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# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 93 @SS 2020

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

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

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**SPACE FORCE**

## Capt. Kirk pulls rank



### 'Star Trek' actor seeks debate on structure of new service branch

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

**T**he original Capt. James T. Kirk of the starship USS Enterprise would like a word with Space Force officials about the new service branch's rank structure, and some lawmakers appear to be on his side.

"I'm just a nobody here but I was won-

dering; is it true that the commanding officer onboard a 'Space Force' ship is designated a Colonel & not a Captain?" William Shatner, the actor who played Kirk on "Star Trek," wrote to the service on Twitter. "Is this up for debate? I think I'd like to debate the issue."

His post over the weekend came days after the service, which falls under the Department of the Air Force, touted the transfers into its ranks of two Air Force

officers and their promotions to lieutenant general.

But Shatner may have characteristically beamed himself into an ongoing fray, as lawmakers have proposed requiring the service to use Navy ranks and grades.

The House last month approved its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act with an amendment

**SEE BRANCH ON PAGE 5**

**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

## Ugandan guards evacuated from US base after testing positive

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — A majority of the roughly 300 Ugandan guards who man watchtowers and provide security entry points at a U.S. base in eastern Afghanistan have tested positive for the coronavirus, a lawyer and several guards have said.

The guards, who work for the Triple Canopy private security company, tested positive in June and were evacuated from Operating Base Fenty near Jalalabad, military and company documents shared with Stars and Stripes show.

"The outbreak was widespread at Fenty, with a vast majority of those tested, testing positive," said Tara Coughlin, a Mt. Clemens, Mich.-based attorney who specializes in injury claims for foreign contractors on American bases.

Coughlin is representing some of the guards at Fenty.

NATO Resolute Support declined comment on the guards and didn't disclose how many troops or contractors in Afghanistan have tested positive for the virus, citing Pentagon guidance.

Ongoing violence, one of the world's worst health care systems and poverty mean Afghanistan has struggled to contain the virus, which according to a survey taken early this month by the Afghan Health Ministry has likely infected nearly a third of the country's 36 million people.

Most of the guards are still in Afghanistan waiting to be sent back home to Uganda, according to company emails and guards who spoke with Stars and Stripes.

Although the NATO Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan and Constellis, Triple Canopy's parent company, have been working with the U.S., Afghan and

**SEE GUARDS ON PAGE 7**

From left, actors Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner and James Doohan from the original "Star Trek" series.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES, ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES, ZUMA PRESS/TNS

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## TikTok sues Trump over order to ban app

By Tali Arbel  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Video app TikTok is suing the Trump Administration over its efforts to ban the popular Chinese-owned service over national security concerns.

TikTok, which is owned by China's ByteDance, insisted Monday that it is not a national security threat and that the government is acting to "further the president's anti-China political campaign." The company said the government

is acting without evidence for its allegations or due process. It filed suit Monday in federal court in California against the Commerce Department, President Donald Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, saying that it sought to prevent the government from "impermissibly banning" TikTok by overturning President Donald Trump's executive order.

Trump issued two orders in August. The first, on Aug. 6, imposed a sweeping but unspecified ban on any "transaction" with

ByteDance, to take effect by Sept. 20. A week later, he ordered ByteDance to sell U.S. TikTok assets within 90 days. TikTok's lawsuit isn't fighting the sell order.

In its complaint, TikTok said that while the full scope of the Aug. 6 ban order remains unclear until the Commerce Department fleshes it out, the order still poses "an existential threat to TikTok's U.S. business." It said it would move to block action by the Commerce Department once it issues rules.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 26)	\$1.15	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Dollar buys (Aug. 26)	60.8239	British pound	\$1.3136
British pound (Aug. 26)	\$1.28	Canada (Dollar)	1.3189
Japanese yen (Aug. 26)	103.00	China (Yuan)	6.9132
South Korean won (Aug. 26)	1,155.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.2921
		Egypt (Pound)	15.8560
		Euro	\$1.1828/0.8454
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7505
		Hungary (Forint)	296.46
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4003
		Japan (Yen)	106.59
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3058
		Poland (Zloty)	8.9533
		Philippines (Peso)	48.55
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.71
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3884
		South Korea (Won)	1,187.61
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9087
		Thailand (Baht)	31.47
		Turkey (Lira)	7.3992

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

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bond	0.08
30-year bond	1.30

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

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



## WAR ON TERRORISM

Multiple attacks  
kill at least 17  
in Afghanistan

By RAHIM FAIEZ  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan—A wave of attacks across Afghanistan on Tuesday left at least 17 people dead and scores more wounded, officials said, including a Taliban truck bombing in the country's north that targeted a commando base for Afghan forces.

The violence comes as expectations had been rising that negotiations could soon get underway between the Afghan government and the insurgents as part of a February agreement between the United States and the Taliban.

The truck suicide bomber struck in northern Balkh province, killing three people, including two Afghan commandos and a civilian, according to Munir Ahmad Farhad, the spokesman for the provincial governor.

According to Hanif Rezaie, the spokesman for the Afghan army corps in the north, initial military reports said at least six commandos and around 15 civilians were wounded in that explosion, which also destroyed or damaged dozens of nearby civilians' houses.

"Most of the wounded civilians

are women and children," said Rezaie.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the Balkh attack in a tweet, claiming that tens of military personnel were killed. The Taliban often exaggerate their battlefield claims.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the attack in Balkh and said the Taliban have increased their attacks on major Afghan cities despite the February agreement.

"The Taliban's insistence on continuing war and violence is challenging peace opportunities," he said in a statement.

Ghani's statement said the Taliban must stop fighting and killing Afghans, accept a cease-fire and start direct talks with the Afghan government.

"By committing crimes and violence, they can achieve nothing but hatred and disgust of the people," he said.

In a separate attack in Balkh, gunmen shot dead five people, including former warlord Abdul Raouf, two of his sons ages 10 and 11 and two other men in a vehicle in the Charkent district, said Adil



Afghan security personnel inspect the site of a truck suicide bombing Tuesday in the northern Balkh province of Afghanistan.

Shah Adil, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Adil said the target was Raouf and police are investigating.

Afghan civilians continue to bear the brunt of the war across the country, despite efforts to launch peace talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban, and find a road map for post-war Afghanistan. The talks were envisaged under a U.S.-Taliban peace agreement signed in February, but their start has been hampered by a series of delays that have frustrated Washington. Some had expected the negotiations to begin earlier this month.

According to a U.N. report released in July, 1,282 people were killed in violence in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2020.

Also on Tuesday, an attack on

a checkpoint of pro-government forces in western Ghor province killed eight troops and wounded five, said Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor. The attack in Shahrak district set off a five-hour gunbattle.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for that attack, but authorities blamed the Taliban, who have claimed numerous past attacks on security checkpoints in Ghor.

In the capital of Kabul, a roadside bombing killed a police officer while a policeman and her driver were wounded when unknown attackers opened fire on them, said Ferdaws Pamaraz, spokesman for the Kabul police chief.

The policewoman, Saba Saher, is also a well-known actress, and she was said to be in stable condition following the shooting.

No one claimed the attacks in Kabul, but both the Taliban and Islamic State are active in the capital, though ISIS has claimed the bulk of the attacks in the city in recent months.

Separately, the Ministry of Defense released a statement late Monday, saying 91 Taliban fighters were killed during an air and ground operation by Afghan army troops trying to open the highway between northern Kunduz to Khanabad districts. The statement said 50 other Taliban were wounded in the fighting and that the highway was later reopened for traffic.

The Taliban are at their strongest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion toppled their regime, which had harbored al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. The insurgents now control or hold sway over about half of Afghanistan.

## UN: Over 10,000 Islamic State fighters active in Iraq, Syria

By EDITH M. LEDEBERG  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — More than 10,000 Islamic State fighters are estimated to remain active in Iraq and Syria two years after the militant group's defeat, and their attacks have significantly increased this year, the U.N. counterterrorism chief said Monday.

Vladimir Voronkov told the U.N. Security Council that Islamic State fighters move freely "in small cells between the two countries."

He said the Islamic State extremist group has regrouped and its activity has increased not only in conflict zones like Iraq and Syria, but also in some regional affiliates.

"However, in non-conflict zones, the threat appears to have decreased in the short term," he said. "Measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19, such as lockdowns and restrictions on movement, seem to have reduced the risk of terrorist attacks in many countries."

Nonetheless, Voronkov said, "there is a continued trend of attacks by individuals inspired online and acting alone or in small groups, which could be fueled by

ISIS's opportunistic propaganda efforts during the COVID-19 crisis."

He said the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the challenges of eliminating the threat of terrorism, pointing to actions by Islamic State and other terrorist groups seeking "to exploit the far-reaching disruption and negative socioeconomic and political impacts of the pandemic."

But Voronkov said the pandemic's impact on Islamic State recruitment and fundraising activities remains unclear, and there is no clear indication of a change in the extremist group's strategic direction under its leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi.

Turning to Africa, Voronkov said the Islamic State in West Africa Province "remains a major focus of ISIL global propaganda, and its total membership of approximately 3,500 makes it one of the largest of the remote 'provinces.'" He said it continues to reinforce links with the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, "which remains the most dangerous group in the tri-border area of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger."

While Islamic State only has "a few hundred fighters in Libya,"

he said, they have been exploiting ethnic tensions and represent "a potent threat capable of broader regional impact." He also pointed to worrying attacks by the Islamic State Central Africa Province in Congo and Mozambique, "including complex attacks and brief takeovers of villages."

In Europe, Voronkov said, the main threat comes from "internet-driven, homegrown terrorist radicalization," citing three Islamic State-inspired attacks in France and two in the United Kingdom. He also noted "acute concerns ... about radicalization and failed rehabilitation in prisons, and the imminent release of dangerous inmates with a terrorism background or connections."

In Afghanistan, Voronkov said, Islamic State's affiliate has conducted high-profile attacks in various parts of the country, including Kabul, and seeks to use Afghan territory "to spread its influence across the region" and to attract fighters who oppose the recent peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban.

Elsewhere in Asia, ISIS claimed its first attack in the Maldives in April, he said, and attacks on security forces in southeast Asia

occur regularly though government counterterrorism operations have kept up pressure on the extremists.

Voronkov said the COVID-19 crisis has further complicated "the already dire and unsustainable situation" of thousands of people with suspected links to ISIS who are stranded in camps in Syria and Iraq, especially women and children.

"Repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration and the protection of the vulnerable have become ever more urgent," he said.

While some countries have repatriated their nationals, especially children, many have not. Voronkov reiterated U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for all countries to implement international law and bring home all their stranded women, men and children.

"The global threat from ISIL is likely to increase if the international community fails to meet this challenge," the head of the U.N. Office of Counter-Terrorism warned.

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft said the U.S. shares the secretary-general's concern and has brought back American citizens

and prosecuted them where appropriate.

Despite the Islamic State's defeat on the battlefield, she said, "we must work together to ensure that the population of detained foreign terrorist fighters as well as their family members displaced in Syria and Iraq do not become the nucleus of an ISIS 2.0."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, whose country is Syria's main ally, said the global terrorist threat from ISIS remains high, and its leadership is planning terrorist attacks in the border area between Syria and Iraq.

"At the same time, the terrorists do not intend to give up plans to revive the 'caliphate' in Iraq," he said. "ISIL continues to build up its combat potential and is seeking to expand the area and scope of terrorist attacks in the country."

Nebenzia said Islamic State's organization and tactics suggest "that it has now fully transformed into a network structure with a high degree of autonomy of branches and 'sleeping cells' in various countries and regions of the world."

## MILITARY

# Abandoned bikes donated at Humphreys

By **MATTHEW KEELER**  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP HUMPHREYS**, South Korea — In a first-come, first-served community giveaway on Saturday, about 300 people waited their turn to pick from nearly 250 abandoned bicycles that have littered bike racks for months at the home of U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army and the 2nd Infantry Division.

Many of the hopefuls were staff sergeants and below serving an unaccompanied tour. They are not authorized a personal vehicle and rely instead on buses, taxis and personal modes of transportation such as bicycles and scooters to get around the largest overseas U.S. military installation.

Staff Sgt. Nickolas Ham, traffic noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the Humphreys provost marshal's office, arrived in South Korea in December and set out immediately to resolve a growing case of neglect in his own community.

"We decided to go do a bike roundup," he said. "We hadn't done one in a while and it's obviously an issue on the installation. The main hot areas we search are places like the main gate, post exchange and barracks."

The 28-year-old native of Fayetteville, N.C., said military police look for the obvious signs of abandonment such as deflated tires, cobwebs and rusted chains before tagging them as a policy violation. At that point the owner has five business days to register the bicycle before it is impounded.

"We came to a standstill because we can only store so many bikes in our warehouse," Ham said. "It's hard to get rid of bicycles in Korea and, of course,



it costs money. That's why we decided to do a bike giveaway; we wanted to give back to the community."

Following a 45-day holding period, the bikes still unclaimed become property of the provost marshal and can be released, disposed of or, in this case, donated. Hundreds of Humphreys residents lined up for their chance of a free bike ranging from a child's first tricycle to the lightweight bikes preferred by cyclists.

All the bikes now have a new owner, Ham said.

Pfc. Kevin Dunnaway, a videographer for Armed Forces Network-Korea, said he was looking to replace his current bicycle, which is having trouble shifting through the gears.

"I've been here for a while and the bike that I have was kind of ratty to begin with," he said. "I'm probably going to save a lot of money repairing this one rather than repair my other bike."

Dunnaway and the other recipients were required to fill out a liability waiver and provide necessary contact information. Everyone will have 10 business days to register their bikes with the Defense Biometrics Identification System, or DBIDS, on Humphreys.

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**Clockwise from above: About 300 people waited their turn on Saturday to pick from nearly 250 bicycles abandoned at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Recipients were required to fill out a liability waiver and provide contact information. A violation tag is attached to an abandoned bicycle that was donated.**

Photos by **MATTHEW KEELER**/Stars and Stripes

## Marine staff sergeant killed in car crash on Okinawa

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER**, Okinawa — The Marine Corps identified Staff Sgt. James A. McNeil Jr., 31, as the service member who died in a car crash Sunday on Okinawa.

McNeil Jr., from Brooklyn, N.Y., was attached to 3rd Marine Logistics Group. He apparently lost control of his vehicle at around 11 a.m. while southbound on Route 330 in Kitanakagusuku

village, Marine and local police spokesmen said Monday.

McNeil struck a tree and a traffic-light pole near the headquarters for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, an Okinawa police spokesman said Monday. He was rushed to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, where he was pronounced dead, according to a Marine statement.

"This past weekend, we experienced the tragedy of losing a fellow Marine," logistics group commander Brig. Gen. Brian

Wolford wrote in a statement posted Tuesday on the group's Facebook page. "Losing a fellow Marine is always difficult and unfathomable. We extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and anyone else dealing with this tragedy."

The cause of the crash is under investigation, according to the statement. No other service members or civilians were harmed in the incident. Okinawa roads were slick from rain at the time of the crash as Typhoon Bavi bore down

on the island, an Okinawa police spokesman said Monday. McNeil was wearing his seatbelt.

McNeil enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 2008, logistics group spokesman 1st Lt. Jonathan Coronel wrote Tuesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. He deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, in 2010 and again in 2012. He also spent time at sea aboard the dock landing ship USS Ashland.

McNeil is a recipient of the

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the NATO Medal for work with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, among others, Coronel said.

During his time in the service, McNeil received nine letters of appreciation, six commendations and three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

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## Congresswomen press National Guard on harassment allegations

Associated Press

**HATBORO**, Pa. — Two Philadelphia-area members of Congress are asking the Pennsylvania National Guard's command to address allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation at the Hershman Air Guard Station near Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, a former Air Force officer, and U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean, whose district includes the air base, wrote Friday that they were troubled by allegations reported by the newspaper last month. The Inquirer's investigation included allegations of rampant sexual harassment and discrimination within the base's 111th Attack Wing and a pattern of

reprisal against those speaking out about misconduct.

The letter to Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli from the freshmen Democrats says the National Guard "is not immune from the cultural challenges facing our military, especially when it comes to sexual harassment, misconduct, and retaliation."

As adjutant general, Carrelli is responsi-

ble for supervision of the state's Army and Air National Guard units.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs communications director John Nissley declined comment on claims in the article but said Guard senior leaders recently visited the unit to outline behavioral standards and inform members about how to report problems.

MILITARY

# Branch: Ex-SEAL congressman pushes use of naval ranks for Space Force

FROM FRONT PAGE

by Texas Republican and former Navy SEAL, Dan Crenshaw that would force the service to call its O-1s "ensigns" and those with stars on their shoulders "admirals." That version has yet to be reconciled with the Senate's.

The service won't comment on pending legislation. Space Force spokesman Maj. Nicholas Mercurio said when asked about Shatner's query. Officials are still developing the service's uniforms and hope to soon unveil what the service's personnel will be called to help craft its "unique and identifiable culture," he said.

Two service branches having different rank structures within the same department would not be unprecedented. The Marine Corps, which falls under the Department of the Navy, has a rank structure more like the Army.

But earlier this month, retired Air Force three-star general David Deptula, now dean of the Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies, blasted Crenshaw's proposal as misguided and a bad precedent in an op-ed published in The Hill.

"Rather than look backward on more than 1,000 years of naval ritual at sea — and a few decades of TV and movie fantasy — let's empower the Space Force to live out its Semper Supra motto and rise above such petty nonsense," he wrote.

Its troops, meanwhile, are "firmly rooted on the Earth" while remotely operating satellites in orbit, he wrote.



ROBERT BARNETT/U.S. Air Force

The chief of space operations for the U.S. Space Force displays the service's uniform name tape in the Pentagon on Friday, Jan. 17, in Arlington, Va.

"Space may be the final frontier, but our Space Force will not be cruising alien planets like Captain Kirk," Deptula wrote.

But Deptula may be out of touch with the Space Force culture and doctrinal theories, Brent Ziarnick argued in a response published Friday in The Hill. The assist-

ant professor of national security studies at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., has previously advocated for Navy-inspired ranks as a way to help the space service chart its own course.

Talk of naval ranks is popular among younger service members,

wrote Ziarnick, and theorists who have written about the similarities between the oceans and the heavens have been credited with influencing the service's newly published spacepower doctrine.

It may not be rank structure that's really at issue, he wrote.

"Keeping the Space Force

chained to their lead through their power monopoly over the Department of the Air Force is the only way the Air Force can limit the perceived damage the new service has caused them," Ziarnick wrote.

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# Trump's VA accountability office recommends discipline for 7 leaders

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An office created by President Donald Trump to root out poor-performing Department of Veterans Affairs leaders has received thousands of complaints since 2018, investigated 389 of them and recommended disciplinary action against seven senior employees.

The VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection substantiated six allegations of misconduct and one instance of whistleblower retaliation, according to its annual report, which was shared with Congress this week. In at least one case, however, no disciplinary action was taken.

The report highlights the office's work over 19 months, from October 2018 to May 2020.

Trump created the office in 2017, fulfilling a campaign promise to make it easier to say "you're fired" to VA workers. He often touts the office as one of his biggest achievements, and it's being highlighted as a reason to reelect him. During the Republican National Convention on Monday, Natalie Harp, a member of Trump's campaign advisory board, said if Trump hadn't been elected "there would still be no accountability at the VA."

Of 3,463 complaints submitted to the office from October 2018 to May 2020, 389 cases were determined to be in its purview. The office investigates matters against VA leaders or supervisors who allegedly broke the law, abused their authority or endangered veterans, among other things.

The office substantiated allega-

tions against seven employees and recommended to top VA officials that they be disciplined. It was unsure Tuesday whether the employees in some of the cases were disciplined or to what extent.

While the report didn't include the employees' names, it detailed four of the cases. In one, the office recommended a demotion for the chief of staff of a VA medical center because the chief of staff failed to separate an employee from an alleged sexual harasser. The medical center followed through on the recommendation, and the employee was demoted.

In another instance, a chief of staff at a VA hospital closed a surgery center without ensuring veterans could receive care elsewhere. The office determined it was a neglect of duty that potentially endangered veterans' care.

The hospital didn't follow the office's recommendation, however, that the chief of staff should be suspended.

An investigation by the office led to the removal of two senior executives because of discrimination, the report states. The office also found that a hospital supervisor had retaliated against a whistleblower by recommending they be fired. The supervisor had left his or her VA position before any disciplinary action could be taken.

While the office investigated 389 allegations in the past 19 months, much of its time was spent fixing problems with the office that existed since its outset. The VA Office of Inspector General revealed last year that the office took "troubling" actions, was confused about its mission and

retaliated against those it was tasked to protect.

The IG accused the former directors of the office, first Peter O'Rourke and then Kirk Nicholas, of "leadership failures" that led to "significant deficiencies" in how it operated. The IG found cases of limited and one-sided investigations that had a "chilling effect" on other whistleblowers' willingness to come forward.

The current director of the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Tamara Bonzanto, was appointed in January 2019. In a preface to the report, she wrote the office has "undergone a radical transformation." Bonzanto established new policies, improved investigations and increased training, she said.

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STARS AND STRIPES

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# In Kaiserslautern, cases more than double in week

By **MARCUS KLOECKNER**  
Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — The number of active coronavirus cases in the Kaiserslautern area, which is home to one of the largest overseas U.S. military communities in the world, more than doubled in the past week as new infections rose around Germany during a popular time for vacations.

But while Kaiserslautern officials said the increase in infections in the area was limited, Germany's public health agency, the Robert Koch Institute, said many young people were being affected and called on the "entire population" to renew efforts to stem the spread of the virus.

"There is currently no lockdown in (Kaiserslautern) city and district," district commissioner Ralf Lessmeister said in a Facebook post Monday. "We have the situation under control so far, as the infection numbers are mostly

family-related."

Thirty people had the coronavirus in the city of Kaiserslautern as of Monday, and 34 in the surrounding district, which is similar to a U.S. county, according to a statement posted on the district's website. There were 25 confirmed active cases in the city and district last week.

Eight of the active cases were among U.S. service members, data posted by Lessmeister on Monday showed. Tens of thousands of troops, their families and civilians working for the Defense Department live in the area, including at Ramstein Air Base and Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz. Since the first case of coronavirus was confirmed in Germany in late January, 28 American service members in the Kaiserslautern region have had the virus, according to Lessmeister. None of them has died and 10 of the infections occurred this month, the district data he posted showed.

There were nearly 7,000 new in-

fections a day in Germany in late March, when numbers peaked and much of the country locked down. By the second week of May, the number of new infections was down to less than 800 a day, with some attributing the drop to strict measures imposed by officials in Germany's 16 states.

But infections have been creeping up this month and Friday the number of new cases in a single day hit 1,737, the highest since April, health officials said.

The Robert Koch Institute on Monday called the upward trend "very concerning" and blamed it primarily on travelers, especially younger people, entering Germany from abroad, and more people attending large social gatherings.

"The increase (in new cases) in younger age groups needs to be stopped," RKI said.

"Transmission into older and vulnerable groups needs to be prevented" if Germany is to avoid a spike in hospitalizations and deaths, it said.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**People walk down Fackelstrasse in downtown Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Tuesday. The number of active coronavirus cases more than doubled in the Kaiserslautern area, which is home to tens of thousands of U.S. troops and their families, in the past week, and is up sharply around Germany, officials said.**

It called on Germans and residents to practice physical distancing, both indoors and outdoors; to wash their hands frequently, and to wear face masks covering the nose and mouth.

"Large gatherings — especially indoors — should be avoided, and (social) events ... should be limited to close family members and friends," RKI said on its website.

German politicians are debating whether restrictions aimed at stopping the spread of the virus should be applied uniformly

across the nation instead of allowing each state to decide how to tackle the virus, which has claimed 9,272 lives out of more than 233,500 cases in the country since January.

U.S. military commands have followed the lead of the German federal and state governments when setting coronavirus guidelines for troops and their families.

Stars and Stripes reporter Karin Zeltvogel contributed to this report. kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

## New virus numbers remain relatively low across Japan

Stars and Stripes

**TOKYO** — The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases Tuesday as the number in the capital city bumped up to nearly 240.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported 182 new cases Tuesday, according to the public broadcaster NHK, more than the previous day's 95 but still below the most recent daily high of 339 on Thursday.

Tokyo has reported 19,610 in-

fections during the pandemic as of Tuesday, according to NHK. As of Monday, 352 people have died due to the virus, according to the metro government website.

On Okinawa, the Marine Corps reported three new cases Tuesday morning, one at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and two at Camp Schwab, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

All three were discovered during testing while the patients

were in a 14-day quarantine, according to the post. U.S. military personnel must test negative for the coronavirus before leaving isolation.

Okinawa prefecture, home to the bulk of U.S. forces in the country, reported 32 new infections Tuesday, the sixth day in a row below 50 new daily cases, according to a prefectural public health spokesman.

The prefecture also reported four deaths due to the coronavirus

late Monday, all patients between 70 and 90 years old. Twenty-three people have died on Okinawa so far from the pandemic.

"We had tested around 1,858 cases by chasing the close contacts from active patients last week and around 700 cases at local hospitals and clinics per doctors' order," the official said.

"Our number goes higher when we try to contain a cluster case by testing aggressively," he said.

Japanese government officials

traditionally speak on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

The prefecture is not planning any further mass testing like it did in Matsuyama, the entertainment district of Naha city, anytime soon because it cannot afford the needed manpower, the spokesman said. The prefecture tested more than 2,000 workers and customers in the district.

news@stripes.com

## House Democrats introduce bill to fund Guard's virus mission

By **STEVE BEYNON**  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — Three House Democrats on Monday introduced a bill that would fully fund the National Guard's coronavirus mission as more than 20,000 troops are still deployed across the country for the effort.

The measure — introduced by Reps. Cheri Bustos of Illinois, Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Max Rose of New York — follows President Donald Trump's order three weeks ago to extend federal status through the end of the year for troops on coronavirus missions, but shifted 25% of the financial burden to most states, a move that has been criticized by some lawmakers who said it hindered the military's efforts to combat the pandemic.

"This administration needs to learn that it is responsible for



MICHAEL MATKIN/U.S. Air National Guard

**Arizona National Guard service members sort donated food earlier this month in Sells, Ariz. A bill that would fund the Guard's virus mission was introduced by House Democrats.**

every state and territory in our nation, not just those from which it hopes to curry favor," Bustos

said in a statement. "In the middle of a pandemic, this administration decided to play political games

and give preferential treatment to some states over others. Without providing any public health or economic justifications, it has burdened some cash-strapped states with a bill while exempting others — even though the [coronavirus] pandemic has wreaked havoc on every budget."

In March, the National Guard was called up to help mitigate the spread and the secondary effects of the virus through state missions such as operating testing sites, assisting food banks, and manning call centers for health concerns and unemployment offices.

As the pandemic escalated, Trump authorized the use of federal funds for the troops, but through state-by-state memos instead of a blanket approval.

Initially, Trump directed the federal government to continue covering all Guard costs in Texas and Florida through the rest of

the year. However, he has since ordered Connecticut, Arizona and California to get 100% funding through Sept. 30. All other states and territories have to pay 25% of the cost, possibly leading to states having to cut back on recovery efforts.

"The administration shouldn't be nickel-and-dime New York state, and definitely shouldn't be selecting which states to help based on whether they voted for the president," said Rose, who also serves as an infantry officer in the National Guard and deployed to assist in pandemic response efforts. "Forcing New York to pay this burden will cause more layoffs of cops, firefighters, first responders, and teachers, while other states get off free."

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Rewed by Sturgis, infections move fast, far

By STEPHEN GROVES  
Associated Press

STOUR FALLS, S.D. — The hundreds of thousands of bikers who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have departed western South Dakota, but public health departments in multiple states are trying to measure how much and how quickly the coronavirus spread in bars, tattoo shops and gatherings before people traveled home to nearly every state in the country.

From the city of Sturgis, which is conducting mass testing for its roughly 7,000 residents, to health departments in at least six states, health officials are trying to track outbreaks from the 10-day rally that ended on Aug. 16. They face the task of tracking an invisible virus that spread among bar-hoppers and rallygoers, who then traveled to over half of the counties in the United States.

An analysis of anonymous cellphone data from Camber Systems, a firm that aggregates cellphone activity for health researchers, found that 61% of all the counties in the U.S. have been visited by someone who attended Sturgis, creating a travel hub that was comparable to a major U.S. city.

“Imagine trying to do contact tracing for the entire city of (Washington), D.C., but you also know that you don’t have any distancing, or the distancing is very, very limited, the masking is limited,” said Navin Vembar, co-founder of Camber Systems. “It all adds up to a very dangerous situation for people all over the place. Contact tracing becomes dramatically difficult.”

Health departments in four states, including South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming, have reported a total of 81 cases among people who attended the rally. South Dakota health officials said Monday they had received reports of infections from residents of two other states — North Dakota and Washington. The Department of Health also issued public warnings of possible COVID-19 exposure at five businesses popular with bikers, saying it didn’t know how many people could have been exposed. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, has defied calls to cancel large gatherings and opposes requirements to wear



STEPHEN GROVES/AP

People congregate at One-Eyed Jack’s Saloon during the 80th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally on Aug. 7 in Sturgis, S.D. The state’s health department issued a warning that two people who had visited the bar may have transmitted COVID-19. Officials issued similar warnings for four other businesses.



GRACE PRITCHETT, RAPID CITY (S.D.) JOURNAL/AP

Lindsey Helkenn, a medical lab technician from Spearfish, S.D., conducts a COVID-19 test in Sturgis on Monday. City leaders are using federal coronavirus relief funding to pay for mass testing.

masks. She welcomed the event, which in previous years brought in about \$800 million in tourist spending, according to the state’s Department of Tourism. “I sat at a bar elbow-to-elbow with guys. No one was wearing masks,” said Stephen Sample, a rallygoer who rode back to Arizona last week.

He had visited a bar where health authorities later issued warnings — One-Eyed Jack’s Saloon — but said he had not had any COVID-19 symptoms. He discussed quarantining with his wife after he returned, but decided against it.

Constellis, based in Herndon, Va., declined to discuss the guards’ claims, citing security concerns. Despite precautions taken at Fenty, the infection rate there rose steadily. By June, a majority of the base’s guards had the virus and were placed in isolation, several of them said.

At least 78 guards out of one shift of 109 tested positive on June 19 and 20 after working in “high risk areas for COVID-19,” an internal Triple Canopy roster said. Guards said other shifts showed similar rates of infection. Later that month, the last of the sickened guards had been evacuated to Bagram Airfield, according to a travel document provided to Stars and Stripes. After regular testing and observation by military medics, they were eventually released from isolation. Most have spent over a

month in a Kabul hotel, waiting to be repatriated to Uganda. John was one of them. The guard still had symptoms of COVID-19 as of Tuesday and worried that when he returns to Uganda, he could still be a source of infection, he said. “I may be taking the virus to my entire family,” he said.

“We were expecting that we’re going to see many more cases associated with Sturgis.”

While Chaplin said the people she knows who have been infected had not participated in the rally, she said that many residents were relieved it’s over.

“Once you get your town back and once the rally is over, it feels like the end of the summer is approaching, school is starting up,” she said. The local school district delayed the start of in-person classes this year in hopes it would give health officials time to contain an outbreak. The city also made coronavirus tests available for school staff, in addition to requiring city employees to get tested.

Although the city arranged to have 1,300 tests available, about 850 people have signed up for tests so far, according to Damian Ainslie, the city manager.

Some residents, like Eunice Peck, were not concerned about the potential for an outbreak. She rented her home out to rallygoers as a way to make extra money. She had avoided the crowds that fill the city’s downtown and didn’t feel the need to get a test.

“It’s a very good thing for the town,” Peck said of the rally.

But events like Sturgis concern health experts, who see infections growing without regard to city and state boundaries. Without a nationally-coordinated testing and tracing system, containing infections in a scenario like Sturgis is “almost impossible,” said Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health who worked at the Department of Health and Human Services under former President Barack Obama.

“We would need a finely orchestrated national system and we are far from that,” he said. “We are really witnessing a 50-state effort with all of them going in different directions right now.”

Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at the Minnesota Department of Health, on Friday advised people to quarantine for two weeks if they attended the rally.

“For a long time, people would

# Guards: Ugandan who protected US base fears putting family at risk

FROM FRONT PAGE

Ugandan governments to repatriate them, the guards might not be going home anytime soon. Several of the contractors’ home countries have closed their borders and restricted flights because of the pandemic.

“We were exposed,” said “John,” one of the guards who tested positive for the virus, who insisted on anonymity for fear of reprisal. “We complained but all in vain, until they realized that we are positive.”

lead to severe respiratory illness, clotting disorders and sometimes death — because of their work, which included interacting and searching locals coming onto the base.

“I may be taking the virus to my entire family,” he said.

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## Abuse complaints decrease without school oversight

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — A sharp decline in reports of child abuse and neglect in New Mexico at the outset of the coronavirus pandemic is prompting concerns if the problems are going unnoticed while children stay home from school.

The accountability office of the Legislature said Monday that hotline reports of suspected child abuse and neglect declined by 42% in April and 33% in May compared with the same months in 2019.

Analysts say school closures mean that nurses and social workers have less contact with children that may provide clues about abuse and neglect. Across the U.S., about one-fifth of suspected child abuse complaints originate from school staff.

"The loss of a key source of reporting, coupled with additional strains on families facing the financial and emotional hardships of the pandemic, has raised concerns that child abuse is surging unseen," the Legislative Finance Committee staff said in a newsletter.

Legislators will be briefed on the report Wednesday.

### California

SACRAMENTO — While California faces multiple crises, there are encouraging signs in the coronavirus fight, with infection rates falling enough that Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that soon he will announce plans for reopening businesses that closed nearly two months ago when cases spiked.

More than 100,000 people are tested for COVID-19 every day, though the wildfires have made it more difficult in some places, the Democratic governor said. Over the past week, the infection rate for those tested fell to 5.6%, a significant drop from a few weeks ago and well below the state's target of 8%. Hospitalizations are down 20% over a two-week period, Newsom said.

Newsom said he'll release guidelines by the end of the week on how and when certain businesses can reopen. Counties can open schools for classroom learning if they are off the watch list for 14 days, but it's not clear what the timeline will be for reopening businesses.

### Connecticut

Many Connecticut school districts preparing for in-person classes are unable to comply with social distancing recommendations and unwilling to allow

teachers with compromised immune systems to work remotely during the continuing coronavirus pandemic, teacher union officials said Monday.

Representatives from both the Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers of Connecticut said there are classrooms without windows or proper ventilation in some districts while others don't have enough room for students and teachers to remain 6 feet apart.

"Almost half of the districts that we are getting reports from are saying, 'we're not even going to try to do that,'" said Jeff Leake, president of CEA, referring to a question about 6-foot social distancing on a survey his union conducted. "And then the ones that are, 76% are saying, 'if we can.' So those are huge, huge pieces of getting back safely."

The concerns come as a spike in coronavirus cases in Danbury prompted Danbury Superintendent of Schools Sal Pascarella to announce Monday that the school year will begin this fall with distance learning for all students. He said the decision was based on recommendations of local health officials.

### Georgia

ATLANTA — Some Georgians are in line for more unemployment assistance as the state has given up the dubious title of being the state where COVID-19 is spreading the fastest.

Georgia has been overtaken by Mississippi as the No. 1 state with the highest number of new cases per 100,000 people, according to a 14-day average kept by The Associated Press. The coronavirus is still spreading rapidly in the Peach State compared to other places, though, with 355 new infections per 100,000 people over the 14 days ended Sunday.

Total confirmed infections rose above 256,000 on Monday, according to the state Department of Public Health. Deaths from the summer spike continue to be reported at a high rate, with confirmed fatalities now totaling 5,156.

One place where the virus is still spreading fast is at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. Officials there reported 150 additional confirmed infections over the weekend and on Monday. Baldwin County commissioners on Monday voted 3-2 to mandate masks in public places, after rejecting the move on a 3-2 vote Friday. The city of Milledgeville approved an emergency mask rule Friday.



BRETT MATTHEWS/AF

A visitor makes a photo of a giant Pacific octopus in the "Spineless" exhibit at the New York Aquarium on Monday in New York. The aquarium reopened to members only who had to reserve tickets online to limit attendance.

### Illinois

JOLIET, Ill. — New mitigation efforts were announced Monday by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and public health officials for Will and Kankakee counties in an effort to tamp down an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in those areas.

The move comes as the Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting 1,612 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and eight additional deaths. Monday's numbers bring the state's total of COVID-19 cases to 221,790 and the number of fatalities to 7,888. Health officials say 36,155 tests were conducted, bringing the seven-day testing positivity rate for the entire state to 4.2%.

Beginning Wednesday, bars and restaurants in Region 7, which makes up Will and Kankakee counties, will no longer be allowed to offer indoor service. In addition, meetings, social events and gatherings will be limited to 25 guests or 25% of room capacity.

The restrictions were imposed after Region 7 reached an 8% positivity rate for COVID-19 over three days.

### Iowa

IOWA CITY — University of Iowa students and several bars in Iowa City are facing criticism after throngs of young adults were seen crowded together outside and within the venues — most without masks — just hours before in-person classes were to start Monday at the university and many Iowa K-12 schools.

Iowa City police took a complaint just after 1 a.m. Sunday that several bars were all over capacity and not enforcing a mask mandate. The Gazette reported.

On Monday, the university reported 107 students and four employees have tested positive for COVID-19. That total counts only students and employees who have

self-reported positive tests since Aug. 18 because university officials said they can't release individuals reports because of health privacy laws.

News of the unruly scenes came as the Iowa Department of Public Health reported 471 new known coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours as of Monday morning. The state reported a total of 56,584 confirmed cases and 1,039 deaths since the outbreak began.

### Kansas

TOPEKA — Kansas no longer has any counties free of reported coronavirus cases, with the last two, sparsely populated ones confirming their first as local schools were preparing to reopen.

The state Department of Health and Environment on Monday marked the milestone while reporting 1,545 new cases since Friday, an increase of 4.2%, to put the pandemic total at 38,401. The state reported an additional seven COVID-19-related deaths, for 426 in all.

The last two of 105 counties to report cases were in northwest Kansas. Rawlins County is on the Nebraska border and has about 2,500 residents, while Wallace County has about 1,500 residents and is on the Colorado border.

The pandemic reached Kansas in March, with the first cases in the Kansas City area, and the virus spread to half of the state's counties in 30 days. Rawlins and Wallace counties remained the only two without a reported case for a little more than a month, but Aften Gardner, administrator of the Wallace County Health Department, said the virus has been "closing in." Both counties confirmed their cases late last week.

### Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky will draw on federal money to create an eviction relief fund to

keep people in their homes by reimbursing landlords for missed rent payments, Gov. Andy Beshear said Monday.

Beshear said he signed an executive order setting up the system aimed at protecting people in jeopardy of eviction while keeping money flowing to landlords. The fund will draw on \$15 million sent to Kentucky as part of federal coronavirus relief assistance, the Democratic governor said.

Under the executive order, landlords have to give tenants 30 days' notice of their intent to evict due to nonpayment of rent, Beshear said. The landlord's notice must request a meeting with the tenant to give them a chance to work something out.

Also, no penalties, late fees or interest could be charged for nonpayment of rent from early March — when the COVID-19 outbreak was first reported in Kentucky — through the end of the year.

Starting in early September, Kentuckians can submit applications for assistance through the eviction relief fund.

### Texas

DALLAS — Texas reported 2,754 new cases of COVID-19 Monday and another 25 deaths from the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

State health officials issued the counts after saying earlier that testing data would not be updated Monday because of a network outage affecting multiple state agencies.

A Texas Department of State Health Services spokesman said only testing numbers were affected, not cases or fatality counts, but he could not give more information on the network outage.

Texas has reported a total of 580,384 virus cases and 11,395 deaths, although the true number of cases is likely higher because many people have not been tested and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.



NATION

# GOP convention opens with rising stars, warnings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A rising generation of Republican stars offered an optimistic view of President Donald Trump's leadership but was undermined on the opening night of the GOP's scaled-back convention by speakers issuing dark warnings about the country's future and distorting the president's record, particularly on the coronavirus pandemic.

As Trump faces pressure to expand his appeal beyond his loyal supporters, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the Senate's sole Black Republican, and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, sought to cast the GOP as welcoming to Americans of color, despite the party's overwhelmingly white leadership and voting base.

"I was a brown girl in a black and white world," Haley said Monday night, noting that she faced discrimination but rejecting the idea that "America is a racist country." She also gave a nod to the Black Lives Matter movement, saying "of course we know that every single Black life is valuable."

But the prime-time convention proceedings, which featured a blend of taped and live speeches, focused largely on dire talk about Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic challenger in the November election. Speakers ominously warned that electing Biden would lead to violence in American cities spilling into the suburbs, a frequent Trump campaign message with racist undertones. One speaker called Trump the "bodyguard of Western civilization."

Scrambling to find a message that sticks, Trump's team tried out multiple themes and tactics over the course of the night. They featured optimism from those who could represent the GOP's future, attempts to characterize Biden as a vessel for socialists and far-left Democrats despite his moderate record and humanizing stories about the 74-year-old man who sits in the Oval Office.

Trump and a parade of fellow Republicans misrepresented Biden's agenda through the evening, falsely accusing him of proposing to defund police, ban oil fracking, take over health care, open borders and raise taxes on most Americans. They tried to assign positions of the Democratic left to a middle-of-the-road candidate who explicitly rejected many of the party's most liberal posi-



PHOTOS BY SUSAN WALSH/AP

Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, above, the daughter of Indian immigrants, and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, below, the Senate's sole Black Republican, sought to cast the GOP as welcoming to Americans of color during speeches at the Republican National Convention in Washington on Monday.



tions through the primaries.

The opening night of the four-day convention reflected the rising urgency fueling Trump's push to reshape a presidential contest that he's losing, at least for now, with Election Day just 10 weeks away. It was continuing Tuesday, when first lady Melania Trump was to deliver remarks from the White House.

Biden and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, are keeping a relatively low profile this week. In a tweet Monday night, Biden told supporters to

"stay focused."

The emphasis on diversity at Trump's convention was an acknowledgment he must expand his coalition beyond his largely white base. Polling shows that Black Americans continue to be overwhelmingly negative in their assessments of the president's performance, with his approval hovering around 1 in 10 over the course of his presidency, according to Gallup polling.

One of several African Americans on Monday night's schedule, former football star Herschel

Walker, defended the president against those who call him a racist.

"It hurts my soul to hear the terrible names that people call Donald," Walker said. "The worst one is 'racist.' I take it as a personal insult that people would think I would have a 37-year friendship with a racist."

But that emphasis clashed with Trump's instinct to energize his die-hard loyalists.

He featured, for example, Mark and Patricia McCloskey, the St. Louis couple charged with felonies for pointing guns at what prosecutors deemed non-violent Black Lives Matter protesters marching past their home.

"What you saw happen to us could just as easily happen to any of you who are watching from quiet neighborhoods around our country," Patricia McCloskey said, sitting on a couch in a wood-paneled room.

"They've actually charged us with felonies for daring to defend our home," her husband said.

And Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida said Democrats will "disarm you, empty the prisons, lock you in your home and invite MS-13 to live next door."

Trump's political future may depend on his ability to convince voters that America is on the right track, even as the coronavirus death toll exceeds 177,000 and pandemic-related job losses also reach into the millions.

A deep sense of pessimism has settled over the electorate. Just 23% of Americans think the country is heading in the right direction, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Trump and his supporters touted his response to the pandemic while standing alongside frontline workers in the White House, although he glossed over the mounting death toll, the most in the world, and his administration's struggle to control the disease.

Organizers also repeatedly sought to cast Trump as an empathetic figure, borrowing a page from the Democrats' convention playbook a week ago that effectively highlighted Biden's personal connection to voters.

Those cheering Trump's leadership on the pandemic included a coronavirus patient, a small business owner from Montana and a nurse practitioner from Virginia.

"As a health care professional, I can tell you without hesitation, Donald Trump's quick action and leadership saved thousands of lives during COVID-19," said Amy Ford, a registered nurse who was deployed to New York and Texas to fight the coronavirus.

The first day of the 2020 Republican convention began early in the day as Trump and Vice President Mike Pence were renominated by delegates who gathered in Charlotte, the city originally selected to host the convention before the pandemic struck.

Trump paid a surprise visit to the city, where he warned delegates that "the only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election," raising anew his unsupported concerns about Americans' expected reliance on mail voting during the pandemic. Experts say mail voting has proven remarkably secure.

The fact the Republicans gathered at all stood in contrast to the Democrats, who held an annual virtual convention last week. The Democratic programming included a well-received, real-time video montage featuring diverse officials from across the nation.

The Republicans spoke from the ballroom in Charlotte and were overwhelmingly white before the proceedings moved to Washington for prime-time.




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**STARS AND STRIPES**

NATION

# Protesters burn, loot Kenosha buildings

The Washington Post

Demonstrations in Kenosha, Wis., continued Monday night and into early Tuesday after the police shooting of Jacob Blake, which has given way to protests and some chaotic scenes, including property damage, fires and tear gas across the city's streets.

Officers shot the 29-year-old Black man in the back Sunday as he entered a car that held his children, a shooting captured on video that led to intense protests in the lakefront city and to a national outcry. The Associated Press reported Tuesday that Blake's father said his son had been left paralyzed.

Kenosha police used tear gas Monday and fired small beanbags at a crowd that threw firecrackers, tore down street signs, smashed storefronts and set fires around the city. By early Tuesday, the National Guard — which had been called in after the previous night's turmoil — rolled through the streets as buildings burned to the ground and looters ransacked stores.

The fires not only destroyed local businesses — a cellphone store, a tattoo parlor, a furniture store, a Mexican grocery — but

they also forced out residents who lived on the second floors of the nearby century-old brick buildings.

"We're a poor neighborhood," said Debbie, 69, who worked at the grocery and spoke on the condition that her last name not be shared. "Some of us don't make enough money, so now we're trapped."

Protesters expressed rage at the police over Blake's shooting, demanding accountability and change.

"I don't think people should destroy anything, but the cops need to work for their money," said Brandel Gordon, 26, a Black resident of Kenosha who said he was once a victim of police brutality. "There needs to be social reform in this city."

After the Sunday shooting in Kenosha — the latest instance of police violence to gain national attention in a year marked by protests over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis police custody — the officers involved were placed on leave and the Wisconsin Department of Justice stepped in to investigate.

Other cities also saw protests and, in some places, damage.



RIK WOOD, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL/AP

National Guard troops fire tear gas on the crowd to disperse them after a warning was ignored during protests Monday in Kenosha, Wis., in response to the shooting of Jacob Blake a day earlier.

Hundreds of Black Lives Matter protesters gathered in downtown Los Angeles. In New York City, protesters gathered in Times

Square and marched downtown, some extending the demonstration across the Brooklyn Bridge. Authorities also reported doz-

ands of arrests in three places — Minneapolis, Portland, Ore. and Seattle — that have been flash points throughout the summer.



BETH NAKAMURA, THE OREGONIAN/AP

A march on the Portland, Ore., police union headquarters drew a rapid police response after someone set a fire on Monday.

## Riot declared during fiery Portland protest

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland police have declared a riot after fires were started amid protests against racial injustice.

Police said Monday night that people had to leave the area near the Portland Police Association building. Two fires were set, one behind the building, police said.

Someone climbed onto the association's roof to unfurl a banner and the walls were spray-painted, reported the Oregonian/OregonLive. Police made arrests and used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Early Monday police used tear gas to scatter demonstrators who hurled rocks, bottles and commercial-grade fireworks at officers and set fires in the streets as they marched on a precinct station in another night of violence. Twenty-three people were arrested.

Similar protests have racked Oregon's largest city nightly for nearly three months after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Some protesters Sunday night and early Monday morning threw objects at officers. One officer was left with a wrist injury.

## Calif. justices toss death penalty for Scott Peterson, keep conviction

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Scott Peterson's conviction for killing his pregnant wife will stand, but the California Supreme Court on Monday overturned his 2005 death sentence in a case that attracted worldwide attention. The justices cited "significant errors" in jury selection in overturning the death penalty but welcomed prosecutors to again seek the sentence if they wish.

Laci Peterson, 27, was eight months pregnant with their unborn son, Connor, when she was killed. Investigators said that on Christmas Eve 2002, Peterson dumped their bodies from his fishing boat into San Francisco Bay, where they surfaced months later.

"Peterson contends his trial was flawed for multiple reasons, beginning with the unusual amount of pretrial publicity that surrounded the case," the court said. "We reject Peterson's claim that he received an unfair trial as to guilt and thus affirm his convictions for murder."

But the justices said the trial judge "made a series of clear and significant errors in jury selection that, under long-standing United States Supreme Court precedent, undermined Peterson's right to an impartial jury at the penalty phase."

It agreed with his argument that potential jurors were improperly dismissed from the jury

pool after saying they personally disagreed with the death penalty but would be willing to follow the law and impose it.

"While a court may dismiss a prospective juror as unqualified to sit on a capital case if the juror's views on capital punishment would substantially impair his or her ability to follow the law, a juror may not be dismissed merely because he or she has expressed opposition to the death penalty as a general matter," the justices said in a unanimous decision.

They rejected Peterson's argument that he couldn't get a fair trial because of the widespread publicity that followed, although the proceedings were moved nearly 90 miles away from his Central Valley home of Modesto to San Mateo County, south of San Francisco.

Stanislaus County District Attorney Brigitt Fladager did not immediately comment. She came to fame as one of three prosecutors in Peterson's trial, but the justices also chastised those prosecutors for not speaking up as the jury selection errors were occurring.

Peterson, now 47, was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of his wife and the second-degree murder of their unborn son.

"We are grateful for the California Supreme Court's unanimous recognition that if the state wishes to put someone to death, it must proceed to trial only with a fairly selected jury," Cliff Gard-

ner, Peterson's appellate attorney, said in an email.

His well-known trial attorney, Mark Geragos, said he objected at the time to what he said was "clear error" in jury selection.

California has not executed anyone since 2006 because of legal challenges to the way it would carry out the death penalty, and Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has a moratorium on executions for as long as he is governor.

That moratorium helped lead other California prosecutors to negotiate a plea deal in the more recent high-profile Golden State Killer case. Former police officer Joseph DeAngelo was sentenced to multiple life terms Friday in exchange for his guilty pleas to 13 murders and 13 rape-related charges.

Peterson was arrested after Amber Frey, a massage therapist living in Fresno, told police that they had begun dating a month before his wife's death, but that he had told her his wife was dead.

Peterson can still argue that he was unfairly convicted, using evidence that was not considered at his trial, and if that fails can try again in federal court.

Geragos said he expects Peterson will eventually be exonerated. But the justices found that even had the trial court rejected some of the evidence that Peterson challenged at trial and on appeal, "there was considerable other circumstantial evidence implicating Peterson."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Tortoise on the run 74 days, made it 1/8 mile

**TN** ASHLAND CITY — A 150-pound tortoise who escaped from a Tennessee home has been returned after 74 days, managing to make it less than a mile during his slow and steady journey.

Though the African Sulcata Tortoise named Solomon crawled away from his Ashland City enclosure more than two months ago, he was discovered just an eighth of a mile away from home last week, his owner, Lynn Cole, told WKRN-TV on Friday.

Cole said a man and his son spotted Solomon grazing in a valley at a construction site and returned him within minutes.

He didn't seem to make it far, but Cole said the true extent of the 15-year-old tortoise's trek remains a mystery.

## Woman punched after giving reading at church

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia's archbishop called it a "senseless act of aggression" after a woman who had finished a reading at a Roman Catholic church was punched as she left the altar.

The attack took place Sunday during the 11 a.m. Mass, which was streamed on Facebook Live from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul.

Video showed the lector leaving the altar when a woman punched her.

"The lector who was assaulted received immediate attention and aid from the cathedral staff members off camera," Archbishop Nelson Perez wrote on Facebook. The attacker was not identified.

## Man allegedly planned to burn down store

**NM** TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES — A man who drove his car through the front of a Walmart Supercenter in Truth or Consequences allegedly planned to burn it down, authorities said.

Police told Albuquerque TV station KRQR that after Devon Schinagel, 35, of Elephant Butte was in custody early Sunday, they learned he had poured lighter fluid around the store and was allegedly planning to set the store on fire.

Schinagel has been booked into the Luna County jail and is facing several felony charges, according to police.

## Wild weather injures 6 at tent revival event

**NH** IPSWICH — A week-end of wild weather in New Hampshire included a tornado that touched down in Ossipee and powerful gusts that caused injuries at a tent revival in Ipswich.

At least six people were hurt when strong winds brought down a tent at the religious gathering Sunday in Ipswich. One person was treated for a broken arm, while others suf-



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

## Trolling with the Troops

Boats carrying military veterans cruise down the St. Joseph River on Saturday after a morning of fishing on Lake Michigan during Trolling with the Troops in St. Joseph, Mich.

ferred cuts, bumps and bruises. The group was part of an evangelist group that has been hosting a tent revival in town, WMUR-TV reported.

A day earlier, a tornado caused minor damage in Ossipee, uprooted and snapping trees, and blowing shingles off the roofs of several buildings.

## First phase of museum enhancements done

**MI** DETROIT — The first phase of a \$4.9 million outdoor enhancement project at Belle Isle's Dossin Great Lakes Museum has been completed.

The museum's outdoor maritime artifacts, including the famous bow anchor from the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, have been re-displayed and upgraded as part of the project. The freighter sank in 1975 and was immortalized by Gordon Lightfoot's song.

Several new gardens have been planted with a focus on controlling erosion along the waterfront. A new cove also stabilizes the shoreline adjacent to the museum and provides a new launch point for Belle Isle's water sport enthusiasts.

## Park honoring fallen officers vandalized

**MA** SPRINGFIELD — A Massachusetts park named in honor of two police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty has been vandalized with anti-police graffiti. Retired Springfield police Sgt.

## THE CENSUS

# \$3K

The amount of money the David Ruggles Center for History and Education is giving to Northampton, Mass., to repair and spruce up the gravestones of several former slaves and abolitionists buried in the city. One gravestone slated for repair is that of Basii Dorsey, located in the Park Street Cemetery in the city's Florence neighborhood. Dorsey was born into slavery in Maryland and escaped to the North, eventually settling in Northampton. His former home is on the National Register of Historic Places.

John Delaney told Masslive.com that he cried Sunday when he saw that someone spray-painted anti-police acronyms on the memorial at Beauregard & Schiavina Memorial Park in Springfield.

Officers Michael Schiavina and Alain Beauregard were shot by an 18-year-old man during a routine traffic stop in 1985. Schiavina, 28, died shortly after surgery, and Beauregard, 29, died several days later. Their assailant killed himself several days later.

## Police arrest 2 women in MAGA hat theft

**DE** WILMINGTON — Delaware police have arrested two women who confronted supporters of President Donald Trump last week in Wilmington, Del., and allegedly took signs and a "Make America Great Again" baseball cap.

On Saturday, police arrested Camryn Amy, 21, and charged her with robbery, conspiracy, endangering the welfare of a child and two counts of offensive touching. Police arrested Olivia Winslow, 21, on Friday on charges of robbery, conspiracy and endan-

gering the welfare of a child.

The incident started Thursday evening when Amy and Winslow left a business and began to verbally taunt a woman and her son over their political signs and what they were wearing, according to court documents reported by news outlets.

Video shows a man attempting to get the hat back. Court documents say Amy struck the man with a closed fist and caused a laceration to his lips.

Court records also say Amy then hit the woman filming the incident.

## FBI: \$3 million in stolen ventilators recovered

**FL** MIAMI — A \$3 million shipment of ventilators that was stolen earlier this month was recovered in South Florida, the FBI said in a news release.

The agency said that the ventilators were being prepared for shipment to El Salvador by the United States Agency for International Development when they were stolen in southwest Miami-Dade County sometime around Aug. 8.

## Mayor charged in a road rage incident

**AL** TALLASSEE — The mayor of an Alabama city has been charged with harassment in a road rage incident in which he was accused of cursing at and threatening a car of young women.

Tallassee Mayor Johnny Hammock and the other driver, Keazanni Spencer, 20, were charged with misdemeanors following a July 5 encounter, the chief assistant district attorney confirmed to the Montgomery Advertiser on Sunday.

During a hearing Friday, the mayor's wife told a judge that the incident began after Spencer's blue sedan, driving erratically, passed her, then later pulled in front of her and an occupant got out and cursed at her. Spencer testified that no one cursed at the mayor's wife, but she thought the woman was pulling over to use a phone, so she went around her.

Hammock and his wife drove through the area later and noticed the same blue sedan, according to court testimony.

Spencers said Hammock blocked her with his pickup truck, then approached her car and asked if she had tried to run his wife off the road earlier. Spencer said Hammock was armed, though he never pointed the gun at the occupants or threatened them with it. She testified that Hammock cursed at her before identifying himself as the mayor and threatening to have her jailed.

From wire reports

NATION

# Crews make progress in containing Calif. wildfires

Associated Press

SCOTTS VALLEY, Calif. — Aided by weather and reinforcements, firefighters were cautiously optimistic Tuesday about their progress to pen in California wildfires that have killed at least seven people and burned more than 1,200 homes and other buildings.

A warning about dry lightning and strong winds that could spark more fires was lifted for the San Francisco Bay Area on Monday morning, a huge relief to commanders battling three enormous blazes in the area and in California's wine country north of San Francisco.

The deadliest and most destructive of the three in the wine country had containment lines around 25 percent of it that serve to prevent fires from burning more land.

Officials said progress was also made against a fire in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties with the help of rain Sunday evening and calmer weather Monday. The 123-square-mile fire was 17% surrounded after destroying 330 structures. Some 25,000 structures remained threatened.

"The past couple days we've seen significant progress in our firefight on this incident," said Mark Brunton, operations chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which is known as Cal Fire. "The weather's really cooperating with us."

Helicopters dropped 200,000 gallons of water on the blaze, he said, calling it "the best day yet."

In addition to better weather, fire crews along with bulldozers and other equipment were arriving from other states.

But officials warned the danger



NOAH BERGER/AP

**Gina Souza feeds her neighbor's pigs following the LNU Lightning Complex fires in Napa County, Calif., on Monday. Souza, who stayed behind after authorities issued evacuation orders, was caring for neighbors' animals until they can return.**

was far from over and admonished residents to stay out of evacuated areas. Six people who returned to a restricted area south of San Francisco to check on their properties were surprised by fire and had to be rescued, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

Looters have been warned they'll be arrested, and some people have been taken into custody, including a man found with \$5,000 in his car, authorities said. Detectives were also investigating seven reports of missing people. An estimated 170,000 people are under evacuation orders and tens of thousands of homes remain under threat from fires.

The fires are blamed for at least seven deaths, among them 70-year-old Mary Hintemeyer, her boyfriend Leo McDermott, and his son, Tom, said Hintemeyer's

son, Robert McNeal.

McNeal told KPIX-TV that he lost contact with his mother Tuesday night as the fires sped up. He said his mother had tried to go into town earlier that day but turned back at a roadblock where authorities said if she went through she wouldn't be allowed back. She returned home to get her boyfriend, who was in a wheelchair.

Authorities found their remains among the ruins on the Napa County property Wednesday, he said.

"Just get out, don't wait," McNeal told the TV station, urging people to follow evacuation orders. "If you think it's going to be too much to get your sprinklers on before you get out of there, forget those too. Forget it. Get out. Just get out. It ain't worth it."

# Evacuations ordered as Hurricane Laura takes aim at US coast

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate the Texas and Louisiana coasts Tuesday as Laura strengthened into a hurricane that forecasters said could slam into land as a major storm with ferocious winds and deadly flooding.

More than 385,000 residents were told to flee the Texas cities of Beaumont, Galveston and Port Arthur, and still more were ordered to evacuate low-lying southwestern Louisiana, where forecasters said more than 11 feet of storm surge topped by waves could submerge entire towns.

Forecasters said ocean water could push onto land along a more than 450-mile-long stretch of coast from Texas to Mississippi, and hurricane warnings will be issued later as the storm nears.

The National Hurricane Center projected that Laura will become a Category 3 hurricane before landfall, with winds of around 115 mph, capable of devastating damage.

"The main point is that we're going to have a significant hurricane make landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday," National Hurricane Center Deputy Director Ed Rappaport said Tuesday.

While cross winds ripped apart Marco, which still doused the region with heavy rain, there was little to keep Laura from turbocharging. Nearly all the computer simulations that forecasters rely on show rapid strengthening at some point in the next couple of days.

"The waters are warm enough everywhere there to support a major hurricane, Category 3 or even higher. The waters are very warm where the storm is now and will be for the entire path up until the Gulf Coast," Rappaport said. Laura passed Cuba after killing

nearly two dozen people on the island of Hispaniola, including 20 in Haiti and 3 in the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power and caused intense flooding. The deaths reportedly included a 10-year-old girl whose home was hit by a tree and a mother and young son crushed by a collapsing wall.

Forecasters turned their attention to the Gulf Coast, where up to 11 feet of sea water — storm surge — could inundate the coastline from High Island in Texas to Morgan City, La., the hurricane center said.

On top of that, up to 15 inches of rain could fall in some spots in Louisiana, said Donald Jones, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Lake Charles, La. — in the bullseye of Laura's projected path.

The silver lining for U.S. coastal residents is that Marco weakened into a remnant just off Louisiana's shore Tuesday. Satellite images showed a disorganized cluster of clouds, what meteorologists call "a naked swirl," Jones said.

In Galveston and Port Arthur, Texas, mandatory evacuation orders went into effect at 6 a.m. Tuesday.

"If you decide to stay, you're staying on your own," Port Arthur Mayor Thurman Bartie said.

State emergencies were declared in Louisiana and Mississippi, and shelters opened with cots set farther apart, among other measures designed to curb infections.

Laura's unwelcome arrival comes just days before the Aug. 29 anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which breached the levees in New Orleans, flattened much of the Mississippi coast and killed as many as 1,800 people in 2005. Hurricane Rita then struck southwest Louisiana that Sept. 24 as a Category 3 storm.

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WORLD

# German hospital says poisoning signs found in Russian dissident

By DAVID RISING  
AND DARIA LITVINOVA  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Tests conducted on Russian dissident Alexei Navalny at a German hospital indicate that he was poisoned, but doctors said Monday he was being treated with an antidote and his life was not in immediate danger.

The Charite hospital said in a statement that the team of doctors who have been examining Navalny since he was flown from Sib-

eria and admitted Saturday have found indications of “cholinesterase inhibitors” in his system. Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had personally offered Germany’s assistance in treating Navalny before he was brought to Berlin, said in view of the findings and his “prominent role in the political opposition in Russia, authorities there are now called upon urgently to investigate this crime in detail and in full transparency.”

Cholinesterase inhibitors are a broad range of substances that are found in several drugs, but also pesticides and nerve agents. Charite said the specific substance to which Navalny was exposed is not yet known.

“The patient is being treated in intensive care and remains in a medically induced coma. While his condition is serious, it is not currently life-threatening,” the hospital said in a statement.

Navalny is being treated with the antidote atropine, the hospital said.

While courts considered charges against two council members detained Monday, Sergei Dylevsky and Olga Kovalkova, another member, former Belarusian culture minister and diplomat Pavel Latushko, was summoned for questioning over his role in the opposition body.

Courts in Minsk were considering charges against two members of a council that opposition activists established last week to negotiate a transition of power following President Alexander Lukashenko’s winning a sixth term in an election that critics contend was rigged.

# Pompeo in Sudan to show US support

Associated Press

CAIRO — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Sudan on Tuesday to push for normalizing ties with Israel, building on momentum from the recent historic agreement to establish relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

The Sudanese transitional government said, however, that it does not have a mandate to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. It called on the Trump administration to not make the removal of Sudan from a U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism contingent upon normalizing relations with Israel.

Sudan is on a fragile path to democracy after the popular uprising led the military to overthrow autocratic leader, Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. A military-civilian government now rules the country, with elections deemed possible in late 2022.

The transitional authorities are desperate to lift sanctions linked to its listing by the U.S. as a terror sponsor. That would be a key step toward ending its isolation and rebuilding its battered econ-

omy, which has plunged in recent months, threatening to destabilize the political transition.

Pompeo was the first U.S. secretary of state to visit the African country since 2005, when Condoleezza Rice visited. He also was the most senior U.S. official to visit the African country since al-Bashir’s ouster. Pompeo arrived from Israel and while he was still airborne he tweeted: “Happy to announce that we are on the FIRST official NONSTOP flight from Israel to Sudan!”

Sudan is in Israel on Monday on the first stop of his multi-country tour in the region. The trip follows the Aug. 13 agreement between Israel and the UAE to establish diplomatic ties.

Pompeo met Tuesday with Sudanese Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the ruling sovereign council, and Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Hamdok described the meeting as “great” and tweeted in English it was a “direct & transparent conversation” about removing Sudan from the U.S. terror list, bilateral relations and the U.S. government’s support for the civilian-led transitional government.

# Belarus leaders put pressure on opposition

Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus — Authorities in Belarus on Tuesday steadily cranked up the pressure on protesters pushing for the resignation of the country’s authoritarian leader, jailing several opposition activists, summoning others for questioning and selectively ordering demonstrators to appear

in court.

Courts in Minsk were considering charges against two members of a council that opposition activists established last week to negotiate a transition of power following President Alexander Lukashenko’s winning a sixth term in an election that critics contend was rigged.

While courts considered charges against two council members detained Monday, Sergei Dylevsky and Olga Kovalkova, another member, former Belarusian culture minister and diplomat Pavel Latushko, was summoned for questioning over his role in the opposition body.

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# Breakout year breaks down

Country singer Caylee Hammack was supposed to open for Luke Bryan, Reba McEntire and Rascal Flatts before the pandemic hit.

## Country singer Caylee Hammack planned to make splash on road before COVID

By Emily Yahr  
The Washington Post

Back when she started touring and playing shows in different cities every night, country singer Caylee Hammack used to wake up in hotel rooms in a panic because she had no idea where she was. She learned to quickly look for a landline phone, which typically had the hotel's address printed on the front. Oh, right — Kansas City.

Although she hasn't toured since March, Hammack started to feel that disembodied feeling creep back recently — only with the opposite anxiety. "It was like, 'When am I leaving this place? Why am I here so long?'" Hammack, 26, said in a phone interview from her home in Nashville. "Instead of 'Where am I?' it was 'Why are you here still!'"

Like most musicians, Hammack lived on the road. Now the music industry faces brutal challenges as tours have been canceled indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hammack, one of Nashville's most promising young singers, is in the unlucky class of up-and-coming artists who were primed to have a breakout year in 2020. Her goal was to play more than 200 shows, and she landed coveted opening slots for several superstars,

including Luke Bryan, Reba McEntire and Rascal Flatts. When the pandemic hit, Bryan and McEntire shifted tour dates to 2021, and Rascal Flatts canceled their shows.

Instead, Hammack released her debut record, "If It Wasn't for You," Aug. 14 without the machine of a major tour behind her. She no longer has 20 to 30 minutes onstage in front of thousands of potential new listeners, the quickest way to grow a fan base, especially in country music.

At the same time, she is obsessively reading the news and horrified by the state of the world.

"I'm watching people die in the news. I'm watching people lose family members. I'm watching these doctors struggling to handle the death and the heartbeat they see every day — and I'm just sitting here stressing about an album? It definitely puts it all in perspective," Hammack said. "Every time I get negative, I'm like, 'Dude, I have it good. I'm healthy, I'm safe. I get to do what I love every day. I'm not completely broke yet.'"

Hammack's label planned to send "Small Town Hypocrite" to radio as her next single this past spring — but then country station ad revenue went into a free fall because of the pandemic. Programmers wanted upbeat, fun music from comforting, familiar artists. A

devastating ballad from a new singer, Hammack and her label realized, was not going to make the cut.

There have been silver linings. After her radio single fell through, Hammack talked to her label's president, Cindy Mabe, about her favorite comfort songs, and brought up Alan Jackson's 2006 gospel record and Don Williams' "Lord, I Hope This Day Is Good." Mabe asked, "Well, what if you sang that song with Alan?" That's how Hammack and Jackson wound up releasing a duet of the 1981 hit, which so far has more than 500,000 combined streams on Spotify and YouTube.

Her album includes fellow red-haired singer McEntire on the tongue-in-cheek "Red-head," a collaboration so surreal to Hammack that she jokes "there must be a glitch in the matrix." She has also grown closer to her fellow country artist friends Ashley McBryde and Tenille Townes, who are featured on the track "Mean Something"; the three of them started to get together for socially distant singing sessions on Hammack's back porch.

"I'm trying to just work as hard as I possibly can," Hammack said. "Because I'm just praying that I'm able somehow to keep the buzz going — so when all of this ends and the world starts spinning again, my record is spun, too."

## Biggie, Tupac featured in Sotbehy's rap auction

Rivals in life, the rappers Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur are being united for an auction at Sotbehy's, the first-ever dedicated hip-hop auction at a major international auction house.

Bidders can vie for the crown worn and signed by the Notorious B.I.G. during a 1997 photo shoot held three days before he was killed in Los Angeles. They'll also get to bid on 22 love letters written by Shakur at the age of 15-17 to a high school sweetheart.

The Sept. 15 auction features over 120 hip-hop-related lots.

Onetime friends who became rivals in a hype-fueled war between the East and West Coast rap scenes, Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. — also known as Biggie Smalls — were gunned down within months of each other. Both crimes remain unsolved.

## J Balvin, Roddy Ricch drop out of VMAs

Grammy Award-winning rapper Roddy Ricch and Colombian superstar J Balvin will no longer perform Sunday at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Ricch announced his cancellation in a statement on Instagram Live, saying: "My team and I did everything in our power to make this work; due to COVID compliance issues at the last minute we had to call off the performance."

A representative for Balvin, who recently revealed he contracted COVID-19, confirmed Monday that he would no longer perform at the event, but no details were provided.

The VMAs were supposed to take place at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn but will now be held outdoors at various places in New York City in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

From The Associated Press

# New this week: British black comedy, Katy Perry, 'Love Island'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

## Movies

A different kind of Brighton Beach story, "Lingua Franca" follows an undocumented trans Filipina immigrant on a quest to find a way to stay in the U.S. to continue working as a domestic caregiver. For all its timely buzzwords, writer-director-editor-star Isabel Sandova's third film (on Netflix on Wednesday), is introspective and subtle and well worth a watch. It's no wonder Ava DuVernay's ARRRAY Releasing snapped it up to help put it out in the world.

Or if you're looking for something completely different, venture over to Amazon on Friday for the British black comedy "Get Duked!"; a wild satire about some teenage stoners on a camping competition in the Scottish Highlands who discover they're being hunted. Infused with a hip-hop energy and a solidly anarchic spirit, "Get Duked!" is the directorial debut of music video director Ninian Doff. The great Eddie Izzard co-stars.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr



From left: Viraj Juneja, Lewis Gribben, Rian Gordon and Samuel Bottomley are shown in "Get Duked!"; a wild satire about teenage stoners on a camping competition in the Scottish Highlands who discover they're being hunted.

## Music

Katy Perry says she's been "on a real emotional, psychological and spiritual journey ... to find my smile" in the last three years since releasing her "Witness" album. It's why she named her new record "Smile," which comes out Friday. The pop star, who is pregnant and engaged to Orlando Bloom, sings about eating a slice of humble pie on the album, describing "Smile" in an interview as "a record full of hopefulness and resilience and a little bit

of joy and some fun."

It's Saturday night fever with Megan Thee Stallion. The rap star, who launched two No. 1 smashes this year with "Savage" with Beyoncé and "WAP" with Cardi B, will hold her first live virtual concert on Saturday at 6 p.m. ET. The hourlong show is being produced by Live Nation and tickets cost \$15. The concert will mark the rapper's first performance since she was shot in the foot last month after a party in the Hollywood Hills.

— AP Music Editor Mesfin Pekadu

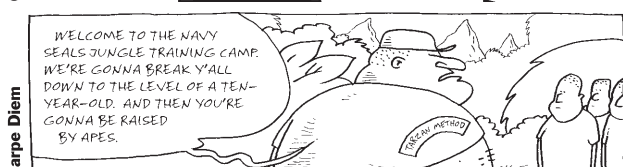
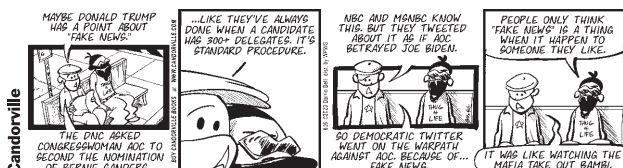
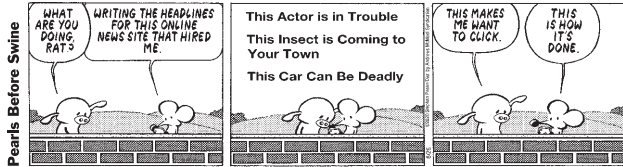
## Television

Whether the new season of CBS' "Love Island" includes any version of love remains to be seen, but it's definitely not on an island. Bowing to pandemic concerns, the competition series moved from Fiji to a Las Vegas hotel. The producers say that stringent health and safety rules are in place, with cast, crew and staffers tested and isolated before production started and regular checks planned throughout the season. "Love Island," with host Arielle Vandenberg and narrator Matthew Hoffman, debuts Monday night with a two-hour episode, followed by nightly episodes. A two-hour wrap-up will air Saturdays.

A variety special combines music, comedy and lots of celebrities with a serious goal: to help women regain entertainment industry jobs lost in the pandemic. CW's "Women in Film Presents: Make it Work!" (8 p.m. EDT Wednesday) will feature prominent women in entertainment, sports and politics, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sheryl Crow, Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, Alfre Woodard, Ashley Harris and Ali Krieger. The nonprofit Women in Film, which advocates for parity in screen jobs, launched the Hire Her Back initiative in June to push for equitable hiring of women and people of color as the industry recovers from a coronavirus-forced shutdown.

The best of the best star in "Planet Earth: A Celebration," which promises eight of the "most extraordinary" sequences from "Planet Earth II" and "Blue Planet II." Among them: bottlenose dolphins surfing for what appears to be the sheer joy of it, as narrator David Attenborough describes it, and, on the less playful side, a snakes vs iguana showdown. The special, debuting 8 p.m. EDT Monday, Aug. 31, on BBC America, AMC, SundanceTV and IFC, and Sept. 7 on AFX Syfy.com, includes new narration from Attenborough.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Scatters seeds
  - 5 Mahal preceder
  - 8 "A likely story!"
  - 12 Part of Q.E.D.
  - 13 Carnival city
  - 14 Hodgepodge
  - 15 Cadillac SUV
  - 17 Writer Ephron
  - 18 Sculptor Henry
  - 19 Like mullered cider
  - 21 Talk up
  - 24 "Nasty!"
  - 25 Mineral-hardness scale name
  - 28 Borscht veggie
  - 30 Gorilla
  - 33 Expert
  - 34 Piquant
  - 35 N.J. neighbor
  - 36 Prized possession
  - 37 — Major
  - 38 Actress Hatcher
  - 39 Right angle
  - 41 Window
  - 43 Known worldwide
  - 46 Classical language
  - 50 Online auction site
  - 51 Turncoat
  - 54 Actor Alan
  - 55 FDR project
  - 56 Enrages
  - 57 Stagger
  - 58 Sound of relief
- DOWN**
- 1 Appear
  - 2 Roughly
  - 3 Texas city
  - 4 Kicks off
  - 5 — -la-la language
  - 6 Succor
  - 7 Trader —
  - 8 Column style
  - 9 Trade barrier
  - 10 The Emerald Isle
  - 11 Frog's kin (Abbr.)
  - 12 Zodiac cat
  - 20 Compassion
  - 22 Taxi
  - alternative inspiration
  - 23 "Selma" actress Thompson
  - 49 Legendary loch
  - 52 Ms. Longoria
  - 53 "Unh-unh"
  - 26 Mine yield
  - 27 Created from scratch, like comfort food
  - 29 And others (Lat.)
  - 31 Apiece
  - 32 Yalie
  - 34 Bantu
  - 38 Very sad
  - 40 Faithful
  - 42 Hearty quaff
  - 43 Dread
  - 44 Competent
  - 45 Madrid miss (Abbr.)
  - 47 Rain-delay cover
  - 48 Inventor's inspiration
  - 54 Ms. Longoria
  - 53 "Unh-unh"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	H	A	S		B	I	D		S	I	T	E		
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8-26 CRYPTOQUIP

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 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU SWIM WITH THE FISHES OFF THE IMMEDIATE COAST OF HAVANA, YOU MIGHT BE CUBA DIVING.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals U

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It is 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96501-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96501-5002.

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OPINION

The media has us thinking all wrong about the virus

By EMILY OSTER
Special to The Washington Post

Last month, a swimmer in Maine was killed by a shark. This tragic event was widely reported by local and national media. It was news. But the fact that there are hardly ever shark attacks in the United States is not news, because it's a fact that's always been there without shark-related fatalities.

Researchers have documented our preference for the unexpected, exploring how information that is "surprising" provides greater entertainment and attracts more attention. Often this is benign: A basketball game that ends in a stunning upset, for instance, gets more coverage than a routine blowout. When it comes to COVID-19, however, this preference — and the media's tendency to indulge it — presents a real danger. It warps our thinking about the pandemic and may be leading us toward irrational decisions that can cause lasting harm.

The problem is that reporting on COVID-19 tends to follow the shark-attack example. We're unaccustomed to what the virus has wrought — hospitals overwhelmed, celebrities and world leaders suffering nearly fatal infections in the public eye. These "surprises" are what the media focuses on. The challenge with the new coronavirus, however, is exactly that: It's completely new. Nothing about it should be expected. All of the ways it behaves, and doesn't behave, are new. In that sense, a nursing home with no infections should be just as newsworthy as one with several.

Because of the overwhelming bias in what gets reported about COVID-19, the public lacks essential context for making reasoned, well-informed decisions. Researchers found, for example, that droplets containing the virus, in theory, travel far in the air. That discovery was widely reported. Overlooked was the fact that, even if droplets can travel far in the air, we don't have evidence that they usually do.

So hiking trails and other open-air facilities were closed, despite the fact there are no documented cases of COVID-19 caused by hiking.

Then, there is the debate surrounding schools. Districts in many areas are still grappling with whether to reopen, or when and how, with plenty of accompanying media coverage. Nearly all of it focuses on examples of COVID-19 infections. But the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus means the same attention should be given to schools where there are no cases. Twitter is full of people saying, "My kid's school opened without any cases this week!" Data I've collected shows that there are many camps and child care facilities — even large ones — operating without any confirmed cases. These examples are out there, but they aren't being reported.

Parents and policymakers influenced by this skewed reporting may naturally conclude that any in-person instruction is dangerous. But they are missing a key piece of the puzzle. There are 291 school districts in Indiana serving 1 million children. Seventy have been open since June 15, but one county there have been 100 cases in Indiana schools so far, this is likely to be a low in-school infection rate. Beyond that, this fact doesn't tell us anything about whether infections spread in schools.

In the absence of complete information on risks, our overreactions can have serious consequences. One example is the Three Mile Island nuclear event, which has not been conclusively linked to any long-term negative health outcomes but did terrify Americans about nuclear power. People simply didn't have enough baseline information about the number of nuclear plants operating safely on a given day to realize that the probability of a nuclear disaster was vanishingly small. The result was that nuclear power — a plentiful, carbon-free energy source — never reached its potential in the United States, leading to needless overreliance on dangerous fossil

fuels. We risk making similar mistakes with the coronavirus. Keeping children out of schools, closing down parks and shuttering businesses destroys livelihoods. These downsides may be offset by the benefits of limiting COVID-19. But we cannot rationally assess the trade-offs when we have only partial information.

What we really need to know is not the anecdotes from news reports provide, but the full picture. Where reports of schools have cases? Moreover, what differentiates places with cases from those without? Is it differences in prevention measures? Demographic and economic characteristics? The prevalence of community-spread events?

To answer these questions, we need systematic data collection and reporting — the sort that lets us evaluate risks in all kinds of situations, from driving cars to flying on planes to, yes, ocean swimming. It should be possible to do this. As schools open, districts will have counts of at least one student with COVID-19 and information on the overall enrolled population. This data could be combined in public databases with user-friendly dashboards and maps. Since this type of data collection has not been spearheaded by central authorities, I've partnered with a set of national education organizations and a data team to try to put it together.

Once we have a dashboard for these data, the media could use these sources to drive their coverage. Even if they chose not to — because "day 45 with infection rate below 0.01%" doesn't generate a lot of clicks — citizens would be empowered to analyze the relevant information themselves.

With data like this widely available, we could make good — or at least better — choices about who should open and when.

Emily Oster, a professor of economics at Brown University, is the author of "Cribsheet: A Data-Driven Guide to Better, More Realistic Parenting" from Bantam Doubleday. She is a co-founder of the website ChildProofExplained.

The McCloskeys' message hit home to the RNC faithful

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

It's possible necessity of forming a militia is the Constitution's stated purpose for guaranteeing the right to bear arms, but protecting one's self or property is the prevailing reason why most gun owners put their weapons in their hands. That's why, for residents in many parts of the United States, it was hard to understand why Mark and Patricia McCloskey ever became figures of controversy.

The McCloskeys are the St. Louis couple who, when confronted with (take your pick) an angry mob trespassing in their private gated community or Black Lives Matter protesters walking peacefully past their property, emerged from their house brandishing firearms — he a semiautomatic rifle, she a handgun. Images of the couple guarding their home quickly became fodder for both sides.

On Monday, on the opening night of the Republican National Convention, the McCloskeys offered a full-throated endorsement of President Donald Trump — complete with overheated Trumpian rhetoric about "Marxist" Democrats who would "abolish the suburbs." But they also more reasonably championed their "God-given right" to defend their home and argued that safety and security are basic tenets of freedom.

"When we don't have basic safety and security in our communities," Patricia McCloskey said, "we'll never be free to build a brighter future for ourselves, for our chil-

dren or for our country."

One doesn't have to be a dues-paying member of the National Rifle Association to sympathize with that viewpoint, and while Trump's base will assuredly embrace the McCloskeys, that less polemic part of their message could also resonate with right-leaning moderates who are concerned about systemic racism — but also realize that the probability of a nuclear disaster was vanishingly small. The result was that nuclear power — a plentiful, carbon-free energy source — never reached its potential in the United States, leading to needless overreliance on dangerous fossil

Like many states, Missouri has a "castle doctrine" law that allows homeowners to use lethal force to defend against home invasions. No such invasion occurred here, but, likewise, no shots were fired. Nevertheless, St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner filed felony charges of unlawful use of a weapon against the McCloskeys for exhibiting their weapons.

That is an alarming example of government overreach to a great many American constitutional rights. In the United States, it's not unusual to come across "No Trespassing" signs nailed to fences or gates, with the added notice, "Violators will be shot." A recent twist in the old warning — representing dark rural humor — is another addendum: "Survivors will be shot again."

As you can see, the signs of the Midwest, the South or the hills of Appalachia, shooting someone just for trespassing in a field or yard is not legal and, of course, those who post the signs understand that. But the messages express a widely held sentiment about our basic constitutional rights. As many out-of-towners can attest, it's not unusual for a way-

ward stranger pulling into a barnyard to be greeted by a vicious barking dog and a farmer emerging from his abode with a rifle or shotgun in hand.

The president is pursuing an unprecedented reelection strategy of catering almost exclusively to his base. He is counting on the "enthusiasm gap" between his supporters and his opponents to carry him across the finish line, a la 2016. Americans have clear distinctions that define our two Americas is our divergent viewpoints on guns. Defenders of the Second Amendment are — let's say — enthusiastic in their determination to combat anything they see as an effort to erode the right to bear arms.

And so it was hardly surprising when the Republican National Committee announced that the McCloskeys would be featured at the party's national convention. Highlighting the case of two lawyers, which the McCloskeys are, who face charges for engaging in conduct that millions of Americans would find reprehensible, is an item on the Bill of Rights is a tailor-made campaign issue for Trump.

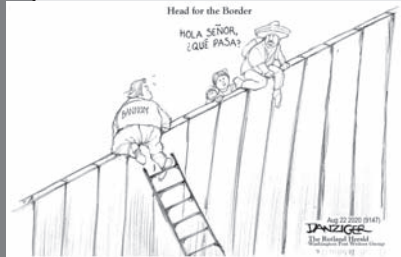
The strategy of this week's GOP convention will be to serve red meat to the party's base, seasoned with just enough trimmings of appeals to the party's Republican-leaning fence-sitter, who are put off by Trump but will stick with him if reminded forcefully enough about the downsides to the alternative. So if you're wondering how the McCloskeys ever wound up on your screen Monday night, that probably just means the message wasn't aimed at you.

Gary Abernathy is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.



# Looking at the news

## A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



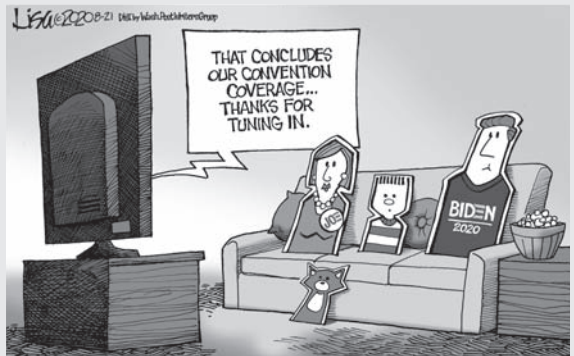
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LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group



JACK OHMAN/Washington Post Writers Group



# NFL/NHL PLAYOFFS

## Doctor: Lab issues 'a fire drill'

BY LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — In two-plus weeks, the NFL kicks off its season. That doesn't leave the league much time to resolve significant issues about its COVID-19 testing procedures.

BioReference Laboratories, which is conducting tests for the league, said Monday an isolated contamination caused 77 "most likely false positive results," at its lab in New Jersey. Eleven clubs were affected, and the tests were reexamined and found to be false positives.

"This has been an interesting dynamic because what happened this weekend gave the NFL an opportunity to do a sort of a test fire drill," noted Dr. Larry Caplin, who said he consults nearly 20 NFL players and their union about testing protocols. "It exposed issues and potential vulnerabilities in their process, and a lot of it related to the speed in which they're able to confirm results."

Among teams reporting false positives, the Minnesota Vikings had 12 team members, the New York Jets 10, the Chicago Bears nine and the Detroit Lions one. All, 44 players and 33 club personnel drew false positives.

"It's probably good that it happened and that they were able to adjust and adapt and figure out the things if it did happen during the season, and kind of when we would do from there," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said.

Five labs across the country process PCR tests for the league's 32 teams and only the New Jersey facility had false positives on Saturday.

The Cleveland Browns initially canceled practice, but after retesting turned up negative tests, they decided to have their workout — without their coach. Kevin Stefanski had a false positive test, triggering anxiety for him at home where he lives with his wife and three children.

"I can laugh about it now, but truly it wasn't fun to have that phone call very early in the morning and not get news that it was potentially an error until later," he said.

Stefanski said he immediately left his house in order to not put his family at risk. It took four hours before Stefanski learned he was negative.

The 38-year-old Stefanski praised the Browns for the way they handled "a fire drill" with their virus protocols, adding that being held out of practice gave him and his staff a chance to carry out contingency plans if any coaches are out.

"Everything went off without a hitch and I was able to watch 7 on 7 on my iPad about 10 minutes after it ended," he said. "So, a very unique kind of like a bad dream when you know practice is going on and you're not there. It felt pretty strange."

## Scoreboard

### Stanley Cup playoffs

#### FIRST ROUND

##### EASTERN CONFERENCE

###### AT TORONTO

- (1) Philadelphia 4, (8) Montreal 2
- Philadelphia 1, Montreal 0
- Philadelphia 2, Montreal 0
- Philadelphia 5, Philadelphia 1
- (2) Tampa Bay 4, (7) Columbus 1
- Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 2; 5OT
- Columbus 3, Tampa Bay 1
- Tampa Bay 3, Columbus 2
- Tampa Bay 2, Columbus 1
- Tampa Bay 5, Columbus 4, OT
- (9) N.Y. Islanders 4, (3) Washington 1
- N.Y. Islanders 4, Washington 2
- N.Y. Islanders 5, Washington 2
- N.Y. Islanders 2, Washington 1
- N.Y. Islanders 4, Washington 1
- (6) Boston 4, (5) Carolina 1
- Boston 4, Carolina 3
- Washington 2, Carolina 2
- Boston 2, Carolina 2
- Boston 4, Carolina 3
- Boston 2, Carolina 1

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

###### AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA

- (1) Las Vegas 4, (8) Chicago 1
- Vegas 4, Chicago 3; OT
- Vegas 2, Chicago 1
- Chicago 3, Las Vegas 1
- Vegas 4, Chicago 3
- (2) Colorado 4, (7) Arizona 1
- Colorado 3, Arizona 0
- Colorado 3, Arizona 0
- Arizona 4, Colorado 2
- Colorado 7, Arizona 0
- Colorado 1, Arizona 1
- (3) Dallas 4, (6) Calgary 2
- Calgary 3, Dallas 2
- Dallas 2, Calgary 1
- Calgary 2, Dallas 0
- Dallas 5, Calgary 4, OT
- Dallas 2, Calgary 1
- Dallas 7, Calgary 3
- (5) Vancouver 4, (4) St. Louis 2
- Vancouver 5, St. Louis 3; OT
- Vancouver 4, St. Louis 3; OT
- St. Louis 3, Vancouver 2; OT
- Vancouver 4, St. Louis 3
- Vancouver 4, St. Louis 3

##### CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

###### (Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

##### EASTERN CONFERENCE

###### AT TORONTO

- (6) Monday, N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 0
- Philadelphia 3, Islanders 2 (AFN-Sports2, 9 p.m., Wednesday CET; 4 a.m., Thursday JKT)
- Thursday, Game 3
- Friday, Game 4
- x-Monday, Aug. 31; Game 5
- x-Wednesday, Sept. 2; Game 6
- x-Friday, Sept. 3; Game 7
- (2) Tuesday, Game 1
- (2) Boston 1, (2) Tampa Bay 6
- Monday, Tampa Bay 3 (AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m., Thursday CET; 9 a.m., Thursday JKT)
- Tuesday, Game 2
- Wednesday, Game 3 (AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m., Thursday CET; 9 a.m., Thursday JKT)
- Friday, Game 4
- Saturday, Game 5
- x-Tuesday, Sept. 1; Game 6
- x-Thursday, Sept. 3; Game 7

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

###### AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA

- (1) Las Vegas 1, (5) Vancouver 0
- Las Vegas 1, Vancouver 0
- Tuesday, Game 3
- Thursday, Game 4
- x-Monday, Aug. 31; Game 5
- x-Tuesday, Sept. 1; Game 6
- x-Thursday, Sept. 3; Game 7
- (3) Dallas 2, (2) Colorado 0
- Dallas 5, Colorado 3
- Monday, Dallas 5, Colorado 2
- Wednesday, Game 3 (AFN-Sports2, 4:30 a.m., Thursday CET; 11:30 a.m., Thursday JKT)
- Friday, Game 4
- Sunday, Game 5
- x-Monday, Aug. 31; Game 6
- x-Wednesday, Sept. 2; Game 7

##### Monday

###### Islanders 4, Flyers 0

- |                |   |   |     |
|----------------|---|---|-----|
| N.Y. Islanders | 1 | 0 | 3-4 |
| Philadelphia   | 1 | 0 | 0-0 |
- First Period — 1, N.Y. Islanders, Greene 1 (10:34), 1-0  
 Second Period — 0, N.Y. Islanders, Pageau 5 (Kornarov, Petelich), 3-0; 3, Islanders, 4 (Barz, Zepher), 8-0; 4, N.Y. Islanders, Toews 1, 12-1 (en.)  
 Third Period — 3, N.Y. Islanders 15-7; 7-29, Philadelphia 4-15-10-29  
 Goals — on goal — N.Y. Islanders 15-7: 0-1, Philadelphia 0 of 1.  
 Penalties — N.Y. Islanders, Varlamov 8:2, 0 (3 shots-23 saves); Philadelphia, Hart 6:3-0 (28-25).  
 Shots on goal — 15-7: 29-23.

###### Stars 5, Avalanche 2

- |          |   |   |   |     |
|----------|---|---|---|-----|
| Dallas   | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1-5 |
| Colorado | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2   |
- First Period — 1, Colorado, MacKinnon 7 (Crosby, Rantanen), 5-08 (pp.)  
 Second Period — 2, Colorado, Rantanen 4 (Lundquist, Perry), 8-4 (pp.)  
 Third Period — 2, Dallas, Radulov 5 (Benn, Heiskanen), 15-34; 6, Dallas, Lindell 1, 19:14; 10:27 (pp.), 5, Dallas, Radulov 5 (Benn, Heiskanen), 15-34; 6, Dallas, Lindell 1, 19:14.  
 Penalties — Dallas, Oleskiak 3 (Dickinson), 19:50 (en.)  
 Goals — on goal — Dallas 16-18-3-27, Colorado 10-11-10-41.  
 Power-play opportunities — Dallas 2 of 3; Colorado 1 of 2.  
 Goals — Dallas, Khudobin 6-3-0 (40 shots-23 saves); Colorado, Francoeur 1-0 (26-22).  
 Shots on goal — 16-18-3-27.

# Stars rough up Avalanche

## Dallas scores four goals in second period to take 2-0 lead in series

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — From a goal off the chest to another that may have just crossed the line — depending who's asked — the Dallas Stars were getting the big bounces and breaks.

That's what it takes this time of year. Alexander Radulov scored on a deflection off his upper chest as part of a four-goal second period and the Dallas Stars beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-2 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in the second-round series.

Trailing 2-0 in the second period, Joe Pavelski and Radek Faksa revitalized the Stars by scoring in a 43-second span during a 5-on-3 advantage.

Dallas was just getting started. Radulov knocked in the go-ahead goal when a shot bounced off a stick, into his chest and over Colorado goaltender Pavel Francouz. Esa Lindell then added another with 46 seconds remaining in the second when he knocked in a rebound to make it 4-2.

Now that the one Avalanche wouldn't mind a little more explanation. The officials took a look to make sure the puck wasn't frozen by Francouz before Lindell poked it in — or if it even went in at all. The call on the ice was confirmed.

"I don't know how he sees the puck is across the line," Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "I don't know how he points at the net. I think he realized pretty quickly he messed up. Once he starts watching the video replay, I think he realizes he went off Esa Lindell's reaction and pointed to



JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Dallas Stars, top, celebrate during their four-goal second period in a 5-2 defeat of the Colorado Avalanche on Monday.

the net. ... Excited to see what the explanation will be."

This is how it went from Lindell's vantage point: "Shot it there and went for the rebound," he explained.

Bottom line, the Avalanche couldn't recover from the second-period meltdown.

"Our resolve wasn't where it needed to be after a bad break, a bad penalty," Avalanche coach Jared Bednar said. "The game's not over. We have to be better."

The Avalanche pulled Francouz with around two minutes left in the game, but couldn't score.

Jamie Oleksiak added an empty-netter with 10 seconds left as the Stars won their fifth straight game.

"We believe in ourselves, that's the main thing for our club," Radulov said. "We're going to play to the end."  
 Anton Khudobin stopped 38 shots in another solid performance. He came up big in the first by only allowing a goal from Nathan MacKinnon, despite Colorado out-shooting Dallas 20-6.

MacKinnon also had an assist on Mikko Rantanen's second-period goal.

# Islanders' Varlamov stymies Flyers

Associated Press

TORONTO — The New York Islanders came out hot to begin their second-round playoff series against Philadelphia, creating numerous good chances and scoring an early goal.

Semyon Varlamov did the rest. Varlamov stopped 29 shots for his second straight shutout. Andy Greene scored his first playoff goal in a decade as the Islanders opened the series with a 4-0 win over the Flyers Monday night.

"He's playing fantastic," Greene said of the goaltender. "He's making the hard saves loud easy and in our breakdowns, we know he's there for us."

The Islanders withstood a second-period flurry in their first playoff meeting with the rival Flyers since 1987 and closed it out with three goals in the third.

The 37-year-old Greene got it started, becoming the 10th player in NHL history to go at least 10 hours between playoff goals.

Varlamov was sharp all night, stretching his scoreless streak to 136 minutes, 20 seconds to become the first Islanders goalie with consecutive playoff shutouts. He has four career playoff shutouts.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Anders Lee each scored in their first playoff meeting with the rival Flyers since 1987 and closed it out with three goals in the third.

"We're playing the right way as much as possible and that leads to our success," Lee said.  
 The top-seeded Flyers came out flat and tried to make a big push, but were shut out for the second



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Islanders goaltender Semyon Varlamov, left, fist bumps teammate Andy Greene after the team's 4-0 win Monday over the Flyers.

time in the playoffs. Carter Hart stopped 26 shots. "We played with speed and put some pucks on net, but we've got to cash in on some of those chances," Flyers center Kevin Hayes said.

The Flyers beat Montreal in six games in the first round, their first playoff series triumph since 2012. They did it despite being outscored 13-11, thanks to Hart, who had consecutive shutouts and a 1.95 goals-against average.



## MLB



PAUL SANCTA/AP

The Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez hits the second of his two homers in the ninth inning of a 9-3 defeat of the Detroit Tigers on Monday in Detroit.

## Roundup

# Baez homers twice as Cubs top Tigers for 11,000th win

Associated Press

DETROIT — Javier Baez hit two home runs and the Chicago Cubs became the second franchise in major league history to post 11,000 wins, beating the Detroit Tigers 9-3 on Monday night.

Only the Giants have won more, with 11,179 victories after starting in New York in 1883 and later moving to San Francisco.

The Cubs, who earned their first victory in 1876, improved to 11,000-10,414. The Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers are close behind with 10,996 wins.

David Bote homered and drove in four runs for the NL Central-leading Cubs.

"We hit a lot of balls the other way tonight and you love to see that," Bote said. "That means you are on it longer and you are seeing it a little deeper."

Baez had three RBIs. "This felt really, really good," said Baez, who came into the game hitting .122 in his past 12 games. "I've been struggling, but I never stopped working. Today, I finally got the results and so did the team."

Cubs starter Alec Mills (3-2) got the win, giving up three runs on seven hits and a walk while striking out seven.

"I wasn't throwing a lot of strikes early on," he said. "After the third inning, I started throwing a lot more fastballs. It helps when the offense is scoring runs — I just didn't want to start walking guys and let them back into the game."

Tigers prospect Casey Mize (0-1) made his first home start, allowing four runs — three earned — on five hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings. He struck out two.

"It was a pretty poor performance — I hate that I couldn't go more than 3 1/3 and put our team in a position to win," he said. "I think the biggest learning point from this was that when I was throwing stressful pitches, I was gripping the ball and tensing up."

**Blue Jays 6, Rays 4:** Randal Grichuk hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Toronto won at Tampa Bay.

Reliever Aaron Loup (3-2) replaced Edgar Garcia with one on and one out. After Cavan Biggio reached on catcher's interference, Grichuk gave the Blue Jays a 5-3 lead with his seventh home run.

Loures Gurriel Jr. also homered for Toronto, and Thomas Hatch (2-1) worked two scoreless innings for the win. Jordan Romano worked the ninth for his second save.

**Marlins 11, Nationals 8:** Jesus Aguilar drove in three runs and Miami won at Washington, taking three of the five games in the series.

Aguilar's two-run double was part of a huge third inning for the Marlins off Nationals starter Austin Voth (0-3). Miami scored five runs with two-outs and six total, turning a one-run lead into a 7-0 advantage.

Pablo Lopez (3-1) allowed six hits and three runs — none earned — in five solid innings.

**Twins 3, Indians 2:** Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer and Nelson Cruz connected for a solo shot to lead injury-riddled Minnesota to a win at Cleveland.

Sano homered in the sixth inning off Aaron Civale (3-3). The Twins, who have several regulars and two starting pitch-

ers on the injured list, lead the Indians by 2 1/2 games.

**Rangers 3, Athletics 2:** Lance Lynn struck out eight in another workhorse start, Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a go-ahead homer and host Texas ended its eight-game losing streak with a win over American League-leading Oakland.

Kiner-Falefa hit a solo shot in the second inning off Jesus Luzardo (2-1), snapping a 2-2 tie to put the Rangers ahead to stay.

Texas had led for only one of the 74 innings they played during their losing streak that was the longest active in the majors.

**Brewers 4, Reds 2:** Justin Smoak homered and drove in three runs as host Milwaukee cooled off Trevor Bauer and snapped a four-game skid with a victory over Cincinnati.

Omar Narvaez added a solo shot to help the Brewers win their opener of a 10-game homestand.

**Cardinals 9, Royals 3:** Paul DeJong drove in three runs in his second game back from battling COVID-19 and Jack Flaherty tossed five shutout innings to help host St. Louis beat Kansas City.

Paul Goldschmidt homered and also drove in three for the Cardinals, who have won four of five.

**Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2:** Rookie Ryan Castellani threw six strong innings for his first career win, Trevor Story hit his ninth homer of the season and Colorado snapped a seven-game losing streak by winning at Arizona.

Rockies leadoff hitter Raimel Tapia had three hits and knocked in the go-ahead run with his single in the fifth. He also made a crucial catch against the outfield wall on Kole Calhoun's long fly ball that ended the seventh.

# Dodgers reach the halfway point looking dominant

By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even amid the upheaval of a pandemic, one thing is predictable: the Los Angeles Dodgers are very good.

In fact, they're the best team in baseball, boasting a 22-8 record at the halfway point of the shortened season.

They went 13-4 playing a stretch of 17 consecutive days that ended Sunday, capped by an 11-3 win over Colorado in which the Dodgers blasted seven home runs.

Instead of being on fumes, manager Dave Roberts said, "We all feel really good."

It shows in their balanced offense and pitching. The Dodgers lead the majors in home runs (59) and runs scored (471). They also have the lowest team ERA (2.65), while their WHIP (1.04) is just behind Cleveland's leading 1.03. The LA staff is doing it without David Price, who opted out of the season because of the coronavirus.

"We've stayed healthy, too, avoiding the COVID-19 cases that have wreaked havoc with other teams' schedules."

The Dodgers were back in the second half Tuesday against the Giants in San Francisco.

"The last 30 games is more of trying to identify the roles, the roster, what's working, what's not working in these baseball games," Roberts said, "but we have more of days coming up in September, so that's a good thing as far as managing workload."

The Dodgers' depth has allowed Roberts to rest his players and pitchers, even with starter Alex Wood and reliever Joe Kelly on the injured list. Tony Gonsolin, good enough to be in a rotation elsewhere, moved back and forth from the alternate training site to be a sixth starter during the run of 17 straight games. Roberts has kept pitch counts under 100, too.

The National League has the designated hitter, thanks to the pandemic, and the Dodgers have made the most of it. Nine players have been used in the extra spot, whether to give someone rest or get those stuck on the bench into the game.

The Dodgers won a franchise-record 106 games last season to go with their seventh consecutive NL West title. They made a loaded roster even more so with the addition of Mookie Betts, who became the first Dodger to hit two homers and steal two bases in the same game Sunday. He blasted three homers in a game on Aug. 13.

"He's unbelievable," second baseman Kike Hernandez said. "He's one of those guys we didn't

## By the numbers

# 22-8

Dodgers' record as of Sunday, the best record in baseball.

# 59

Home runs this season for Los Angeles, tops in the major leagues.

# 2.65

Team ERA for the Dodgers, tops in the majors.

SOURCE: Associated Press

get the opportunity to watch too often in a different league. Now you get to see him on a daily basis and you know what all the Mookie Betts hype is all about. There's really not anything he can't do."

Betts' influence extends to the rare days he isn't playing. He'll sit on the bench watching his teammates and talk hitting.

"Mookie is from that school of just asking questions, inserting information, giving his thoughts, which is always welcome," Roberts said.

"The bottom of the lineup is producing, too. Three of the Dodgers' seven homers on Sunday came from hitters sixth through ninth in the order. The team leads the majors in run production from those spots. Only one player in the lineup Sunday didn't get a hit."

"I don't think there's a better one than five in baseball, so when you've got to grind through that one through five, maybe you tend to forget about the guys at the bottom," Hernandez said.

Some of the team's biggest run producers — reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger, Max Muncy and Joe Pederson — have gotten off to slow starts. Ross' Stripling has struggled over his last three starts, but feels his stuff is still strong. Walker Buehler bounced back in his last start and is beginning to resemble the dominant pitcher he was last year.

The Dodgers take a four-game lead over San Diego in the NL West into the second half.



# NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

**Playoffs**  
**At Lake Buena Vista, Fla.**  
**FIRST ROUND**  
**Best-of-seven; x= necessary**  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Milwaukee 3, Orlando 1**  
 Orlando 122, Milwaukee 110  
 Milwaukee 111, Orlando 96  
 Milwaukee 121, Orlando 107  
**Monday, Milwaukee 121, Orlando 106**  
**Wednesday, Game 5**  
**x-Friday, Game 6**  
**x-Sunday, Aug. 28, Game 7**  
**Toronto 4, Brooklyn 0**  
 Toronto 114, Brooklyn 95  
 Toronto 104, Brooklyn 95  
 Toronto 117, Brooklyn 92  
 Toronto 120, Brooklyn 122  
**Boston 4, Philadelphia 0**  
 Boston 109, Philadelphia 101  
 Boston 128, Philadelphia 91  
 Boston 102, Philadelphia 94  
 Boston 110, Philadelphia 106  
**Miami 4, Indiana 0**  
 Miami 113, Indiana 10  
 Miami 109, Indiana 100  
 Miami 124, Indiana 115  
**Monday, Miami 99, Indiana 87**  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**L.A. Lakers 3, Portland 1**  
 Portland 100, L.A. Lakers 93  
 L.A. Lakers 111, Portland 88  
 L.A. Lakers 116, Portland 108  
 Portland 104, L.A. Lakers 135, Portland 115  
**Wednesday, Game 5**  
**x-Friday, Game 6**  
**x-Sunday, Aug. 30, Game 7**  
**L.A. Clippers 2, Dallas 2**  
 L.A. Clippers 118, Dallas 119  
 Dallas 127, L.A. Clippers 114  
 Dallas 130, Dallas 119  
 Dallas 135, L.A. Clippers 133, OT  
**Tuesday, Game 5**  
**Thursday, Game 6**  
**x-Saturday, Game 7**  
**Utah 3, Denver 1**  
 Denver 135, Utah 125, OT  
 Utah 124, Denver 105  
 Utah 124, Denver 87  
 Utah 129, Denver 127  
**Thursday, Game 5**  
**x-Thursday, Game 6**  
**x-Friday, Game 7**

**Houston 2, Oklahoma City 2**  
 Houston 110, Oklahoma City 97  
 Houston 112, Oklahoma City 98  
 Houston 113, Oklahoma City 107, OT  
**Monday, Oklahoma City 111, Houston 108**  
**Wednesday, Game 5**  
**Friday, Game 6**  
**(Best-of-seven; x= necessary)**  
**CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS**  
**Eastern Conference**  
**Toronto vs. Boston**  
**Thursday, Sept. 31, Game 3**  
**Saturday, Game 2**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 2, Game 4**  
**x-Friday, Sept. 4, Game 5**  
**x-Sunday, Sept. 6, Game 6**  
**x-Tuesday, Sept. 8, Game 7**

**Monday**  
**Lakers 135, Blazers 115**  
 L.A. Lakers — Davis 5-8 8-10 18, James 12-16 6-10 26, McGee 9-0 0-0 8, Caldwell-Pope 5-8 0-0 12, Gordon 5-8 1-3 14, Dudley 0-0 0-0 0, Kuzma 6-12 1-1 18, Morris 2-5 0-0 0, Smith 3-9 0-0 5, Howard 7-3 0-0 12, Cook 2-7 0-0 5, Cook 2-4 1-1 5, Waiters 2-5 0-0 0, Bivens 1-0 0-0 2, Whiteside 5-9 0-2 11  
**Portland 117, Heat 109**  
 Lillard 3-9 4-4 11, McCollum 5-13 6-8 18, Gabriel 4-5 1-10, Hoard 1-2 0-0 2, Trent 2-4 1-11 11, Adams 0-0 0-0 0, Sims 1-8 0-0 3, Totals 40-89 22-41 111-114  
**L.A. Lakers** 43 37 32 23-135  
**Portland** 25 26 36 28-115  
**Three-Point Goals:** Lakers 17, 39 (Kuzma 5, Caldwell-Pope 4, James 4-5, Green 3-4,

Caldwell-Pope 2-4, Caruso 1-4, Morris 1-4, Smith 1-9), Portland 12-28 (Trent Jr. 3-6, Bezezonja 2-2, McCollum 2-3, Lillard 1-2, Sims 1-4, Anthony 1-6, Adams 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 41 (Howard, McGee 8), Portland 42 (Nurkic 13). Assists—L.A. Lakers 29 (James 10), Portland 20 (Sims 6). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 8, Portland 27.

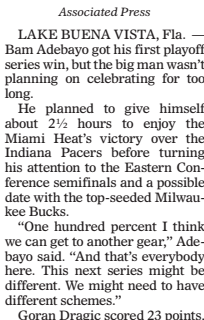
**Heat 99, Pacers 87**  
**Indiana** — J.Holiday 15-0 3-13, Warren 8-17 2-21, Turner 18-24 2-22, Brogdon 5-16 1-13, Oladipo 9-19 2-25, McDermott 14-0 0-3, Sampson 0-1 0-0 0, A.Holiday 0-2 0-0 0, Summer 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 33-89 7-11-8  
**Miami** — Butler 2-5 2-2 6, Crowder 4-9 0-10, Adebayo 6-16 2-2 14, Dragic 10-21 2-4 23, Robinson 2-9 0-0 5, Olynyk 5-9 0-0 11, Igouada 1-2 2-2 5, Jones Jr. 1-2 0-0 2, Herro 7-13 1-2 16, Nunn 2-5 2-2 7, Totals 40-91 11-14 50  
**Indiana** 22 20 20 25-87  
**Miami** 21 27 22 29-99  
**Three-Point Goals:** Indiana 14-37 (Oladipo 5-11, Warren 3-6, Brogdon 2-5, Turner 2-6, McDermott 1-3, J.Holiday 1-4, A.Holiday 0-2), Miami 8-30 (Crowder 2-5, Igouada 1-2, Herro 1-3, Nunn 1-3, Olynyk 1-4, Dragic 1-6, Robinson 1-7). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 24 (Turner 14), Miami 60 (Adebayo 19), Assists—Indiana 20 (Brogdon 7), Miami 24 (Adebayo 6). Total Fouls—Indiana 16, Miami 12.

**Thunder 117, Rockets 114**  
**Houston** — Herro, Jr. 8-15 1-1 21, Tucker 4-10 0-0 11, Covington 5-11 0-0 14, Gordon 8-15 4-4 23, Harden 11-25 4-5 32, Green 4-10 0-0 10, McLemore 1-3 0-0 3, Rivers 2-0 0-0 0, Totals 41-91 9-10 114  
**Oklahoma City** — Gallinari 3-10 2-2, Gilgeous-Alexander 17-17 2-18, Adams 4-5 4-6 12, Dort 3-10 0-2 8, Paul 10-19 6-26, Ferguson 1-0 0-0, Noel 2-3 2-3, 6, Sady 3-0 0-0 7, Schroder 10-16 6-7 30, Totals 42-86 22-28 117  
**Houston** 37 23 23 21-114  
**Oklahoma City** 35 28 32 25-117  
**Three-Point Goals:** Houston 23-58 (Harden 6-15, Covington 4-8, Herro, Jr. 4-10, Gordon 3-8, Tucker 3-8, Green 2-6, McLemore 1-2), Oklahoma City 11-32 (Schroder 4-10, Dort 3-9, Gilgeous-Alexander 2-5, Bazley 1-2, Gallinari 1-3, Paul 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 40 (Tucker 11), Oklahoma City 46 (Gilgeous-Alexander 12), Assists—Houston 25 (Harden 15), Oklahoma City 16 (Gilgeous-Alexander 6). Total Fouls—Houston 20, Oklahoma City 23.

**Bucks 121, Magic 106**  
**Milwaukee** — Middleton 14-20 1-4 26-31, Middleton 7-19 3-5 21, Lopez 4-9 0-10, Bledsoe 3-11 0-0 6, Matthews 4-9 0-12, Iyavoso 4-0 0-0 5, Korver 3-7 2-2 10, Williams 3-3 0-0 5, Caunton 2-4 0-0 4, Bivens 1-0 0-0 2, Hill 2-5 4-9, Totals 45-91 14-21 121  
**Orlando** — Clark 4-8 0-0 12, Ennis III 2-8 0-0 0, Vucelja 15-20 3-19, Furnier 4-14 1-12, Fultz 6-15 1-1 15, Birch 1-3 3-3 5, Iwundu 0-0 0-0 0, Ross 1-6 0-19, Augustine 2-6 1-2 6, Totals 36-87 16-20 106  
**Milwaukee** 48 38 25 25-121  
**Orlando** 18 24 26 20-106  
**Three-Point Goals:** Milwaukee 17-45 (Matthews 4-6, Middleton 3-7, Williams 2-2, B.Lopez 2-5, Korver 2-6, Hill 1-3, Iyavoso 1-3, Gantner 0-0 0-0 0, Bledsoe 0-0 0-0 0, Fultz 2-4, Ennis III 1-5, Iwundu 0-0 0-0 0, Ross 0-0 0-0 0, Augustine 1 (Fultz), Rebounds—Milwaukee 40 (Matthews 15), Orlando 45 (Vucelja 11), Assists—Milwaukee 29 (Gantner 10), Orlando 26 (Fultz, Vucelja 7). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 15, Orlando 23.

## Heat sweep Pacers to advance

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.** — Bam Adebayo got his first playoff series win, but the big man wasn't planning on celebrating for too long. He planned to give himself about 2½ hours to enjoy the Miami Heat's victory over the Indiana Pacers before turning his attention to the Eastern Conference semifinals and a possible date with the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks. "One hundred percent I think we can get to another gear," Adebayo said. "And that's everybody here. This next series might be different. We might need to have different schemes." Goran Dragic scored 23 points, and



The Indiana Pacers' T.J. Warren, right, guards the Miami Heat's Goran Dragic during the Heat's series-clinching 99-87 win Monday at Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Dragic had 23 points to lead the Heat.



The Los Angeles Lakers' JaVale McGee, front, tangles with the Portland Trail Blazers' Jusuf Nurkic during the Lakers' 135-115 win Monday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

## Roundup

# Mamba moment: Lakers take 3-1 series lead over Blazers

Associated Press

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.** — The Los Angeles Lakers jumped out to an apt 24-8 lead on Kobe Bryant and dominated the Portland Trail Blazers the rest of the way, taking a 3-1 advantage in their playoff series with a 135-115 victory Monday night. LeBron James had 30 points and 10 assists in 28 minutes before heading to the bench late in the third quarter. The Lakers led by as many as 33 points for their third straight win in the opening-round series, the team's first playoff appearance since 2013. The Trail Blazers won the opener but have appeared gassed in the past two games. Damian Lillard, the MVP of the seeding games in the NBA bubble, had 11 points before leaving with a right knee injury in the third. Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and 13 rebounds. Anthony Davis added 18 points in 18 minutes for the Lakers before leaving the game midway through the third with back spasms. The Lakers, the top seed in the Western Conference, can close out the series on Wednesday. It was considered "Kobe Day" because Monday was 8/24, the two numbers Kobe Bryant wore during his 20-year career. **Bucks 121, Magic 106:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, Khris Middleton finally came alive with a huge fourth quarter and Milwaukee beat Orlando to take a 3-1 lead in their first-round series. Middleton scored 18 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 10 rebounds after being held to one field goal in the first three quarters on 1-for-9 shooting. Wesley Matthews added 12 points for the Bucks, who can close out the Magic on Wednesday. **Thunder 117, Rockets 114:** Dennis Schroder scored a career playoff-high 30 points, and Oklahoma City rallied to beat Houston and even the first round Western Conference playoff series at two wins apiece. The Thunder trailed by 15 points in the third quarter and were down a point heading into the fourth. James Harden had 32 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds for the Rockets.



The Indiana Pacers' T.J. Warren, right, guards the Miami Heat's Goran Dragic during the Heat's series-clinching 99-87 win Monday at Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Dragic had 23 points to lead the Heat.

## SPORTS



**Taking control**  
Lakers push Trail Blazers to brink of elimination » **NBA playoffs, Page 23**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Will it work out?

## Reality Check: Hoping for best amid uncertainty

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

Imagine for a moment this all works out. College football has not one but two seasons, played from beginning to end without interruptions. In the fall, a super-sized Southeastern Conference schedule, Notre Dame battling for an Atlantic Coast Conference championship and a better chance than ever for a Group of Five team to reach the College Football Playoff (yes, imagine, too, there is a playoff).

Then, a couple of weeks after a fall champion is crowned, Season II kicks off throughout the Midwest and West Coast, concluding with a springtime Rose Bowl.

Far from ideal, a season turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic could still be pretty cool. Of course, it is entirely possible the next down of major college football will be played at the end of August 2021.

The preseason AP Top 25 was released Monday. It was unusual, which is only right for what promises to be an unusual season.

In the past, the preseason edition of Reality Check has been about tempering expectations, pointing out reasons to be pessimistic about each of the ranked teams.

Not this year. We could all use some optimism these days. Here's why everything is going to work out great for each team:

SEE WORK ON PAGE 22



Quarterback Trevor Lawrence and Clemson are No. 1 in the preseason Associated Press Top 25.

RICHAH SHIRO/AP

**Inside:** Complete AP Top 25, Page 22

Dodgers looking dominant at halfway point

MLB, Page 21

Stars take 2-0 series lead over Avs

NHL playoffs, Page 19

