking the job seriously," Obama said. Trump "wants full credit for the economy he inherited and no blame for the pandemic he ignored."

He disparaged the GOP's "shameful" attempts to gut the 2010 Affordable Care Act while always promising a replacement. "It's been coming in two weeks" for the last 10 years. Where is it? Where is this grand plan to replace Obamacare?" he asked. "There is no plan. They've never had one."

NATION

Senate panel advances Barrett nomination

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans powered past a Democratic boycott Thursday to advance Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court nomination to the full Senate, keeping President Donald Trump's pick on track for confirmation before Election Day.

Democratic senators refused to show up in protest of the GOP's rush to install Trump's nominee to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Never has the Senate confirmed a Supreme Court nominee so close to a presidential election.

The Republicans, who hold the majority, voted unanimously in favor of Barrett, a conservative judge. Instead of attending, the Democrats displayed posters at their desks of Americans they say have benefited from the Affordable Care Act now being challenged in court. Senators plan to convene a rare weekend session ahead of a final confirmation vote expected Monday.

"This is a groundbreaking, historic moment," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,

the committee chairman. "We did it."

The 48-year-old federal judge's ascent to the high court would lock a 6-3 conservative majority on the court for the foreseeable future.

Trump's Republican allies in the Senate are counting on Barrett's ascent to improve their standing with voters. The court could open a new era of rulings on the Affordable Care Act, abortion access and even the results of the presidential election.

"We should not be moving forward on this nomination," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Wednesday in announcing the boycott. He called Barrett's views "so far out of the mainstream."

Unable stop the confirmation, Democrats have been trying unsuccessfully to stall the process until after the Nov. 3 election, so the winner of the presidency could name the new nominee. "These are all such violations of American norms, values, decency and honor," Schumer said.

With Republicans holding a 53-47 majority in the Senate, Trump's pick for the

court is almost certain to be confirmed. All Democrats are expected to oppose Barrett's confirmation.

Boycotting Thursday's Judiciary panel session forced Republicans on the panel to change its rules to keep the confirmation on track. Those rules say at least two members of the minority party, Democrats, would need to be present to constitute a quorum for doing business.

Mike Davis, a former top aide on the panel who now advises Senate Republicans, said the committee was well within its normal practice to hold the vote, even with Democrats skipping it. He said the long-standing practice has been to allow business to go forward if all members of the majority, Republicans, attend.

Countering that view, a Democratic aide granted anonymity to discuss the proceedings said never before have the rules been brushed past for a Supreme Court confirmation.

Barrett, an appellate court judge from Indiana, appeared for three days before

the panel last week, battling back Democrats' questions. She was asked about her approach to legal questions surrounding abortion access, gay marriage and the nation's tradition of a peaceful transfer of presidential power.

Trump has said he wants a judge seated in time to hear any potential disputes arising from the Nov. 3 election, and Barrett declined to say if she would recuse herself from such cases.

Many judicial nominees decline to discuss their views on various issues, saying they will consider the cases as they come. Barrett took a similar approach, drawing deep skepticism from Democrats because she had previously spoken out against abortion and past rulings on the Affordable Care Act.

The court is set to hear a challenge to the health care law on Nov. 10, one week after the presidential election, and Trump has said he wants a justice who won't rule as others have to uphold the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.



MIKE SIMONS, TULSA WORLD/AP

Researchers look through dirt from a trench as crews work in the search for remains at Oklawaha Cemetery from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre on Wednesday.

Remains found in search for 1921 Tulsa race massacre victims

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — At least 10 bodies were found Wednesday in an unmarked mass grave at a Tulsa cemetery where investigators are searching for the remains of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, Oklahoma's state archaeologist said.

"What we were finding was an indication that we were inside a large area ... a large hole that had been excavated and into which several individuals had been placed and buried in that location. This constitutes a mass grave," state archaeologist Kary Stackelbeck said.

Investigators found 10 wooden coffins containing what was initially presumed to be one person in each, Stackelbeck said. She said further examination of the coffins and remains, which have not been removed, was needed.

"Those skeletal remains are not in great condition," Stackelbeck said. "They're not the worst condition we have seen ... but they're not the best."

Combined with one set of remains found nearby on Tuesday, there have now been at least 11 bodies

discovered, according to Stackelbeck.

University of Florida forensic anthropologist Phoebe Stubblefield, a descendant of a massacre survivor who is assisting in the search, said patience is needed before anyone can expect to know the identities of the remains or the cause of deaths.

"We will need considerable time to investigate them because the preservation, teeth have been showing up OK, but non-dental structures" have deteriorated, Stubblefield said.

Stackelbeck said it was too early to say definitely that the remains are victims of the massacre, even though they were found near an area known as the "Original 18," where funeral home records indicate massacre victims were buried.

There are two headstones in the Original 18 marking the graves of two massacre victims, but the area where the remains were found Wednesday is unmarked.

"We have not yet made our assessment to say that these do actually represent the massacre victims," Stackelbeck said.

NASA spacecraft sent asteroid rubble flying in sample collection

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft crushed rocks and sent rubble flying as it briefly touched an asteroid, a strong indication that samples were collected for return to Earth, officials said Wednesday.

Scientists won't know until next week how much was gathered at asteroid Bennu — they want at least a handful of the cosmic rubble. But close-up pictures and video of Tuesday's touch-and-go operation raised hopes that goal was achieved.

"We really did kind of make a mess on the surface of this asteroid, but it's a good mess, the kind of mess we were hoping for," said lead scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona at Tucson.

It was the first asteroid-sampling effort by the U.S., coming four years after the spacecraft rocketed from Cape Canaveral and two years after it reached Bennu. Japan has taken asteroid samples twice.

The carbon-rich Bennu is a time capsule believed to contain the original building blocks of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago and, as such, can help scientists better understand the origins of Earth and life as we know it.

Osiris-Rex scored a near bull's-eye, reaching down with its robot arm to within a yard of its intended target zone in the center of boulder-rimmed Nightingale Crater. The sampling container on the arm made contact with the black, crumbly terrain for about six seconds and pushed at least three-quarters of an inch into the ground, crushing a large rock in



NASA/AP

The Osiris-Rex spacecraft touches the surface of asteroid Bennu on Tuesday.

the process, officials said.

As planned, pressurized nitrogen gas fired on the surface a second later, to kick up a shower of debris so the spacecraft could suck up as much dust and as many pebbles as possible.

The spacecraft quickly backed away and, by Wednesday, was a safe 50 miles from Bennu.

Several hours passed before the pictures started pouring in. Lauretta said he was up until the wee hours Wednesday, overjoyed at what he saw. He watched the touch-and-go video about 100 times — "it's just so cool" — then went to sleep.

Over the next few days, a camera on the spacecraft will aim at the sampler on the end of the robot arm, looking for signs of asteroid residue. If the lighting is right, the camera might even be able to peek into the sample chamber. The spacecraft will also be put into a slow spin, with its arm extended, to provide a more accurate measure of the precious payload.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School bus driver accused of impairment

AZ WILLIAMS — A school bus driver has been arrested for allegedly driving impaired after a crash injured several children in northern Arizona.

Coconino County Sheriff's officials said Charles Hoag, 65, was taken into custody after Monday's crash in Williams. They said the school bus transporting 16 elementary-age students left the road and crashed into a ditch. Several students suffered minor injuries and two were transported to a Flagstaff hospital for evaluation.

Sheriff's officials said the incident was under investigation.

400-ton pavilion set to move from eroding bluff

MI MANISTEE — A historic 400-ton pavilion that offers spectacular views of Lake Michigan will be moved away from an eroding bluff after a mudslide and high water levels last year threatened to destroy the structure.

The pavilion, which was built in the 1940s at Orchard Beach State Park in Manistee Township, is a popular northern Michigan venue for weddings, family reunions, concerts and more. It features a picnic shelter, original restrooms and picnic tables, and two fireplaces, MLive.com reported.

Fortifications at the bluff's base are only a temporary fix for dealing with the relentless forces of Mother Nature, which officials say would claim the building, Park superintendent Doug Barry has said that the \$1.5 million relocation project, which will be funded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the park's savings, is cheaper than arming the bluff.

The pavilion will be moved to the park's day-use area, which is safer and more accessible, Barry said. But he noted that the views of the lake won't be as impressive.

Barry said the move, which is expected to happen in December, will take one or two days.

2 women accused of drugging, robbing men

IL CHICAGO — Two Wisconsin women are accused in Chicago of drugging 10 men and robbing them of about \$85,000 after they fell unconscious, Cook County prosecutors said Tuesday.

The women, Trammell, 25, and Tjwanah Rainer, 32, both of Milwaukee, allegedly ran the scheme from January until last Sunday. They are charged with operating a continuing financial criminal enterprise and possession of a controlled substance.

The women allegedly lured drunken men from bars and nightclubs in Chicago's River North district with invitations to their place. There, the men were given a drink that knocked them out. They awoke either in their own homes or by the side of the road, unharmed but without wallets and valuables. The women allegedly used stolen credit and



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

A walk in the woods

Lane Brasher, left, and friend Sherree Beckwith walk along a stretch of Adkisson Greenbelt Park, in Owensboro, Ky., and enjoy the changing color of the leaves while getting in some exercise on Tuesday.

debit cards at ATMs at Walmart and Target stores in the Milwaukee area.

The women were arrested early Sunday after carrying a man from a club to Trammell's car, Assistant State's Attorney Paul Kiefer told Judge Charles Beach II. A tracker had been placed on Trammell's vehicle, Kiefer said.

African stone carvings recovered at airport

FL MIAMI — Customs officers have recovered ancient stone carvings from Cameroon at a South Florida airport, authorities said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced Tuesday that officers at Miami International Airport intercepted an air cargo shipment containing "Ikou Monoliths." The stone sculptures had been exported to the U.S. using fraudulent documents, investigators said.

Experts believe the artifacts date back between A.D. 200 and A.D. 1000. The items will be returned to the central African nation, officials said. No arrests or criminal charges were reported.

2nd wind turbine blade breaks off in 2 months

IA PATON — For the second time in as many months, a huge blade has broken off from its wind turbine in central Iowa.

The latest incident happened last week near Paton in Green

THE CENSUS

677

The number of different kinds of spiders found in Maine, according to a database published by the state's Forest Service. The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry said the state's spider checklist is the result of 14 years collaboration between the state and researchers. The spiders examined were located in all 16 Maine counties in habitats including potato fields, mountaintops and backyards, officials said.

County, television station KCCI reported Tuesday. No one was hurt. That follows a similar incident in mid-September, when another blade dropped from a turbine near Adel and crashed into a corn field.

The blades are 177 feet long and weigh 18,000 pounds, officials said. Mid-American Energy told the station that in both cases, the blades were equipped with a specific type of lightning protection system. Mid-American said such incidents are "extremely rare," but acknowledged that even one incident is unacceptable.

Reward offered in bow killing of alligator

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana authorities are offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of whoever killed an alligator with a crossbow and then abandoned the body.

Alligator hunting is tightly regulated. Hunters in Louisiana need a special license, and must lock a harvest tag to the tail of each animal killed.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents were told on Monday that a 12.5-foot alligator that had been killed by an arrow was in Bayou Manchac near Alligator Bayou in Ascension Parish, the agency said in a news release Tuesday. Agents found the animal with a 20-inch carbon crossbow arrow sticking out from the hinge of its jaws, agency enforcement division spokesman Adam Einek said in an email.

Iconic subway map now appearing on phones

NY NEW YORK — One of New York's landmarks is getting an upgrade.

It's not a building, statue or museum — it's the city's iconic subway map, reproduced on millions of coffee mugs, keychains and T-shirts and known for confusing out-of-towners (and even diehard New Yorkers on occasion) with its multicolored tangle of lines.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Tuesday debuted a live, web-based subway map that shows trains moving in real time and lets riders check for

planned service changes, the frequent bane of weekend riders.

"We've all had the experience when we get on the train on a Saturday morning, sit down, read a book take a look at your iPhone and then look up and see we're at a different station than we might have expected to be at," said Sarah Meyer, chief customer officer for New York City Transit, which operates the subways. "This will save people time and make their lives easier."

The map also includes information on which stations have elevator access and whether elevators are operating. Clicking on a station shows how soon each train will arrive.

Cult-classic ginger ale is being discontinued

VA RICHMOND — A nearly century-old cult-classic ginger ale that's made in Virginia is being discontinued.

Facing an aluminum can shortage during the pandemic this year, Coca-Cola had already ceased production of Northern Neck Ginger Ale in July, The Virginian-Pilot reported Monday. Now, the company announced in a news release, the discontinuation will be permanent.

The soda known for its distinctive bite was developed in Montross in 1926 and produced in recent years in Sandston, outside of Richmond.

From wire reports

WORLD

Thailand cancels emergency decree in bid for calm

By GRANT PECK
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's government on Thursday canceled a state of emergency it had declared last week for Bangkok in a gesture offered by the embattled prime minister to cool massive student-led protests seeking democracy reforms.

The decree had banned public gatherings of more than four people and allowed censorship of the media, among other provisions. It was challenged in court by an opposition party and a group of university students.

The revocation of the emergency decree, effective at noon Thursday, declared that the situation had been mitigated and could now be dealt with by existing laws.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha went on national television Wednesday night to appeal to pro-democracy protesters to reduce political tensions and promised to lift the emergency measure.

"I will make the first move to deescalate this situation," he said. "I am currently preparing to lift the state of severe emergency in Bangkok and will do so promptly if there are no violent incidents."

As he was speaking, protesters marched near Government House, his office, to demand he step down. They also asked for the release of their colleagues who were arrested in connection with earlier protests.

They said that if their demands



SACHAI LALIT/AP

Pro-democracy activists confront a police blockade during their march to Government House, the prime minister's office, during a protest march in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday.

were not met, they would return in three days. Although the protesters pushed their way through police lines, neither side resorted to violence.

The protesters are pressing for a more democratic constitution and reforms to the monarchy. The implicit criticism of the royal institution has stirred controversy because it has traditionally been treated as sacrosanct and a pillar of national identity.

On Wednesday, royalists held rallies in several cities, in many

cases led by local civil servants, in what they said was defense of the monarchy. At a small rally in Bangkok, there were fights between anti-government protesters and palace supporters.

Wednesday also marked the eighth straight day of demonstrations by the pro-democracy movement that was launched in March, even though many top protest leaders have been detained.

Prayuth, in the taped speech, pleaded with his countrymen to resolve their political differences

through Parliament.

"The only way to a lasting solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets, as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets, is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process," he said.

The government on Tuesday approved a request to recall Parliament to deal with the political crisis in a special session next Monday to Wednesday.

"I am appealing to all sides that

we must heal injuries now before they become too deep," Prayuth said.

The cancellation of the state of emergency came as Bangkok Civil Court was preparing to rule on motions to revoke the decree on the basis that it illegally abridged freedom of assembly.

The leader of the opposition Pheu Thai party's team at the court said Wednesday that he was not impressed that Prayuth had lifted the decree.

"He's really doing it to protect himself. Why? Because if he didn't lift the emergency decree today, and the court ordered the temporary protection of the protesters, it would mean all his orders and announcement related to this were illegal," said lawmaker Cholanan Srikaew.

Authorities on Wednesday suffered a legal setback when a judge barred them from implementing orders banning several media outlets because they failed to follow proper procedures.

Police sought to impose censorship on media reporting of the protests, citing what they called "distorted information" that could cause unrest and confusion.

They want to block access to the online sites of four Thai news organizations and one activist group that broadcast live coverage of the protests. They had also proposed a ban on over-the-air digital television coverage of one of the broadcasters, Voice TV.

Vatican, China extend bishop agreement over US opposition

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican and China extended a controversial accord on bishop nominations Thursday over strong opposition from the White House and conservative Catholics giving Beijing's crackdown on religious believers.

The Holy See and Beijing government jointly announced a two-year extension to the 2018 agreement, which expired Thursday.

The Vatican justified the extension by saying the agreement was purely ecclesiastical and pastoral in nature, not political, though it noted that continued dialogue would allow the Holy See to en-

gage with Beijing on other problems, including human rights abuses.

In an unsigned article accompanying the announcement of the extended agreement, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said the Vatican "does not fail to attract the attention of the Chinese government to encourage a more fruitful exercise of religious freedom."

The agreement, which has never been published, envisages a process of dialogue in selecting bishops. The Vatican signed it in 2018 in the hopes that it would help unite China's Catholics, who have been split for seven decades

between those belonging to an official, state-sanctioned church and an underground church loyal to Rome.

The Vatican has defended the 2018 accord against criticism that Pope Francis sold out the underground faithful, saying the deal was necessary to prevent an even worse schism in the Chinese church after Beijing named bishops without the pope's consent.

The 2018 accord regularized the status of seven of these "illegitimate" bishops and brought them into full communion with the pope — a key goal of the Vatican in pushing for a deal.



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WORLD

Belarus opposition effort honored by EU

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Thursday awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign.

During a speech at the European Parliament, president David Sassoli praised the Sakharov Prize laureates for their "courage, resilience and determination."

"They have stood and still stay strong in the face of a much stron-

ger adversary. But they have on their side something that brute force can never defeat, and this is the truth," Sassoli said.

The 27-nation bloc agreed this month to impose sanctions against officials suspected of election misconduct and a brutal security crackdown on protesters in Belarus. The EU has warned it is ready to sanction Lukashenko himself if he fails to enter into talks with the opposition and order an end to the repression launched after a disputed election.

In a series of recommendations adopted this week, EU lawmakers said sanctions need to include



LELOETTE SABROE, SCANPIX/AP

Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya speaks in Denmark on Thursday.

Lukashenko and called for new elections to be held under international supervision. MEPs also

stated that "Tsikhanouskaya's Coordination Council is the legitimate representative of the people."

Lukashenko won his sixth term in office in a presidential election widely seen as rigged. Since the Aug. 9 polls that handed Lukashenko 80% of the vote, mass protests have rocked the ex-Soviet nation sandwiched between Poland and Russia.

Tsikhanouskaya, Lukashenko's main challenger, got 10% of the vote. She and her supporters refused to recognize the results, saying the outcome of the vote was manipulated.

A 38-year-old former English teacher with no previous political experience, Tsikhanouskaya joined the race after her husband who aspired to run for president was jailed. He has remained in prison. Tsikhanouskaya has rejected the official tally and was forced to concede defeat, but was refused to move to Lithuania under pressure from authorities.

Tsikhanouskaya shares the prize with several leading members of the opposition's Coordination Council, which was created after the election in a bid to facilitate talks on a transition of power.



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

A staffer poses in front of a work of art by Banksy titled "Show Me The Monet" at Sotheby's auction house in London on Friday. The work sold Wednesday for 7.6 million pounds (\$9.8 million).

Banksy work sells for almost \$10M at auction

Associated Press

LONDON — Banksy's playful take on a famous Impressionist painting has sold at auction for 7.6 million pounds (\$9.8 million), the second-highest price ever paid for a work by the British street artist.

"Show Me the Monet" sold to an unidentified bidder at Sotheby's in London on Wednesday evening, surpassing its upper pre-sale estimate of 5 million pounds.

In the 2005 work, Banksy added abandoned shopping carts and an orange traffic cone to Claude Monet's image of water lilies in his garden at Giverny.

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's Eu-

ropean head of contemporary art, said the work was one of the "strongest and most iconic" Banksy works to appear at auction.

Banksy, whose real name has never been officially confirmed, began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists.

Another Banksy work, "Devolved Parliament," sold last year at Sotheby's in London for 9.9 million pounds. Earlier this month, his graffiti-style piece "Forgive Us Our Trespassing" sold for \$8.3 million at Sotheby's in Hong Kong.

NASA astronaut, 2 Russians back from space station stay

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — A trio of space travelers safely returned to Earth on Thursday after a six-month mission on the International Space Station.

The Soyuz MS-16 capsule carrying NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner, landed on the steppes of Kazakhstan southeast of the town of Dzhezkazgan at 7:54 a.m. (2:54 GMT) Thursday. After a brief medical checkup, the three will be taken by helicopters to Dzhezkazgan from where they will depart home.

Cassidy will board a NASA plane back to Houston, while Vagner and Ivanishin will fly home to Star City, Russia.

The crew smiled as they talked to masked members of the recovery team, and NASA and Roscosmos reported that they were in good condition.

As part of additional precautions due to the coronavirus, the rescue team members meeting the crew were tested for the virus and the number of people involved in the recovery effort was limited.

Cassidy, Ivanishin and Vagner spent 196 days in orbit, having arrived at the station on April 9. They left behind NASA's Kate Rubins and Roscosmos' Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchikov, who arrived at the



ROSCOSMOS SPACE AGENCY/AP

A Russian rescue team works near a Russian Soyuz MS-16 capsule that carried NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagne, and landed in Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

orbiting outpost a week ago for a six-month stay.

Cassidy, returning from his third space mission, has now spent a total of 378 days in space, the fifth highest among U.S. astronauts.

While serving as the station's commander, Cassidy welcomed SpaceX Demo-2 crew Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, the first NASA astronauts to launch to the space station on an American spacecraft from American soil since the retirement of the space shuttle fleet in 2011.

Cassidy and Behnken completed four spacewalks for a total of 23 hours and 37 minutes, becoming two of only four U.S. astro-

nauts to complete 10 spacewalks.

Before the crew's departure, Russian cosmonauts were able to temporarily seal the air leak they tried to locate for several months. The small leak has posed no immediate danger to the station's crew, and Roscosmos engineers have been working on a permanent seal.

In November, Rubins, Ryzhikov and Kud-Sverchikov are expected to greet NASA's SpaceX first operational Crew Dragon mission comprising NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi.

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FACES

Country music fan favorite

Carrie Underwood adds to her shelf of CMT awards

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Carrie Underwood already had the most CMT Music Awards of any artist, but she'll need to make more room on her shelf. The superstar picked up two more trophies for video of the year and female video of the year in a remotely shot awards show.

Underwood appeared on video to accept the award for "Drinking Alone" and thanked fans for voting for her during an unpredictable year when touring ground to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This one is all about you guys, especially because we again haven't been together, but I feel so loved tonight," said Underwood.

Pop star Gwen Stefani won her first CMT Music Award for collaborative video of the year for her duet with Blake Shelton on "Nobody But You." The couple shared a hug and drinks together and expressed their love for one another in their recorded speech. "What is happening in my life?" Stefani exclaimed. "This is a crazy pairing in lots of different ways, but it's working," Shelton said as they clinked glasses.

The country stars came out to celebrate even as audiences weren't there. Country's newest star, Luke Combs, shotgunned a beer with legends Brooks and Dunn to open the show.

Country singers Kane Brown and Ashley McBryde joined "Modern Family" actor Sarah Hyland as co-hosts during Wednesday night's show, which was shot in various outdoor locations around Nashville, including the former home of Reba McEntire.

Taylor Swift, who won breakthrough video of the year 13 years ago, presented the award to Gabby Barrett, for her song "I Hope," which has been a No. 1 hit across both country and pop charts this year.

Barrett, who pretended to hold an imaginary award in her hand, thanked the fans.

"That's something that I absolutely loved



Carrie Underwood accepts the video of the year award for "Drinking Alone" Wednesday during the Country Music Television awards, which took part in various locations.

about country music, coming into it. It was how loyal the fan bases are and how they just incredibly love the people that they love," said Barrett.

Old Dominion won group video of the year for "One Man Band," while Chris Young won CMT performance of the year for his song "Drowning."

Not all the performances were shot in Nashville. Country superstar Shania Twain performed "Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under," a classic from her breakthrough 1995 album, from inside a Charlie Chaplin museum in Switzerland. Twain, in a leopard print top and sequined pants, danced and sang alongside mannequins dressed to look like the famous silent film comedian and actor.

Luke Bryan won male video of the year for "One Margarita," while country duo Dan + Shay won for duo video of the year for their song "I Should Probably Go To Bed."

Shay Mooney gave a shoutout remotely to his toddler son, Asher. "He's watching right

now. So you do need to go to bed for sure right now," he joked.

The show's cross-gener performance included Jimmie Allen and Noah Cyrus, and Kelsea Ballerini with pop star Halsey.

New this year was the CMT equal play award, which was presented to singer, actor and activist Jennifer Nettles, for her work advocating for women and diversity in country music.

"Thank you to all the fans and especially my artists, my sisters out there who continue to burn the holy fire," said Nettles. "I am so proud to be a part of this legacy of women in country music with you. And I am so proud of the stories that we tell. We have more to do as soon as we can."

The fan-voted awards show had a new category, quarantine video of the year, that highlighted country artists who got creative with music videos and songs during the pandemic. Singer Granger Smith won for his on-the-nose music video called "Don't Cough On Me!"

Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee clean up at Billboard Latin awards

Bad Bunny and Daddy Yankee triumphed at the Billboard Latin Music Awards Wednesday, claiming seven trophies apiece at the pandemic-delayed show.

Bad Bunny won artist of the year, the night's top honor, as well as top Latin album for "X 100PRE" and songwriter of the year. He did not attend the ceremony.

Daddy Yankee won six of his awards for his hit "Con Calma," which featured the 1990s artist Snow. His honors included the hot Latin song award, and song of the year honors for streaming and airplay and digital platforms.

The reggaeton star dedicated the first of his awards to those who had lost loved ones due to COVID-19. "Music remains medicine," he said.

Actress Gaby Espino hosted the ceremony, which aired live on Telemundo from the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Fla. The event had a red carpet, but no audience.

Other news

■ Another sequel to "Legally Blonde," released in 2001 and starring Reese Witherspoon, is coming. "Legally Blonde 3," which will be penned by Mindy Kaling and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" co-creator Dan Goor, will sashay its way into theaters in May 2022, the host announced Tuesday during a virtual reunion.

■ Trailblazing country music star Charley Pride will get the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award at the CMA Awards on Nov. 11. The rich baritone singer became the genre's first Black superstar, charting 29 No. 1 hits between the 1960s and 1980s, with songs like "Kiss An Angel Good Mornin'" and "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone."

Compiled from wire reports

Heartfelt docuseries looks at how animals, people rescue each other

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

In a new docuseries, a child who uses a walker meets a dog with its own version of wheels. Inmates find solace in training canines for adoption, and caregivers strut their stuff in a "body positivity" celebration.

That and more is part of "That Animal Rescue Show," an endearing project that reflects its unexpected creators as well as its stars, humane and animal-lover fans. All 10 episodes are out Oct. 29 on the CBS All Access streaming service.

"What the series is about is people rescuing animals, and animals rescuing people," said Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Bill Guttentag, one of the big names behind this small gift of touching and quirky stories.

The other: Oscar-nominated filmmaker Richard Linklater, who acknowledges that a documentary is a rare venture for him, but he sees a connection to his films, which include "School



Act Ruelas-Jimenez, left, with dog Frances in an episode of "That Animal Rescue Show," launching Oct. 29.

of Rock" and his three-movie reunion series that began with "Before Sunrise."

"I've often done films about people who are kind of obsessed or passionate people. That's what you're looking for in a story," he said.

He and his collaborators, in-

cluding Nayema Raza, Guttentag's writing-producing partner, committed to holding themselves and the series to a high standard. "Rick said something to us which I thought was just great," Guttentag recalled. "What I'd really like to do is come up with 10 little documentaries that could

all make it into Sundance (film festival) on their own."

An episode of "That Animal Rescue Show," which had largely completed taping before the pandemic hit, cleared that bar with an episode that was accepted by the Telluride Festival before it and others were canceled due to COVID-19.

Even the title sequence is notable, a nod to the early photographic sequence that captured a galloping horse with all hooves off the ground. Cats, chickens and pigs are among those who get the cinematic treatment here.

The project found a myriad of subjects in and around Austin, Texas, where longtime resident Linklater has a farm and where the idea for the series was born. Networking credit goes to hood, the Linklater family pig that drew the filmmaker into the company of the Central Texas Pig Rescue and managing member Dan Illcasas, described by Linklater as "kind of a pig behaviorist."

Besides being schooled by Illcasas on pigs — "You want to treat

them like dogs, but they're not dogs. They're pigs" — Linklater said he was introduced to the volunteer operation caring for some 200 homeless pigs.

"I met another guy who had a pig rescue and I was like, 'Wow, he is a whole subculture,'" said Linklater. Impressed by the commitment of the animal rescuers, "it just felt like something worth sharing."

Among the gems that are showcased: Safe in Austin, created by a mom who saw a service dog help her son with autism; Blossom. It's a haven for a menagerie of abused and neglected animals, visited by children with challenges who "pet, and love and heal alongside the animals," as owner Jamie Wallace Grimer says in the series. The Guttentag-directed episode that was bound for Telluride highlights the Paws in Prison program at a correctional facility. Dogs in need of adoption are paired with inmates who are given the chance to train them and a shot at new confidence.

WEEKEND



A new BRAND OF anthems

Now 58, this is not your mom's Jon Bon Jovi. He's OK with that.

Q&A and review, Page 32

WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECH



PHOTOS BY CLARENCE TABB, JR., THE DETROIT NEWS/TNS

Julia Dapkus helps her 8-year-old daughter Isabelle attend virtual class with the help of a fidget mouse in Plymouth, Mich. Hedgehog Health created the mouse specifically for children like Isabelle.

Multi-sensory assistance

Company's 'fidget mouse' transforms learning for some

By ARIANA TAYLOR
The Detroit News

Navigating on a computer with a traditional mouse never came easily for 8-year-old Isabelle Dapkus, who has developmental disabilities.

Isabelle struggles with fine motor skills, which affects her ability to use online materials for virtual learning, said her mother, Julia Dapkus.

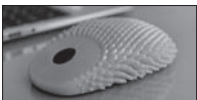
However, after countless moments of frustration, Isabelle is now able to access her schoolwork and scroll through YouTube on her own, all thanks to a fidget mouse — a tactile, multi-sensory device that resembles a toy.

"She's never been able to use a mouse before, like ever, and it wasn't for lack of trying, but it was just not the appropriate tool," said Dapkus, 41, of Livonia, Mich. "The first time she was exposed to it, she took right to it and shrieked with delight because it was hot pink."

As virtual learning has become a common option for families during the COVID-19 pandemic, online schooling has also become a struggle for students with developmental disabilities, especially as access to autism centers and in-person therapy has become limited.

Enter the Hoglet, a learning tool created by a Michigan company to help students like Isabelle focus on computer tasks and navigate online lessons with little or no help.

The Hoglet — which takes its name from its resemblance to a baby hedgehog — is especially designed with elements from a fidget toy to increase focus for those with developmental dis-



The fidget mouse, called a Hoglet, is the first that Isabelle Dapkus has been able to use.

abilities and autism spectrum disorders.

"The cool thing about our products is that they don't exist currently ... this is a device for anyone who learns differently and anyone who needs to fidget, no matter their age, no matter where they're from," said Parker Lynch, creator of the Hoglet and CEO of HedgeHog Health. "I had this idea far before COVID ... but I think in a time of need like this, there's no more relevant time for a product like this to come out."

The multi-sensory fidget mouse is covered in a silicon body with nubs all around it that help children grip the device. The Hoglet is wireless and minimizes clicking sounds as to not irritate those with autism spectrum disorder.

Children who use a fidget device have an increase in concentration, are not as restless, and are more likely to complete therapeutic and educational tasks, according to a study.

The Flushing Hospital Medical Center in New York, which performed the study, found that fidget toys can be beneficial for all students, including those with learning disabilities. The study showed a 10% increase in academic scores of students who used fidget toys and a 27% increase in scores of students diagnosed with ADHD.

Because of research of his own that saw similar results, Lynch decided to create a tool similar to fidget toys that could provide the same functionality. "There's clinical studies that show that when you fidget, it helps you increase focus for at least some people," he said. "There's so many learning devices out there, but they're not really available for kids in school."

Lynch has a dual master's in early childhood education and special education from New York University and spent 10 years as a teacher. During his first teaching job, Lynch noticed that a student carried a fidget toy around the school, and when the boy wasn't allowed to have the fidget toy in the computer lab, he was not focused.

Lynch took it upon himself to bring the student a fidget toy in the computer lab and saw that the student concentrated during the entire assignment while using it.

Five years of research and testing later, Lynch founded HedgeHog Health and patented the company's first product, the Hoglet.

The Hoglet will go on sale in December, though pre-orders can be made now. The company has been able to raise about \$70,000 for production.

Lynch and HedgeHog Health are working on a removable and washable cover for the hoglet as well as another mouse that will stimulate all five senses. "I think the hoglet is so universal ... the special needs community is hit hard with this shutdown ending our resources. Our support was just stripped away immediately, and kids regress," Dapkus said.

GADGET WATCH



KINGSTON TECHNOLOGY/TNS

Kingston Technology's DataTraveler 2000 cvUSB 3.0 encrypted keypad flash drive has multiple layers of security to keep data safe.

Password protection keeps data secure on flash drive

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Kingston Technology's DataTraveler 2000 cvUSB 3.0 encrypted keypad flash drive is not your average flash drive. It might be the best and most important flash drive you can own.

It's available in storage sizes up to 128GB (\$234), which is great, but what makes it so valuable is its multiple layers of security keeping data safe and secure, starting with a PIN when it's first plugged in. As with any flash drive, there's always the risk of losing it, but even then, the stored data stays hidden since it's password protected.

An easy-to-use alphanumeric keypad is built on the outside of the flash drive, which comes preloaded with a password and instructions for changing it to anything 7-15 digits in length. With step-by-step instructions, it takes about 30 seconds to complete the change.

From there, the only requirement is to remember the password. And in the event it's forgotten, the DT2000 can be reset to the default settings. Kingston Brute Force Hacking Detection technology will permanently delete the flash drive's content after the incorrect password is attempted 10 consecutive times.

Besides the alphanumeric keypad, there are several other security layers. For one, when it's removed from the computer's USB port, it automatically locks. When it's put back in, the password is required.

According to Kingston, the DT2000 is FIPS 140-2 Level 3 certified, which meets a frequently requested corporate IT requirement. USB 3 speeds are 135MB/s read, 40MB/s write, and with USB 2.0, speeds are 30MB/s read, 20MB/s write.



Creative's Pebble V3 desktop speakers
CREATIVE/TNS

The owner can set him or herself up as an administrator with a PIN and grant access to other users, create read-only or write access, and use a timeout lock mode.

Kingston lists compatibility with Windows, macOS, Linux kernel and Chrome OS Android. It's available in capacities of 4GB, 8GB, 16GB, 32GB, 64GB

No matter how good the sound is from a computer's built-in speakers, it's external speakers that bring it to life. Creative has a budget-friendly solution with the Pebble V3 desktop speakers, which delivers exactly as advertised: louder, bolder and more powerful than ever.

The Pebble V3 is built with a rounded shape but has a flat spot on the bottom to keep it in place. Even with the rounded design, the audio comes directly to your ears with 2.25-inch speakers angled at 45 degrees.

There are several connection options: Bluetooth 5.0, USB-C or a 3.5 mm AUX-in. The USB cable to connect the speakers is 53 inches long, and then a single 4-foot cable connects to a computer. A USB-C to USB-A converter is included.

The speakers add a great dimension to a computer system. Even during these work-from-home days, the sound is a tremendous addition for Zoom meetings, online classes and even simply for streaming music as the day winds down.

Creative has engineered with Clear Dialog audio processing to help achieve precise clarity out of the speakers. I'm not a heavy volume user, but often have to turn the volume up in computer meetings. In this case, I had my medium volume set, and it remained that way.

The sound is adjustable with a built-in automated high gain switch for compatible USB-C devices and a manual switch for USB-A. The switch is on the bottom of the V3's right speaker.

Online: us.creative.com; \$39.99

ON THE COVER: Rocker Jon Bon Jovi's new album, "2020," is his most socially conscious yet.

DEW GURIAN, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

By TODD MARTENS
Los Angeles Times

Walking out of “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” when I saw it last December, I had one, immediate reaction: what a disappointment — if only it had been built for video game consoles instead of movie theaters. I wanted to play it.

That’s not to say that video games’ stories rank below their cinematic peers — far from it — but it is an acknowledgment that “The Rise of Skywalker” was laid out like an old-fashioned video game, where one action set piece builds to a larger, slightly more difficult action set piece. Acrobatic fights while floating across desert landscapes, intense lightsaber duels and blaster battles on a starship — all of them revealing new heroic powers — really only make sense if your understanding of storytelling is to “level up.”

There are better ways. There are also deserved attention “The Mandalorian” series on Disney+ has received, the just-released game Star Wars: Squadrons reminds us that some of the best Star Wars stories in recent years have been in the video game space. Maybe for multiple generations have grown up playing with Star Wars toys and games and now have the ability to walk around a Star Wars planet at Walt Disney World and Disneyland, when or if it repeats, we’ve grown accustomed to playing Star Wars as a game of play. Or maybe games have impacted media so much, it’s better to simply play a game rather than view content inspired by one.

Star Wars: Squadrons is an argument for the latter. This is a work, in fact, that does not suffer from an action-focused, little-narrative approach — every second I’ve spent with this game has fulfilled the sort of personal Star Wars fantasy that’s enhanced by giving the audience a bit of autonomy. It’s also, for those privileged enough to own a virtual reality headset, the VR experience I’ve had at home that most represents what it’s like to be in a theme park.

Rather than throwing spectators at a spectacle, it lets me partake in them, to scratch the itch of being in the center of intergalactic, aerial dogfights. But less than emphasizing awe, Squadrons centers on the feel of controlling a ship, making me feel a part of something larger. Sure, that’s just digital, fictional warfare, but Squadrons understands that the appeal of Star Wars is that it’s open to everyone, and any of us can be ace pilots if given the chance. We don’t admire, we act.

It’s that nostalgia at play. The game recalls some of the LucasArts spacecraft simulators of yore that I obsessed with in my suburban Chicago basement, but there’s a sense of swiftness and polish that makes this game stand out as a modern arcade machine. And yet it’s also in possession of confidence, a depth that I’ll need to master if I really want to go hard in multiplayer battles.

As a solo player without many friends who play multiplayer games, I, too, can’t say I’m not so sure I’ll take the time to



FLYING HIGH

Squadrons makes the case that the best Star War stories are now in video games



In Star Wars: Squadrons, pilots will triumph as a team across known and never-before-seen battlefields.

learn each individual ship and its advantages or disadvantages. But I’m not sure I need that, because Squadrons has me smiling throughout, even if I accidentally turn my X-wing into an asteroid. While throwing me into larger-than-life moments — disable a giant, Imperial starship and help lead a capture of it — Squadrons succeeds in making them feel livable and conquerable.

In other words, by focusing so intently on the act of spaceflight, I don’t feel like a tourist in the Star Wars universe, thrown a litany of

“greatest hits” moments. Instead, Squadrons’ single-focus obsession allows my imagination to run free rather than have to wonder where I am, who I am or what I’m supposed to do now. I can just fly. And shoot. And it feels great.

“If you go back to the very first pitch we had for Squadrons, before if it was even a prototype, we had a controller map and it was color-coded,” says Ian Frazier, the creative director of the Motive Montreal-developed game for Electronic Arts. “If you just needed to fly the ship and

shoot stuff, and this was all you needed, that was one color. Then there was a different color for an intermediate level of control and another color if you wanted to master some of the fancy stuff. We built the game with that in mind.”

That layering approach has meant, in the week that I’ve had the game, I’ve had as much fun taking on practice missions as I have completing the single-player narrative — somewhere around 10 hours — and even getting my butt kicked in a few multiplayer matches. Simply flying one of the ships in the game — Squadrons allows us to be either good (New Republic) or evil (Imperial) forces — results in a sense of curiosity. I’m often left wondering what ships can or can’t do, and whether I can repeat a trick I seemed to have locked into.

And to think, I approached the game with skepticism.

When I first bootled it up, I was rubbed slightly the wrong way in knowing the single-player campaign shifts perspectives from good to evil. Roll your eyes all you want, but in Star Wars, I like to be the good team since modern Star Wars narratives have leaned too heavily into authoritarian imagery. The last

time I was at Galaxy’s Edge at Disneyland last March, I noticed that I tended to completely avoid the area surrounding the bad guys of the First Order. The fascist imagery there is laid out too thick for me.

But the story, set shortly after the events of “Return of the Jedi,” meaning, thankfully, Emperor Palpatine is “dead,” doesn’t glorify the Imperial Army and is an opportunity for players to get familiar with different ships for multiplayer battles. Frazier says the original plan was to do two short stories, one from the perspective of each side, but during development the team decided it worked best to shift back and forth, which allows the New Republic to still be the team we’re rooting for while emphasizing the various characters on the differing sides.

“We knew from the beginning that you aren’t going to be so-and-so, this name character that we created and crafted,” says Frazier. “We wanted you to feel factions. Part of how we do that is put you in the roles of the boots-on-the-ground soldier, not the main character who has the Force and they make whole movies about, but the people who are making the war happen.”

And this particular space conflict has a mesmerizing look, especially in virtual reality. Squadrons feels built for VR, and Frazier confirms it was from Day One conceived as a VR game. This makes sense as we play. The scenes between battles, when we’re stagnant and jumping the camera around our base, are staged primarily to manage motion sickness in the VR space. We as a character are stationary, simply clicking a spot in the environment if we need to change perspective.

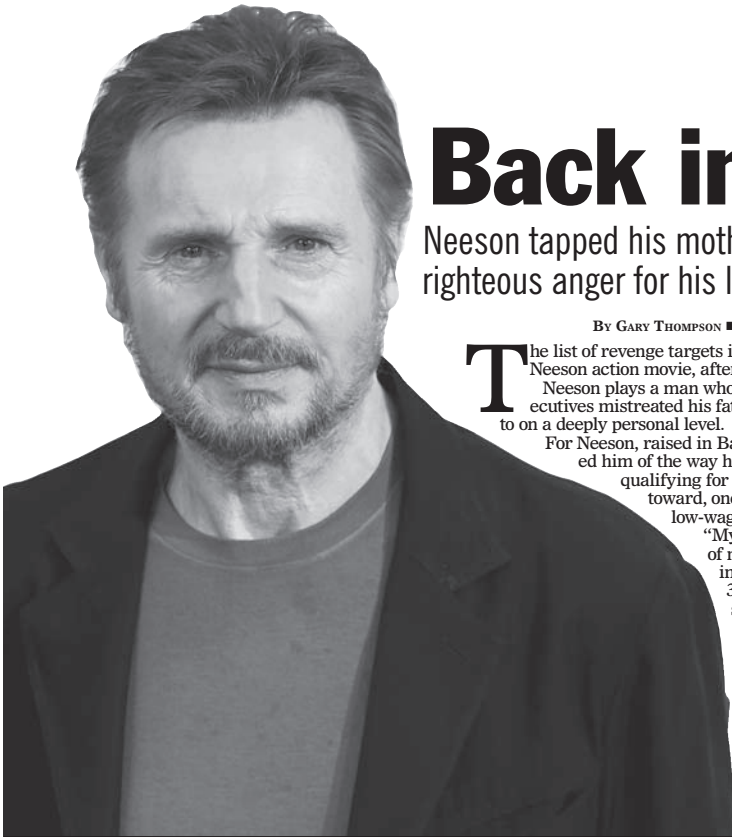
When using my PlayStation VR headset, I was taken back to when I was 10 or 11 and playing the early 1980s Star Wars arcade game. Its vector graphics were already outdated by the time I was 10, but that old beauty allowed me pretend that some day I could fly in my own Star Wars ship.

The magic of theme parks has made that somewhat a reality, as Disney’s Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run is essentially a giant video game. Yet as impressive as that ride is, it’s still built to the constraints of having to support theme park capacity and multiple guests per vehicle. It doesn’t, in short, let me live out the dream of blasting TIE fighters in the same way Squadrons does. But that’s also the danger of building in-person experiences with screens. Eventually, you’ll be competing with what we can do at home.

And make no mistake, Squadrons is a “cinematic” factor. I had a brief panic when, in the midst of flying my X-wing, I had to pause the game and remove the headset. I tossed it aside and returned an hour later, but when I put it on I saw cracked glass. I rubbed slightly the wrong way, but I was in VR headset? I hadn’t. It was the glass on the X-wing that was cracked, but the effect worked well enough to fool me.

Platforms: Playstation 4, Xbox One, PC
Online: ea.com/games/star-wars/squadrons

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Back in action

Neeson tapped his mother's layoff to stoke a righteous anger for his latest film, 'Honest Thief'

BY GARY THOMPSON ■ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

The list of revenge targets in "Honest Thief" is long — this is a Liam Neeson action movie, after all — but it all starts with banks. Neeson plays a man who robs a bank because of the way its executives mistreated his father, a story element the actor responded to on a deeply personal level.

For Neeson, raised in Ballymena in Northern Ireland, it reminded him of the way his mother, Kitty, was laid off just short of qualifying for the modest pension she'd been working toward, one of the reasons she toiled in the same low-wage job for three decades.

"My mom, who just passed away a couple of months ago, she worked as a dinner lady in a girls' school in my hometown for 33, 34 years. Working long hours, walking to school and walking back. Didn't have a car; never learned to drive," said Neeson, speaking from a sofa in his upstate New York home via Zoom.

"I believe her take-home pay — she showed it to me once — the check was something like \$150 for the month," he said. "And I remember it made me really angry. Really angry. It also made me love my mother even more, what she did for 34 bloody years, working for a pittance."

Of course her retirement prospects improved when son Liam, now 68, graduated from operating a forklift at the local Guinness plant to fame and fortune on stage and screen. ("I took care of her," he is quick to say.) But he still recalls that teeth-gritting anger of watching her lose her retirement security, and tapped into it for "Honest Thief," now in theaters.

He plays Tom, a retired Marine demolitions expert who uses, yes, a particular set of skills developed over a very long career to break into bank vaults.

When he falls in love with the divorced Annie (Kate Walsh), he decides he needs to come clean and go straight, so he tries to turn himself in to the FBI, only to run afoul of two dangerously crooked agents.

Obviously, they haven't seen "Taken," since they seem unaware of what happens when you cross one of Neeson's characters in an action movie, and especially when you mess with somebody he loves.

"I'm going to set things right. My way," says Tom, just before the inevitable onslaught of fists, guns and bombs.

It's a line Neeson fans have come to expect and to relish.

Tom is another version of the chivalrous vigilante character that's become a staple for Neeson, who made three "Taken" films

and several "Taken" variations — including "Taken" on a train ("The Commuter") and "Taken" on a plane ("Non-Stop").

But it was all new to costar Walsh, best known for her Screen Actors Guild-award-winning TV work in "Grey's Anatomy" and appearances on lauded shows like "Fargo" and "13 Reasons Why," and memorable light comedy supporting roles in "Girls Trip" and other films.

"I've been fortunate to work for a good long while, but I have to say I really liked the idea of getting to do a big fight scene," she said. "I've never done one of those. That'll be fun!"

For Walsh, it represented the kind of risk that keeps acting interesting, although she uses the word "risk" advisedly. "Acting is really about jumping off cliffs all the time. But not really. We have very cushy parachutes," she said.

For late-blooming action hero Neeson, "Taken" and its descendants have functioned as a kind of golden parachute, the kind his mother never got.

After a long and double-Oscar-nominated career ("Schindler's List," "Kinsey") of doing distinguished and challenging cinema — he was Hollywood's go-to guy for serious biographies like "Michael Collins" — his career took a turn.

He hadn't punched anyone since he gave up boxing as a teen, but at age 60, he suddenly became the world's top choice for pummeling onscreen bad guys.

It wasn't planned, he had no idea it was coming, and still doesn't know quite what to make of it.

"I remember reading [the 'Taken' script] and thinking, this is going straight to video. But it's three months in Paris, so what the hell. I just thought this will be a cool little European thriller. I was stunned at the success."

Had he any inkling that those now-famous words — "I'm a man with a very particular set of skills" — would grab the world by its pop-culture collar and never let go?

"Nothing against the writer or director, but no."

Walsh said that it's hard for actors to know what the finished product will look like when a project is in the script phase.

"The work is the work. I mean, you never really just phone it in," said Walsh, who laughed when Neeson said he liked the idea of three months in France. She's currently enjoying spring in western Australia, where she's doing a play and this three-way interview for "Honest Thief," thanks to the magic of Zoom.

"There's no way of knowing what's really going to happen. You can't even predict. You can have the best Oscar-winning everybody on board and it can simply not work out. But, conversely, you can have the opposite experience. Something will become a hit and you're like, 'Where'd that come from?'"

"Honest Thief" has a pedigree. There's Neeson with his two Academy Award nominations, Walsh with a SAG award, and Grammy winner Anthony Ramos ("Hamilton") playing one of the FBI agents. Writer-director Mark Williams cut his teeth on the highly touted "Ozark" series, which he co-created.

"Honest Thief" has some of that "Ozark" darkness, but at its center is a love story, with two "people of a certain age," as Walsh puts it, getting a chance to start over, once they clean up various levels of corruption in a regional office of the FBI.

"I mean, it's easy to be cynical about it. Is this guy really going to change his life for her? But love is not rational or cerebral. It transcends that, and hopefully we were able to put that across on screen. The redemptive power of love."

Complemented by the power of strategically placed explosives.

Liam Neeson returns as a criminal seeking justice against the cops who set him up in "Honest Thief," directed by "Ozark" co-creator Mark Williams.

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

'American Utopia' takes audience on a hypnotic journey

By JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

Ever since the pandemic darkened theaters earlier this year, sending the entire performing arts world into a catastrophic state of limbo, we've seen all manner of creative virtual substitutes: Digital dance seasons, clever musical mashups, a live-captured version of "Hamilton."

Many of these have been good, some great. Yet none have truly matched the visceral experience many of us crave so profoundly: live performance, in a theater. And honestly, how could anything come close?

Well, now we have Spike Lee's mesmerizing film version of David Byrne's terrific Broadway concert "American Utopia," which feels so thrillingly alive, you're actually feeling the show not in a theater. Or perhaps you'll feel like the stage has somehow been lifted from its moorings and delivered straight to your living room — or, as Byrne might prefer, right into your brain. In any case, this hypnotic film experience is a body of work that in the arm for all of us — music lovers, theater lovers, dance lovers, culture lovers, live lovers. It's also one of the best concert films in recent memory.

Of course, "David Byrne's

American Utopia," a major Broadway happening that was due to return to the Hudson Theatre next fall, feels like far more than a concert. It's based on Byrne's music, yes, from his 2018 album of the same name, but also other solo work and some iconic Talking Heads tracks. But that's just the launching point.

The show, which one could broadly describe as a reflection on community and connectedness, is filled with pungent Byrne-ian commentary, on everything from brain function to Dadaism to climate change. "Meeting people is hard," he muses at one point. But he can also get more political, as when he chides Americans for low voter turnout, especially in local elections.

A crucial element of the show's success is its enormously talented, multicultural supporting cast of 11 musicians and dancers, who hail from Brooklyn to Brazil. Dressed just like Byrne in silver-gray suits and bare feet, they play fascinating percussion instruments, and also sing and dance, everyone here does double or triple duty. Standouts include the exuberant Bobby Wooten III on bass and the elegant Angie Swan on guitar.

Then there's the endlessly inventive choreography by Annie-B Parson, not so much dancing



HBO/AP

David Byrne (far right) "American Utopia" brings the Talking Heads frontman's critically acclaimed Broadway show to HBO in a film directed by Spike Lee.

as a holistic system of movement performed joyfully by lead dancers Chris Giarmo and Tendayi Kuumba. "I dance like this because it feels so damn good," goes the Byrne song "I Dance Like This," and yes, it does feel damn good, both to watch and to emulate. By the way, go ahead and try to get through this film without dancing yourself.

Lee's cameras constantly find new and exciting angles on the action (the cinematography is by Ellen Kuras) — overhead, underneath, behind the performers or half an inch from their faces. And yet we never glimpse a camera, even though 11 operators were involved.

The set is spare and stylish, surrounded by shimmering metallic curtains in the same silver-gray as the suits. "I thought,

what if we could eliminate everything from the stage, except the stuff we cared about the most?" Byrne explains. "What would be left? ... Us, and you."

Lee has made a few additions to the Broadway show. For example, when Byrne and the cast sing Janelle Monáe's stirring protest song "Hell You Talmbout," chanting names of Black men and women who died in racial violence or at the hands of police, Lee provides powerful visuals and adds more recent names like Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.

As for Byrne, at 68 a remarkable font of quirky energy, he shifts seamlessly from somber moments like this to ebullient renditions of Talking Heads classics like "I Zimbra," "Once in a Lifetime" and "Road to

Nowhere." But nothing gets the audience out of their seats like the rollicking version here of "Burning Down the House." You might not stay in yours.

On the show's closing day in February — I happened to be there with my sister and cousin — there was happy news during curtain calls. Byrne announced to cheers that the show would return in September.

Then the pandemic happened. The show has just announced a return for September 2021 — a year later than planned. Until that one fine day, let's thank Lee and Byrne for giving us something a little better — no, a lot better — than merely the next best thing.

"David Byrne's American Utopia" is unrated and coming soon to HBO Max. Running time: 105 minutes.

'Honest Thief' another formulaic but fun Neeson action film

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

There's something about one movie where Liam Neeson gets ticked off that's reassuringly familiar, like a cozy old sweater. (Just thinking about one of his numerous action films, from the "Taken" series to "The Commuter," you can almost hear him growl, "I'm comin' for ya," and not know whether he's talking about shooting someone or rescuing them.) And as threadbare and worn as the plot may be in "Honest Thief" — the story of a career bank robber whose attempt to come clean goes awry after he's framed for murder — the new movie has that same feeling: a little bit itchy, maybe, and smelling of mothballs, but deeply, inexplicably comforting in these uncertain times.

It may be strange to talk that way about a slightly lumpy movie that features car chases, gun battles and a fireball or two — Neeson's character, Tom, is a former Marine demolitions expert, naturally — but it's true. As Tom's girlfriend Annie (Kate Walsh), puts it, as she's watching him go through the unromantic work of wiring a bomb. "Glamour's overrated. But knowing how to bluff stuff up — that's pretty cool."

Annie is actually the reason that Tom has decided to go straight. After falling in love with her, he contacts the FBI and offers to turn himself in — along with



OPEN ROAD FILMS/AP

Wanting to lead an honest life, a notorious bank robber (Liam Neeson) turns himself in, only to be double-crossed by two ruthless FBI agents in "Honest Thief."

every penny of the \$9 million he stole, if he can be guaranteed a short sentence in a prison with visitation rights near his lady love. Mysteriously, he hasn't spent any of that money, somehow living off his savings from his military service. (In a mawkish soliloquy, Tom explains to Annie the real reason he went into a career in crime: It has something to do with his father's suicide.)

But things don't work out the way Tom planned when a pair of corrupt agents — a menacing hulk played by Jai Courtney, and his hesitant but easily swayed partner, played by Anthony Ramos — decide to keep the loot that Tom has offered as evidence of his good faith. Another FBI agent (Robert Patrick) gets in their way, he gets killed, and the crime gets pinned on Tom, who must go on the lam to prove his

innocence, aided by a more conscientious G-man named Meyers (Jeffrey Donovan) — the partner of the murdered guy.

So far, so formulaic.

"I have to do this," Tom says at one point, and later, "I'll do this my way." He's not wrong. There's a sense that Neeson, even more than Tom, was made for this stuff, snapping evildoers' forearms with a look halfway between regret and pleasure on the 68-year-old actor's increasingly lined face.

The story never really makes much sense, starting with the moment Tom blithely hands the crooked cops the keys to the storage locker containing the cash. Oh, he has an ace up his sleeve, sure. But very little in the film feels psychologically plausible, including the ease with which Annie forgives Tom for lying to her about his past. Tom may be an honest thief, but this film's script is full of baloney.

Still, there's something about Neeson that makes you want to forgive him — whether it's for bank robbery or for making yet another one of these movies. "Go easy on me," Tom tells Meyers, at the end of a film in which the protagonist has blown up a house, stolen several cars and committed many, many misdemeanors. You can kind of believe that Meyers will.

"Honest Thief" is rated PG-13 for strong violence, crude references and brief strong language. Running time: 99 minutes.

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

'Time' is a wrenching tale of love, injustice

By JUSTIN CHANG
Los Angeles Times

The opening sequence of "Time," Garrett Bradley's haunting, heartrending documentary, is a nearly six-minute masterpiece in miniature. It's a montage of home-video snippets, shot over several years by Sibill Fox Richardson, who goes by Fox Rich. We first see her aiming the camera at herself and trying to figure out the best angle—the first of many moments in which she'll gently assert her authorship, framing and reframing her own image. She speaks of her husband, Robert Richardson, who's in prison, noting she herself was released about a week earlier. Moving on to a happier subject, she announces she's pregnant with twins, standing up to reveal her gently swollen belly.

Before she can say much more, one of her young sons, Laurence, pops into the frame with a goofy grin—and for the next few minutes the camera is giddily aloft, leaping from one scene to the next in what almost feels like a single uninterrupted movement. Piano chords flood the soundtrack and images flood the screen: We see Rich hanging out with her boys at a party, lecturing them in the car and jostling next to them on a carnival ride. Eventually she addresses the camera again, quietly beaming: "Do you see this smile, Robert?" she whispers. "Do you know how hard I'm gonna be smiling when you come home?"

It's an intensely intimate sequence, pulsing with life, pulsing with joy and yet marked by a powerful, palpable absence. Rich filmed these moments so that her husband could see a little of what he'd missed after his eventual release. Many

years later, she turned over her roughly 100-hour trove of material to Bradley, who had already been filming Rich and her six sons (including those now fully grown twins, Freedom and Justus). Bradley and her editor, Gabriel Rhodes, began cutting together the past and present footage.

What emerged was a prismatic story of crime and punishment, a critical portrait of the prison system's many casualties and an 81-minute, two-decades-spanning epic of love, devotion and perseverance.

Now streaming on Amazon, "Time" is an artful puzzle, a hypnotic game of chronological hopscotch. But as constructed by Bradley, who won a directing prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, it's bound by certain formal unities. Despite the clear contrast between the rough-hewn archival video and the sharp, shimmering beautiful newer material (shot by Zac Manuel, Justin Zweifach and Nisa East), the entire movie is rendered in black and white. It's a visual choice that allows both time frames to gently blur while still remaining distinct, even as they are often tied together by the melancholy strains and surging arpeggios of Jamesion Shaw and Edwin Montgomery's score.

Most of all, perhaps, "Time" is held together by Rich's remarkable voice—soft and raspy in the older clips, deeper and more declarative in the more recent ones. It's clear from the outset that she's a born storyteller. She tells us how she and Robert fell in love as teenagers, married in 1997 and hoped to open a hip-hop clothing store in Shreveport, La. When their plans fell through, they committed a foolish, desperate act and tried to rob a credit union. Rich, who drove the getaway car, received a plea deal and served 3½ years. Robert was convicted and sentenced to 60



Fox Rich, left, spends 20 years campaigning for the release of her husband, Rob G. Rich, who was sentenced to 60 years in prison for a robbery they both committed, in "Time."

years in prison, a staggering sentence for a robbery in which no one was hurt. By this point, her husband has served 20 years of that sentence, and she's spent a lot of time petitioning for his release. She's also given lectures about her family's experience and the injustices of a carceral state in which Black people are grotesquely overrepresented, which she and others liken to a modern-day reconstitution of slavery.

"Time" is a patchwork of moments big and small. We see Freedom speaking in a political science debate. Justus impressing his mom with some of his college French and their older brother Remington graduating from dental school. Most of all, we see Rich gradually (though not always chronologically) coming into her own, whether she's publicly reckoning with her one-ago crime at church, taping a TV commercial for the car dealership she now runs or speaking publicly about the pain of growing older without her husband—and seeing her boys grow up without

their father.

The saddest recurring image is a silent God's-eye view of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, which is as close as we get to seeing Robert during his incarceration, apart from the life-sized cardboard cutout of him that graces the Richardsons' walls. His absence quietly haunts the movie even as it builds toward a moment of such shattering emotional force that the screen can hardly contain it; it all ruptures the surface of a movie that is already a record in fragments.

"Time" can make you weep for a hundred reasons, from joy, pain or recognition, but its wounds and its glories are finally inextricable from one of the paradoxes of moviemaking itself. Cinema can magically compress decades into hours and transform lives into narratives, but what it erects here is ultimately a monument to something irrevocable.

"Time" is rated PG-13 for some strong language. Running time: 81 minutes.

'Light Up the Sky' offers a surprisingly intimate look behind the K-pop curtain

By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Blackpink's debut album hasn't even been out for three weeks, and already the members of this K-pop girl group have the end in mind.

In fact, Jennie, Jisoo, Rose and Lisa were pondering their own obsolescence more than a year ago, as we learn in "Light Up the Sky," a new documentary about the quartet currently streaming on Netflix.

Directed by Caroline Suh (who previously helmed Netflix's hit adaptation of Samin Nosrat's cookbook "Salt Fat Acid Heat"), "Light Up the Sky" is a documentary that received performance at Coachella in 2019, where it became the first Korean girl group to play at the annual desert mega-festival.

Suh follows the women, all in their mid-20s, as they rehearse for an already watched gig, she's there as they huddle excitedly backstage seconds before showtime. And she checks in with them afterward, when Lisa tells her, "It doesn't matter if we grow old and get replaced by a new young generation, because they will still remember how we



YG, NETFLIX/NTS

Korean girl band Blackpink tells the story of the hard-fought journey of its meteoric rise in "Light Up the Sky."

shone so bright."

Kind of bleak for a group whose first LP just entered the Billboard 200 at No. 2.

And yet Suh's film makes you sympathetic to Lisa's Darwinian perspective. Even in a tidy 79 minutes, "Light Up the Sky" provides a revealing look at the ultra-competitive K-pop industry, in which girl groups and boy bands are mentored by veteran talent-spotters and put through

an intense, boarding-school-like training regimen that makes their American equivalents look lazy and unforced.

In interviews, the women recall missing out on typical teenage rituals and longing to see their families; in archival footage, we see them perfect their singing and dancing over time as they perform for rows of stony-faced executives. One clever recurring bit shows the members together

in a movie theater as they analyze each of their audition tapes as though they were old game film.

Like everything the group does, "Light Up the Sky" was produced with the cooperation of Blackpink's powerful record label, YG Entertainment; among the documentary's executive producers is YG's chief executive. So to an extent what we're seeing here, as always in pop, is a marketing effort, even the occasional moment of regret is framed as an indication of how seriously Blackpink's members take their jobs.

But the movie feels truer than many other similarly conceived pop-star docs (such as Justin Bieber's YouTube series "Seasons," for instance), and that's thanks in no small part to how compelling the women are in their professional-style interviews.

"Light Up the Sky" has its share of scenes set in frenzied shopping malls and dimly lit recording studios—fly-on-the-wall moments that demonstrate the scale of the group's success and allow fans to feel like they're being let behind the curtain. At one point, they sit with their producer, Teddy Park, as he

plays them the finished version of a song they recorded with Lady Gaga, and their gratified yet coolly professional reaction says plenty about how quickly Blackpink has ascended since debuting in 2016.

The film is most convincing, though, when Suh settles in across from her subjects and lets them talk into the camera about their experiences with homophobia, body image and the pressure to keep delivering. Jennie and Rose, who were raised partly in New Zealand and Australia, respectively, speak fluent English; Jisoo's and Lisa's interviews are subtitled.)

Given the sickly impersonal attitude that defines K-pop's public presentation, the intimacy would be surprising from any of Blackpink's peers. But it's especially remarkable in this case because Blackpink's vaguely processed empowerment anthems are among the genre's most opaque. Here you get a clear sense of each member's personality—all but impossible to find on this month's "The Album"—and of how the four relate to one another.

"Light Up the Sky" is not rated. Running time: 79 minutes.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Change of scenery

Teleworkers tired of staring at the same walls can book a hotel room for the day

By ANDREA SACHS
The Washington Post

At the Park Hyatt in Washington, D.C., I had to resist. No swaddling in the plush bathrobe. No running a hot bath. No clicking through the movie channels. No vacation-style activities.

After months of working from my apartment, staring at the same sickly plant, I wanted a change of scenery and indoor flora. So I booked a day at the hotel and turned Room 415 into my office. The reporter will see you now.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, leisure travelers typically reserved daytime stays if they had long layovers or evening flights. The hotels were often near an international airport, so guests could rest and shower before hopping on a shuttle and jetting off to their next destination. Business travelers also occupied hotels during the working hours, using the properties' conference rooms or executive suites as satellite offices. During the global crisis, however, a new type of traveler has emerged: the accidental digital nomad. To accommodate the needs of remote workers, hotels are flipping their reservation times and touting their office amenities over their R&R perks, many of which are closed or limited anyhow.

"Most hotels will be open to something like this," said John S. Fareed, managing director of North America at Horwath HTL, a consulting firm that specializes in hospitality, tourism and leisure. "Some are really going for it and promoting it. Others are going with the flow. But right now, I think this should be a priority."

Red Roof Inn was at the forefront of the

WFH trend, with the "H" standing for "hotel." The budget chain introduced its Work Under Our Roof promotion in late March. The initial deal was optimistic: It expired on May 31. The company has since extended the deadline to the end of the year. The weekday rate starts at \$39 and includes a guest room from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., local and long-distance phone calls, a fax machine, workstation and coffee maker, depending on the room. Pets are also invited, as long as your cat or dog doesn't chew the office furniture.

Since then, more properties have jumped into the carpool lane. In downtown Washington, the Hamilton Hotel's Work from Hamilton package includes a room or suite from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Starbucks breakfast, and access to the Press-Reader, a digital news source with more than 7,000 publications in 200 languages. Guests who sign up for Fig Works Perks at the Hotel Figueroa in Los Angeles receive

'Day use is still in its infancy and won't reach maturity for a couple months.'

Chip Rogers

American Hotel & Lodging Association

accommodations from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., parking, high-speed Wi-Fi, use of a copy machine, and an in-room coffee machine and refrigerator. Just imagine: No one will poach your leftover pasta salad or accuse you of leaving a dirty mug in the sink.

A few hospitality companies are going even further and proposing a lifestyle revolution. CitizenM, for one, recently unveiled two programs that might tempt you to break your lease and re-home your houseplants. With Global Passport,



ANDREA SACHS/Washington Post

The author brought her office essentials to the Park Hyatt for her work-from-hotel day: her computer and her rescue dog, Violet.

subscribers can book up to 30 consecutive days at CitizenM's 21 properties for the fixed rate of \$50 a night. (You must spend at least seven nights and no more than 29 nights in one location.) Only 1,000 passports are available, and the company has sold several hundred since its launch in late September. If you're not ready to ditch the ficus, the monthly corporate subscription plan provides workspace in any CitizenM living room, plus three nights' lodging, breakfast and three hours of meeting space, for \$600.

"These are for the more established person who has a disposable income," Cameron Sperance, who covers the hospitality industry for the news site Skift, said of the movement.

Sperance sees the recent partnership between Industrious, a workplace provider, and Proper Hospitality, a luxury lifestyle brand, as a harbinger of hotel office spaces to come. The companies are transforming Proper's suites into private work sites with features — ergonomic fur-

niture, extra monitors, cold brew coffee, gourmet snacks — as common today as the vending machines and file cabinets of yore. The pair unveiled the new concept at Proper properties in Austin, San Francisco and Santa Monica, Calif., and will roll out more reimaged rooms soon.

"The idea is to make sure that whatever you have at your office, you will have at the hotel: high-speed Wi-Fi, a separate work area with a desk, and food and beverage places that are open or nearby," said Chip Rogers, president of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. "You may want to use the pool, too."

For guests who don't want to go home after work, the industry has created the latest portmanteau — the workstation. The packages are usually located in vacation destinations, such as Las Vegas (MGM Resorts' Viva Las Office); Lake Geneva, Wis. (Grand Geneva Resort & Spa's New Week, New Office); and Key West, Fla., Orlando and Aruba (Hyatt's Work From Hyatt). To take advantage of the specials, you will most likely have to travel, and therefore know the safety requirements of the locale, plus pack more than one Zoom-appropriate top.

"An overnight doesn't count. You need to spend at least two or three nights," said Fareed, explaining the true workstation. "You might work from the pool, order a drink, go to the spa, or sit on the balcony or beach."

Unlike the workstation, most hotels do not advertise the day-use option on their websites. And those that do often omit the critical details, such as rate and availability. The Normandy Hotel in Dupont Circle says to call for more information. So I did. The front-desk employee quoted me a rate of \$124 for an overnight stay and had to put me on hold while she asked a coworker for the answer to my question. She returned with a reply: \$59.

"Day use is still in its infancy and won't reach maturity for a couple months," Rogers said.

Instead of cold-calling hotels, I tried a more organized and expedient approach: booking a room on Dayuse.com, which lists more than 6,000 hotels in 25 countries. The company, which a French hotelier founded 10 years ago, is flourishing. Since March, it has added more than 1,000 hotels, with more than half of the new properties in the United States. Reservations made by new customers has increased by 40 percent.

"The hotel-as-office trend is exploding," said Melanie Marcombe, the company's vice president of sales. "Hotels are definitely reinventing themselves."



GREG POWERS/Hyatt

A junior suite at the Park Hyatt in Washington, D.C., offers a day rate for teleworkers that's often much cheaper than an overnight.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Quirky edible treats unique to the Continent

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

My palate has come a long way from my early "Europe through the gutter" days, back when my travel diet consisted of cheap baguettes spread with peanut butter and strawberry jam packed from home. Now one of my favorite parts of travel is sampling local specialties. And I do it with abandon. From pigs' ears in Spain to horsemeat in France and spicy sheep intestines in Turkey, I make it a point to try dishes that make a menu unique — no matter how unappetizing they sound. Think of it as sightseeing for your palate.

How much you enjoy the experience depends on your attitude. "Weird" is subjective. Countries with a seafaring heritage, like the Dutch, embrace herring as a vitamin-rich food. Pickled herring is considered a classic. Having tasted this delicacy, I can say it's something you won't soon forget (no matter how hard you try).

I still remember the first time I tried pickled herring in the town of Hareid. It was on market day at a herring stand — the Dutch version of hot-dog stand — with a big sign that advertised "lecker en gezond" (delicious and healthy). The fish looked more like bait than lunch. Sensing my hesitation, Jos, the friendly herring vendor, demonstrated how to eat it. "I give you the herring Rotterdam-style. You eat it like this," he said, miming swallowing a sword. "If I chop it up and give you these," he said, pointing to the toothpicks, "this is Amsterdam-style." After my first bite, the only polite comment I could muster was, "It's salty." But the taste grew on me. As I wandered through the market, taking Amsterdam-style bites of my Rotterdam-

style herring, I felt a fishy kinship with the Dutch. As I passed his herring stand again a few minutes later, Jos hollered, "Lecker?" I responded, "En gezond!"

Most Scandinavian nations have one seafood dish that, while inedible to many people, is still cherished with a perverse



Rick Steves

but patriotic sentimentality. In Norway that's lutefisk — dried cod marinated for days in lye and water. My theory is that it's still served today to remind young Norwegians of their ancestors' suffering.

Local specialties often come from a challenging history and then become tradition. Roman cooking didn't originate in the kitchens of emperors or popes, but from the cucina povera — the home-cooking of the poor, common people. This may explain the Romans' fondness for meats the wealthy didn't bother eating. Known as the quinto quarto (fifth quarter), these were pieces like tripe, tails, brains and pigs' feet.

Scotland's national dish, haggis, also began as peasant food. Unwilling to let any part of a sheep go to waste, cooks would create a hearty meal by boiling scraps of heart, liver and lungs with herbs in stomach lining. The trick to appreciating such dishes is to think of how they taste, not what they're made of. Just like with caviar, hot dogs ... or foie gras.

Foie gras is one of France's most expensive indulgences. Because it's made from fattening the livers of geese through force-feeding, it has attracted controversy. The dish is most popular in the Dordogne region, where ages ago, locals caught geese on their migration — and found the goose livers were enlarged for the long journey (like traveling with a topped-off gas tank). And you know those French:



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONICELLI/Ricksteves.com

Scottish haggis — made of scraps such as heart, liver and lungs in stomach lining — is a well-known example of a regional treat that many foreigners aren't eager to try.

Mix those innards into the cuisine and create a new taste treat.

Speaking of innards, Turks are serious about their kokorec: chopped-up sheep intestines, often served on a sandwich as fast food. Several years ago, a rumor flew through the streets that stringent new European Union regulations would outlaw the beloved dish. Before the story was debunked, many Turks did some soul-searching and decided that if they had to choose, they'd gladly pass up EU membership for their kokorec.

Wherever I go, I find that the food that inspires such nationalism is worth a try. Eating these unusual dishes — from

Iberia's percebes (barnacles) to Venice's seppia (squid served in its own ink) to Norway's geitost (goat cheese that resembles earwax) — not only helps me feel like a temporary local, but also gets me treated like one.

Until we're all able to travel again, I hope your time at home is both "lecker en gezond."

This article was adapted from Rick's new book, "For the Love of Europe."

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

Eat your way from top to toe with these Italian specialties

Italian food is wildly popular throughout the world, but spaghetti and pizza make up only a tiny fraction of the thousands of sweet and savory dishes a visitor to Italy might wish to sample. The country acknowledges the value of its culinary traditions highly enough to grant certain products protection and safeguarding by legal means.

Regulations provide Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status to 138 products and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status to 83 types of foodstuffs. The rules set forth the geographical boundaries and methodologies by which these products may be produced. Mozzarella and Neapolitan pizza fall into a category unto themselves, with Traditional Specialty Guaranteed (TSG).

While horse meatballs and offal aren't likely to appeal to many American palates, there's much good eating to be had on today's north-to-south culinary journey.

Polesine

This historical region, which corresponds to today's Rov-

ereto in Trentino-South Tirol, is known for its Mais Bianca pasta, a specific type of corn used in the making of polenta, a boiled cornmeal dish that serves as the

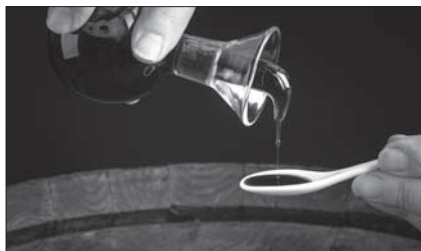


Karen Bradbury

starchy base for countless savory ingredients. Widely cultivated up until World War II, this variety of white corn was displaced by less demanding yellow varieties, but is now making a comeback. River fish, sausages, braised meats and cheese are typically served alongside this tastiest and most delicate of all types of polenta.

Modena

Aceto Balsamico di Modena and Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Reggio Emilia are types of balsamic vinegar known for their zest and silky-smooth texture. They are made from the must of certain types of grapes,



ISTOCK

Aceto Balsamico di Modena is a prized type of balsamic vinegar from the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.

which is aged in a series of barrels over the course of many years. The resulting product is a fabulous accompaniment to strawberries, risotto and even gelato. To learn more and do some sampling, head to the Museum of Traditional Balsamic Vinegar in Spilimbergo. An optimal time to visit the region is September, when producers open their doors to visitors. Other

products of the fertile Emilia-Romagna region worth sampling include Parmesan cheese, mortadella and Lambrusco wine.

Reggio Calabria

Bergamot is the knobby yellow or lime-green citrus fruit that lends its flavor to Earl Grey tea, along with icy sorbet desserts. Traditionally an ingredient in the making of perfume, today it

is also prized as a health product, with some studies linking it to lower cholesterol and protection against heart disease. Today, some 90% of the world's crop hails from this region of southern Italy. While the origin of this fruit is shrouded in mystery, some trace its appearance to Christopher Columbus, who is thought to have brought it from the Canary Islands. When driving through the toe of Italy's boot, look for groves of this aromatic fruit in coastal areas, and pick up Bergamot-infused honey and liqueurs.

Bronte, Sicily

This village on the slopes of Mt. Etna is known for its green gold, the pistachio. Grown locally on the volcanic mountain's lava soils since the arrival of the Arabs centuries back, pistachios figure prominently in the local cuisine and are found in ice creams, sauces, creams and breaded desserts. For the taste of something unique, reach for arancini, breaded and deep-fried rice balls stuffed with various fillings, among them a creamy pistachio sauce.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

Quest for the best

Recommendation-worthy cafes near Ramstein AB

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL ■ Stars and Stripes

When someone on Facebook asked for recommendations for a cafe where there were things to do nearby besides eating and drinking, nearly all the answers were for places in Kaiserslautern. So I got a compass, drew a circle with Ramstein Air Base as its center, and after consulting the Robert Koch Institute's dashboard to try to avoid red coronavirus areas, set out with a friend to test cafes off the beaten path.

Here are the results.

Cafe Lenert Blieskastel, Germany

The breakfast menu is available all day, but we ordered sandwiches. My guest chose the El Love You sandwich, which she described as "a fancy Egg McMuffin." I had the Weisser Hoefling sandwich, made with a locally produced "Camembert-style" white cheese, slices of tomatoes and cucumbers, in a dark roll with pumpkin, sesame and other seeds.

I washed down my sandwich with a coffee from Cafe da Lagoa, one of the oldest coffee growers in Brazil, the cafe says. My friend had a hot chocolate topped with a very large dollop of whipped cream.

Two of us lunched for just under 14 euros. I was glad I didn't give up when they were closed for renovations the first time I went. Tables are far enough apart to allow social distancing, and since reopening on Oct. 10, the cafe locally sources most of the ingredients in the food it serves. Customers are asked to fill in a form for contact tracing.

Address: Kardinal-Wendel-Strasse 31, 66440 Blieskastel. Half an hour from Ramstein, 40 minutes from Kaiserslautern, 50 minutes from Baumholder. Open



A Weisser Hoefling sandwich (left) and an El Love You (right), described by the customer as "a fancy Egg McMuffin" at Cafe Lenert in Blieskastel, Germany.

Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Sun. 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Parking: Turn right at the roundabout at the entrance to the town and there's a large, free parking lot. The cafe is a five-minute walk away.

Other things to do: Bring your bike. The Glan-Blies bike path passes right behind the parking lot. In one direction, it takes you back to Ramstein and in the other to Sarreguemines, France. There's also a Roman settlement nearby with an open-air museum.

Au Cafe des Delices Sarreguemines, France

Sarreguemines is in France's Grand Est region, which was the only part of France that wasn't considered a high-risk area for the coronavirus when we went in early October. That has changed — RKI now considers all of mainland France high-risk. The border is still open, though, and most people in Sarreguemines wear masks, indoors and outdoors, when we were there.

Run by two Algerian women, the cafe features North African specialties like makroun — cakes made with semolina and filled with date paste — or baklava. The day we were there, the sisters also made sweet pastries with creamy fillings including malt balls or fresh fruit.

We had a selection of North African cakes, a slice of raspberry sponge cake, and a cappuccino and a hot chocolate to drink. We should have tried the mint tea — it's a specialty of North Africa.

The cakes were just the right amount of sweet. The cappuccino could have used a little more frothy milk.

The cafe was very busy. Orders are placed at the counter and brought to your table. Customers wore face masks when walking around but removed them while seated. Staff wore them all the time. Social distancing rules were enforced. No contact tracing information was collected, but we paid by credit card, which might allow them to find us if they need to.



From left: A cappuccino, North African pastries, a raspberry sponge cake and a hot chocolate await at Au Cafe des Delices in Sarreguemines, France.

Address: 2 rue de Verdun, 57200 Sarreguemines, France. Open Tuesday to Saturday, usually 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Parking: A spot across the street cost 60 euro cents for an hour. The ticket machine took a U.S. credit card.

Other things to do: Turn right when you leave the cafe, and there are numerous specialty food and other shops in a pedestrian area. Cora is about a mile away. Sarreguemines also has a ceramics museum, and if you have your bike with you, you could ride the French part of the Glan-Blies bike path.



PHOTOS BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL/Stars and Stripes

A cappuccino at Cafe Plaisir in Saarlouis, Germany, features what looks like an elephant's head. The drink came with a chocolate-covered espresso bean.

Patisserie Antoine Bitche, France

Only the French know how to make fruit tarts like the ones we had in this cafe in the small but historic town of Bitche. Take a pastry bed, top it with confectioner's custard and crown with a circle of fresh fruit.

Orders are placed at the display case at the entrance and then brought to your table. You pay as you leave, which meant we bought a couple more pastries to go. The atmosphere was a little like what you might imagine rural France to have been like in bygone times. An old woman read the newspaper as her friends streamed in and out to talk to her, and a young couple chatted over croissants and espressos.

There's plenty of room in the cafe to stay well away from the next person, but no contact tracing information was taken. Bitche is also in the Grand Est region, which the German public health agency, RKI, raised to the highest health alert on Oct. 15.

Address: 3 Rue de Sarreguemines,



A strawberry tart and a pot of fruit tea at Patisserie Antoine in Bitche, France.

57230 Bitche, France. Under an hour from Ramstein and Kaiserslautern, just over an hour from Baumholder. Open every day except Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Parking: We found a spot up the street from the cafe and parked there for free. **Other things to do:** Take a self-guided tour of the Citadelle, which you'll see perched atop a hill in the center of town as you enter Bitche. A small indoor exhibit at the Porte de Strasbourg includes a tribute to the 100th Infantry Division, which liberated the town in 1945.

Cafe Plaisir Saarlouis, Germany

This was the cherry on the cake of my hunt for a good cuppa. It was the best cup of coffee I've had since 1991 when the Burundian agriculture minister gave me a bag of coffee beans after we'd sat together on a long flight. That East African coffee was far decades the standard by which I measured other coffee. Nothing came close — until I went to Cafe Plaisir.

The aptly named cafe — it means "cafe pleasure" — is in downtown Saarlouis at the edge of a pedestrian shopping district. They roast their own coffees, sourcing the beans directly from farms around the world.

There is a small selection of croissants and Italian pastries available to nibble on, but the focus is on coffee. I had an almond and a mocha pastry with my Peru Tunki drip coffee. The barista also gave me a cappuccino to try. Both coffees made me sink into my seat and revel in the experience. It was coffee heaven. The pastries were good, too.

The tables in the cafe were all spaced roughly six feet apart, as were those outside. The servers wore masks all the time and frequently washed their hands. You can buy bags of coffee and the Italian pastries at the cafe or online.

Address: Engelstrasse 2, 66740 Saarlouis, Germany. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Parking: There is a multi-story parking lot nearby. It cost 1.80 euros because I overran my first hour.



A pot of Peru Tunki drip coffee served with individual pots of cream and a small cookie, almond and mocha Italian pastries, a pot of sugar and a paper to fill in with contact tracing information for the coronavirus sit on a table at Cafe Plaisir in Saarlouis, Germany.

Other things to do: You could visit the city. It was founded by Louis XIV, France's Sun King who had Versailles built. He liked Saarlouis so much, he named it after himself. There's a LeClerc hypermarket just over the border in Creutzwald, France. But really, the coffee alone justifies the trip.

Of all the cafes I tried, Cafe Plaisir is the closest to Spangdahlem — about 75 minutes away. It's about 45 minutes from Ramstein and an hour from Baumholder and Kaiserslautern.

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



Katie Ferguson

Europa Park, in Rust, Germany, looks a little like Disney's Epcot in Florida and has plenty of rides to suit most everyone.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: Europa-Park-Strasse 2, 77977 Rust, Germany

TIMES

Europa-Park is open daily, from 9 a.m. until at least 6 p.m. until Nov. 8th, and then from 11 a.m. until at least 7 p.m. until Jan. 10. Closed on Dec. 24 and 25.

COSTS

Under 4 are free, children 4-11 are 47 euros, adults are 55 euros

ACCOMMODATION

Plenty to choose from in the area. Online: europark.de/en/all-hotels-camp-prices, Booking.com or airbnb.com/germany/stays

INFORMATION

More information is available at europapark.de/en

— Brian Ferguson

Europa Park's theme: fun

Short lines, coronavirus precautions greet visitors to Germany's largest theme park for the fall season

By BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

As the coronavirus resurges in Europe, the last thing many families are thinking about is a theme park vacation.

But this might be a good time to visit Europa Park in Germany.

The park is in Rust, a small town in southwestern Germany, about 2½ hours away from Kaiserslautern, between Freiburg im Breisgau and Strasbourg. It's Germany's largest theme park and is where I took my family for an early fall vacation.

We reserved a local apartment in the city rather than a hotel, as we didn't want to be cramped.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the park is limiting the number of tickets sold per day, and they are only available online.

Like any of the Disney theme parks, there are rides to suit almost everyone. The park wasn't that crowded when we visited, and I don't think we waited more than 30 minutes in line for a ride. In one day, we rode almost every roller coaster there.

The park is separated into 15 European-themed areas — like England, Italy, France and Iceland — with each section decorated to suit the country. When we went in October, there was also an American theme running through the park: Halloween decorations were everywhere.

The park has an app to guide you on your adventure. It also shows the wait times for each ride and the height and age requirements.

The Silver Star coaster, one of the largest in the park, boasts a top speed of more than 80 mph and was my favorite, but my wife thought the Wodan Timbercoaster was the best one there.

The park has plenty of rides for younger guests, too, and for parents who want to ride the big-kid rides but can't take their little kids, there's a "baby switch" pass that allows both grown-ups to ride without waiting in line each time. If your child is too small to go on the ride, you get a baby switch pass and enjoy the ride while the other parent waits



Europa Park

The Ferguson family braves the Pegasus coaster at Europa Park in Rust, Germany.

with the kids, and when your ride is over, the parent who didn't get to ride goes in through the exit and presents the pass without having to wait in line.

Masks and distancing are required in lines

and on rides, and the park has hand-washing and sanitizing stations throughout. We saw some rides being cleaned between riders.

Other things that make the park a great place to visit include that dogs are allowed and there are plenty of places that offer reasonably priced food.

The park is large, so bring comfortable shoes. We walked more than seven miles, but we were having so much fun that I didn't even notice.

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BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

The Silver Star coaster, one of the largest roller coasters in Europa Park, boasts a top speed of more than 80 mph.



Katie Ferguson

A large Norse god statue emerges from the water next to the Wodan Timbercoaster in Iceland Village at Europa Park.



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 <p>Zimblüte</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We're Open ☑ Air-Conditioned ☑ Homemade Iced Teas ☑ Sushi, Pho, & General Tso's <p>0631 58047 Welierbacher Str. 110, 67661 Einsiedelhof www.facebook.com/Zimblüte KMC</p>	 <p>BURGER KING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Dine in ☑ Take Out ☑ Delivery <p>Wiesbaden Shopping Center</p>	 <p>HOTEL RESTAURANT zum Reussenstein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Swabian Food ☑ Renowned TV chef ☑ Hotel & Restaurant <p>Kalkofenstraße 20, 71032 Böblingen Sa: 12:00-15:00, M-Su, 18:00-22:00 07031 66000 www.reussenstein.com</p>	 <p>RESTAURANT OLYMPIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We're Open ☑ Outdoor Seats ☑ 10% Off Pick-Up ☑ Reservations <p>0961 62519 Frauenrichter Str. 173, 92637 Weiden i.d.OPf. www.olympia-weiden.de</p>
 <p>Legends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Burgers/Wings/Ribs ☑ Delivery/Take-out ☑ Private Parties ☑ Sunday Brunch <p>0176 877 20 326 Am Lanzenbusch 40; 66877 Ramstein facebook.com/LegendsRamstein</p>	 <p>da NINOS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Steinofenpizza, Selbstgemachte Pasta ☑ Fleisch, Fisch und vieles mehr... ☑ Frisch und Gesund das ist unsere Küche <p>www.ristorante-daninos.de Borsigstrasse 32, 65205 Wiesbaden 06122 534 0370</p>	 <p>STADT CAFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Breakfast ☑ Lunch Specials ☑ Terrace Seating <p>M-F 8:30-18:00, Sa 9:00-18:00 Turmstrasse 6, 71083 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.dasstadtcafe.de</p>	 <p>Crazy Nates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We're Open ☑ We Deliver ☑ Taco Tuesdays ☑ Authentic Mexican Food <p>0911 384 382 66 Untere Zwinger Str 9 & Kirchenweg 38, Nuernberg www.crazynates.de</p>
 <p>burgerme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We're Open ☑ We Deliver ☑ Gourmet Burgers ☑ Many Options <p>0631 89 000 111 Plaffplatz 10; 67655 Kaiserslautern www.burgerme.de</p>	 <p>Oishii sushi & grill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Dine In ☑ Take Out ☑ Order via the iPad <p>Taunusstraße 22, 65183 Wiesbaden 0611 23835808 (reservations recommended)</p>	 <p>Hausbrauerei Mönchswasen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Brewery ☑ Beer Garden ☑ Restaurant ☑ Takeaway <p>Im Mönchgraben 30, 75397 Simmozheim M-F 17:00-23:00, Sa 16:00-Midnight, Su 11:00-22:00 07033 809030 www.moenchswasen.com</p>	 <p>Anastasia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We're Open ☑ Visa/MC ☑ Reservations ☑ Delicious Greek Specialties <p>09641 929955 Im Markwinkel 1, 92655 Grafenwöhr www.anastasia-grafenwoehr.de</p>
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 <p>Debelgianbistro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ M-Sa 16:00-23:00 ☑ Beer Garden ☑ New Location ☑ Burger Eaters Paradise <p>06374 944 0144 Jahnstrasse 30; 67686 Mackenbach facebook.com/debelgianbistro</p>	 <p>3 MOHREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Dine In ☑ Take Out ☑ Micro-Brewery ☑ Tours Available <p>Otto-Suhr-Ring 27, 55252 Wiesbaden 06134 24999</p>	 <p>3 MOHREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Turkish Food ☑ Eat In / Takeaway ☑ Daily Lunch Specials ☑ Sunday Brunch <p>M-F 11:30-15:00, 17:30-24:00 • Sa 17:30-24:00 • Su 09:30-24:00 Lange Straße 25, 71063 Sindelfingen 07031 677275 www.3mohren.com</p>	 <p>LA CORONA RESTAURANT & BAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Wine Tastings ☑ Regional Cuisine ☑ Opens Sept 24 ☑ Reservations Required <p>20 Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Platz, 91522 Ansbach Th-Sa, 18:00-10:00, or by appointment 0981 9090130 www.lacorona.de</p>

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERICA EARL/Stars and Stripes

The coffee pool at Hakone Kowakien Yunessun in Hakone, Japan, allows guests to soak in coffee brewed from hot spring water. Guests can also choose pools filled with sake, green tea or wine.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: 1297 Ninotaira, Hakone, Ashi-garashimo Bezirk, Kanagawa 250-0407. Google plus code: 62QW+W3 Hakone, Kanagawa

TIMES

Hakone Kowakien Yunessun is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. Mori no Yu is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends.

COSTS

3,500 yen, or about \$33, for both the themed pools and Mori no Yu area; 2,500 yen for just the themed pool area and 1,500 yen for just the Mori no Yu. There are also special rates for children under the age of 12 and adults over 60.

FOOD

The spa features a snack and drink bar as well as an on-site restaurant.

INFORMATION

Phone: 46-082-4126; Online: yunessun.com/global/en

— Erica Earl

A toe-tickling aromatic spa

Get a fishy foot bath, soak in a coffee pool at facility in Hakone

By ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

On a busy morning or a day where you feel drained of energy, have you ever joked about how you could just dive into a pool of coffee?

Hakone Kowakien Yunessun in misty Hakone, Japan, makes this a reality.

Billing itself as a “spa amusement park,” Hakone Kowakien Yunessun, known locally as just Yunessun, is a unique hot spring experience that features 23 different themed baths, including green tea, wine, sake and coffee pools.

The Yunessun website says these experiences are meant to emulate luxury enjoyed by the likes of Cleopatra.

The park also includes a hot tub terrace themed after the anime series “Evangelion” and an outdoor cave pool featuring a waterfall, swim-up aquariums and three water slides.

The themed baths, especially the sake and coffee ones, are incredibly aromatic. Warning signs around the pools remind visitors that they cannot actually drink their contents.

The biggest draw of the wine, sake and coffee pools is being aware of their unique contents. While placards around the spa boast that benefits of bathing in these include detoxification, rejuvenation and smoother-feeling skin, each pool, other than having varied good smells, felt very similar to one another.

The highlight of Yunessun, however, is the Dr.

Fish Foot Bath. This attraction allows guests to sit knee-deep in a pool as Garra rufa, a breed of small tropical fish, eat away at dead skin.

While the experience does not hurt, it is a strange sensation. The second your feet hit the water, dozens of the small fish get to work on your “fish pedicure.” It tickles, especially when they get between your toes or in the knee pit. The process leaves you with exfoliated skin and a lingering feeling of “what did I just experience?” It’s like a small-scale piranha attack in which the fish merely nibble rather than bite.

While this experience is fairly common around Japan, Yunessun offers a very beautiful and Instagram-worthy spot to do this, and at only one dollar per person for 15 minutes, it is inexpensive.

The themed pool section of Yunessun is swimsuit only, and tattoos must be covered. I covered mine with bandages, and that sufficed.

A nice feature of Yunessun is that guests are issued armbands that can be used to pay for food, drinks and additional services, eliminating the need to make a run back to the locker room to fetch your wallet while cold and dripping wet.

For those looking for a more traditional onsen experience, there is a nude open-air hot spring area called the Mori no Yu.

Every day at 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m., guests may watch as employees replenish the wine bath by dumping bottles of house red into the pool.

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The Dr. Fish Foot Bath at Hakone Kowakien Yunessun in Hakone is filled with small fish that will nibble dead skin off your feet and legs.



Memories with STARS AND STRIPES Pacific

Share your Memories with Stars and Stripes Pacific!

Your photos/stories will appear on the Stars and Stripes Pacific 75th Anniversary Website, 75.stripes.com.



WEEKEND: FOOD

Pacific

A guide to the quintessential Japanese drink

'The Japanese Sake Bible' will turn sake novices into experts

BY THERON GODBOLD
Stars and Stripes

For 1,000 years, rice brewed and turned into booze has generally been referred to as sake, and for three of those years, Osaka-based author Brian Ashcraft has researched the mysteries of Japan's national drink. "The Japanese Sake Bible: Everything You Need to Know About Great Sake" is the culmination of that effort.

This 256-page book, with tasting notes and a foreword by sake experts Takashi Eguchi and Richie Hawtin, blends the science, history and flavor of sake into a comprehensive reference for the beverage's enthusiasts.

"There are quite a few good books for sake beginners that introduce concepts like how it's made, the different classifications and the basic history," wrote one reviewer on Goodreads.com. "There are also very technical books that go into the chemistry and technical details of brewing and flavor. This might be the only book that is both."

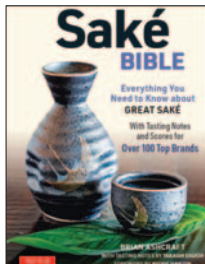
Ashcraft moved to Osaka in 2001 and has been neck deep in the culture ever since. He has authored several deep dives into that culture, including "Japanese Tattoos: History, Culture, Design" and "Japanese Whisky: The Ultimate Guide to the World's Most Desirable Spirit."

"When I was a kid, we had a sake set," he told Stars and Stripes during a recent phone interview. "It was in the bar next to



Photos by Tuttle Publishing

"The Japanese Sake Bible: Everything You Need to Know About Great Sake" is a comprehensive reference for the beverage's enthusiasts.



my mom's German beer stein: I thought it was a striking contrast and it put sake on my radar."

In 2005, Ashcraft began to frequent sake breweries, where he noticed variations in each type of sake, fostering a curiosity about

how brewers found many tastes and textures from a grain of rice.

"I've always been interested in the science and history of drinks," he said. "More stuff has to go right with sake than with whisky."

Ashcraft also dismisses comparisons of sake to beer or wine. "Even though the comparisons have existed for centuries and continue today, sake is not rice wine (nor is it related to any distilled drink like whisky)," he writes in the book. "It's not rice beer either. Sake is sake. There is nothing like it."

Ashcraft discovered an aphorism among sake brewers that addressed the comparison of sake to wine: "Eighty percent of wine is the grapes, but 80 percent of sake is the brewer."

"When you drink sake, you understand the intent of those making it," he said.

Ashcraft recommends that sake aficionados visiting Japan should ask for a recommendation from servers when eating out, and if they discover a taste they like, to remember the brand.

Americans have a widespread literacy for beer, Europeans have the same for wine and spirits, but Westerners are at a loss, generally, in their knowledge of sake. Ashcraft hopes his book and others like it will expand palates of those unfamiliar with the drink. "The Japanese Sake Bible" is available for \$17.99 from Tuttle publishing, and can also be downloaded for about \$14.

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Premium Yamada Nishiki is a sake rice that grows in the Hyogo prefecture of Japan.



Sake brewers at the Kiku Masamune in Nada, Japan, make kimoto-style yeast starter used in making sake.

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WEEKEND: BOOKS

Growth of a comedian

Seinfeld's new book is 'map' of road he took on comedic journey

By DONALD LIEBENSON
Special to The Washington Post

“Seinfeld” proudly proclaimed to be a show about nothing. Is *This Anything?*, Jerry Seinfeld’s first book in almost three decades, is about everything. It’s about childhood, teenhood, adulthood and parenthood. It’s about bumper cars and dry cleaning, magicians and supermarket checkout rubber dividers, marriage and the zip line.

“Is This Anything?” is a decade-by-decade collection of ideas Seinfeld initially wrote out longhand on yellow legal pads; anything he meticulously and doggedly crafted, worked and honed in front of audiences until they became something, and those somethings became his act. “These pages,” he writes, “are the map of the forty-five-year-long road I’ve been on to become this odd, unusual thing that is the only thing I ever really wanted to be.”

Is This Anything?
Jerry Seinfeld



He became one of those people “who killed themselves to keep coming up with great new material, who were able to keep rising through the many levels.”

But in the beginning is the idea. This book takes its title from the question he says, that every comedian asks other comedians about the comic viability of a new bit.

He notes that he has saved all his material and stored it in accordion files. One of George Carlin’s classic bits concerned finding a place for one’s stuff. This is Jerry’s stuff, and the place he found was this book.

His signature bits are here, including his musings on the life of a sock (“Laundry day is their only chance to escape”), plane travel (“They show you how to use a seat belt in case you haven’t been in a car since 1965”) and a commercial for improved Tide (“I think if you have a T-shirt with bloodstains all over it, maybe laundry isn’t your biggest problem right now”).

“Is This Anything?” is not a memoir along the lines of Steve Martin’s “Born Standing Up,” but it does serve as Seinfeld’s “This Is Your Last Laugh” with jokes instead of trotting out distant relatives and former teachers.

Bit by bit, we chart his growth as a master joke craftsman. Decade by decade, we follow his life journey, viewing the world through his perspective of what he found to be funny.

In the ‘70s, he jokes about childhood, parents, his first wallet and Cub Scouts. In the ‘80s, there are bits about airplanes and hotels, reflecting his rising star status following his breakthrough on Johnny Carson’s “The Tonight Show.” (“Comedians talked about getting on Johnny Carson like Dorothy talked about going home,” he writes.)

By the 20-teens, he reflects: “You were a single, bachelor guy for 45 years. Then you turned on a dime. Marriage-wifekids-family.”

The bits are presented in their polished form. It might have been instructive for aspiring comedians had Seinfeld illustrated how he took an idea and worked it until it was where he wanted



Netflix

Jerry Seinfeld's new memoir, "Is This Anything?," is a decade-by-decade journey through the ideas that, once honed, became part of his comedy acts.

it to be. But they will learn some lessons through the way Seinfeld finds fresh takes on well-trod topics.

For example, airline food has probably been fodder for comedians since the Wright brothers took off from Kitty Hawk. But Seinfeld focuses on less-considered flight experiences, even putting a positive spin on the airplane bathroom: “I just like that little room. It’s like your own little apartment on the plane, isn’t it? You go in, close the door, the light comes on after a second. It’s like a little surprise party.”

Seinfeld’s keen-eyed encapsulations of the minutiae of daily life are a testament to the old saw about how in the specific there is the universal. We’ve all been to the pharmacist but perhaps never thought, “Why does the pharmacist always have to be two and a half feet higher than everybody else?” That is Seinfeld’s job.

Retelling of Free Town Project’s story like a Coen brothers movie

By REID FORGRAVE
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Every once in a while, a book comes along that is so darkly comedic, with such a defined sense of place and filled with characters that range from the fascinating to the bizarre to the earnest, that partway through reading, it hits you: This has got to become a Coen brothers movie.

That is the feeling you get when flipping through the pages of Vermont-based

journalist Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling’s first book, “A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear: The Utopian Plot to Liberate an American Town (and Some Bears).” It’s the true story of a group of libertarians who decided to create the libertarian ideal — a town without government

— in Grafton, N.H., a spread-out wilderness with one paved road, in 2004.

It was a grand social experiment. The town had a long tradition of being libertarian-friendly, but nothing like this. Libertarians moved there from around the nation. Public funding for everything disappeared while a tent city sprang up in the woods. Tempers flared between true-believer no-government types and long-time residents — the sheriff, the librarian, and even the fire chief, who happened to be a core member of the Free Town Project himself. Eventually, tragedies struck.

What appeared on online chat forums to be the founding of a libertarian utopia ended in a governmentless debacle that nearly destroyed the small town. Though it turns out that in New Hampshire, where the government has a critical role in containing the bear population, bears adored the newfound freedoms that libertarianism afforded them. The bear population blossomed, and began to maraud the locals — at times with terrifying results.

Hongoltz-Hetling is a master of the turn of phrase. His voice is breezy and critical, with a finely tuned eye aimed at the absurdities as well as at the earnestness of the Free Town Project. He’s an accomplished reporter who was once a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and as he takes you on the journey, you can feel the threatening moments when the libertarians would clearly rather this reporter guy just went away.

His characters are unlike any you’ve ever come across: The libertarian who purchases an old church as his home and then, to avoid paying taxes, starts his own libertarian church. The woman known online as Dr. Doughnut Lady who fed hundreds of doughnuts to the friendly neighborhood bears. The four Free Town Project founders who, “fortified by alcohol, tobacco and firearms,” drove around in the state of New Hampshire in a van in winter, debating true freedom before they finally identified the town that would become their utopia for true freedom.

The character portrayals are what make this book. Some characters are lovable; some are annoyingly pretentious and political; some are pretty scary.

Needless to say, the experiment that was the Free Town Project did not work. But the only-in-America tale makes for a great read, and, sometimes hopefully, an even better Coen brothers film.



WEEKEND: BOOKS



Lenny Kravitz, shown in 2004, has written a new memoir. "Let Love Rule" explores Kravitz's childhood and ends with him on the verge of stardom.

BALANCING EXTREMES

Kravitz's new memoir tells of journey in accepting himself, how he grew up

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Lenny Kravitz is a man of extremes — as he readily admits. "I am deeply two-sided: black and white, Jewish and Christian, Manhattan and Brooklynite," he writes about his first 25 years alive in his new memoir "Let Love Rule," released this month and named after his 1989 debut album.

"The book is about me finding my voice and finding my path and walking into my destiny, whatever that is," he tells The Associated Press.

The 270-page book written with David Ritz explores his childhood and ends with Kravitz on the verge of stardom and deeply in love with actress Lisa Bonet.

"I had such a childhood and experience growing up. That's what I want to spend my time on," he says. "So let's stop there. And then we'll see if there'll be a second book in the future."

The young Kravitz alternated between the then-tough Brooklyn neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant and a swanky building with carved cherubs on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He ate chopped liver on matzo as well as fried fish coated with cornmeal.

The extremes continued during his life. For his sixth birthday, he was serenaded by Duke Ellington and his band at the famed Rainbow Room. Years later, his home was a Ford Pinto, which he rented for \$4.99 a day.

"The extremes really work for me. I felt them. I'm comfortable living in a car or a box or a tent or a trailer, and I'm comfortable living in a mansion," he says. "The middle — obviously, that's fine, too. But what I'm saying is I don't feel it the same way. It doesn't feed me the same way. I like balancing extremes."

Kravitz, 56, dedicated the book to his mother, actress Roxie Roker, who was best known for her role in "The Jeffersons" as Helen Willis, half of one of TV's first interracial couples.

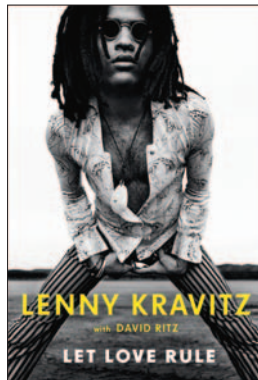
TV producer Sy Kravitz, his father and a former military man, was strict with the younger Kravitz. Dad and son would frequently clash.

The younger Kravitz says writing about his father was healing.

"Any judgment that I had began to dissolve as I was looking at him with these fresh eyes and open heart," he says. "Any of those harsh feelings that I had went away and I began to actually love my father in a different way that I didn't get to love him when he was alive."

Kravitz has the look and sound of a rock god, with a stripped-down style of straight-ahead rock 'n' roll that earned him Grammy Awards four years in a row, from 1999 to 2002.

But he's not afraid to show a sillier side in the book, like the first — and last time he got drunk, which was with a bottle of Manischewitz, or getting busted once for shoplifting five KISS cassettes.



Ritz, the co-writer, complimented Kravitz for being so hands-on throughout the years it took to finish the book. He says his co-writer was open and ready to explore anything.

"He's got a lot of courage. The thing about Lenny, artistically and personally, he's just a man of great courage," Ritz says. Writing it together was "like being in a studio where you're jamming."

Kravitz's musical influences emerge as Prince, Michael Jackson, Earth Wind & Fire and David Bowie, who inspired Kravitz to get color-changing contact lenses. The book also explores Kravitz's spirituality and his experience of being born again.

His first band was Wave — "the Gap Band meets the Jacksons meets Rick James meets Shalamar meets The Time." They had fog machines and sound effects, an elaborate light show and a staggering 15 members.

On the romance front, he dated Tisha Campbell of "Martin" and met his now-ex-wife, Bonet, at a New Edition concert.

"I like your hair," he told her. In the book he admitted, "It was a lame line. Their blossoming relationship ends the book."

"It was like she was the female version of me, and in seeing her, I was able to see myself," he writes.

Kravitz writes that his first 25 years was a mission to find his true, authentic self. He turned down record deals that put him in a box and he even created an alter ego — named Romeo Blue — because he didn't think he was cool enough at the time.

"Part of this book is about me accepting myself as Lenny Kravitz, as this half-black, half-Jewish kid that had this experience," he says. "One of the wonderful gifts that one could give themselves in this life is to accept yourself."

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Q&A

'I am a witness to history'

Not content to live in the past, Jon Bon Jovi releases his most socially conscious album to date, '2020'



DREW GURMAN, INVISION/AP

Jon Bon Jovi poses for a portrait in New York on Sept. 23 to promote his new album, "2020," which touches on hot-button topics without attempting to be political.

BY JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

Jon Bon Jovi has been churning out love songs and arena anthems for nearly 40 years, but his latest release, "2020," has taken his music to another level.

It's Bon Jovi's most socially conscious album to date. Calling the collection a "moment in time," he references COVID-19, the killing of George Floyd, the 2019 Dayton shooting, PTSD of returning soldiers and other issues concerning the 58-year-old rocker.

But tackling hot-button topics can be divisive, especially with fans on both sides of the political aisle. Bon Jovi says that's not his intention.

"I am a witness to history, and if I took that position throughout the project, I didn't think it would be political. I thought it would be social commentary," Bon Jovi said.

He defended his approach saying, "nowhere along this line does it say, you know, left, right, red, blue, black, white."

Originally set for a spring release, the album was delayed, and a tour was canceled because of the pandemic. That gave him more time to reflect on the world around him. That period added "Do What You Can," a tribute to those fighting COVID-19, and "American Reckoning," which was an emotional response to hearing Floyd calling out for his mother as a police officer knelt on his neck.

"My eyes welled up with tears and I couldn't help but go in my room and try to write a song," he said.

Proceeds from the single will support the Equal Justice Initiative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Review: Bon Jovi livin' on lots of prayers with mature '2020'

This is not your momma's Bon Jovi.

Tommy and Gina aren't wild in the streets anymore. It's 2020, and these days, no one's having a nice day as a virus kills hundreds of thousands of citizens,

black people die at the hands of police and millions remain out of work.

Bon Jovi, the Jersey Boys who have always radiated a sunny, we-got-this optimism, have a new album named after the dismal year in which we all find ourselves. And despite kicking off with a song insisting that life is "Limitless," there's evidence aplenty on successive tracks that things feel pretty darn limited right now.

These songs are not meant to be shouted out as one under the stars in a New Jersey football stadium on a hot summer night.



Bon Jovi

2020 (Island)

They chronicle pain, loss, fear and death from the coronavirus, police killings and mass shootings. They're about the struggles of first responders and hospital workers, military members grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder and how the media covers one mass shooting and quickly moves on to the next "before we can even grieve."

"American Reckoning" deals with the death of George Floyd in police custody, and "Do What You Can" is about surviving the coronavirus pandemic a day at a time.

To his credit, Jon Bon Jovi gets that releasing an album of "let's go to the shore and party" songs would be utterly tone-deaf in a year when there are so many literal life-and-death issues playing out.

His answer: Love, love and more love. "Bad Medicine" has given way to "Beautiful Drug," a song about how love is the cure that, in the absence of a vaccine, we need more now than ever.

— Wayne Parry
Associated Press

WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEW

FROM PAGE 32

Bon Jovi shared his thoughts on these tumultuous times during an interview with The Associated Press. He also spoke about the weakness of the band's recent live performance in Nashville, whether he plans to tour on the senior circuit like Bruce Springsteen or Mick Jagger and why he sees hope in the next generation.

AP: During a lockdown, a lot becomes evident. Where have you found hope?

Bon Jovi: I have a son who graduated high school this year, now as a freshman at college, and he's not having any of the experiences that other kids would have had. But out of that, what I really believe in my soul is that those kids who were born out of 9/11 and graduate school in a pandemic are going to be the ones that are the innovators, the creators, the ones that are going to fix the mess that old guys like me and you left them. And I think that they're gonna be the ones that don't give a damn about the color of your skin or your sexual orientation.

Did you have any concerns when writing about George Floyd in "American Reckoning"?

Even though we have the foundation and I've built affordable housing for 15 years from Newark to Camden to Philly to Georgia to LA, I don't pretend to know what it's like to walk a mile in his shoes. And so, I made sure I wrote that down. If there's a such thing as white privilege, then obviously I fit that profile: A white, older, affluent man who happens to also be a celebrity. I never had to have "the talk," you know. And so, I made sure I wrote that down. And all of this, I had to make sure I got right.

You had to cancel your tour but were recently able to play at the iHeartRadio Music Festival, which was without fans. What was that like?

I honestly said, "Of course, I'm a consummate pro. I'll look down the lens. I'll smile on cue. I'll be great. Don't worry, babe. We're ready to go." I watched the performance. Yeah, I hit all the notes, but I look at it and I go—I see what's missing. You know, that genuine—all the sweat and smile and twinkle in my eye because I was performing for a camera. It was lonely.

What has kept it fresh for you as you continue to evolve as a creator and a performer?

My aspirations, even at 25, were not to be 50 years old and pretending to be 25. So I had no desire to do that then, nor do I now. And I can sit here in front of you with gray hair and say (expletive), it is who I am. I'm 58 years old. I guarantee somebody somewhere will say, "This is dreck, and it doesn't sound like 'Livin' on a Prayer.'" It shouldn't sound like "Livin' on a Prayer." That was then. God bless that moment in time. But I didn't want to be that guy. I was that kid that said, "This is not what I want to be now. It's not fair to me and the process. Bruce is gonna go on the road, he's 72. Jagger's out there—110 (laughs). So the world's changed."

Do you see yourself hitting the road in the golden years?

No, I don't, to be honest with you. I am waiting for the day Mick Jagger finally says enough for one reason: that I want to know where the end zone is.



Danny Clinch

Reason to believe

Springsteen back on E Street with life-affirming new album

By DAN DELUCA
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Bruce Springsteen and his stalwart E Street Band were last seen together on a 2016 tour that included two four-hour dates at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia that were the longest marathons he's ever played.

Since then, Springsteen, now 71, has been in contemplative, career-summation mode. He published his "Born To Run" memoir and converted it into the solo acoustic theater piece "Springsteen on Broadway." Last year, he released "Western Stars," an underrated stylistic departure that dipped into early 1970s country-rock melancholy.

The one thing Springsteen hadn't given fans lately is what they treasure most: Songs recorded with the E Street Band that turn up the volume in pursuit of communal catharsis and show a little faith that, even this far along in a nearly 50-year journey, there is still magic in the night.

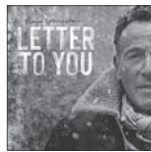
With "Letter to You" (Columbia), released Friday, Springsteen once again gives his audience reason to believe, with a set of robust songs that showcase his lifelong fellow travelers in all their rugged glory. He's back on E Street making bighearted music constructed to fill arenas and stadiums.

But the album, his first release of mostly new material with the band in eight years, doesn't go in for easy affirmation. Nearly all its songs are haunted by death as Springsteen mourns brothers in arms lost over the years, or revels in the worldly grace of a lover's touch or the sound of a Ben E. King song on the radio. It chases salvation, but knows that time is short.

The title cut rumbles with instant familiarity: Max Weinberg's pounding drums, Roy Bittan's piano embellishments, soaring saxophone from Jake Ellomus, stepping into the role that his uncle Clarence played until his death in 2011.

"Ghosts," the second single on the album—which was recorded live in Springsteen's home studio in New Jersey in less than a week last November—is even more emphatic in its swaggering celebration of joining comrades in the shared purpose of slaying an audience. "Count the band in and then kick into overdrive," Springsteen sings. "By the end of the set we leave no one alive."

If those songs gave the impression that "Letter to You" might play out like a sin-



Bruce Springsteen

Letter to You (Columbia)

gular exercise in the kind of we're-all-in-this-together uplift that fans have every reason to yearn for in 2020, well, the truth is a little more complicated than that.

"Letter to You" does deliver the forthright emotionalism

you would expect from a Springsteen album that includes a song titled "Land of a Thousand Guitars."

But the album—which includes three songs written in the 1970s—comes by its life-affirming urgency only after paying respects to those that have been lost, and facing the reality that the clock is ticking on Springsteen and his bandmates.

It begins by looking death in the eye on a song called "One Minute You're Here" that doesn't seem like it belongs on an E Street Band album at all.

Instead, it sounds like it wandered over from a Springsteen solo project like 2005's "Devils & Dust," with acoustic guitar and grizzled vocal over a somber synthesizer. It concerns existence itself. "One minute you're here," the Boss muses. "Next minute you're gone."

With that theme established, the track "Letter to You" comes thundering in, landing squarely on rock-solid, reassuring E Street ground. It's about Springsteen's lifelong compulsion to connect: "I took all the sunshine and rain, all my happiness and all my pain... And I sent it in a letter to you."

The songwriting burst for the "Letter to You" album was inspired by the 2018 death of George Thies, frontman for the Castles, Springsteen's first band, who played together from 1965 to 1968.

Along with the absence of both Clarence Clemons and original E Street keyboardist Danny Federici (who died in 2008), Thies's death haunts "Letter to You."

His presence is felt in "Ghosts" and also "Last Man Standing," which Springsteen wrote after realizing he was the only Castle still alive.

"These songs reminded me of a debt that I still owed to my Freehold brothers in arms," he says in "Bruce Springsteen's Letter to You," the Thom Zimny-directed

black-and-white documentary airing on Apple TV+.

And in a heartening moment for those hoping that singer and band will stick together "till death do us part, Springsteen at one point in the film proclaims: "We're taking this thing till we're all in a box."

Going back to his beginnings also led Springsteen to revisit unreleased material. One of those songs, "Janey Needs a Shooter," was originally written for "Darkness on the Edge of Town" in 1978, and later adapted by Warren Zevon. It's a powerful, brooding rocker that plays to the band's strengths, then and now.

The real revelations are "If I Was the Priest" and "Songs for Orphans," two songs recorded as verbose, strummy demos when Springsteen was in his "New Dylan" phase before his 1973 "Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J." debut.

"Priest" and "Orphans" inject "Letter" with wildcat energy. For all the fullness of the E Street wall of sound on the newly written songs, they tend to settle into similar, not-too-fast tempos, and get sluggish at times.

"Priest" and "Orphans" quicken the pulse, and show Springsteen exploring themes that continued to concern him his entire career: the search for faith and value of community. He's talking back and forth to himself across generations, with florid cascades of language that contrast with his current, terse style. Plus, and to their harmonica codas, they sound like really good Dylan songs.

"Letter to You" largely avoids topicality. A full set of anti-Donald Trump anthems "would be the most boring album in the world," Springsteen told Rolling Stone.

Still, "Rainmaker," whose composition predates Trump's presidency, is clearly included to speak to the moment: "Rainmaker says white's black and black's white, says night's day and day's night," he sings as the band slams in hard. "Sometimes folks need to believe in something so bad... they'll hire a rainmaker."

There's a heartrending moment in the "Letter to You" film where the old friends—not knowing COVID-19 would shut their 2020 down—raise a toast to the road, looking forward to once again communing with fans all over the world.

Now, who knows when that can happen again. Until then, "Letter to You's" songs of community and faith will have to sustain us on their own.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

By Geoff Edgers
The Washington Post

Sarah Cooper got the message from someone named Robin late in September. By now, the news was out: Cooper, who had gone from playing a pizza place in January to chatting with Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris by July, was getting her own Netflix special. And a series at CBS. She had already guest-hosted "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and been declared Oscar-worthy by Cher.

But Robin was annoyed. The breakneck pace of this amazing rise has cut into Cooper's TikTok production. In fact, it had been two months since she had posted one of her lip-sync takedowns of President Donald Trump.

"I understand you are working on your Netflix thing, and I get that it will bring you more money," Robin wrote on Facebook. "But is it really all that's important? We need you to stay in his face during this critical time. Netflix will wait for you — trust me."

Most anybody in Cooper's position would click delete. What did she owe a stranger direct-messaging her on social media? But Cooper kept the note.

All summer, a collection of nagging Robins has filled her inbox. The requests inspire guilt, anxiety and a sense of duty to deliver.

"She takes it very literally, as if she was working at a restaurant and someone ordered soup," says Jeff Palm, her husband.

That is the curse of being a viral phenomenon and just about the only good thing in a year mired in isolation, racial unrest and political conflict. That curse is also about being Sarah Cooper, whose biting wit is matched only by her genuine desire to not let anyone down.

A day after Robin's cranky note, a new Cooper video debuted.

Filed in their apartment, "How to Drugs" is a 64-second lip-sync masterpiece set to a recent Trump interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

The president speculates that Democratic nominee Joe Biden used performance enhancers to boost his debating chops.

As she performs, Cooper — a 42-year-old Black woman playing a 74-year-old white president — opens a baggie containing a white substance and proceeds to messily half-smort, half-bathe herself in the powder.

Three million people watched the clip within hours of its release.

"There's no mimicry," says Cher, who has been a fan since catching a Cooper clip in April. "And yet you believe this young girl with long black hair and whatever she's wearing and no makeup and kind of sitting around her house. She's a Lee Strasberg kind of girl," a reference to the founder of the legendary acting school.

Harris has also been mesmerized by the performances. They led her to read Cooper's pre-TikTok satirical management books, including "How to be Successful Without Hurting Men's Feelings" and "100 Tricks to Appear Smart in Meetings."

"She has figured out the significance of packaging," Biden's running mate says by phone. "Because packaging is an exterior. A package can look any way, but it literally has nothing to do with what's inside the box."

Harris pauses. "What she does really is profound," she said. "What if it was a Black woman, Trump's age, who parted the protesters and went link by link to the front of a boarded-up church to hold up a Bible and speak the words that were spoken? Would the response have been different than when Donald Trump did it? That's the brilliance of what she's done. There are so many layers." In a world where teenage gamers become instant multimillionaires, Cooper

Making others take notice

Comedian Sarah Cooper says her talents stretch beyond TikTok's 60-second videos



CELESTE SLOMAN/For the Washington Post

is the strangest kind of overnight star: She has earned a master's degree, written three books and developed more than a casual understanding of John Maynard Keynes. She was in her 30s before she did her first stand-up set, and spent the bulk of her adult life working at tech companies, most recently Google, where she led the team that redesigned the company's popular word-processing program, Google Docs.

Before April, Cooper's frustration

with her comedy career found her even considering a return to Google. Her books had been moderately successful, and there was another, on Zoom culture, being discussed. But she couldn't get on the festival program of Just For Laughs, the annual comedy showcase in Montreal, never mind score a late-night television appearance.

"People were returning phone calls," says Chris Burns, her manager. "It's just that they didn't have a fire lit under their

a — that we have to make something with this person."

At Google, Cooper had been making roughly \$150,000 by the time she quit in 2014. Palm, whom she met at the company, had been the breadwinner ever since.

"And my mom, who is very traditional, was making me feel guilty," Cooper says. "Like, 'Wait, so you don't cook. You don't have a job. He works all day, and he comes home, and there's no food because you don't shop, either?' And so I was thinking, you know what, if nothing else happens this year, I'll go back to Google."

Then, while listening to an April 14 news conference, Cooper heard something in the way the president talked about organizing a group to deal with the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"I'm going to call it a committee, and we're going to make decisions," Cooper recalls him saying. "You know, that whole thing."

"This is a guy in a meeting who has no idea what he's saying. And I (decided I) want to be that guy. And that was it."

She posted a very simple, 11-second clip, "How to Leadership," on TikTok. Cooper estimates it got about 50,000 views when she first shared it.

The breakthrough came two weeks later, after Trump's infamous news conference about the potential benefit of injecting COVID-19 patients with disinfectant. This time, Cooper added multiple camera angles, props — a lamp, a spray bottle of Mrs. Meyer's — and played a second character.

On April 23, she published the 49-second "How to Medical."

That night, Katie Morrissey, a comedian friend, opened Twitter and saw the clip exploding. It would eventually be downloaded by 25 million people. Jerry Seinfeld retweeted it.

Comedian and former "Saturday Night Live" star Maya Rudolph also saw the video. She hadn't heard of Cooper before. She was hooked.

"It's weird how things hit at exactly the right time sometimes," Rudolph says. "It's the thing we all needed and the thing we all wanted to digest. And it just happened to take this brilliant, talented person, who does something else, to do it."

After that first TikTok video went viral last spring, Cooper had a conversation with Burns.

"Is this Trump stuff, like, a one-off?" she remembers asking him. "How does this fit in with what I've been doing?"

"And then it was this lightweight moment: Wait, I've been making fun of him from sleek business gurus my entire life. This is what I should have been doing the entire four years."

There is a tinge of regret in her voice, as if all of this success could have started in the days of Sean Spicer. But there is also the flip side, that she's become popular for a very specific, viral bit when her actual ambitions stretch well beyond the less than a minute allowed on TikTok.

"You know, I have this image in my head," says Cooper, who despite her childhood ambition to become an actress and her performances in high school plays, listened to the advice of her father. "I did not pursue theater in college. Instead she studied economics and later earned a master's in digital media but did take the occasional theater class while focusing on her regular job. "I'm getting onstage after this is over and starting to do my act, and then somebody in the back is yelling out, 'We want to hear Trump!' Part of this is you get famous for one thing, but then you're like, 'oh well, there's other things I can do.'"

Rudolph and Natasha Lyonne, the "Russian Doll" star, are giving her a chance to show those other things Oct. 27, when Netflix premieres Cooper's first special, which they produced and Lyonne directed.

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WEEKEND: TELEVISION

FROM PAGE 34

It is not your standard Netflix comedy show. For one thing, "Sarah Cooper: Everything's Fine" is not stand-up. The special is a darkly hilarious and political sketch show filmed on the COVID-claustrophobic set of a fictitious morning program hosted by a needy and desperately cheery character named Sarah Cooper.

Cooper, Lyonne and Rudolph recruited a slate of A-listers — the full cast is being kept under wraps by Netflix, but it includes Marisa Tomei as the Devil, Jon Hamm as MyPillow's CEO and Fred Armisen as her socially distanced producer — to capture the year that broke us.

"Obviously Sarah is such a revelation," Lyonne says. "What she was able to transmit through those videos was something that we were all feeling so keenly — that sort of soul sickness.

Jokes are really the closest thing we've got to a life preserver for sanity, because how else do you make sense of a riddle like the one we find ourselves in?"

It took a pandemic and some TikTok tutelage from her young nephews to spark Cooper's breakthrough. But her take on Trump was not dumb luck. It's easily trackable to her three years at Google as a smiling, agreeable, productive participant of boardroom America.

As she dutifully did her job, Cooper was also taking detailed notes on how the fake-it-till-you-make-it-rose to the top. Targeting Trump, whom she considers the king of the bluffer-buffoons, made perfect sense.

"There is almost a social justice aspect to this," says comedian friend Morrissey. "She's been seeing people like Trump do this for years, all these guys who have bulked up their ways into positions of power."

Cooper knows what Trump has meant to her career. That doesn't mean she's OK with him staying in the White House to provide her with more material.

At the Democratic National Convention in August, Cooper delivered a lip-synched Trump raging about mail-in voting before speaking directly to the audience, in her own voice, to urge people to cast their ballots.

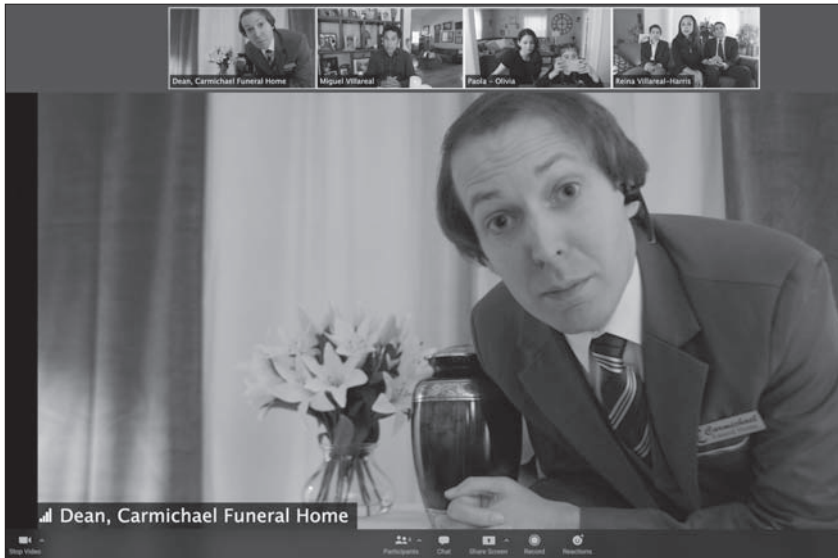
"It's your vote. It's your right," she said. "Don't let Donald Trump take this away from you."

And Cooper is well-positioned for a post-Trump universe.

In August, CBS signed on to adapt "How to Be Successful Without Hurting Men's Feelings" into a sitcom. Cooper will work with Cindy Chupack, a writer and executive producer on "Sex and the City" and "Modern Family."

As Election Day approaches, Cooper doesn't pause when asked if she will miss doing her TrumpToks.

"No," she says. "I think if I'm doing it, it's not because I feel like we need to get rid of him, maybe without all that pressure, maybe it will be fun. But this has given me the career that I have. I just feel like now I get to say all this other stuff and I tell all these other stories and do all these other things. That's what I'm excited about."



One of the episodes of Netflix's quarantine-era show, "Social Distance," explores the concept of a Zoom funeral.

Roller coaster reality

Netflix show a 'time capsule' for realities of quarantine life

By KATE FELDMAN
New York Daily News

Netflix's new anthology series, "Social Distance," unfolds chronologically, but aims to be a "time capsule" for the roller coaster reality of quarantine and unrest, its creator says.

"It's not about the pandemic, per se," Hilary Weisman Graham said of the coronavirus-era show, which premiered Oct. 15. "It's about people experiencing life during social distancing ... just capturing human stories."

"It's a time capsule for when this crazy period of time is someday over, something right now (in which) people could see a piece of themselves," adds the "Orange Is the New Black" writer and producer. "We all are experiencing so many emotions and so much intensity, the roller coaster that's happening on a daily basis."

"Social Distance" begins as the coronavirus shutdowns take effect, with a barber (Mike Colter) attending virtual Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. It progresses as the calendar flips: to a Zoom funeral; to a home nurse (Danielle Brooks) who keeps an eye on her 6-year-old daughter through a video security system; to a group of teens livestreaming and FaceTiming, their lives barely unopened by being stuck at home.

The eight-episode show ends with "When They See Us" alum Asante Blacklock, 18, and his real-life dad fighting about how to protest.

Each episode is supposed to represent a different stage of quarantine. "Social Distance" isn't the first such coronavirus-themed show, however.

'I really just hope that people watch this show and see their lives and experiences reflected and have some catharsis in these crazy times. At the end of the day, these stories are important to humanity. They help us process our own emotions and our own reality.'

Hilary Weisman Graham
creator of "Social Distance" on Netflix

Freeform's "Love in the Time of Corona," HBO's "Coastal Elites" and NBC's "Connecting" — all preceded it. Each has called itself a time capsule, but each looks a little different and tells a different story.

Black's episode, the season finale, is perhaps the angriest, written after George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer May 25.

Playing a teenager trying to skip out of work to join his girlfriend at an anti-police brutality protest, Black's character, Corey, finds himself at odds with his boss (played by the young actor's real-life dad, Ayize Ma'at) about how to fight systemic racism.

For Corey, it's rallies and signs and hashtags. For his boss, it's about succeeding as a self-made Black man.

It's two sides of the same coin, Black said.

"You can't get out of the matrix if you don't realize you're in the matrix," Black said. "You can't step outside of this horror movie you're living inside of unless you

realize it. This is one of the biggest social movements that has ever taken place in this country. We have a responsibility to make sure this never happens again."

It's a commentary Black also voiced two years ago in an interview with *The News*, when he played Kevin Richardson in "When They See Us," Ava DuVernay's story of the now-exonerated Central Park Five.

"We've made mistakes in the past; the biggest mistake was electing the man who's in office right now," Black said of President Trump. "If we would have showed out more, we wouldn't be in this. If the presidency went the other way, where would we be? I don't think the pandemic would be as severe, don't think racial tensions would have been as tight. We see where we made those mistakes and now we have to continue reminding people not to do it again."

"Social Distance" also explores adjustment to the new reality, like in "A Celebration of the Human Life Cycle" about a Zoom funeral. "Zero Feet Away" immerses itself in the story of a couple trying to avoid their marital issues with a threesome. "Humane Animal Trap" finds a man (Dylan Baker) trying to enjoy retirement until his wife (real-life wife Becky Ann Baker) is drafted back to work as a nurse on the medical frontline of the pandemic.

"We wanted to find stories about the specific of the universality. They're stories that are so unique to this time," Weisman Graham said. "I really just hope that people watch this show and see their lives and experiences reflected and have some catharsis in these crazy times. At the end of the day, these stories are important to humanity. They help us process our own emotions and our own reality."

WEEKEND: HEALTH AND FITNESS

JAW BREAKER

Pandemic stress is causing an increase in teeth grinding, clenching

BY BETHANY AO

The Philadelphia Inquirer

When Kate Faith was laid off in March at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, her stress levels skyrocketed. She worried about making ends meet as a single parent to her 1-year-old daughter and about her family and friends catching the virus. The 37-year-old's sleep worsened, and the additional stress caused Faith's longtime habit of grinding her teeth and clenching her jaw to intensify.

"I've been dealing with clenching my jaw and grinding my teeth on and off since college, but because I have a night guard, I usually just work through it," said Faith, who lives in South Philadelphia, Pa. "But in March, things just got so much worse. I never thought I would do so much damage to my teeth."

Dentists around the country say they've seen a surge in excessive teeth grinding or clenching, known as bruxism, since the pandemic began. Chronic teeth grinding wears down enamel, the outermost protective layer of the tooth, resulting in teeth fractures, or even loss of teeth in serious cases. It can also cause muscles around the jaw to ache.

Many dentists attribute the recent surge in bruxism to increased stress, which has been linked to bruxism in a number of studies, though not as a direct cause.

The increase did not come as a surprise to Thomas Sollecito, chair of oral medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia.

"I would be surprised if there wasn't an increase," he said. "The stress and distress of the world's events will affect things like sleep and someone's clenching and grinding. If we're constantly under that duress, the frequency and intensity of clenching and grinding is just going to continue."

The most common thing people might notice if they're grinding or clenching their teeth excessively



is a tension headache, which can feel like dull pain or pressure across the forehead or in the back of the head, Sollecito said. Specifically, the overuse of muscles that close the jaw can cause temporal headaches, which are felt in the temples on the side of the head.

"People may also notice more discomfort with normal activity," Sollecito said. "They might feel pain even if with routine chewing because their muscles have undergone more 'exercise' by clenching and grinding."

Although Jennie Spotila had been struggling with the effects of bruxism over the last few years due to increased stress from personal issues, she said the pandemic made the issue significantly worse. Right before COVID-19 closed dental offices, Spotila, a 52-year-old disability activist living in Montgomery County, Pa., got a temporary crown because she broke a tooth from grinding.

"I was afraid to go to the dentist again, so I didn't go back until June to get the impression taken for the permanent crown," Spotila said. "And in the meantime, I had cracked another tooth, within the first few months of the pandemic. My dentist jokingly asked, 'Have you been under a lot of stress?' and I thought, 'Um, yes.'"

She got a night guard, based on her dentist's recommendation, and started wearing it while she slept to

reduce the grinding. But Spotila said she now also catches herself grinding or clenching her teeth during the day.

"I just try to stop and consciously relax the jaw," she said. "I know that this issue is stress-related. I never ground my teeth before, ever, until the last couple of years."

Hai Qing, a dentist who practices in Bucks County, Pa., said he's seen a handful of patients come in recently with joint issues, a sign of excessive teeth grinding or clenching. Qing recalled one patient who, after being asked to take on more responsibilities at work during COVID-19, broke her night guard from excessive grinding.

Qing said it's important to test a patient's saliva for acidity as it can exacerbate bruxism.

"Bruxism causes more severe damage when the saliva is acidic in a short amount of time," he said. "We try to control that by looking at their dietary habits and making adjustments. We also want to make sure the patients don't have any fragile or weak teeth, so we can protect those as well."

When Faith saw her dentist in April, she mentioned that her grinding had gotten worse. Her teeth were starting to develop sharp edges on the side because she had ground down the centers. She was given a prescription for an anti-inflammatory, which was supposed to alleviate the pain. But things didn't improve.

"When I saw my jaw and migraine doctor in June, I told him I couldn't take it any longer," Faith said. "I would wake up in the morning and my jaw would be throbbing from grinding all night long, even though I wear my night guard to protect my teeth."

She eventually scheduled a temporomandibular joint (TMJ) arthroscopy, a surgery that relieves pain and restores the jaw's full range of motion, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia at the end of September. Faith said that she's also hoping to get acupuncture for her jaw, a treatment that has relieved her pain in the past, once she finds a new job.

WEEKEND: FAMILY

CANDY CAUTION

Doctors offer tips for safe trick-or-treating, lower-risk Halloween

By RUDRI PATEL

Special To The Washington Post

“Is your child trick-or-treating this year?” I asked this question of parents over text and Zoom, wondering whether I should allow my daughter to go house to house, grabbing candy and dumping it into a white pillowcase. Most didn't know how to answer. Some said, “Maybe,” while others said, “No, I'm worried my son and daughter might catch the virus,” or answered with a sigh and said, “I just don't know.”

The question many households are asking during Halloween 2020 — Should we let kids go trick-or-treating during the pandemic?

—has no easy answer. Like seemingly all questions related to the novel coronavirus, Outdoor activities are generally said to be safer than indoor ones. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released guidance on Halloween, saying that collecting candy door to door is high risk.

This year's holiday has all the hallmarks of a perfect night: It's on a Saturday, and there will be a full moon. But with pandemic numbers predicted to spike in autumn, how should parents handle eager children who crave old-fashioned fun and normalcy during Halloween?

How to assess personal and community risk

As of Sept. 17, more than 587,000 children had tested positive for COVID-19, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Children represented 0 to 0.33% of all COVID-19 deaths.

So with that in mind, how do we assess the risk to our children?

“When we get down to the discussion around Halloween, it's really knowing about your own environment and what's going on in your neighborhood in your area to really make decisions whether or not to trick or treat,” advised Jared Muenzer, pediatric emergency room doctor and physician-in-chief at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Arizona.

Consulting the CDC's COVID-19 data tracker can help you determine whether and how you can participate in Halloween. By clicking on a

particular region, you can learn the total number of cases and deaths in a specific county, as well as the number of infections per every 100,000 people.

“Most of the data we're seeing is based on zip codes, and that is a still pretty large geographic area. Some of these include both rural and urban areas. And this factor needs to be weighed in terms of making the decision to allow kids to trick or treat,” said Jon McGreevey, section chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and assistant director of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Arizona.

Parents must consider the rate of infection in their community, McGreevey added, saying he considers daily positive tests between 5 and 10% to be moderate community spread (less than 5% being low).

“Your stance would be if your community is in the moderate risk for community spread or lower that trick-or-treating would be an acceptable practice with modifications and protection,” he said.

Other factors parents should consider are health risks present in the household: obesity, diabetes, chronic pulmonary conditions such as asthma and COPD, as well as if a member of the family is over 65 years old.

McGreevey also thinks parents should consider what trick-or-treating looks like in a particular neighborhood; the risk may be higher in a crowded apartment building than spread-out houses in the suburbs.

What precautions should you take if you go?

Phoenix pediatrician Kristin Struble said she thinks giving kids the opportunity to be outside and to be social (with distancing) is important for mental health.

“Not having routine really impacts kids, and as we come into the holidays, trick-or-treating and participating in Halloween activities can help kids with their minds,” she said.

With that in mind, here are some tips from pediatricians to keep children safe if you decide to let them trick or treat:

- Have kids wear a face mask.
- Many costumes could easily incorporate one.
- Adhere to social-distancing

guidelines by standing six feet apart.

- Have a parent accompany children, regardless of age, to hold them accountable with mask wearing and social distancing.

- Avoid congregating around doorsteps and porches.

- Use hand sanitizer after receiving candy from each house.

- Do not eat candy while trick-or-treating — parents should make certain hands are clean before kids start touching their faces and eating candy.

- Make certain kids wash their hands as soon as they get home.

- Have kids remove their costumes and shower.

- No need to disinfect candy wrappers.

“Parents should use outdoor spaces to hand out candy,” McGreevey said. “Use sidewalks or driveways as places to make contact instead of everyone touching doorbells or door handles or crowding into an entryway.”

“If you're a really good host, you can also provide hand sanitizer.” Muenzer said parents should also wear face masks when handing out candy. If there is an option “to go one step further and do individual packages of candy and use a table to set up, it lessens risk because kids aren't rooting through a bowl.”

Don't forget about the usual hazards

Muenzer cautions parents not to forget about normal hazards that can occur during trick-or-treating. As always: Kids should stay on the sidewalks and not cross streets unless there is a crosswalk. Have them bring a flashlight and wear protective gear such as reflective or neon vests, bands or sashes so drivers passing by can see them clearly.

“I think parents have to continue to be diligent about safety things that are unrelated to COVID-19,” Muenzer said.

Consider the alternatives

Though the CDC listed trick-or-treating as a higher-risk activity (along with trunk-or-treats, crowded indoor costume parties and haunted houses), there are plenty of Halloween traditions it listed as “lower risk.” Among them: carving and displaying pumpkins, putting on a Halloween scavenger hunt for your children, holding a virtual costume contest and having a Halloween movie night with your household.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



COVID can't ruin this sweet tradition

Dressed as a friendly witch so as to not scare the tiny princesses and superheroes, I sat on the front porch of our base house with a bowl of candy in my lap, waiting. Peering down at the mix of seasonal sweets I'd bought at the commissary, I felt guilty having included candies that kids avoid just because I wanted the leftovers. The saliva pistons under my tongue fired, imagining the Almond Joys that would be left for me later that night.

Soon, they appeared in droves. Cowgirls, zombies, skeletons, Power Rangers, vampires, mummies and parents pushing strollers with baby pea pods and ladybugs. Our own three kids were somewhere out there, still young enough to trick or treat, but too old for me to supervise. The setting sun cast a golden backdrop, and I breathed a contented sigh under my purple wig.

With my husband on TDY and hormones coursing through my system, the slightest thing could send me blubbering like an idiot. So when colors blasted from loudspeakers near our neighborhood and every trick or treator stood with tiny hands on hearts, tears sprang to my eyes. Candies aside, never before had I experienced a sweeter scene.

“Pick two,” I said, holding up fingers tipped with green press-on witch nails. But inevitably each kid plunged a fist into the bowl, gripping as many candies as he or she could. The two extra bags of candy under my chair proved I planned properly for this likelihood.

Sometime after trick-or-treating hours were over but kids remained outside playing and scootering, parents gathered around a fire pit. Pumpkin beers and rum-spiked cider was shared. We listened to the nearby ocean surf and crackling fire, and told stories of Halloweens past. I told of giving out candy on the shared stairwell housing patio in Germany, our kids being scared by one terrifying haunted house in our Virginia Beach neighborhood, trying to make the most of Halloween while stationed in rural England.

When the fire burned down to hot coals, the carousing kids showed up, costumes abandoned, makeup smeared, bickering over candy trades. It was time for bed.

Later, I snuggled into my spot on the couch, clicker in hand. With my husband gone, I was free to watch mindless reality shows to my heart's content. I withdrew the first snack-sized Almond Joy from the bowl. One down, only eleven more to go. Life was good.

That was eight years ago.

Thanks to COVID-19, Halloween 2020 will be very different. One might think a pandemic would enhance the scary experience of the holiday. Instead, it has resulted in the cancellation of quintessential Halloween activities.

Apparently, trick or treating has been canceled or limited in at least 37 states across the U.S. Additionally, many U.S. military base installations have prohibited traditional trick or treating, while others will allow it with new COVID-19 restrictions.

The Centers for Disease Control have published new guidelines on Halloween, deemed door-to-door trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, crowded indoor costume parties, haunted houses “where people may be crowded together and screaming,” and hayrides with people not in one's household to be high-risk activities. To make matters worse for parents, the CDC also warns against consumption of alcohol on Halloween, “which can cloud judgment and increase risky behaviors.”

Talk about spoiling the fun.

Sure, it's still possible to enjoy Halloween by getting creative. But carving pumpkins with one's family just doesn't cut it. A costumed car parade is kinda lame. Virtual costume contests are a bore. There's no way around it; without trick or treating, Halloween just isn't the same. All is not lost, however. We may have tricked us, but there's one tradition that hasn't been scared away: Halloween treats. Despite the pandemic, heaps of candy are still piled high in store displays around the world.

On Oct. 31, I will once again snuggle up on my couch, eating one Almond Joy after another. Life is still good.

Read more at themeatandpotatoesoffice.com, and in Lisa's book, *The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com*. Email: meatandpotatoeslife@gmail.com



WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

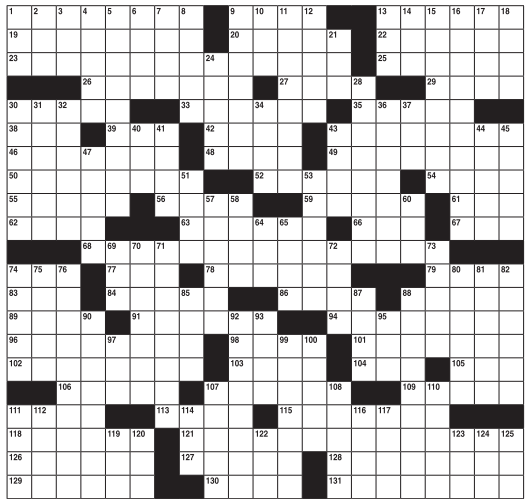
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

PI R SQUARED

BY GARY LARSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Gary Larson, of Edmonds, Wash., is a retired comedian. He spent the last 15 years of his career entertaining on cruise ships, where crosswords were a way to pass the time between shows. One day a clue-and-answer combination in a New York Times crossword cracked him up, and he thought, Why don't I try making one of these? I love writing jokes. How hard can it be to fit them into a puzzle? He found out. This is his 950th puzzle. It's his fourth in The Times. —W.S.

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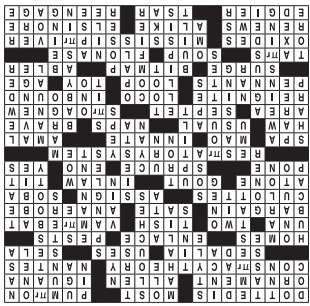


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OPINION

It isn't Fauci's fault, but he's part of the problem

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

The dysfunction in President Donald Trump's relationship with Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is largely Trump's fault. But Trump's reckless and counterproductive behavior is not the only reason for tension between the two officials. There's an inherent tension between our form of government and expertise, one that has been inflamed not only by Trump but by our society's confusion about science.

Trump's tirades against underlings have always been more comprehensible as expressions of frustration and rage than of political strategy, and so it is in the case of Fauci. Trump is in this closing weeks of an election that the polls have him losing to Joe Biden.

It can't make sense for Trump to attack someone who is more popular than either of the candidates, and who remains a top adviser to the White House. Every bit of voter support Trump loses is going to his battle with Fauci is a bit that is not going to help his case against Biden.

If the attack on Fauci did make any political sense, it would be undercut by Trump's own unwillingness to commit to it. On Monday, Trump called Fauci "a dishonest and untrustworthy" man, and Hogan Gidycz went on TV to defend Fauci.

The next morning, the president backed off, calling Fauci a "terrific guy" and denying that the two are "at odds" while still criticizing him. As is often the case, Trump gives the impression that he is lashing out rather than advancing an objective, and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

role is essentially absent from the public discussion of Fauci's merits and demerits, even though it is the most important one he plays.

The last one is the polarizing one. The president's critics have made him their latest saintly governmental rival to Trump; previous holders of the title include James Comey and Robert Mueller.

Trump, who dislikes being criticized or contradicted even more than most politicians do, surelyresents the way his opponents have idealized Fauci. Alexander Hamilton cautioned against a president's filling his Cabinet with "candidates ... possessing the necessary insignificance and pliancy to render them the obsequious instruments of his pleasure." That sometimes seems like the description of Trump's everidling Fauci and talking-skinned president, though, there would be a conflict between Fauci's second and third roles: between, that is, being a trusted internal adviser to an administration and an impartial external commentator on it. No president would speak as freely or listen as closely to an adviser who doubles as a talking head to be used by an expert who stays behind the scenes.

It would have been better if Trump, Fauci and the press alike had recognized the conflict and realized that Fauci's public-facing role is his least important one. Nearly everything Fauci and his talking-skinned president are doing is wearing early in the pandemic to encouraging it later, could be and has been said by dozens of other Zooming public-health experts.

One reason we listen to Fauci is that he seems to fill a vacuum. The administration hasn't articulated a sustained strategy since March, April and May when this there is to a credible spokesman for one. This too helps explain the pettiness

of many of Trump's criticisms: It's not as though we are watching the advocates of two different approaches to the pandemic battle it out. For the most part, Fauci and Trump are now just trash-talking each other.

Ari Schulman, the editor of *New Atlantis*, a journal of science and society, thinks there's a deep issue underlying the fight over Fauci. Our culture tends to think of science, and the scientific community, in terms of "deference" or "defiance."

Biden opted to defer. In August, he told ABC that he would shut down the country if scientists recommended it. Never mind that the president lacks the power to shut down the country. Scientists may well disagree among themselves about whether a shutdown is warranted, in part because science isn't capable of evaluating all the trade-offs involved in such a momentous decision. That's the job of informed citizens, including those who have selected for public authority.

And while some want to "follow the science," others are rightly made uneasy by the undemocratic and paternalistic implications of that attitude. In such a momentous decision, by going to the opposite extreme — as Schulman puts it in an interview, by "saying the experts are all corrupt so let's throw them out." Trump sometimes reflects, and caters to, this sentiment. Fauci thus becomes either a "pop-culture hero or a corrupt technocrat."

How great a burden for any individual official, no matter how thoughtful and accomplished he may be. Trump should talk less about Fauci. But it would be good if the rest of us could, too.

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a senior editor at National Review, visiting fellow at the Durkin Enterprise Institute and contributor to CBS News.

What we can learn from unchanged suicide rates

By JEREMY SAMUEL FAUST
Special to The Washington Post

In late March, right as the crest of the first wave of the coronavirus approached, President Donald Trump was pushing to reopen the economy. There would be "suicide by the thousands" within weeks if businesses stayed closed and people were out of work, he argued.

The notion that economic shutdowns themselves could pose a greater threat to the health and well-being of communities than the uncontrolled spread of a disease that has now killed more than 1 million people worldwide was and remains an important idea to consider.

But asserting a fact doesn't make it true. Was Trump right? Did suicide's skyrocket in March, April and May? Did a spike in suicide deaths outpace COVID-19 deaths? As an emergency room physician, I kept an eye out during my shifts in the weeks following Trump's March 24 statement. It seemed to me that we had fewer suicidal patients than usual. I called a colleague across town at another hospital. He thought the number of other causes of death in his ER, that there might have been an uptick in patients with suicidal thoughts or attempts. Along with a team of researchers, I set out to try to find out what was happening. But we would have to wait. Death by suicide takes longer to be reported and thought the number of other causes of death in his ER, that there might have been an uptick in patients with suicidal thoughts or attempts. Along with a team of researchers, I set out to try to find out what was happening. But we would have to wait. Death by suicide takes longer to be reported and

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It turns out that both I and my cross-town colleague were mistaken. Suicide rates in Massachusetts' north shore fell last spring. Suicide rates did not change from

expected rates at all.

Just to be sure, we performed a sensitivity analysis — researchers' fancy way of saying we asked the same question in a number of ways to make sure we were not deluding ourselves. We compared this year's rates in March, April and May with those from last year and other years.

Whether we considered the months individually or combined, year by year, there was just no change. We ran the numbers again, this time assuming that each of the few dozen deaths in 2020 that occurred during the month of May in which the cause of death was yet to be determined were in fact suicides. The scenario was unlikely, but one we had to consider. No matter how we looked, we kept finding the same thing. Suicide rates did not budge during the stay-at-home advisory period (the stay-at-home advisory period was in late May) in Massachusetts, which had one of the longest such periods of any state in the nation.

Studying the effects of stay-at-home advisories is still in its infancy, and what is learned will help inform the decisions of public health officials as they take measures to address future infectious-disease outbreaks or another COVID-19 spike. Some worries about stay-at-home periods will turn out to be overblown, others not. Concerns about the limitations of remote learning for children increasingly appear to be justified, for instance, and COVID-19 efforts to address the problem are urgently needed. But government officials, the media and others need to remember that anecdotes and assumptions are not the same as robust public health data. Early in the pandemic, media reports — rumors, really — suggested that few COVID-19 patients taking the drug remdesivir were

dying. Earlier this month, data from actual studies showed that the drug has no effect on mortality. And then there were the president's musings on the "miracle" drug hydroxychloroquine and other supposed solutions so deranged that they don't warrant repeating.

Many well-informed and well-meaning people fell for the cognitive trap that if something rings true, it must be true — and thus assumed that suicide deaths were destined to rise during shutdowns. Certainly, more study on this subject is needed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that during late June 40% of U.S. adults reported struggling with mental health or drug use, with 1 in 4 people between the ages of 18 and 24 saying they had "seriously considered suicide" in the previous 30 days.

There are legitimate questions to be asked about the impact of staying home on mental health. Some of the impact may have more to do with the continuing inability to control the virus, and with the ensuing economic fallout, than with Americans' staying home for weeks and even months in the spring. That said, a rise in suicides could be a sufficient warning that temporary stay-home advisories is neither guaranteed nor inevitable.

To get this right, both now and in the future, we have to keep asking the right questions and awaiting the actual answers — and remember that the questions themselves, no matter how obvious their implications might seem, do not provide the answers. They remain what they are: questions.

Jeremy Samuel Faust is an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the Division of Health Policy and Public Health, and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors are credited as associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Suit against Google should be warning for tech on fairness in Los Angeles Times

The internet has become a powerful source of innovation and opportunity in the half-century since the first electronic message was sent between experimental nodes at UCLA and Stanford. And in some industries, it remains a great equalizer — giving upstart creators and service providers the same access that was once the exclusive province of big corporations.

That's why policymakers in the United States have been loath to intervene online, worried that any rules they set would be counterproductive or quickly rendered obsolete by the rapid pace of change. "Don't start the internet equivalent of the 1930s anti-rallying cry, and for the most part, lawmakers and governmental agencies handled the emerging online powerhouses with kid gloves.

The gloves have now officially come off. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a much-anticipated lawsuit Tuesday accusing Google of abusing its dominant position in online search and advertising to cement its market power. The lawsuit, which was joined by 11 state attorneys general, is likely to be just the first in a salvo of antitrust cases, legislative proposals, rule-making and other governmental initiatives to rein in Big Tech's dominance.

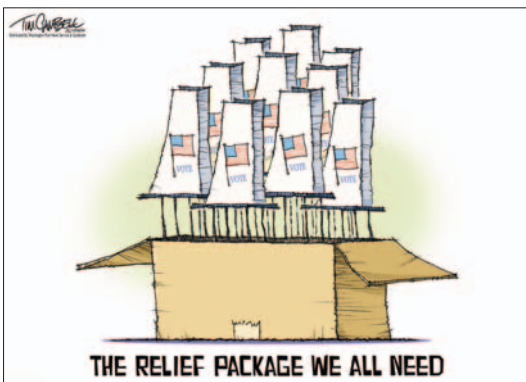
We won't prejudge the Justice Department's allegations that Google unfairly blocked competitors and raised the cost of online advertising to the detriment of consumers across the country. But we can't help but notice the similarities between the case against Google and the Justice Department's successful antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft in the late 1990s, when the software giant used its deals with computer manufacturers for the Windows operating system to impede competition in the emerging areas of web browsers and digital media players.

According to the Justice Department's complaint, Google has used exclusive contracts with manufacturers and mobile phone services to make sure Google would be the default search service on browsers and mobile devices, and to guarantee that its apps would be promoted prominently on producers' screens. This conduct led to control more than 90% of the searches, the complaint alleges, while also buttressing its dominant position in online advertising.

Google defended its actions and argued that consumers are free to choose other search engines for their needs.

Failing a negotiated settlement, the courts will ultimately decide whether Google's behavior crossed the legal line. But with California and three dozen other states still investigating Google, there will almost certainly be more cases filed, just as there are more concerns about the monopolistic behavior of other tech companies. The Justice Department addressed, including whether Google competes unfairly by favoring its own products (such as YouTube and Google Maps) in its search results, and whether Google inappropriately uses its advertising network to boost its own products by collecting data from its users.

The lesson of the Microsoft case that seems apt here is not that it's illegal to be big and successful. It is that once a company reaches that pinnacle, the aggressive tactics it used to grow and succeed can no longer be used to maintain its dominance. Monopolies aren't necessarily illegal — efforts to preserve them are.



That's why antitrust authorities at the state and federal level are also scrutinizing Facebook, which has a track record of trying to gobble up or crush companies that could compete with its social network, and Amazon, which has been accused of competing unfairly with the many small and midsize businesses that sell products and services through its platform. Apple has come under the microscope too even though its products aren't the top sellers in any category; its critics say the company is extracting unfairly high fees from the companies that want to make and sell apps for Apple's iPhones and iPads.

And then there is the flak that Twitter, Facebook and YouTube (which, like Google, is owned by Alphabet) have taken for the way they limit what users can say or post on their sites. It's not clear how much about these companies' policies if their platforms hadn't grown to such an epic global scale.

Meanwhile, California is leading the push by states to give consumers more control over the personal data that have become the internet's unofficial currency.

For Big Tech, it's a reckoning that's been a long time coming. The internet is still capable of supporting vigorous competition and a free-flowing exchange of ideas, and rapidly changing technology still has the potential to disrupt markets and topple once-dominant corporations. But as much as lawmakers and regulators need to keep those realities in mind, they also need to make sure dominant companies don't leverage their power to choke off competition and leave consumers with too few good alternatives and too little innovation.

Pa. mail-in ballot deadline illegally extended ... for now The Wall Street Journal

How's this for anticlimactic? The U.S. Supreme Court had an appeal from Pennsylvania Republicans for three weeks. State law unambiguously says that mail-in votes are due at 8 p.m. on Election Day. But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court pushed that deadline back to Nov. 6, even if the ballot lacks any legible postmark.

The GOP and state legislative leaders asked the justices for a stay on Sept. 28. The length of time the high court pondered it led observers to wonder if something decisive might be in the offing. Nope. On Monday a terse statement from the court said the request "is denied." Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh would have granted the stay. With a 4-4 split, the state judiciary's extension was left in place.

The missing conservative is Chief Justice John Roberts. With no full opinion, one can only speculate as to his thinking. Maybe he was reluctant to halt a state court's ruling on a question of state law.

But elections for president and Congress also involve federal interests, and Pennsylvania law couldn't be clearer in specifying that mail-in votes must arrive "no later than eight o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election."

Perhaps the chief, concerned by Democratic attacks on the court's "legitimacy," is betting this problem will fizzle out. He had better hope so. If the ballot counting on Nov. 3 is close, the parties could soon be back knocking at the chief justice's chambers. Then the stakes would be far higher, since a decision by the justices could tip the outcome as millions of Americans watch. Justice Amy Coney Barrett will be settling into her new chair, knock on wood, precluding a 4-4 split.

It comes to that, it'll be hard to argue that Oct. 23 was much better time to tell Pennsylvania to follow its own election code.

Election workers stepping up to meet increased demand The Washington Post

With two weeks until Election Day, election officials are scrambling to ensure a safe and orderly voting process. Even with an unprecedented number of ballots being cast absentee, millions will vote in person, and poll workers are critical to that running smoothly.

Even before the pandemic, election officials often struggled to attract enough poll workers. Making in-person voting safe and efficient during a pandemic will require creativity and extra precautions. With seniors at higher risk for serious complications from the coronavirus and transmission rates growing at alarming rates around the country, election officials and advocates have devoted serious resources over the past several months toward replenishing their ranks of poll workers.

In a rare bit of election-related good news, these efforts appear to have paid off in many jurisdictions. Earlier this year, Wisconsin struggled mightily to recruit enough poll workers. Even with assistance from the National Guard, Milwaukee was forced to cut the number of polling stations from 180 to five. Since then, officials in the state have seen a wave of new applicants. Milwaukee is on track to have 173 polling places open. In Madison, so many people stepped forward that officials had to cut off applications. With the oversupply, they can give poll workers shorter shifts and have teams on hand for rapid response if things go wrong.

The view isn't rosy everywhere — plenty of jurisdictions are still looking to recruit more poll workers. And the stakes are high — a shortage of poll workers could force officials to close polling stations or lead to hours-long lines that effectively disenfranchise would-be voters who cannot afford to

wait. But jurisdictions around the country appear to be in far better shape than many feared.

Younger Americans have been particularly responsive to the call to relieve traditionally older poll workers, thanks in part to the Power the Polls campaign, a collaboration of nonprofits and businesses whose dedicated efforts have been amplified by a number of celebrities. Together, this influx will mean a more sustainable workforce for decades to come.

There's plenty that officials should still do to reduce the odds of a chaotic election — notably, enacting measures to allow ballots to be processed before Election Day. But the fact that thousands of Americans have stepped forward as new poll workers is a good reminder of how impactful the cumulative efforts of ordinary people can be during this election.

Quash a potentially damaging trans-Atlantic tariff war The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

The United States and the European Union have been drifting apart for two decades, and issues that used to be treated as friendly family quarrels, like different trade policies and different commitments to a common defense, have turned into major disagreements.

But in a world defined by strong challenges to the international rules on which both rely, it is clear that the U.S. and the EU need to stand together wherever possible.

In a two-year, 140-day, six-panel pair of rulings by the World Trade Organization threatened to ignite a new tariff war between the two. That would be bad for both and for the rest of the free world that depends on the rules, which are being threatened by China, Russia and Iran.

The WTO found that the EU had given illegal production subsidies to Airbus worth \$7.5 billion to enable it to compete with Boeing, and authorized the United States to collect a like amount in retaliatory tariffs on European goods. The U.S. has begun imposing new tariffs on goods such as wine, which has not fully exploited the ruling in its favor.

On the other hand, the WTO also recently found that Washington state had given \$4 billion in illegal tax breaks to Boeing and authorized the EU to impose a similar amount of tariffs on the U.S.

These are hardly crippling penalties in a two-year trade dispute that has reached \$1.3 trillion in 2018, and one could hope that both sides would find an amicable way to settle the remaining issues and waive the penalties, especially because they clearly need to be pulling together against the new threats to world order.

That's not the case. The United States Trade Representative's office says the U.S. won the subsidy battle because its award was larger, and Europe should impose no new tariffs at all. The EU's new trade commissioner, Valdis Dombrovskis, replied that the U.S. had to drop its tariffs on Airbus. The EU also should drop its new authority for higher tariffs.

This may be the normal Kabuki posturing that often precedes serious negotiations. But it also is a possible prelude to a complete breakdown in negotiations.

It is worth noting that Boeing this year agreed to give up the \$100-million-a-year tax break it was getting from Washington state, and the law granting that break was repealed. But even though Airbus has said it is giving up production subsidies, the EU has not renounced or rescinded its legal authority to provide them. So there is a continuing battle in trade retaliation measures.

What raises this from the level of a family spat to a serious threat to better U.S.-EU relations is the prospect of a new tariff war that will make it harder for both sides to find common ground where it matters most. It's time to move on from the political intricacies built into trade retaliation measures. Settle this matter quickly.

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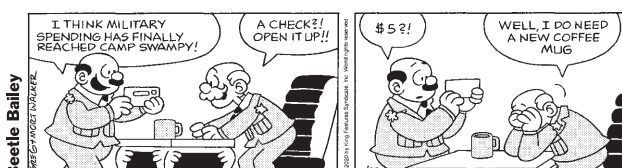
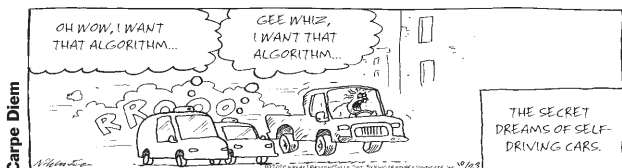
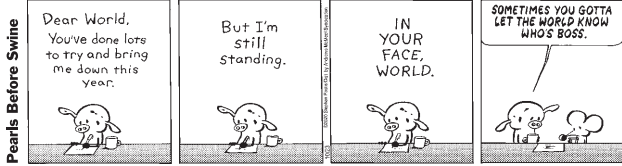
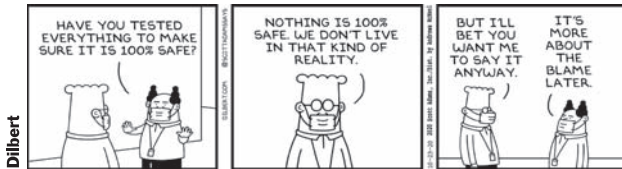
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
		18				19			20	
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38	39	40				41		42		43
44						45				46
47				48				49		50 51
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wit
 - 6 Super Bowl VIP
 - 9 "— Poetica"
 - 12 Ouzo flavor
 - 13"— a Camera"
 - 14 Actress Lucy
 - 15 Baryshnikov, to friends
 - 16 Letter
 - 18 Biblical strong fellow
 - 20 Driver with a handle
 - 21 Glacial
 - 23 "Mayday!"
 - 24 Vouchers
 - 25 Heath
 - 27 Yule tune
 - 29 Mouse sound
 - 31 Off the hook
 - 35 Twangy
 - 37 Pocket bread
 - 38 Farm units
 - 41 Poorly lit
 - 43 Droop
 - 44 Grub
 - 45 Lustrous fabrics
 - 47 Absent
 - 49 Temperaments
 - 52 Yale
 - 53 "The Simpsons" barkeep
 - 54 Violin piece
 - 55 D.C. bigwig
- DOWN**
- 1 Deli choice
 - 2 Half of bi-
 - 3 Message from a distant lover
 - 4 Fed. workplace monitor
 - 5 Paper packs
 - 6 Orange juice and champagne
 - 7 Futile
 - 8 Evening hrs.
 - 9 Suspect's excuse
 - 10 Metal fastener
 - 11 Litigants
 - 17 Drag
 - 19 Foot warmers
 - 21 Online chats, briefly
 - 22— au vin
 - 24 "Friends" cast member
 - 26 Extends, as a lease
 - 28 Ignited again
 - 30 Small batteries
 - 32 Pass up an opportunity
 - 33 School org.
 - 34 Kids' game
 - 36 Saws
 - 38 Pinnacles
 - 39 Peru neighbor
 - 40 Cello bow application
 - 42 Acted wordlessly
 - 45 Uppity sort
 - 46 Memo
 - 48 Little rascal
 - 50 HST follower
 - 51 Sun. talk

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	H	E	P	C	A	W	T	R	O	T
L	E	V	I	O	L	E	R	O	L	E
A	R	I	Z	D	I	P	A	D	D	S
B	A	L	Z	A	C	T	R	U	G	E
			A	L	A		A			
J	I	M	S	K	E	G	P	A	R	T
O	O		E	N	O		E	R	E	
E	N	D	O	R	S	E	D	F	W	I
		S	N	O		O	F	W	L	
S	E	Q	U	I	N	F	E	U	E	D
I	C	U	S	Y	O	W	M	E	T	O
B	R	A	E	E	V	A	E	W	A	N
S	U	D	S	T	A	R	S	S	T	S

10-23

CRYPTOQUIP

FAMH QAM EYPBQOVPH FPO

OMKKDHT ADO APHCVPCM

OQLYPTM EAMOQ, DQ FPO P

ELBBMY D ELZKCH'Q YMBZOM.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-KNOWN ROBBING
OUTLAW WHO WOULD SQUIRT DEADLY INK TO
STOP BEING PURSUED: BILLY THE SQUID.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals R

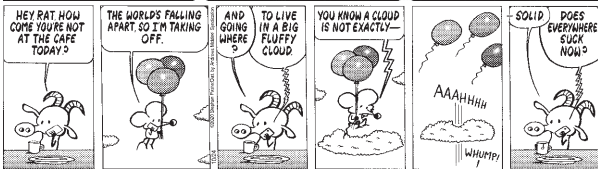
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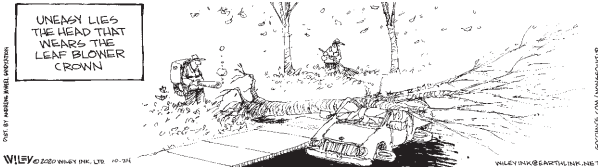
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



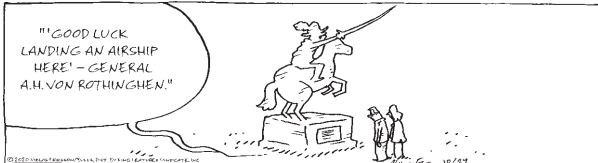
Non Sequitur



Candorville



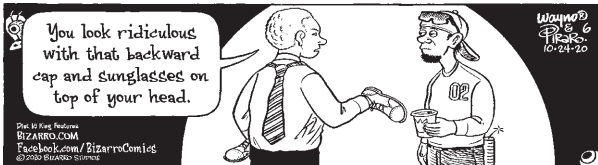
Carpe Diem



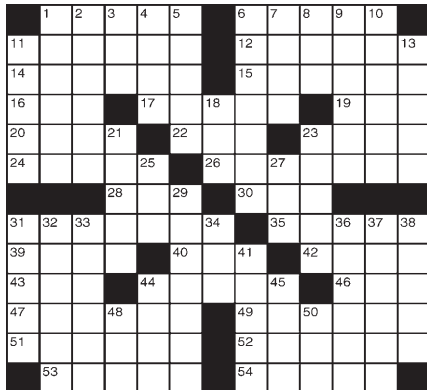
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 "Vamoosel"
- 6 Ladybug features
- 11 With hands on hips
- 12 Scorching
- 14 January gemstone
- 15 More jittery
- 16 And so on (Abbr.)
- 17 Fleet members
- 19 French vineyard
- 20 Dickens girl
- 22 Fourth-yr. students
- 23 Bjorn of tennis fame
- 24 Lock of hair
- 26 Beethoven compositions
- 28 Small batteries
- 30 Refusals
- 31 Broad-brimmed hat
- 35 Try to buy, at auction
- 39 Twitches
- 40 Composer Rorem
- 42 Bronzé heroine
- 43 Seminary sub.
- 44 Bull's sound
- 46 Cagers' gp.
- 47 Delphi figure
- 49 Live-in nanny
- 51 Christie sleuth
- 52 Takes forcibly

DOWN

- 3 Cough suppressants
- 5 Tizzies
- 8 Count with an orchestra
- 9 Airline to Sweden
- 10 San Francisco's Hill
- 11 Rink athlete
- 12 Sewing group works
- 13 LBJ's successor
- 14 Fortas and Lincoln system part
- 15 Fluttery insects
- 16 Child by marriage
- 17 Okra units
- 18 Assoc.
- 19 Swimwear fabric
- 20 Mountain chain
- 21 Rep
- 22 Medications
- 23 Tax-collecting org.
- 24 Exams for future atty.s
- 25 Shakespearean plays
- 26 Razor sharpener
- 27 Steering system filled with pastry
- 28 "The Matrix" role
- 29 Ruling family
- 30 Planetary paths
- 31 Gets close
- 32 Ties
- 33 44 Sty chow
- 34 Rotate
- 35 -Magnon
- 36 JFK Library architect

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-24

CRYPTOQUIP

X B T K G V F B K A L M N T Q Q

U J A K M N K V R M G M K T Q N T F M Y

Z A Q C Y E Y M Z A J E L S M J X T K M J

S V R V L F ? Y B T J C T D Y A J D M J Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CRAFTSMAN WAS SELLING HIS HANDMADE STORAGE CHEST, IT WAS A COFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals U

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Schedule	
Friday's games	
Arkansas State	at Tennessee (4-1)
Jacksonville St. (2-1) at FIU (0-2)	
Tulsa (1-1) at South Florida (1-1)	
South Carolina State (2-1) at N.C. Central (2-2)	
Midwest	
SE Missouri at SIU, p.p.d.	
Illinois at Wisconsin	
Saturday's games	
EAST	
Ferris (0-1) at Army (5-1)	
MAU (0-1) at Marist (4-0)	
Houston (1-1) at Navy (3-2)	
Cordeiro Dome (4-0) at Pittsburg (3-3)	
Georgia Tech (2-3) at Boston College (2-2)	
SOUTH	
NC State (4-1) at Coastal Carolina (3-1)	
Georgia Southern (3-1) at Coastal Carolina (4-0)	
Arkansas (1-4) at Clemson (5-0)	
Auburn (2-3) at Mississippi (1-3)	
Florida State (2-2) at Miami (1-1)	
Florida St. (2-3) at Louisville (1-2)	
UTEP (3-2) at Charlotte (1-1)	
Alabama (2-2) at Tennessee (2-2), p.p.d.	
Georgia (3-1) at Kentucky (2-2)	
Arkansas (3-3) at Tennessee (1-4)	
Virginia Tech (2-1) at Wake Forest (2-2)	
Alabama (4-0) at Tennessee (2-2)	
Georgia St. (1-2) at Troy Forest (1-2)	
Chattanooga (2) at Kentucky (1-4)	
Louisiana-Monroe (2-2) at South Alabama (2-2)	
Alabama (3-0) at LSU (1-2)	
Virginia (1-3) at Miami (4-1)	
Midwest	
Rutgers at Michigan St.	
Kansas (0-4) at Kansas St. (3-1)	
Indiana at Ohio	
Michigan at Purdue	
Indiana at Indiana	
Kentucky (2-2) at Missouri (1-2)	
Marion at Northwestern	
Indiana (1-1) at Tennessee (2-2)	
Michigan State (1-1) at Ohio State (3-0)	
Middle Tennessee (1-5) at Rice	
West Virginia (3-1) at Texas Tech (1-3)	
Arkansas State (2-1) at SIU (2-0)	
Cincinnati (3-0) at SMU (5-0)	
FAV TRIP	
Worming at Nevada	
Utah St. at Boston	
Arizona State (1-3) at BYU (3-0)	
New Mexico at Colorado St.	
Utah State (1-3) at N.Y. (3-0)	
Air Force (1-0) at San Jose St.	
UNLV at San Diego St.	

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EASTERN CONFERENCE					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto FC	11	3	5	38	34
Columbus	10	4	4	30	15
Philadelphia	9	5	4	28	17
New England	9	5	7	28	21
San Jose FC	7	8	2	22	24
New York	7	8	4	25	23
Chicago	7	8	4	25	23
Montreal	7	10	2	23	36
Carolina	5	10	5	20	28
Chicago	5	10	5	20	28
Inter Miami CF	5	11	1	18	29
Cross City Strikers	3	11	3	15	30
D.C. United	3	10	6	15	37
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	9	5	4	31	30
Portland	9	5	4	31	30
Sporting KC	9	6	3	30	25
Los Angeles FC	8	6	4	29	23
Minnesota United	6	6	6	24	21
San Jose	6	7	6	24	23
San Diego	6	7	6	24	23
Real Salt Lake	5	7	6	21	24
Houston	5	7	8	20	25
Portland	5	8	3	18	24
LA Galaxy	5	9	3	18	24
Note: Three points per victory, one for tie.					

Pro soccer

NFL						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	4	2	0	.666	156	168
Miami	2	3	0	.500	160	111
New England	2	3	0	.400	159	120
N.Y. Jets	0	6	0	.000	75	185
NFC						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	164	126
Atlanta	4	1	0	.800	157	105
Houston	3	0	0	1.000	166	182
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.166	125	181
FOOTBALL TEAM						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Pittsburgh	4	0	0	1.000	156	143
Cleveland	4	2	0	.666	163	187
Cincinnati	4	2	0	.666	163	187
Columbus	2	2	0	.500	129	157
WEST						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	173	157
Las Vegas	2	2	0	.500	151	122
Denver	2	3	0	.400	100	110
LA Chargers	1	4	0	.200	110	125
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Dallas	1	4	1	.250	141	175
Philadelphia	1	4	1	.250	141	175
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	.166	101	151
San Francisco	1	4	0	.166	102	152
SOUTH						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tampa Bay	1	5	0	.166	177	122
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	153	150
Carolina	2	3	0	.400	138	141
Atlanta	1	5	0	.166	162	184
CHICAGO						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Chicago	4	1	0	.833	128	139
Green Bay	4	0	0	1.000	162	136
Indianapolis	3	1	0	.750	133	144
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	165	155
Seattle	5	0	0	1.000	169	132
Arlington	3	2	0	.600	139	140
LA Rams	4	2	0	.666	152	114
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	148	130
SUNDAY'S GAMES						
Buffalo at Philadelphia						
Atlanta at Tennessee						
Green Bay at Houston						
Cleveland at Cincinnati						
Carolina at New Orleans						
Detroit at Atlanta						
Dallas at Washington						
Seattle at Arizona						
Dallas at Denver						
San Francisco at New England						
Jacksonville at L.A. Chargers						
Tampa Bay at L.A. Chargers						
Open: Baltimore, Indianapolis, Miami, Missouri						
Monday's game						
Chicago at L.A. Rams						
Thursday, Oct. 23						
Atlanta at Carolina						
Friday, Oct. 24						
Tennessee at Cincinnati						
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia						
LA Rams at Miami						
Indianapolis at Detroit						
New England at Buffalo						
LA Chargers at Cleveland						
Pittsburgh at Baltimore						
Minnesota at Green Bay						
Carolina at Denver						
New Orleans at Chicago						
Dallas at Seattle						
Dallas at Philadelphia						
Open: Houston, Jacksonville, Arizona, Washington						
Monday, Nov. 3						
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants						

European Open	
Wednesday	
At Lotto Arena	
Men's Singles	
Purchase: \$34,800	
Surf: Hardcourt Outdoor	
Friday	
At Lotto Arena	
Men's Singles	
Purchase: \$34,800	
Surf: Hardcourt Outdoor	
Saturday's games	
New England at Nevada	
Orlando at Michigan	
D.C. United at Atlanta	
Atlanta at Chicago	
Minnesota at Cincinnati	
Montreal at New York City FC	
Toronto FC at Philadelphia	
Columbus at Houston	
New York City FC at Kansas City FC	
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake	
San Jose at Vancouver	

Tennis	
European Open	
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N.Y. Jets	0	6	0	.000	75	185
NFC						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	164	126
Atlanta	4	1	0	.800	157	105
Houston	3	0				

NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Van Gundy agrees to coach Pelicans

Reports: Will sign 4-year contract with team

By TIM REYNOLDS
AND BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

Stan Van Gundy is headed to the New Orleans Pelicans, where he'll take over a promising team that includes 2019 No. 1 overall draft pick Zion Williamson and reigning Most Improved Player Brandon Ingram.

Van Gundy agreed to a four-year contract, said a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the terms had not been revealed publicly.

The coach said on his Twitter account Wednesday that he was "excited to join a talented New Orleans Pelicans team" and thanked team owner Gayle Benson and others for the opportunity.

"It will be an honor to work with our players and to work for Mrs. Benson and David Griffin, Trajan Langdon, their staff and the great people of New Orleans," Van Gundy wrote. "I can't wait to talk to our players and get the process started."

Among the players he'll talk to is veteran locker-room leader JJ Redick, who spent his second year through NBA seasons play-

ing for Van Gundy in Orlando. Redick has readily credited Van Gundy for helping him develop into a reliable double-digit scorer.

"In terms of intangibles and characteristics I think any NBA player should have, I think he taught me those things and he reinforced those things in me — professionalism, accountability ... not taking any nights off, all that stuff, because he lives that," Redick said of Van Gundy in 2016, when he played for the Los Angeles Clippers and Van Gundy was coaching Detroit. "I see how hard he works, how much he invests in his craft, and so as a player, playing for him, you really have no choice but to do the same."

In New Orleans, Van Gundy will replace Alvin Gentry, who was let go after the Pelicans missed this season's playoffs. Part of the problem for the Pelicans this season was that Williamson missed most of the season; he averaged 22.5 points and 6.3 rebounds per game on 58% shooting, albeit in only 24 games.

The Pelicans were 30-42 this past season, getting to the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World but falling well short of the



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Stan Van Gundy has agreed to become the next coach of the New Orleans Pelicans, where he'll get the chance to work with 2019 No. 1 overall draft pick Zion Williamson.

playoffs. They have a promising young core with Williamson, Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Jaxson Hayes and Nickell Alexander-Walker, plus currently hold four picks in this year's draft.

Van Gundy, 61, is a seasoned coach with a more traditional and direct style of communicating with players. His task now is to get Williamson and a largely young supporting cast to buy into a vision that is bound to emphasize defense as much, if not more, than pace of play.

Van Gundy spent parts of 12 seasons coaching Miami, Orlando and Detroit, winning 58% of his games and going to the playoffs eight times. He was Dwyane

Wade's first coach in Miami after Pat Riley's surprise resignation in the fall of 2003, then stepped down from the Heat job 21 games into the 2005-06 season — the year Miami went on to win its first championship.

He won 66% of his games in five seasons in Orlando, taking the Magic to the 2009 NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers and going to the playoffs in each of those seasons. His firing from the Magic in 2012 came after a season in which he said he'd been told by management that Dwight Howard wanted him fired.

And then his four seasons in Detroit were largely a struggle — three losing seasons, the best

year in that run being a 44-38 season where the Pistons got swept from the playoffs.

But a common theme in Van Gundy's coaching career is solid defense. In eight of his seasons, his teams ranked in the top 10 defensively.

While Pelicans veteran guard Jrue Holiday is highly regarded for his defensive play, stopping opponents from scoring was a considerable problem for New Orleans this past season. The Pelicans gave up 117.1 points per game, better than just three of the NBA's 30 teams.

Van Gundy had been working most recently as an NBA analyst for Turner Sports.

Injuries, virus have already had an impact at Villanova

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — An avid sports fan, Villanova coach Jay Wright watched with interest how Major League Baseball muddled through its season to get to the World Series and college football and the NFL have been challenged to piecemeal schedules to complete a season.

That made the two-time national champion weary that college basketball teams can play a complete 25-game season without cancellations or severe disruptions.

Wright says it's "50-50" the sport — which took one of the first major hits in the coronavirus pandemic era with the cancellation of the 2020 NCAA Tournament — can make it through the season in tact.

"You have to try to anticipate what it's going to be," Wright said Wednesday. "But you have to realize, you could be wrong."

The Wildcats already felt the impact of COVID-19 when they had to put work-outs on hold for 14 days last month when members of the program tested positive for the virus. Citing confidentiality, Wright has not disclosed the names of the people who had it, but the winnigest coach in Villanova history said he was not among them. Wright said he's tested once a week — including Wednesday — and the worry



Nick Wass/AP

Two-time national champion coach Jay Wright of Villanova says it's "50-50" that college basketball can make it through this season intact.

of keeping his players and staff safe can leave him more restless than prepping for the Big East Tournament.

"It does affect you because you get different guys involved, obviously not everybody is involved," Wright said. "Initially the whole team is shut down. We all have to be prepared for that during the season. I think we're back on track. I feel like we handled that pretty well."

Wright said the Wildcats are "just a little bit behind" their late-October learning curve without the benefit of full practices because of COVID-19, nagging injuries, and the absence of secret scrimmages.

Wright said the Wildcats are close to having a finalized schedule that could include a full Big East schedule, a marquee matchup against 2019 national champion Virginia at Madison Square Garden and a local slate of games against Big 5 teams.

Penn State's Chambers resigns after inquiry

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Pat Chambers resigned as Penn State's basketball coach Wednesday following an internal investigation by the school into allegations of inappropriate conduct.

Chambers, 49, had been at Penn State for nine years and was coming off the team's best season under his directions.

Penn State athletic director Sandy Barbour said during a press news conference that she would not disclose details of the school's investigation, but did say NCAA matters were not part of the investigation.

The investigation followed a July story by ESPN's "The Undeclared" that quoted a former Penn State player saying Chambers made an insensitive remark to him, referencing a noose during the 2018-19 season.

"As difficult as this news may be, both President (Eric) Barron and I believe this is the right outcome," Barbour said.

Assistant coach Jim Ferry was elevated to interim coach for the coming season. The start of the NCAA basketball season is slated for Nov. 25. Ferry has previously been head coach at Long Island University-Brooklyn and Duquesne.

Chambers was in the middle of a four-year contract with Penn State that runs through 2021-22 season. He was 148-150 with Penn State, including an NIT championship in 2018.

In a statement to the online sports net-

work Stadium, Chambers said: "This has been an incredibly difficult year for me and my family, and we are in need of a break to reset and chart our path forward."

Penn State finished 21-10 last season and was likely to earn an NCAA Tournament berth for the first time since 2011 before the postseason was canceled.

"Coach Chambers has made many contributions to the program and to this university for which we are grateful," Barbour said. "The team has been on a positive trajectory."

Barbour said the players were "very disappointed" to find out about Chambers' departure. Chambers delivered the news. "Our current players, many of them have good relationships with him," Barbour said.

Former Penn State player Rasir Bolton, now at Iowa State, made allegations of inappropriate conduct by Chambers to ESPN's "The Undeclared."

Bolton said that during a particularly difficult stretch for the team in January 2019, Chambers told him: "I want to loosen the noose that's around your neck."



Chambers

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Army returns to relevance after going 5-8 in 2019

By JOHN KERIS
Associated Press

Say this about Army coach Jeff Monken — he's a master of improvisation.

Faced with the loss of his top three quarterbacks to injuries as he prepared the Black Knights to face UTSA on the road last Saturday, he decided to rotate two quarterbacks who had just one snap under center combined.

Final score: Army 28-16. Monken said he had no doubt beforehand that his team would win — even though the road hasn't been kind, even though the Roadrunners had the nation's leading rusher in Sincere McCormick and had given No. 12 BYU a scare the previous week on the road while the Black Knights had barely held off The Citadel at home.

"Everybody on our offensive staff and I were completely confident that we were going to win the game because the game plan essentially took it out of the quarterback's hands," Monken said. "It just put all the responsibility on the other 10 guys to knock people around and knock 'em off the ball and create seams, and that's what they did."

"It made the job of those two young guys a lot easier. They didn't have to go ad-lib and make things happen. They just were

able to do their job and settle in," Monken said. "What was so impressive was that neither one was rattled at all. I thought they performed about as well as we could've expected in their first action, that's for sure."

Army freshman starter Cade Ballard — he had that one snap in the first game of the season — only rushed three times for 5 yards, but after UTSA pulled within 21-16 early in the fourth quarter Ballard responded like a veteran on the ensuing possession, guiding the Black Knights to a touchdown that put the Roadrunners back on their heels. The drive featured Ballard's first college completion and the only one for Army in the game — a 53-yarder to senior wide receiver Cam Harrison that put the ball at the UTSA 5 — and his first career touchdown run on the next play. Ballard's partner, sophomore Tyhier Tyler, gained 95 yards on 19 carries, did not attempt a pass, and scored the lone touchdown of the third quarter on a 37-yard run, the only blemish on his performance a lost fumble in the fourth quarter that gave the Roadrunners a chance.

Nate Woody's defense took care of that. Ranked seventh nationally in scoring defense (13.2 points per game) and eighth in total defense (284 yards per game), Army stopped UTSA twice on fourth



Army running back Jakobi Buchanan, center, works for extra yardage against UTSA in Army's 28-16 win Saturday in San Antonio, Texas. The Black Knights are averaging 310 yards a game on the ground.

‘What was so impressive was that neither one was rattled at all.’

Jeff Monken

Army coach on his two inexperienced quarterbacks last week

down deep in Black Knights territory in the closing minutes. The defense also has forced 10 turnovers (six interceptions and four fumble recoveries), while the triple option under offensive coordinator Brent Davis is averaging 310 yards rushing, third nationally, and special teams have blocked three kicks, tied for first nationally.

"When the offense works well and the defense works well, we win the football game," said Army linebacker Jon Rhtattigan,

who leads the team with 47 tackles, six behind the line.

It marked the second consecutive game that a Black Knights quarterback made his first career start. The previous week it was sophomore Jemel Jones, and he led the team to a 14-9 victory over The Citadel, one of three Championship Subdivision foes on a schedule that was almost entirely changed because of the pandemic. Jones suffered a leg injury in the game, providing the opening for the two newcomers.

"We were 100 percent confident," senior tri-captain Sandon McCoy said. "You go into every game confident, but two quarterbacks that hadn't played a snap yet, everyone else around them has to be confident to make them feel strong, make them feel confident in themselves."

Army (5-1) has won three straight since a 24-10 loss at then-No. 14 Cincinnati and for only the fourth time since 1970, has won at least five of its first six games, a nice turnaround from last season's 5-8 mark. The 1996 squad under Bob Sutton started 9-0 and the Black Knights opened the 1985 and 1988 seasons with a 5-1 record under Jim Young.

The victory also ended Army's six-game skid in away or neutral games.

Chanticleers crack Top 25, poised to move up

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

A few things have changed for Coastal Carolina coach Jamey Chadwell since his team's first national ranking.

There have been many well-wishers and increased media obligations this week, so "I went and got a haircut," he joked Wednesday. "So that's a benefit as well."

The Chanticleers (4-0) entered the Top 25 for the first time in program history. They were a Football Championship Subdivision power that routinely made the playoffs before moving to the Sun Belt three seasons ago. The milestone came after defeating their first nationally ranked opponent in then-No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette, 30-27, on Oct. 14.

Chadwell told his players before kickoff that if they took care of business, they would get ranked.

The only way to stay, he counseled them after the victory, "is to keep winning."

Steady success has long been a trait of the school with an enrollment of about 11,000 students during its relatively short football history. The program began in 2003 and made the FCS playoffs three years later. It received national exposure when it hired former TD Ameritrade CEO Joe Moglia as its head coach in 2012 — and continued winning.

Moglia led the Chants to three Big South Conference titles and four FCS playoff trips, spending much of 2015 at No. 1 in the FCS rankings as they prepared for competition in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Moglia, who became executive director of football and special adviser to the university president after retiring from coaching in 2018, brought in Chadwell from Big South rival Charleston Southern to inherit the head coach position.

Chadwell said Moglia's principles are still very much a part of Coastal's program and the two chat or text after most games.

The Chanticleers (the nickname comes from Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales) appreciate the increased attention and seemed poised for more in a season that began with a 38-23 defeat of Power Five school Kansas.

The goal entering the season, said receiver Javon Heiligh, was to win the Sun Belt, despite going a combined 6-18 in the first three seasons as a league member. He said players felt they were close to a breakthrough in years past and are determined not to let this opportunity slip away.

"It's great to be ranked," he said. "But our end goal is to win a championship and that's what we're focused on."

That quest continues Saturday when Coastal Carolina (4-0, 2-0 Sun Belt) plays host to Georgia Southern (3-1, 1-1). Chadwell hadn't seen any ranking hangover at practice after a few days of anticipation before the polls came out.



PAUL KEM/APP

Coastal Carolina running back CJ Marable, left, and quarterback Grayson McCall celebrate after Marable scored a touchdown during the first half of their 30-27 defeat of Louisiana-Lafayette in Lafayette, La., on Oct. 14.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dietzen's comeback thrills his teammates

Wisconsin OL is back after quitting football due to injuries

By STEVE MEGARGEY
Associated Press

Illinois (0-0)
at No. 14 Wisconsin (0-0)
AFN-Pacific
2 a.m. Saturday CET
9 a.m. Saturday JKT

Wisconsin offensive lineman Jon Dietzen spent much of his time away from football watching games and wondering how well he could still play if injuries hadn't caused him to give it up.

The response he got from family members sparked his decision to attempt a comeback.

"My family helped convince me I really should come back and do it," Dietzen said. "I remember watching games and saying, 'Oh, I bet I could still do that.' They said, 'Well, if you think you can, why don't you?'"

Dietzen, who has made 32 career starts, is back with the Badgers after taking off the 2019 season. He says he's feeling better and ready to contribute whatever he can when the 16th-ranked Badgers open their season Oct. 23 by hosting Illinois.

Teammates and coaches say Dietzen already is making a major difference.

"He's been an absolute blast to be around," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said. "There's obviously a maturity that he brings but also that appreciation. Something was underplayed and now (he's) getting to play."

Dietzen made a combined 20 starts at left guard in 2016-17 and was the Badgers' first-team left tackle in 2018, but he struggled with ankle and hip injuries for much of his career. He underwent hip surgery before the 2018 season.

"He just is an incredible warrior," offensive tackle Cole Van Lanen said. "He's battled through so much."

All those injuries finally caused Dietzen to announce via social media in February 2019 that he was giving up football.

But later that summer, Dietzen noticed he was starting to feel better. He began training again that July.

"It was more a way to start gauging how my body did feel," Dietzen said. "I noticed day-to-day things felt better, just waking up and moving around, but obviously you can account that to having not played football that day."

When Dietzen trained for months and still felt fine, he realized that perhaps a comeback was possible.

He spent that year away from the game hanging out with his girlfriend, fishing, hunting and editing a podcast. But he also watched plenty of football, which made him realize just how much he wanted to get back on the field.

"Definitely the more football I watched, the more I missed it," Dietzen said. "In the beginning, I kind of tried to stay away from it, but obviously you grow up playing football and playing high-

level football, you're going to end up sitting around watching football all the time."

At that point, family members told him he ought to play again.

"There was nobody that was questioning whether it was a good decision for me," Dietzen said. "They knew I knew how to listen to my body at this point."

Dietzen approached Wisconsin coaches in October 2019 to say he was interested in coming back to the program at some point. His return became official just before the start of the Badgers' pandemic-delayed preseason camp.

He brings more versatility and experience to the offensive line. When Wisconsin released its depth chart for Friday's Illinois game, Dietzen was the starting right guard.

His return has delighted a team that got enough bad news this preseason with quarterback Jack Coan undergoing foot surgery and safety Reggie Pearson not getting medically cleared.

Tight end Jake Ferguson said "as soon as you see him in pads, it's awesome, and he's got the flow going," a reference to Dietzen's long red hair.

"It's almost like nothing's changed," Ferguson said. "He's still a leader. He's still out there kicking butt."

Well, one thing has changed: Dietzen said the injuries that caused him to give up the game last year haven't cropped up thus far.

"I feel pretty good, actually," Dietzen said. "I feel better and more healthy than I have in previous years, knock on wood."



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Wisconsin offensive lineman Jon Dietzen missed the 2019 season after quitting following a rash of injuries. He returned this season and is listed as the team's starting right guard in Friday's opener.

Can a 7-win Pac-12 team make the playoffs? It's complicated

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

As the last Power Five conference to jump into the college football season, the chances that a Pac-12 team can reach the national championship, even the playoff, seem slim.

But never say never. Especially in a season as odd as this one.

"Nobody knows," said Stanford coach David Shaw. "Nobody knows."

The Pac-12's coaches believe there's a possibility a conference team could play for the national title, even though the league has an abbreviated schedule with just seven games per team. But a whole bunch of things would have to fall into place.

"If we have a conference champion that's played well — I don't think you have to be undefeated but I think you got to play really well and show that you're one of the better teams in America," Shaw said. "And then, however it happens in the other places, not every one is going to play every

‘Let the champions move on and let’s see. Let the teams play, and we’ll see who the best team is at the end of the year.’

Jimmy Lake

Washington coach on all Power Five champions being allowed in the CFP

game as we've seen, some teams are going to falter. So we'll have to see how it all shakes out."

Currently, there are two Pac-12 teams ranked in the AP Top 25: Oregon at No. 13 and USC at No. 24. They are not the only teams who haven't played a down that are in the rankings. The Big Ten's Ohio State (5), Penn State (8), Wisconsin (14), Michigan (18) and Minnesota (21) are also there. The Big Ten starts this weekend, two weeks earlier than the Pac-12, and its teams play an eight-game schedule.

Arizona State coach Herm Edwards said he doesn't envy the selection committee this season.

"I know I wouldn't want to be in that seat, trying to figure out

who those teams are. It's very difficult," Edwards said. "And it becomes even more difficult now with COVID hovering over football and athletics as well."

Then there's Jimmy Lake's idea.

Washington's new coach said he believes every Power Five champion should make the College Football Playoff. A sixth "wild card" team could be an independent like Notre Dame, a Group of Five champion or a good second-place Power Five team.

The top two teams would have a bye, Lake said, while No. 3 would play No. 6, and No. 4 would play No. 5 to determine the semifinal matchups.

"I think that way you take all the

subjectivity out of it, all the politics, the East Coast (bias), all of that," Lake said on the preseason Pac-12 coaches' teleconference. "Let the champions move on and let's see. Let the teams play, and we'll see who the best team is at the end of the year."

Of course, any Pac-12 representation in the playoffs hinges on whether the league's teams can get all their games in, with COVID-19 cases rising nationwide and college games routinely getting postponed because of outbreaks.

"With the time configuration that we're working with, there's really no opportunity to make up games. And so if we miss a game, that game is just going to be out the window," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "And so we're hoping that we get them all in. Nobody can predict the future, we don't have a crystal ball, but we'd all be elated if we get the seven games in."

The lack of nonconference games will likely make it harder to determine where the Pac-12

ranks as an overall league, too.

"It's very difficult, I think, without nonleague, out-of-conference games to judge other leagues. So it'll be even a more difficult year this year. But we will have a conference champion and (that) will give us an opportunity later on and maybe some crossover games to see where we are," Arizona coach Kevin Sumlin said.

But Sumlin emphatically answered "yes" when asked if a 7-0 Pac-12 team could be in play for a championship.

It's not just the CFP. The overall postseason picture is somewhat murky, too. The NCAA clarified one issue when it waived bowl eligibility criteria for this season.

"I know it's coach speak, but it's truth: We focus on what we can control, preparing ourselves to be ready to play games. Then you get into these games, you take them one at a time because that's the only way you get to play them. So we haven't approached that topic (of a postseason) with the guys," Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 12 suddenly playing defense

League known more for offense

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
Associated Press

DID YOU KNOW?

Defenses are making a stand early in this Big 12 season.

The conference best known in recent years for high-scoring showdowns and crazy passing numbers now boasts some of the nation's stingiest defenses. West Virginia leads the nation in total defense, allowing just 240.3 yards per game. Among the 77 Bowl Subdivision teams that have played so far this season, Oklahoma State ranks second nationally in scoring defense and is tied with West Virginia for fewest yards allowed per play. Baylor ranks fifth.

Though the Pac-12 and Big Ten have yet to play, those lofty positions in the national rankings are much different than what Big 12 observers are used to.

The biggest leap has come against the pass. Seven Big 12 teams have allowed fewer passing yards per game than they did at the same point in league play last season. This season, the conference has four of the top 16 teams nationally in fewest passing yards allowed per game and three of the top 11 in pass efficiency defense.

"To sit here and say there's no defense and it's just a passing league — I sort of block that stuff out," Iowa State quarterback Brock Purdy said. "It doesn't

mean much to me because I think the defensive play is really hard in this league and I give respect to the d-coordinators across the league. They do a good job scheming up all the offenses. It goes both ways."

The Big 12 went through a run of excellent quarterback play in recent years. Patrick Mahomes lit it up at Texas Tech before becoming an NFL MVP and Super Bowl champion for the Kansas City Chiefs. Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray, both Heisman Trophy winners and No. 1 overall draft picks, led the Sooners to College Football Playoff appearances.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Those are just a few of the prolific signal callers the league has featured. There still are plenty of good quarterbacks in the Big 12 — they're just not quite at the same level as in recent years.

What has resulted is games like Oklahoma State's 27-13 win over West Virginia in which neither team gained more than 360 yards. And Kansas State's 21-14 victory over TCU where 289 yards of offense were enough for the Wildcats to pull off the win.



WILLIAM WOTRING, THE DOMINION-POST/AP

West Virginia defensive lineman Darius Mills, left, reacts after making an interception against Kansas last weekend in Morgantown, W.Va. The Mountaineers lead the nation in total defense.

"You look at the No. 1 draft picks and the high rankings in passing offense and things like that, and it was really difficult to play defense in this league due to offensive skill, and most importantly, at the quarterback position," West Virginia coach Neal Brown said. "And I think it's been more pro offense than it's been negative defense."

Big 12 defenses have been adjusting, too. Programs are recruiting more versatile personnel and many have switched coordinators in recent years.

What has resulted is games like Oklahoma State's 27-13 win over West Virginia in which neither team gained more than 360 yards. And Kansas State's 21-14 victory over TCU where 289 yards of offense were enough for the Wildcats to pull off the win.

"Defenses have seen what's happened in this league for the last eight years and they've rallied and done some things differently, particularly playing coverage guys deeper than they did four or five years ago," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said.

Playing deeper and having more players in coverage has put more responsibility on defensive linemen to pressure the quarterback. TCU coach Gary Patterson said his team isn't getting as much pressure as he'd like, but it's a by-product of the way the game has changed.

"I'm not happy with it," he said. "It's something we want to be a lot better at, but I'm not satisfied. But if you want to be one of the best defenses in the nation, you've got to make people fear that you can come and get the

quarterback with a three- or four-man rush."

The league still goes back to its old ways sometimes. Texas has been in two high-scoring thrillers — a 63-56 overtime win against Texas Tech and a 53-45 loss to Oklahoma. But other conferences, such as the SEC, are starting to see the kinds of offensive explosions once reserved for the Big 12. Alabama defeated Ole Miss 63-48 earlier this month as the teams combined for an SEC-record 1,370 yards.

"People have migrated in those conferences in running what the country would call Big 12 style offenses now in other conferences, and those numbers are getting run up," Gundy said.

AP sports writers Eric Olson and Schuyler Dixon contributed to this report.

No. 3 Notre Dame wary as it faces Pitt on road

By **WILL GRAVES**
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Brian Kelly needs more. Too often during a lackluster victory over Louisville last week, the Notre Dame coach watched the third-ranked Irish going through the motions.

"They have to play with a bit more sense of urgency," Kelly said. "Sometimes the clock's ticking and you need to play with that sense of urgency from the very first play. You learn about those things as we move along."

Kelly hopes it's a lesson that only needs to be taught once. A lethargic performance against Pittsburgh on Saturday and



No. 3 Notre Dame (4-0) at Pittsburgh (3-3)
AFN-Sports2
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

road at Clemson. In 2017, it was a decisive win over then-second-ranked Miami. Last season it was a heart-stopping last-second triumph over Group of Five darling and 15th-ranked UCF.

"I wish I could tell you I had my magic wand underneath here," Narduzzi said while playfully reaching under the dais. "It's not here... I mean, there's no magic to it. It's getting your guys prepared mentally, physically."

Doing both has become a bit of an issue for Pitt during its current slide. A pair of one-point losses to North Carolina State and Boston College cooled Pitt's early momentum, and senior quarterback Kenny Pickett sat out last week's loss to Miami with an ankle injury.

Pickett is likely out again, meaning freshman Joey Yellen will have to face a defense that's allowed all of five touchdowns in four games. Yellen threw for 277 yards and a touchdown in his Pitt debut but also absorbed three

sacks and lost a fumble that led directly to a Hurricanes score. A little help from the running game would take some of the pressure off. It hasn't come so far this season for the Panthers, who managed just 22 yards on the ground in Miami.

Flag day

Pitt has sometimes beaten itself during its three-game slide. The Panthers have committed 27 penalties for 215 yards over the last three weeks and are among the most penalized teams in the ACC.

"Some of them aren't penalties, I can tell you that," Narduzzi said, later adding, "It's tough to make all those calls out there. I'm not winning."

Notre Dame, by comparison, has been flagged just 13 times all season, fourth-fewest in the nation.

"We've been able to stay away from key penalties late, early or

late," Kelly said. "It's benefited us, obviously. I think it's the way our kids handle themselves off the field. I think it's the expectations that we set in the program, and I think it's having veteran players."

Close calls

While Notre Dame has won five of the six meetings with the Panthers under Kelly, the games have been remarkably close. Five have been decided by a touchdown or less, including a 19-14 victory by the Fighting Irish in 2018 in which unbeaten Notre Dame trailed the 3-3 Panthers all afternoon until Ian Book's 35-yard touchdown pass to Miles Boykin with 5:43 remaining.

"They're always going to play Notre Dame hard," Kelly said. "They've got some game wreckers on defense. They're going to get after the quarterback and play physical. ... That'll keep you up at night."

NFL



Jed Jacobson/AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Deebo Samuel, right, is congratulated by Trent Williams after scoring a touchdown against the Los Angeles Rams in the 49ers' 24-16 win Sunday in Santa Clara, Calif. The 49ers had lost two consecutive games, with much of the blame directed at the team's offensive line.

49ers' offensive line fueled by recent criticism of effort

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Mike McGlinchey helped clear the way for Deebo Samuel to convert the game-sealing first down and then repeatedly head butted teammate Hroniss Grasu in celebration.

The frustration built up over two rough weeks for San Francisco's offensive line spilled out in that moment at the end of the Niners' 24-16 win over the Los Angeles Rams.

"It was just an exciting moment," McGlinchey said Wednesday. "We had gone through a lot of stuff the last couple of weeks and definitely fell on some hard times and didn't play up to our standard. Sunday night we got back on track and that's all that was. It was just a lot of excitement, a lot of pride and what we did that night. Everybody felt the way that we competed and the way that we played and to seal it the way that we did with that final play was just the icing on the cake."

The defending NFC champion 49ers (3-3) came into that game having lost back-to-back contests. Much of the blame went to McGlinchey and the offensive line that allowed five sacks in consecutive games for the first time in six years.

McGlinchey said last week that some of the criticism was unfair as outsiders focused on only a few blown plays rather than the totality of his play. But the criticism



49ers (3-3)
at Patriots (2-3)
AFN-Sports2
9 a.m. Sunday CET
4 a.m. Monday JKT



also served as fuel for the line's best performance of the season.

"I'm not going to lie to you and say that it didn't. It certainly did," McGlinchey said about feeling motivated by the criticism. "It just gives you that little extra edge. I appreciate the edge, if that's what you guys want to keep giving me. It's awesome. It was a cool night. I played up to the standard that I know that I can play. I got back on track. I eliminated the bad plays. That's all that it was."

The Niners controlled two-time Deon Donald and allowed no sacks, and a season-long three pressures and quarterback hits, according to SportRadar.

San Francisco also ran for 122 yards and got a lot more on tap passes out of the shotgun that are officially counted as passes but are essentially runs.

Two of those plays to Samuel

helped lead to a TD on the opening drive. Samuel took one 35 yards on the second play of the game and capped the drive with another for a 6-yard TD.

Coach Kyle Shanahan went back to that play at the end of the game, leading to Samuel's 11-yard gain on third-and-7 that sealed the win with a performance more reminiscent of last season's run to the Super Bowl than the sluggish start to this season.

"I was hoping that the Miami game would spring us forward and really say a lot about our team and went out and got completely embarrassed as we all know," Shanahan said of the 43-17 loss to the Dolphins in Week 5.

"I also think that did something to us, even though it was obviously a negative with losing that and hurting our record, especially the way we did it. But I think it affected us in a good way going forward. It's not like guys weren't working and trying, but there's always another level to get to, however that comes out."

Notes: LT Trent Williams missed practice but doesn't have a high ankle sprain and might be able to play this week ... RB Raheem Mostert, S Jaquiski Tamm (groin) and LB KW Alexander (ankle) all missed practice. ... CB Richard Sherman (calf) and DE Dee Ford (back) aren't expected to return until after the bye week in Week 11. ... The Niners promoted LB Joe Walker to the active roster from the practice squad and signed LB Jonas Griffith and TE Daniel Helm to the practice squad.

Seahawks unsure of Adams, waiting on Gordon return

Unbeaten Seattle has plenty of questions

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks still don't know when or if they'll get the services of wide receiver Josh Gordon this season and if his current suspension will be lifted by the NFL.

They continue to be linked in rumors about another currently suspended wide receiver in free agent Antonio Brown. They brought back a familiar face by signing linebacker Mychal Kendricks to the practice squad.

And their biggest offseason acquisition — safety Jamal Adams — might miss a third straight game because of a groin injury.

Coming back from its bye week, the last remaining unbeaten team in the NFC seemed filled with news on Wednesday.

The Seahawks (5-0) play Sunday at the Arizona Cardinals (4-2).

In the immediate future, the most pressing was the ongoing uncertainty about Adams and his recovery from a groin strain suffered in Week 3 against Dallas. Adams sat out wins over Miami and Minnesota, but Seattle coach Pete Carroll said he believed prior to the bye week that Adams would be ready to return for Sunday's game.

But Adams was not on the practice field on Wednesday. Carroll said the team is still waiting to find out when Adams can go at full speed.

"We really won't know anything until later in the week," Carroll said.

The uncertainty about Adams means that Ryan Neal could make his third straight start at strong safety. Neal has played well in the absence of Adams, and has earned an opportunity to be included in the Seahawks' defensive plans even when Adams returns.

While Adams remained out, Seattle did get a boost with rookie Jett Duggan returning to practice on Wednesday for the first time since spraining his knee in Week 3 against Dallas. Brooks' return will add depth to the group of linebackers that received another boost with the signing of Kendricks.

Last season, Kendricks started 14 games and had 71 tackles for the Seahawks before suffering a major knee injury in the regular-season finale against San Francisco. For now he's on the practice squad with the team wanting to give Kendricks plenty of time to acclimate after spending the off-



Seahawks (5-0)
at Cardinals (4-2)
AFN-Sports2
6 p.m. Sunday CET
1 a.m. Monday JKT

season rehabbing the torn ACL in his knee.

Carroll said Kendricks will start off playing weakside linebacker, but he did play at the strongside linebacker spot last season for Seattle.

"We're really excited to get him back, really thrilled that (Mychal) will take this time to get himself in football shape," Carroll said. "And he's a well-conditioned kid, he's strong as hell. So it's none of that stuff, he just needs to get football-wise, ready. I'm really happy that he's here."

While Carroll was happy with the addition of Kendricks, he was also peppered with questions about a pair of wide receivers.

The Seahawks signed Gordon on Sept. 3 even before being reinstated by the league. That wait has continued for the team with no clarity on when it may end.

Gordon was suspended indefinitely by the NFL last December for violating the league's drug policy. He tested positive for performance-enhancers and "substances of abuse," the league said in a statement at the time.

He applied for reinstatement in June.

"The decisions are made by the league and we really don't know and don't have contact to speak of here," Carroll said. "We don't know any more than really you do at this point. We're just waiting it out for word from the league."

As for Brown, a report from ESPN on Wednesday indicated Seattle may be looking to pursue the wide receiver once his suspension for violations of the personal conduct policy is up after eight games. Brown could still face further discipline from the league, but he's been linked with Seattle for much of the offseason.

"We have endeavored to be in on everything that's going on, and (GM) John (Schneider) has done a marvelous job of always being tuned into what's happening and this is no exception," Carroll said. "We'll see what happens as we go forward. But we're tuned into what's happening there."

NFL



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry rushed for 212 yards last week against Houston.

Steelers will have hands full with Titans RB Henry

By Will Graves
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sure there are options when facing Derrick Henry. None of them, however, are particularly fun.

Try to hit the NFL's hottest running back high, and he will stiff-arm you into GIP-worthy oblivion (see Norman, Josh). Try to hit him low one-on-one, and you risk Henry turning you into highly paid roadkill.

Try to run him down and you might come to the realization that not only is the 6-foot-3, 247-pound Tennessee Titans star keeping you at bay, but he might also be pulling away from you in the open field.

Henry is a sprinter who happens to be built like a linebacker. A throwback on the surface, but look beyond the 26-year-old's sheer brawn and you'll find a player who has moves that appear to be ripped right out of a video game.

While Henry, in typical fashion, diligently deflects attention to his teammates — "Ain't nothing about me," he said after running for 212 yards and the game-winning touchdown in last week's overtime win over Houston — the NFL's second-ranked run defense is not fooled.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (5-0) understand their best chance at knocking off the unbeaten Titans (5-0) starts with succeeding where so many have failed over the past year or so: by neutralizing a player rarely stuck in neutral.

"He wears you down," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "He's capable, and they're capable, of winning by attrition. As you saw last week, he's also big-play ca-



Pittsburgh Steelers (5-0)
at **Tennessee Titans (5-0)**
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Sunday CET
1 a.m. Monday JKT

pubic. It's really astounding that a back his size is capable of going to the house just about every time he touches it."

Henry has rolled up 1,818 yards rushing and 19 touchdowns over his past 16 regular-season games and already has 11 career scores of 50 yards or more, including a 94-yard dash through Houston's stunned secondary last week.

"Over the course of the last 10 or 12 games, dating back to last year, this guy has a highlight reel of big runs unlike which I have never seen over that type of a time span," Tomlin said.

A time span in which Pittsburgh's defense has been among the league's best at stuffing the run no matter who happens to be in the backfield. The Steelers have allowed just one opponent to top 100 yards over their past 21 games, and that was by Baltimore's Gus Edwards in a meaningless 2019 regular-season finale with the playoffs already out of reach.

New York Giants Pro Bowler Saquon Barkley managed just 6 yards on 15 carries in the 2020 opener. Melvin Gordon ran for 70 yards in Week 2, but remove back-to-back snaps where he found room in the first half, and

he rushed for 37 yards on his other 17 carries. Cleveland came to Heinz Field last week with the NFL's top rushing attack and was held to a season-low 75 yards while getting rolled 38-7.

Still, Henry is different. So is what Tennessee tries to do with him. Unlike Cleveland or Denver, the Titans will not abandon the run when they fall behind.

"Not only do you have to stop the run initially, but this is a guy who averages about 25 carries a game," Tomlin said. "Regardless of how the game is going, you better be prepared to answer that element of the challenge over the course of the game."

A challenge that includes Henry's ability to score from anywhere, putting the commitment by the defensive line to try to at least slow him down at a premium.

Once Henry gets to the second level, he'll have a size advantage over anyone who happens to come into his path.

Norman, now a cornerback for Buffalo, found that out the hard way when his attempt to tackle Henry — a good 3 inches and 50 pounds heavier — ended with Henry extending his right arm and shoving Norman to the ground like a toddler brushing aside a helping of vegetables when there's pizza to be had.

"You've got to stress tackling," Steelers defensive tackle Cam Heyward said. "You can't just arm tackle. As a defense and as a front seven, we understand we can't put the onus on the (defensive backs) to tackle the entire game. Keep him inside from tackle to tackle and gang tackle

...It's a group effort, but I think we've got the time to do it."

Panthers' Anderson isn't just deep threat

By Steve Reed
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Robby Anderson is proving he's more than just a deep threat.

The Carolina Panthers' 27-year-old wide receiver has been one of the biggest free-agent success stories in the NFL this season, currently second in the league in yards receiving (566) and tied for fourth in receptions (40).

Anderson came to Carolina after four seasons with the Jets, where he averaged 52 receptions and 765 yards and earned a reputation as the tall, skinny wide receiver who could blow the top off the defense at 14.7 yards per catch.

Now he's showing he can be a reliable possession receiver, too, on pace for a career-high 106 catches for 1,509 yards entering Sunday's game at New Orleans.

Panthers coach Matt Rhule, who coached Anderson at Temple, said he never bought into the notion that Anderson was just a straight-line receiver whose sole strength was his ability to run past defensive backs.

"I don't pay attention to labels and those things that are out there," Rhule said. "I try to watch the tape. And when you see the tape you see a guy who did all of those things at his last stop. And I knew from college that he could do all of those things."

That's why Rhule pushed for Panthers general manager Marty Hurney to sign Anderson when he became an unrestricted free agent. The Jets thought they were going to be able to retain Anderson, but instead he signed a two-year, \$20 million contract with Carolina — one that is beginning to look like a bargain deal — to rejoin Rhule.



Carolina Panthers (3-3)
at **New Orleans Saints (3-2)**
AFN-Atlantic
6 p.m. Sunday CET
1 a.m. Monday JKT

Rhule said Anderson has been "fearless" in Carolina's offense, able to work underneath the coverage and make catches in traffic.

"He's got great ball skills and he's got great body control," Rhule said.

Anderson showed that last Sunday when he laid out to haul in a 38-yard reception from Teddy Bridgewater along the left sideline.

Anderson doesn't mind being called a deep threat — he has a 75-yard TD reception this season — but believes he's so much more.

"I've just have been able to show that I'm an all-around receiver, which I already kind of knew about myself," Anderson said.

He credits playing in offensive coordinator Joe Brady's system as part of the reason he's putting up gaudy numbers. His chemistry with Bridgewater, whom he worked with extensively after they signed with the Panthers on consecutive days, has made a "huge impact," too.

"Him having that trust in me and him understanding and wanting to take time to teach me has helped my game a lot," Anderson said.



MIKE MCCORM/AP

Carolina Panthers wide receiver Robby Anderson, right, catches a pass in front of Chicago Bears cornerback Jaylon Johnson during the second half of last week's game in Charlotte, N.C.

NFL



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow, who has four games with at least 300 yards passing, says he doesn't expect to have to throw 61 times against the Browns this week, like he did in Week 2.

Burrow sees more balance in Bengals this time vs. Browns

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Joe Burrow threw the ball 61 times in the Cincinnati Bengals' first game against the Cleveland Browns five weeks ago. He doesn't expect it to get that "weird" in the rematch this week.

Burrow said he believes the Bengals (1-4-1) are better now than when they lost 35-30 at Cleveland in Week 2 when an ineffective running game forced Cincinnati to get pass happy. He attempted an astounding 61 passes — second most for a rookie in NFL history — completing 37 for 316 yards and three touchdowns in his second pro start.

"That was kind of a weird game," the 2019 Heisman Trophy winner and top overall draft pick said Wednesday. "They jumped out on us early, and so they played a lot more zone (defense) on us, tried to keep everything in front of them."

Playing from behind, the Bengals had to keep going with the only thing that was working — mostly short passes.

"We dropped back 70-some times because they were rolling on offense, so we had to stay in the game," Burrow said. "I anticipate our team (will) play better as a unit and keep it a little closer."

Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor isn't making promises about how much responsibility he'll put in the lap of his 23-year-old quarterback. Burrow leads the NFL in number of attempts (246) and is second in completions (160). He has four games with at least 300 passing yards and is among the league's top 10 with more than 1,600 total yards — all while being sacked 24 times, second most in the league.

"We feel comfortable throwing the ball, and we'll do whatever it takes to win the game," Taylor

By the numbers

61

Passes thrown by Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow in his team's 35-30 loss at Cleveland in Week 2 of this season.

246

League-leading number of passing attempts this season by Burrow.

24

Times Burrow has been sacked this season, second most in the league.

SOURCE: Associated Press

said. "He's had a lot of success throwing it."

But in the loss to the Browns (4-2), the Bengals squandered prime opportunities, a problem that dogged them throughout their dismal start.

Case in point: In one series in the third quarter against Cleveland, Cincinnati had seven plays from inside the Cleveland 10-yard line and had to settle for Randy Bullock's field goal. That included Tyler Boyd dropping a pass that what would've been a touchdown.

"(That) could have helped

change the momentum in the game," the fifth-year wideout said. "You know, that play still agitates me and bothers me a lot."

Besides figuring out how to block Browns sack specialist Myles Garrett this week, the Bengals are dealing with some internal turmoil.

Veteran defensive linemen Geno Atkins and Carlos Dunlap are getting fewer snaps and both are frustrated with their reduced roles. The 32-year-old Atkins missed the first four games of the season with a shoulder injury. He's back but has played sparingly in the last two games.

The 31-year-old Dunlap was dropped from the starting lineup earlier this season and voiced his displeasure in Zoom sessions with reporters and on social media. Taylor said Dunlap will be limited to mostly third downs, despite the fact that multiple other defensive linemen are sidelined with injuries.

Both are among the franchise's all-time leaders in sacks, but have been nearly invisible this season.

Taylor has been measured in his response to the griping of the two veterans and other defensive players who have taken to social media to complain about how they are being used.

"When you face adversity sometimes things reveal themselves," Taylor said Wednesday. "Sometimes that's a really, really good thing for the future of the team."

Notebook

RB Joe Mixon, who injured his foot in last week's game, didn't practice Wednesday. Taylor said his status for Sunday is still undetermined. ... DT tackle Mike Daniels (elbow) has been cleared to practice and may be available for the Cleveland game. He's been on the injury list since Oct. 3.

Positive test leads Raiders to send home O-linemen

All 5 starters on line missed Wednesday's practice

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

The Las Vegas Raiders sent all five starting offensive linemen home as part of coronavirus contact tracing after right tackle Trent Brown was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list with a positive test.

The Raiders held practice on Wednesday without their starting five as they prepare for Sunday's home game against Tampa Bay. Safety Johnathan Abram also was held out because of contact tracing.

"I guess they were around Trent," coach Jon Gruden said. "I can't get into things any more than that. Hopefully we'll get some players back tomorrow or for Sunday."

Gruden says the team is listening to the league about how to handle the situation.

Las Vegas had the week off last week and returned to practice on Monday. Brown took part in that practice but has since tested positive.

"I'm concerned," Gruden said about being without his linemen. "I'm really more concerned about Trent's health than anything. This is COVID. I'm concerned about anybody who has it or is near it."

Gruden had the coronavirus in July before the start of training camp.

The Raiders' current starting offensive line is left tackle Kolton Miller, left guard Denzel Good, center Rodney Hudson, right guard Gabe Jackson and Brown. The other linemen on the active roster are Patrick Omahame, John Simpson, Andrew James, Brandon Parker and Sam Young.

Guard Richie Incognito is on injured reserve with an Achilles

injury and Las Vegas also has Jared Jones-Smith, Erik Magnuson and Kamaal Seymour on the practice squad.

"What's crazy is, whoever's out there, that's who's out there. Nobody cares about this or that. They just see the win-loss and that's all that matters in this business," quarterback Derek Carr said. "So with that said, we came in with the mindset today like, oh dang, you feel bad for those guys. You feel for them, you pray for them, make sure they're OK, make sure their families are OK, all those kinds of things."

"But at the same time, we have a job to do while we're here, so you have to compartmentalize a little bit. You have to separate the two once you step on the field. We have to act like this is game day. We have to act like this is the group we're rolling out with, so get ready to play."

Brown is the second Raiders player put on the COVID list this week after cornerback Damon Arnette went on it on Monday. Arnette was already on injured reserve with a broken thumb.

The list is used for players who either test positive for the coronavirus or have been in close contact with an infected person.

Defensive tackle Maurice Hurst was put on the COVID list two weeks ago before being activated on Monday.

Brown is supposed to be a key part of Las Vegas line after signing a \$66 million, four-year contract before the 2019 season. He has played only sparingly this season after injuring his calf on the opening series in Week 1 at Carolina.

He missed the next three games before returning on Oct. 11 for a 40-32 win over Kansas City.



PETER JONELLI/AP

The Las Vegas Raiders sent all five starting offensive linemen home as part of contact tracing after right tackle Trent Brown, above, was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list with a positive test.

WORLD SERIES



TONY GUTTEREZ/AP

Effort: Seven of Rays' nine starters had at least one hit

FROM BACK PAGE

has won over fans this fall by hitting like Barry Bonds during games and dancing like Bruno Mars after.

Arozarena scored 14 runs and drove in 10 through the AL Championship Series, accounting for 42% of Tampa Bay's 57 runs. His 22 postseason hits are tied with Yankees great Derek Jeter for most by a rookie — a stunning emergence for a player with 24 career hits in the regular season.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Rays combined to bat .179 during the AL Division Series and ALCS.

Lowe's struggles were the most pronounced — and most surprising.

For a lineup that relies on mixing and matching role players rather than a showy list of stars, Lowe is usually an anchor. Lately, he's just been dead weight.

The 2019 All-Star entered Wednesday batting .107 in the postseason. He had driven in just two runs despite being repeatedly penned into the No. 2 spot by manager Kevin Cash, whose public confidence never wavered.

Lowe rewarded it in Game 2. The left-handed hitter hit a solo shot to left field in the first inning, then went that way again for a two-run drive in the fifth. They were his first opposite-field home runs all season.

"Yeah, those felt really good," Lowe said. "It felt great to kind of get back and contribute to the team. You know, they've been doing so well for the past month, it felt really good to get back and actually start doing stuff again." The Rays say they knew the regression was coming.

"He can go quiet for a little while, but he can get as hot as anybody in baseball," Cash said. "Hopefully that's the trend we're looking at moving forward."

Lowe wasn't the only Ray to break through Wednesday. Seven of their nine starters had at least one hit, including the first kno- cks in this series for Austin Meadows, Ji-Man Choi and Willy Adames.

By the numbers

.179

Combined batting average for Rays players other than rookie Randy Arozarena during the AL Division and Championship Series.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Even the starters that went hitless — Kevin Kiermaier and Mike Zunino — seem to be seeing the ball well. Kiermaier homered and had two hits in Game 1, while Zunino's outs featured exit velocities of 107 and 102.9 mph.

"We have a bunch of hitters who have been slow here as of late," Cash said. "But it does take a little mental fortitude to be able to withstand. You already put pressure on yourself, and you're trying to do the toughest thing in sports, and that's to hit a baseball. You're trying to do it against the best pitching in baseball."

The challenge will intensify in Game 3 on Friday. The Game 2 breakout came against a mish-mash of back-end starters and middle relievers covering for a Dodgers club that taxed its rotation to get through the NL Championship Series.

Los Angeles next gives the ball to No. 1 starter Walker Buehler. He's been essentially unhittable in this postseason, and he had his sharpest outing yet with six scoreless against Atlanta in NLCS Game 6 last Saturday. After that, top relievers Kenley Jansen, Blake Treinen and Brusdar Graterol await after going un- hit in the first two games.

The Rays will counter with reliable 36-year-old old righty Charlie Morton, with a 2.84 career ERA in the postseason.

More not merrier as Dodgers send seven to mound in loss

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — More was not merrier for Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts went with an opener against the team that invented the concept, sending Tony Gonsolin to start Game 2 of the World Series against the Tampa Bay Rays — one shy of the record for a nine-inning Series game.

By the end of the Dodgers' 6-4 defeat Wednesday night, which evened the Series at one game apiece, it appeared the Dodgers are down to essentially a two-man rotation of Walker Buehler and Clayton Kershaw.

Coming off games on seven straight days against Atlanta in the NL Championship Series under this year's unique postseason schedule, with just Monday's off-day, Roberts felt he had no rested alternative.

"We didn't have anybody that was on regular," he explained.

Seems like a throwback to the Boston Braves of Spahn and Sain and pray for rain, as Gerald V. Hern of the Boston Post poetically memorialized the pitching tandem of Warren Spahn and Johnny Sain in 1948.

Of the 125 innings pitched by the Dodgers in the postseason, Buehler is 1-0 with a 1.89 ERA in 19 innings and Kershaw is 3-1 with a 2.88 ERA in 25 innings, a combined 2.45 ERA. The rest of the staff is 6-3 with a 4.11 ERA.

Gonsolin lasted just four outs, struggling with his slider and leaving with a 1-0 deficit after allowing a home run to his second batter, Brandon Lowe.

Dylan Floro (four outs) and Victor Gonzalez (three outs) followed with scoreless ball, but the Rays built a 5-0 lead off Dustin May, who gave up Joey Wendle's two-run double in the fourth and Lowe's two-run homer on an 0-2 curveball in the fifth. Jose Kelly allowed Wendle's sacrifice fly in the sixth.

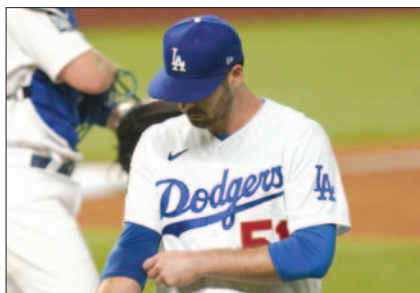
Alex Wood (six outs) and Jake McGee (three) finished with shut-out relief, but the damage yielded by the earlier parade of pitchers was too much to overcome.

Gonsolin has a 9.82 postseason ERA, allowing eight runs in 7½ innings, and May a 5.00 ERA, giving up five runs in nine innings.

"I still trust them. I still believe them, and they've just got to make pitches," Roberts said. "They're still going to need to get big outs for us."

Gonsolin didn't pitch between Sept. 26 and Oct. 13, when he started against Atlanta and gave up five runs over 4½ innings in the 8-7 Game 2 loss. He followed May in the second inning of Game 7 on Sunday and allowed a pair of runs, a home run to his first batter, Dansby Swanson, and an RBI single to Austin Riley.

"I want the ball. I want to go out there and give our team a chance to win every time I get out on the pitch," he said. "It's been a learn-



PHOTOS BY ERIC GAY/AP

From top, Los Angeles pitchers Tony Gonsolin, Dylan Floro and Dustin May were just three of the seven pitchers that the Dodgers sent to the mound on Wednesday — one shy of the record for a nine-inning World Series game.

ing experience for me to do new things, starting or whatever and throwing within three days or whatever ... I can definitely take trying to maintain my sharpness in between outings, not trying to have all my stuff show up on day five or whenever my start day is."

Known for famous starting pitchers like Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Fernando Valenzuela and Orel Hershiser, the Dodgers would not seem like a team primed to adapt to the opener concept pioneered by manager Kevin Cash and the Rays in 2018.

Roberts gambled to keep Buehler and Kershaw fresh, just like he did in Game 7 of the NLCS when he held off using Kershaw and started May as an opener, who then combined with Gonsolin, Blake Treinen, Brusdar Graterol and Julio Urias for a three-hitter in a 4-3 win.

Buehler is scheduled to start Game 3 on Friday night on five days' rest after beating Atlanta in Game 6 of the NLCS on Saturday, when he threw 89 pitches over six innings. He would be on track to start a Game 7 on normal rest or Game 6 on three days' rest.

WORLD SERIES

Lowe busts slump as Rays hold off Dodgers

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Brandon Lowe kept finding his name near the top of Tampa Bay's lineup even as his offensive struggles continued to mount this postseason.

After Lowe finally busted out in Game 2 of the World Series, the Rays and Dodgers are tied deep in the heart of Texas.

"Sometimes guys, you've got to allow them to go through some tough patches," manager Kevin Cash said. "He will go quiet for a little while, but he can get as hot as anybody in baseball."

Lowe hit two home runs to the opposite field, Tampa Bay's bullpen held on late and the Rays beat Los Angeles 6-4 on Wednesday night.

"Yeah, those felt really good," said Lowe, a 2019 All-Star who led the Rays with 14 homers and 37 RBIs this season. "It felt great to kind of get back and contribute to the team. They've been doing so well for the past month — it felt really good to get back and actually start doing stuff again."

Blake Snell struck out nine in 4½ innings for the Rays and didn't allow a hit until Chris Taylor's two-run homer trimmed it to 5-2 in the fifth. The Dodgers threatened to complete a big comeback in the eighth, but Tampa Bay's relievers held firm.

Lowe and Joey Wendle each had three RBIs for the Rays, whose six runs and 10 hits were their most over the past 11 postseason games.

"I think today was a little bit better indicator of the kind of team that we are," said Wendle, who had a two-run double and a sacrifice fly. "Just a complete win, complete team win."

Nick Anderson got four outs for the victory. Diego Castillo earned the save when he struck out Taylor, the only batter he faced.

Pete Fairbanks went 1½ innings and left-hander Aaron Loup threw a called third strike past slugger Cody Bellinger with a runner on second to end the eighth. Loup also retired the first two hitters in the ninth.

"They've got some really good pitchers. They got out to that early lead and we just weren't able to overcome it," Taylor said. "We did a pretty good job of fighting to the end and we just weren't able to come up with the big hit we needed."

After an off day, Game 3 in the best-of-seven series matches two big-game pitchers starting on extra rest Friday night. Charlie Morton goes for the Rays against Walker Buehler.

Los Angeles was the "home team" for the first two games but will bat first in the next three.

Lowe hit a solo shot to left-center in the first off rookie Tony Gonsolin, putting the American League champion Rays ahead for the first time in this neutral-site World Series with their 23rd homer of the postseason — matching a major league record.



Scoreboard

World Series
(Best-of-seven)
x-F necessary
At Arlington, Texas
Los Angeles Dodgers 1, Tampa Bay 3
L.A. Dodgers 8, Tampa Bay 3
Wednesday: Tampa Bay 6, L.A. Dodgers 4
Friday: Game 3, L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-0) vs. Tampa Bay (TBD) (AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT)
Saturday: Game 4 (AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Sunday CET; 9 a.m. Sunday JKT)
Sunday, Oct. 26: Game 5 (AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 27: Game 6 (AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JKT)
x-Wednesday, Oct. 28: Game 7 (AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT)

Wednesday Rays 6, Dodgers 4

Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi	Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi
Meadows dh	3	1	1	0	Betts rf	3	0	0	0
Diaz ph-dh	1	0	1	0	Seager ss	4	2	1	1
Renfro pr-dh	0	0	0	0	Turner 3b	4	0	1	0
Lowe 2b	5	2	3	3	Munoy 1b	3	0	0	0
Arciszewski lf	3	1	0	0	Smith c	4	1	1	1
Phillips pr-0	0	0	0	0	Bellinger cf	3	0	0	0
Choi lf	3	2	1	0	Pollack dh	2	0	0	0
Brousseau ph-2b	0	0	0	0	Rios ph dh	2	0	0	0
Margot lf	2	0	0	0	Hernandez 2b	1	0	0	0
Wendle 3b	3	0	1	3	Pedroni ph-1b	1	0	0	0
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	Garnes ph	1	0	0	0
Kiermaier cf	4	0	0	0	Taylor lf-2b	4	1	2	2
Zunino c	0	0	0	0					
Totals	35	6	16	6	Totals	32	4	5	4

Tampa Bay	E	M	U	M	U	M	U	M	U
Shelton W1-0	4%	2	2	2	2	4	9		
Fairbanks 1-1	1%	1	1	1	1	0	2		
Loup 1-1	1%	0	0	0	0	0	2		
Castillo 5-1-1	1%	0	0	0	0	1	1		

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gonsolin L6-1	1%	1	1	1	1	1
Flores	1%	0	0	0	0	0
Geaulez	0%	1	1	1	0	0
May	1%	4	3	3	0	1
Nelso	2%	2	0	0	0	0
Wood	2%	2	0	0	1	2
McGee	1%	0	0	0	0	0

Loup pitched to 2 batters in the 9th, Gonzalez pitched to 3 batters in the 4th. T-340. At-11,472 (40,390).



Top: The Rays' Brandon Lowe, right, celebrates his two-run homer with Willy Adames during the fifth inning Wednesday. Above: Tampa Bay's Manuel Margot is safe at third past the Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner on a ball hit by Joey Wendle during the second inning of Game 2 of the World Series.

The second baseman was hitting .107 this postseason, and in an even worse 4-for-48 slide (.083) the past 13 games since the start of the AL Division Series.

"You've got to be able to be tough-minded and Brandon is. A lot of our guys are," Cash said. "We owe it to our guys to stick with them."

"Brandon, go ahead and get hot now, feel good about yourself."

By the time Lowe went deep again in the fifth, his second opposite-field homer of the game — and the entire season — it was 5-0. That one bounced off the top

of the left-field wall with a runner on against Dustin May, already the fourth Los Angeles pitcher.

Will Smith and NLCS MVP Corey Seager also homered for the Dodgers. Seager's solo shot in the eighth was his seventh homer and 16th RBI, extending the franchise records he had already set this postseason. It's the most homers by a shortstop in any MLB postseason.

Snell, the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, retired 10 straight before walking Kike Hernández with two outs in the fifth and Taylor, the No. 9 batter, homered on

his 80th pitch. Tampa Bay's ace was out of the game two batters later, after Mookie Betts walked and Seager singled.

"He was outstanding," Cash said. "He was awesome. Gave us everything that we needed."

Snell attacked with breaking pitches in the strike zone, not his usual pattern, against a Dodgers team that doesn't often chase. But less than a week after an aggressive hook by Cash to take Snell out of Game 6 of the ALCS after four innings, the left-hander still hasn't completed six innings since July 2019.

PHOTOS BY TONY GUTIERREZ, TOP, AND ERIC GAY, ABOVE/AP

SPORTS



Back with Badgers

OL Dietzen ready to contribute for No. 16 Wisconsin » Page 49

WORLD SERIES

Group effort

Rays' ensemble cast delivers in Game 2 victory

BY JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

Randy Arozarena was a one-man show getting the Tampa Bay Rays to the World Series. Big swings, bat flips, bustin' moves — he did it all — and his fast hands and fanciful feet didn't need much help capturing an AL pennant.

Winning the Fall Classic, though, that could take an ensemble cast — something Brandon Lowe and the rest of the Rays lineup finally began to provide Wednesday night.

After being carried through this postseason by its breakout rookie, Tampa Bay's offense turned in a top-to-bottom team effort in a 6-4 Game 2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night that evened the Series at a game apiece.

Lowe homered twice, Joey Wendle drove in three and the Rays combined for 10 hits — their biggest output since closing out the wild-card round against Toronto on Sept. 30.

"I think today was a little bit better indicator of the kind of team that we are," Wendle said. "Just a complete win, complete team win, everybody contributing at different parts of the game."

Only one of Wednesday's hits came from Arozarena, a 25-year-old Cuban who

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Tampa Bay Rays' Brandon Lowe — an All-Star in 2019 — entered Wednesday batting .107 in the postseason, driving in just two runs despite being repeatedly penned into the No. 2 spot by manager Kevin Cash. The left-handed hitting Lowe broke out of his slump in Game 2, smacking a solo shot to left field in the first inning, then again for a two-run drive in the fifth. They were his first opposite-field home runs all season.

SOURCE: Associated Press



SUE OROCKI/AP

Tampa Bay's Brandon Lowe, right, celebrates his first-inning home run with Willy Adames against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 2 of the World Series on Wednesday, in Arlington, Texas. Lowe homered again in the fifth, and the Rays won 6-4 to even the series.

Stan Van Gundy agrees to coach Pelicans » NBA, Page 47

