North Korea fires 2 missiles
Move done in challenge to US, South amid COVID-19 struggle

By Kim Gamil and Yoo Kyong Chang
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired two short-range missiles into the sea off its eastern coast Monday, South Korea's military said, in a new challenge to Seoul and Washington amid the growing coronavirus crisis.

The ballistic missiles were fired from a mobile launcher in a 20-second interval from an area near the city of Wonsan, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. They flew about 150 miles and reached an altitude of 22 miles, the JCS said.

The launch, the first in more than three months, and an artillery drill conducted Friday appeared to be part of the North's annual winter exercises, a JCS official told reporters.

It also occurred as South Korea, the U.S. and other governments are focused on fighting the rapid spread of the deadly new virus.

North Korea also has implemented strict measures against the virus, including sealing its borders and quarantining foreign diplomats. Analysts said Pyongyang is likely seeking to project continued military strength.

SEE MISSILES ON PAGE 4

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, surrounded by soldiers wearing face masks, watches units of the North Korean army take part in a drill in North Korea on Friday. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government.

KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

Virus spreads in West; overseas bases taking precautions » Pages 6-7

Taliban attacks on Afghans could continue despite US peace deal

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban said they will resume attacks against Afghan government forces, just two days after signing a deal with the U.S. meant to end the war in Afghanistan.

The group also kidnapped dozens of civilians in a province southwest of Kabul during the weekend, Afghan government officials said Monday.

The hostilities resumed after the signing of a U.S.-Taliban deal Saturday that would start a phased 14-month withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops, in exchange for Taliban promises to prevent terrorists from operating in the country, to stop waging war on the U.S. and its partners, and to initiate peace talks with the Kabul government.

The signing was conditioned on a seven-day partial cease-fire.

A Taliban letter shared Monday with Stars and Stripes by a person with links to the militant group called on fighters to attack Afghan forces, but not U.S. or foreign forces.

"After signing the agreement, once again the Mujahedeen (fighters) of the Islamic Emirate are advised to start their attacks against the puppet Kabul administration," said the Taliban letter, which the person provided on condition of anonymity.

The Taliban did not return calls Monday seeking comment, but news service AFP reported a spokesman for the militants said the group would resume "operations."

SEE TALIBAN ON PAGE 5

A Taliban letter shared Monday with Stars and Stripes called on fighters to attack Afghan forces, but not U.S. or foreign forces.

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Providence, Texas among teams improving NCAA chances entering March

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Struggling AT&T launches new TV service

Associated Press

NEW YORK — AT&T is launching a new internet-delivered TV service Monday as it struggles with a shrinking DirecTV satellite business.

The new service, AT&T TV, will have most of the same channels offered on DirecTV, but it’ll come over the internet rather than a satellite dish. AT&T has been testing the service and is now making it available to anyone.

AT&T will send subscribers an Android streaming TV box to use the service. The free device will also come with Netflix and other streaming apps, the way Comcast’s X1 cable box does. Additional boxes cost $120.

The channel lineups and prices are comparable with what’s available from DirecTV, but AT&T TV doesn’t have NFL Sunday Ticket.

The company is trying to adapt to the shift to streaming video, as subscribers to traditional cable and satellite TV services fall. AT&T has an online package that started as a cheaper service with fewer channels than a traditional bundle, but it is shedding customers after price increases.

Customers don’t need to be AT&T internet or wireless customers to sign up, although there are discounted packages available. And the company is promoting the service by saying it won’t count against AT&T data caps.

By itself, AT&T TV starts at $50 a month for a year with a two-year contract.

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EXCHANGE RATES

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

**INTEREST RATES**

| Prime rate | 4.75 |
| Discount rate | 2.25 |
| Federal funds market rate | 1.50 |
| 3-month bill | 1.25 |
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PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo
US soldier accused in beating jailed in Italy

By Nancy Montgomery
Stars and Stripes
VICENZA, Italy — In a rare move, Italian authorities have jailed a U.S. soldier before his trial on aggravated assault charges.

Carabinieri in Vicenza on Caserma Ederle arrested Pvt. John Badger at his barracks last week for what local authorities said were violent and unprovoked attacks on Italian civilians and U.S. soldiers. They included one in November that left a 21-year-old man with a shattered jaw and teeth.

Five other 173rd Airborne Brigade soldiers remain under investigation but are not in custody.

“The U.S. Army respects the host nation’s primary criminal jurisdiction in the case against Pvt. John Badger,” Maj. Chris Bradley, a 173rd Brigade spokesman, said in a statement Friday, adding that the military “will assist and cooperate with the Italian authorities.”

Alessandra Bocchi, a lawyer for the injured man, said Badger’s arrest was ordered by the local prosecutor due to the violence of the attacks, and was intended prevent the suspect from fleeing Italy.

“We think jail is the right place for him,” Bocchi said. “In light of the events, I consider it the only adequate measure. My client is facing delicate surgery on his face and teeth, and it is very likely that he’ll never be the same.”

“The man has been traumatized by the ‘ruthless and unmotivated’ violence, Bocchi said, and memories of it resurface daily.

Badger and the other troops may have been responding to a racial slur, U.S. military officials have said. But the client did not say anything to the soldiers.

Another Italian man was also beaten in the Nov. 29 incident outside Vicenza’s old town. Italian media reported that Badger and several other troops are also alleged to have attacked a group of young men on Nov. 28, and two fellow U.S. soldiers on Nov. 30.

The incidents capped off a year that began with U.S. authorities looking to tamp down soldier misbehavior, “driven by a number of incidents involving U.S. forces that reflected negatively on the Vicenza Military Community,” U.S. Army Garrison Italy said in January 2019, when it began sending military police out with Carabinieri on late-night presence patrols to local nightspots.

Badger had been assigned legal counsel, the brigade’s statement said, and the unit “will continue to provide care and welfare checks on him as per agreements with the host nation.” Bradley declined to answer further questions on the matter.

Italy frequently allows defendants to remain free — or under house arrest — while a case works its way through the justice system, a process that can take five years or more for criminal cases.

No trial dates have been scheduled yet, Bocchi said.

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US SEALs train with Serbian police force

By John VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes
BELGRADE, Serbia — The Navy SEALs kicked in doors and stormed into rooms as Serbian VIPs watched the operators maneuver alongside their own special police in a demonstration of counterterrorism training.

At the Serbian Special Anti-Terrorist Unit’s Belgrade compound, a mock hostage taking was quickly eliminated as the troops showcased close-combat skills.

The exercise Friday capped a nearly monthlong training effort by U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, which aims to make incursions in a region where Russian influence remains strong.

“It’s a key strategic region in Europe and the U.S. has a lot of interests out here,” the SEAL team leader said following the demonstration, on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

The team of Stuttgart, Germany-based Special Warfare Unit 7 conducted exercises with local forces.

While working with the Serbian military and government officials, said the countries are working “toward a friendship.”

Friendship comes when both sides are willing to “take risks for each other,” he said.

“I look very forward to continuing the partnership ... to developing that in the future into a friendship,” Smith said.

Gabriel Escobar, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy Belgrade, called Serbia a historically close partner dating back to World War I.

“We want that friendship. We want that partnership again,” Escobar said. “I think through these engagements we can start to re-build that traditional friendship.”

For the U.S., working with Serbia in areas such as counterterrorism serves mutual interests, Smith said.

“Terrorism doesn’t recognize borders,” Smith said in a brief interview. “If the Serbs stop it here then that’s good for us.”

Bringing in the SEALs for training also is a way to send a larger message of cooperation, he said.

“After working with Russia and they work with us,” Smith said. “We show them more opportunities to work with us as well and give them some options. That builds that security. That’s building stability and it’s building opportunities to work together. It just gives them options.”

Col. Spasoje Vulevic, commander of Serbia’s counterterrorism police, said training with the SEALs was to improve his team’s fighting and mission-planning skill set in a crisis.

“We can react immediately,” Vulevic said. “It’s one of the reasons for this kind of combined training.”

For the SEALs, working with the nonmilitary security forces also offered a rare opportunity.

“They have a very strong urban police skill set, which is something different than what the SEALs traditionally work with,” said the SEAL team leader.

“They have a strong reputation in Europe as a premier force. I found them extremely professional,” Smith said.

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Navy security officer dies during Thailand port visit

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes
YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A U.S. Navy officer in Command Europe conducted exercises with local forces. The SEAL’s face is blurred for security reasons.

A Navy SEAL prepares to clear a room during counterterrorism drills Feb. 26 in Belgrade, Serbia, where U.S. Special Operations Command Europe conducted exercises with local forces. The SEAL’s face is blurred for security reasons.

YOKOSUKA, Japan — The commander of Serbia’s counterterrorist Unit’s Belgrade compound, a mock hostage taking was quickly eliminated as the troops showcased close-combat skills.

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Power restored on Yongsan Garrison in S. Korea

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Power was restored on Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul on Monday after half of the base went dark last Saturday.

The blackout, which began during the night while on liberty from the command ship USS Blue Ridge during its recent port visit to Laem Chabang, Thailand, officials said.

“CPR was performed, and emergency medical services transported him to the Vibharam Laem Chabang Hospital, but he could not be revived,” he said.

Officials are investigating the cause of death, Keiley added.

Platt, of Pritchet, Colo., arrived in Thailand on Feb. 23 aboard the Blue Ridge, which is homeported in Yokosuka. Since deploying in January, the ship has also made port visits to Okinawa and Busan, South Korea, Keiley said.

Platt “represented the very best of 7th Fleet,” 7th Fleet command vice adm. Bill Merz said in a statement to Stars and Stripes on Monday.

“As our security officer, Ryan was a true professional and exceedingly passionate regarding the safety of the Fleet,” Merz said in the statement. “He will be sorely missed.”

Security officers lead “force protection efforts, antiterrorism training and predetermination certification programs” on vessels, according to a Navy job description.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ryan’s family and friends,” Merz added.

The 7th Fleet oversees all Navy vessels from the International Date Line to the India-Pakistan border and from the Kuril Islands to the Antarctic. Its leadership is based aboard its flagship, the Blue Ridge.

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Stars and Stripes

Yongsan Garrison, South Korea — Power was restored on Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul on Monday after half of the base went dark last Saturday, was on the portion of the garrison known as main post. It did not affect the other half, which contains barracks and on-post accommodations.

Resident and services are now located.

Critical facilities were powered by back-up generators as technicians worked to fix the problem.

Soldiers who live in barracks on the main post were provided temporary housing on the south post, officials said.

“Kudos to the USAG Yongsan-Casey Department of Public Works for keeping the power at Yongsan Main Post!,” the garrison said on Monday in a Facebook post. It did not say what caused the outage.

Yongsan, which was the main U.S. base in South Korea for decades, serves as the process of closing. Most military personnel have relocated to Camp Humphreys and other southern hubs as part of a consolidation plan.

Some 28,500 American service members are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.
Slain Yokota airman’s family wants life sentence for killer

BY SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TACHIKAWA, Japan — The family of a slain American airman wants harsh punishment for a Japanese woman who confessed to stabbing him to death at his home near Yokota Air Base.

Aria Saito, 28, of Tokyo, is charged with murder in the Nov. 9, 2018, death of Air Force Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, 35, who served as the security forces squadron’s chief of standards and evaluation at Yokota. She is also charged with violation of Japan’s Swords and Firearms Control Law.

On Monday, the fifth day of Saito’s trial in western Tokyo, Vollweiler’s mother, Laura Vollweiler, supported by her husband, Bernard, of Saylorsburg, Pa., read a statement about the impact of their son’s death on their family.

“You have stolen my son’s life. You have stolen him from his family, his friends he grew up with and his military family,” she told Saito, who had bowed and apologized to the couple before they addressed the court.

Saito, who said she had been dating Vollweiler and helped him find his off-base home, admitted under questioning that she stabbed him with one of two kitchen knives she had brought.

She told the judge on her answering machine saying you were going to bury my son.”

Nicholas Vollweiler loved life, his friends and his career in the Air Force, Laura Vollweiler said.

“He worked his way up the ladder and became a master sergeant. We were very proud,” she said.

Her son’s tour in Japan would have been his last in the military since he was approaching retirement after 20 years of service, she said.

“He chose to come back to Japan because he loved the Japanese culture and the peacefulness and kindness of the people here,” she said. “Who would have thought that my beautiful son would have been murdered in this peaceful country?”

Saito doesn’t tell the truth, Laura Vollweiler added.

“Thank God his comrades were called to his home that horrible night, because who knows what she would have done or said,” she said.

The couple wants the court to impose a life sentence or at least 60-70 years since Nicholas might have lived that much longer, she said.

Prosecutors, however, asked the court for a 16-year sentence based on past cases with similar facts such as premeditation and breaking into the victim’s home.

Defense lawyers, saying that Saito suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and acted on impulse, argued for a sentence of 10 years.

The verdict and sentence are expected on Friday.

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MILITARY

Missiles: Coronavirus will likely stall N. Korean nuclear diplomacy efforts

FROM FRONT PAGE

The U.S. and South Korea have decided to postpone joint military exercises that had been due to begin this week because of the rapid spread of COVID-19.

“North Korea might have carried out the launches in order to show they’re maintaining their military capabilities in spite of the coronavirus crisis,” Lee Ho Ryung, a research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, said.

South Korea raised the total number of COVID-19 cases to 4,335 on Monday, the biggest outbreak outside China, where the virus first appeared in December.

The launching also was a slap to the South Korean military said Thursday that it supported the North’s decision to postpone an agreement.

State media KCNA said Saturday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a military drill that simulated an attack on an island target.

USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters said that the command was aware of the missile launch and would continue to monitor the situation while consulting with the South Korean and Japanese allies.

“Additionally, USFK remains ready to defend [South Korea] against adversary or threat ... including COVID-19,” he said.

The renewed military activity also coincided with the anniversary of the last U.S.-North Korean nuclear summit, which broke down Feb. 28, 2019, after the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

This behavior from the North is not helpful to efforts to ease tensions,” Peters said.

The South Korean military said Monday that the North launched two rock-ets from a large-caliber launcher expected on Friday.

The launch also was a slap to President Moon Jae-in, who apologisted for cross-border cooperation as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Korea rose past 4,000.

North Korea, which sealed its borders shortly after the virus first appeared in China in late December, has said that it doesn’t have a single case.

Aid groups have expressed concern about the ill-equipped, impoverished nation’s susceptibility to the virus, however, and the situation has been difficult to confirm.

The State Department said earlier this month that it supported efforts to contain the spread in the North by working to approve exceptions needed to overcome U.S.-led economic sanctions aimed at punishing the nuclear program.

Lee-Jae Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said that the North appeared determined to raise the stakes as South Korea and the U.S. face key elections.

He said that the U.S. and South Korean decisions to postpone their defense drills and to offer humanitarian assistance had “earned no goodwill from a Kim regime that sees little benefit in restarting diplomacy.”

“Yet, these tests are less provocative than what North Korea is capable of,” Easley added. “In the short-term, the worsening COVID-19 crisis will preoccupy all relevant governments, leaving little bandwidth for either military escalation or productive de-nuclearization diplomacy.”

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Turkish president hopes to broker Syria truce in Moscow

BY BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey's president Monday said he hopes to broker a cease-fire in Syria later this week in Moscow when he meets with his Russian counterpart, after growing alarm over direct clashes in northwest Syria between Turkish troops and Syrian forces backed by Russia.

The possibility that the monthlong offensive into Idlib province, the last rebel-held area in the country, has sparked one of the war's worst humanitarian crises. Almost one million Syrian civilians have fled north toward the sealed Turkish border.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sent thousands of troops into Idlib to support the opposition after a truce, booted up there, but hasn't been able to stop the government offensive.

Erdogan, speaking Monday to a meeting of his ruling party in the Turkish parliament, said he hoped to reach a cease-fire deal for Idlib when he meets Vladimir Putin on Thursday to “prevent further bloodshed.” He did not elaborate. In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed Thursday's meeting.

Direct combat between Turkish and Syrian forces had been rare throughout the nine-year civil war. Russia tipped balance in Syrian President Bashar Assad's favor after it joined the conflict on his side in September 2015. Turkey and Russia have been closely coordinating over the situation in Syria in recent years, even as Turkey continues to heavily back the Syrian opposition.

Russia remained largely on the sidelines over the weekend, even as a Turkish-led counter-offensive in Idlib blunted and in some cases reversed Syrian government advances.

Erdogan and his allies, the Syrian government forces and their allies retook the key northwestern town of Saraqeb, just days after taking it — and then losing it again — into rebel forces, according to pro-government media and an opposition war monitor. The town lies on the main highway linking Syria's two largest cities, Damascus and Aleppo, also known as the MS, making it key to who controls the country.

Nearby fighting continued, however, and as a reporter for Syrian state TV was speaking live from inside Saraqeb, a shell exploded behind him causing a mushroom cloud of dust. The journalist and his crew were unhurt, but this is an attempt to secure control of the town once and for all.

Fighting has worsened over the past few days, after Syrian shelling killed more than 30 Turkish soldiers in Idlib. Turkey responded with drone attacks and shelling that killed more than 90 Syrian allied rebels in Idlib. The Turkish air force also shot down two Syrian warplanes after Syria's air defenses shot down one of its drones. The Syrian pilots ejected as Turkey lost 54 soldiers in Syria in February, including 33 killed Thursday in a single airstrike.

Outraged, Erdogan announced his country's western border with Europe was open Saturday for thousands of migrants and refugees wanting to cross, as he sought to pressure the EU to help Turkey handle the influx. The war in Syria, thousands of migrants have since converged to Turkey's land and sea borders with Greece, trying to enter Europe.

"Syria's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the international community should prevent Erdogan from taking advantage of the "suffering of Syrian people in order to blackmail European countries by releasing waves of migrants toward Europe." On the southern edge of Idlib, intense fighting was reported near the village of Kafranbel, which Syrian troops captured last week, opposition activists said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said troops captured the town under the cover of Russian airstrike.

Officials: Yemen rebels have seized control of strategic northern city

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO — Yemen's Houthi rebels wrestled control of the strategic northern city of Hazm, officials said on both sides of the conflict said Sunday, a major blow to the internationally recognized government backed by Saudi Arabia.

Capturing the capital of Jawf province after weeks of fighting could pave the way for the rebels to gain control of the central province of Marib, one of the shrinking safe spots for those opposing the Houthis in northern Yemen. It also could cause a new wave of displacement in the war-torn country.

Yemen, the Arab world's poorest nation, has been convulsed by civil war since 2014. That's when the Houthis took control of the country's north, including the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened against the Houthis the following year. Despite relentless Saudi airstrikes and a blockade of Yemen, the war has ground to a stalemate.

The conflict has killed over 10,000 people and created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine last year.

A Houthi official said Sunday that the Shite group had pushed government forces out of Hazm and were "now chasing them in its outskirts." The government officials confirmed the city had fallen, but said government forces aided by Saudi coalition airstrikes were attempting to push back.

All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to "feed the media.

The coalition's spokesman's office said the Houthis "are still ongoing," but did not elaborate.

The Houthi-run al-Masirah satellite TV reported that the coalition carried out at least three airstrikes in Jawf on Sunday.

The rebels earlier this year seized a key supply line linking Marib with Jawf provinces, located along the border with Saudi Arabia. They also took control of the strategic district of Nehm, some 37 miles northeast of the rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

"With the seizure of Hazm, the entire Jawf (province) is now considered in their hands, and this would enable them to expand to Marib and even try to take over the south," said Fatima al-Asrar, a non-resident scholar of the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

She said Houthis advances would increase the vulnerability of Yemen, including the Red Sea ports, allied with the Saudi-backed government of Yemen's president, Abdel Rabbbo Mansour Hadi.
By Hyung-jin Kim and Matt Sedensky
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The coronavirus appeared for the first time in New York, Moscow and Berlin and clusters of the disease surged around the world, even as new cases in China dropped to their lowest level in six weeks Monday and hundreds of patients were released from hospitals at the epicenter of the outbreak. Almost nine times more cases were reported outside China than inside the country in the past 24 hours, according to the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Amid the good-news, bad-news developments, the global death toll from COVID-19 pushed past 3,000, and the number of people infected topped 89,000, with fast-expanding outbreaks in South Korea, Italy and Iran.

Around the world, the virus reshaped people’s routines, both at home and at work, from the millions of Japanese schoolchildren facing four weeks without class to special voting booths for Israel’s election, under quarantine. Mobile hospitals were planned in Iran, and the “Mona Lisa” hung in a vacant room of the shuttered Louvre in Paris.

The Organization for Econom-
Japan bases see run on sanitizer and toilet paper

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Shelves at commissaries on military bases across Japan ran short of toilet paper over the weekend as service members prepared for possible quarantines due to COVID-19.

Shoppers in Japan faced long lines over online rumors that Chinese-made toilet paper wouldn’t be exported, The Japan Times reported Saturday, in spite of industry and official assurances that enough toilet paper for everyone is made in Japan.

LaurenIgnaffo, spouse of Petty Officer 2nd Class Austin Ignaffo from Fighter Attack Squadron 102, said that by Saturday the shelves at the MCAS Iwakuni commissary had been stripped of toilet paper and, oddly enough, pasta and spaghetti sauce.

“In the States the joke is like bread and milk and now it’s toilet paper and paper towels,” Ignaaffo said Monday, after she shared several photos on social media of empty shelves. “I thought the pasta was really funny, though.”

Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the Navy’s 7th Fleet, reported on a base-affiliated Facebook page that its commissary shelves were being restocked Monday after the weekend run on toilet paper.

The past asked consumers to limit themselves to one item per family per day of several items including toilet paper, cleaning products, disinfecting wipes and pastas, and at base exchanges and commissaries.

Sanitizer was scarce on exchange shelves at bases in South Korea, where the Army garrison at Daegu is under a self-imposed quarantine. Sanitizer was restocked at Osan Air Base and Camp Humphreys, home of U.S. Forces Korea headquarters, over the weekend.

At the MCAS Iwakuni exchange, bottles of a Japanese-made hand sanitizer were being sold for $18.99, sparking commentary on social media pages. “I first thought that was insane, and I don’t know why they couldn’t somehow get a hold of American hand sanitizer,” Ignaaffo said.

The exchange paid that price to a local supplier, Parker told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday.

“The hand sanitizer available at the MCX is passed to the consumer at cost and was purchased from a Japanese supplier to ensure the demand for hand sanitizer is met in response to the COVID-19 virus,” Parker said.

“The (Marine Corps Community Service) works to keep prices as low as possible for SOFA-status personnel aboard the station.”

FOR STOCKPILING TOILET PAPER, THE JAPAN TIMES REPORTED SATURDAY, IN SPITE OF INDUSTRY AND OFFICIAL ASSURANCES THAT ENOUGH TOILET PAPER FOR EVERYONE IS MADE IN JAPAN.

DODEA students in S. Korea adapt to online study, address pros, cons

BY MATTHEW KEELER AND DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Students at some Defense Department schools in South Korea face another week, at least, of online instruction as concern over spread of COVID-19 has temporarily closed eight schools there.

Department of Defense Education Activity last week closed those schools for the children of U.S. military parents but ordered teachers to report to work Wednesday to issue assignments via email.

Students are expected to complete and submit the assignments online daily.

“It’s an experiment,” Michelle Pell, a language arts and literature instructor at Daegu Middle-High School, told Stars and Stripes on Friday via Facebook Messenger.

“We’re all working through it together. The kids are doing a really good job of following instructions and communicating,” she said. “We are working on perfecting the process. The military command on our post is making really good decisions in this situation.”

DODEA officials in South Korea and military commanders plan to reassess the school closures and other measures imposed to prevent the new coronavirus from spreading.

“We’re hoping to be able to resume normal school operations as soon as it’s possible,” DODEA communications chief Frank O’Gara said in an email Wednesday. “But we’ve made plans in the event that students are required to stay home for a longer period of time. Our education and curriculum subject matter experts are looking at a number of options in case of longer-term closures.”

Meanwhile, remote learning is showing its wrinkles. Online interviews with a handful of high-school students and teachers revealed advantages and disadvantages to learning online.

One advantage, said Humphreys High School junior Jake Thomas, is being able to work at his own pace “as long as I get the assignments in on time.”

The main disadvantage is not always having a teacher on hand to give an instant answer to a question, Thomas and other students said.

For some, the classroom setting itself is conducive to learning.

“I would rather be in class because I’m a more hands-on, in-person learner than an online learner,” said Humphreys High School senior Lily Austinson.

Austinson’s mother, Molly Austinson, teaches world regions and is also the high school yearbook sponsor. Her students make liberal use of Google Hangouts to communicate about the yearbook outside of the classroom.

“This is creating a unique challenge,” Molly Austinson said of working on the yearbook, “but also some cool opportunities for creativity.”

For some parents, having their children home from school is a challenge.

“It adds some stress at home because it makes us into the enforcers making sure they are getting done what they would normally do during the school day,” military spouse Dana DeLuca said Friday. “But for the most part I think it’s a blessing.”

DeLuca teams up with her husband, Army chaplain (Capt.) Marc DeLuca, of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, to ensure their two high-school students and two elementary students attending Osan Air Base schools stay on task.

Dana DeLuca said the concept is a good idea if the kids are going to be out of school for an extended period, but questions if it is a sustainable model.

She said her 17-year-old is capable of a self-taught, online environment, but her 15-year-old needs face-to-face interaction.

Molly Austinson said Camp Humphreys and DODEA’s Korea district leadership have been “fantastic” about communicating with the schools and the community.

“Students are at the heart of everything we do,” O’Gara said. “Maintaining a safe place for them is our priority.”

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Locations with confirmed COVID-19 cases
As of 11 a.m. EST March 2
inside the final month of Pete Buttigieg's historic campaign

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND THOMAS BEAUMONT  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He opened February by sharing victory with one of the Democratic Party's best-known figures and ended it with a humbling defeat at the hands of another. Yet Pete Buttigieg’s unlikely path over the last 30 days exceeded virtually everyone’s expectations of his presidential ambitions, except, perhaps, his own.

The former mayor of Indiana’s fourth largest city, an openly gay 38-year-old whose name most voters still can’t pronounce, formally announced his White House bid last Sunday. He did so acknowledging that he no longer had a viable path to the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination, even after finishing in the top four in each of the first four contests of the 2020 primary season.

"By every historical measure, we were never supposed to get anywhere at all," Buttigieg reminded his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and hopeful at the same time. The crowd interrupted his speech with chants of “2024.”

Buttigieg began the month effectively in a first-place tie with progressive powerhouse Bernie Sanders in Iowa’s presidential caucuses. The mayor made history as the first openly gay candidate to earn a presidential delegate, never mind becoming the first to finish on top in any presidential primary contest. He won over Iowa as a fresh-faced Democrat with a pragmatic Midwestern message backed by an aggressive strategy to reach voters in overlooked rural communities. And if not for the state’s chaotic strategy to report its results, the Feb. 3 contest could have vaulted him to further heights.

Buttigieg and his competitors pivoted quickly to New Hampshire, where he was an underdog in a field that featured two neighboring senators and a former vice president. Yet the mayor from nearly 1,000 miles away showed surprising strength again. He nearly tripled Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s vote total and finished just one percentage point behind Sanders, the winner.

“You know, he very nearly won it,” Warren said. “He got the message across. He worked out the details of ending his campaign, people familiar with the conversation said.

Having laid out a narrow but viable path to the nomination through an uncertain state-by-state fight, advisers painted a picture of a difficult road ahead.

After someone interjected that Buttigieg should speak, the candidate, known for an understated, deliberate style, noted effectively that if the conversation had reached that point, the decision was pretty clear.

Buttigieg’s decision reflected the urgency of the moment, as establishment Democrats feared that Sanders’ rise might be unstoppable unless party moderates united behind Biden’s candidacy. It also reflected the no-time-to-waste analytical nature of Buttigieg himself, a former Rhodes scholar who worked for the McKinsey & Co. management consulting firm soon after finishing his Ivy League education.

“The truth is the path is narrowed to a close for our candidacy, if not for our cause,” Buttigieg told supporters in South Bend. “We must recognize that at this point in the race, the best way to keep faith with these goals and ideals is to step aside and help bring our party and country together.”

Klobuchar set to back Biden after ending bid

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar ended her presidential campaign Monday and plans to endorse rival Joe Biden in an effort to unify moderate voters behind the former vice president’s White House bid.

She is flying to Dallas and plans to join Biden at his rally Monday night, according to her campaign.

Klobuchar was the second presidential candidate to exit the race in less than 24 hours, following Pete Buttigieg’s departure late Saturday. Their decisions reflect an urgent push among moderates to consolidate behind Biden as a counter to insurgent rival Bernie Sanders.

Klobuchar outlasted several better-known and better-funded Democrats, thanks to a better-than-expected third-place finish in New Hampshire. But she couldn’t turn that into success elsewhere, as she struggled to build out a campaign that could compete across the country and findfavorable. The mayor made his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and disappointed, his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and disappointed, his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and disappointed, his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and disappointed, his hometown crowd, which was disappointed and

Santiago Flores, South Bend (Ind.) Tribune/Associated Press

Sunday, Pete Buttigieg announced he was suspending his White House bid in South Bend, Ind.

Trump campaign looks to the skies to reach voters

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s campaign is planning to fly a blimp over swing states to get its message out — and to collect reams of data.

The blimp with Trump logos is set to fly between May and July, Trump campaign reported by Politico.

The unconventional strategy is born in part out of the campaign’s record fundraising, which has given aides the freedom to explore novel ways to reach voters.

Last week, the campaign unveiled plans to open 15 “Black Voices for Trump Community Centers” in urban areas to try to make inroads with the traditionally Democratic voting bloc.

The campaign is also discussing the possibility of a fundraising contest to give supporters the opportunity to fly in the blimp.
SANTA ANA, Calif. — Santa Ana police officers fatally shot an armed man Saturday afternoon inside a Catholic church, the Orange County Register reported.

The shooting at the altar took place shortly after the officers were flagged down at 4:20 p.m. and was told someone inside Immaculate Heart of Mary Church had a gun, police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said.

The officers found the man with a gun inside the church, and then the shooting took place shortly thereafter, Bertagna said.

The man ran outside with the gun and collapsed on a nearby street, Bertagna said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

“We understand he was distraught over a relationship,” Bertagna told the Register. “We’re not sure if that’s why he was here.”

Police Chief David Valentin said witnesses reported the man was distraught and possibly suicidal, and it didn’t appear he was planning a mass shooting.

Officers were told by people inside the church, who had arrived a few minutes earlier, that another person may have been with the suspect. Officers searched the church and a nearby school, but by early Sunday evening had not yet found another suspect, Bertagna told the Register.
Spring break town says no booze on beach

FL PANAMA CITY — Spring breakers be forewarned: you still can’t drink booze in March on the beach in a Florida town seeking to curb rowdy parties.

The Panama City News Herald reported that the monthlong ban is paired with a 2 a.m. deadline to buy alcohol anywhere within city limits.

Panama City Police Chief Drew Whitman said the zero tolerance policy originally enacted in 2015 has helped the city transition from a national spring break hot-spot to a more family-friendly destination all year long.

Man accused of leaving son in car at casino

RI LINCOLN — A Rhode Island father who wanted to gamble was charged with leaving his 3-year-old autistic son alone outside in a car while he placed bets in a casino.

The Rhode Island State Police said Mitchell Cuevas, 38, of Providence was arrested and charged with cruelty to or neglect of a child, and obstructing an officer in the execution of duty.

The incident happened on state Highway 116 about four miles east of Holton, station KSNT reported. Jackson County Sheriff Tim Morse said a passerby who came upon the stranded truck tried to get it back on the road when it flipped over into the ditch.

A woman in the truck was pulled to safety, but Morse said the man in the truck could not be saved.

Man accused of hiring children to sell candy

KY BOWLING GREEN — Kentucky is seeking $45,000 in fines from an Indiana man who is accused of using children to sell candy in Bowling Green.

Shawn Floyd, 55, also faces 12 felony charges of human trafficking, The Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

According to the state attorney general’s office, Floyd brought 12 children to Kentucky with him in July 2019 to sell candy by knocking on doors.

Investigators said Floyd made the juveniles share a motel room with three adults and pay for their own meals and water.

Floyd, who lives in Indianapolis, was initially charged with misdemeanor counts of endangering minors in the summer of 2019, but a grand jury returned more serious charges.

Police: Teen led police on 90 mph pursuit

ME AUBURN— A 15-year-old boy led police on a high-speed chase in a stolen vehicle before crashing into a convenience store, police said.

The pursuit reached speeds up to 90 mph and police abandoned the pursuit in downtown Auburn before the car crashed, police said.

The driver was evaluated at Maine Medical Center and transported to Long Creek Youth Development Center for an unrelated warrant. The passenger was not charged and was returned to his parents.

The chase began when a Cumberland County deputy headed to an unrelated emergency in Gray noticed a car that was being matched by a trooper lost control of his vehicle and slammed into both of the troopers’ police vehicles as they were standing outside.

A state police dog inside one of the cruisers was taken to a veterinary hospital for an examination but did not suffer any serious injuries.

The driver of the Subaru was identified as Ryan Churilo, 29, of East Windsor, Conn.

Stolen cremains found by jogger on a trail

IA DIKE — A wooden box containing the cremated remains of a Dike man that was stolen in a home burglary was recovered, authorities said.

Grundy County sheriff’s deputies had reported that the cremains of Daniel Evanson, 65, were stolen during a break-in at his rural home sometime late Feb. 14 or early Feb. 15. Evanson died Feb. 6.

Evanson’s family members had taken to social media to plead for the public’s help in finding the remains and the ornate wooden box holding them.

A jogger found the box of cremains on a trail in Cedar Falls, the Grundy County Sheriff’s Department told WOI.

“It appears they took the box thinking it was something special and didn’t know what it contained,” Chief Deputy Sheriff Kirk Dolleslag told The Courier.

Woman saved, man dies in attempt to save truck

KS HOLTON — An attempt to pull a truck found dangling over a bridge from the brink ended with the vehicle flipping over and landing upside down in a full ditch, killing a man inside, officials in northeastern Kansas said.

The incident happened on state Highway 116 about four miles east of Holton, station KSNT reported.

Jackson County Sheriff Tim Morse said a passerby who came upon the stranded truck tried to get it back on the road when it flipped over into the ditch.

A woman in the truck was pulled to safety, but Morse said the man in the truck could not be saved.

Celebration of border bonds

Doves fly out of delegates’ hands Friday as a symbol of unity and friendship between the United States and Mexico at the Hands Across the Border event on Gateway International Bridge between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico. The annual event held by the Mr. Amigo Association celebrates the close relationship between the cities with an event on the midway point between the United States and Mexico on the bridge.

The number of African American graves found under a Florida parking lot by a private archaeology firm. The Tampa Bay Times reported that the firm, Cardno, used ground-penetrating radar to find the suspected graves. The firm was hired by the city of Clearwater and the Pinellas County School Board to conduct the search. Officials say Cardno will get permission to validate the radar’s findings by digging just close enough to confirm their existence without touching them.

Roadside attraction Oliver the camel dies

VT FERRISBURGH — Oliver the camel, a quirky roadside attraction and social media darling, died at age 17 in Vermont.

“Ollie” delighted travelers along Route 7 in Ferrisburgh for nearly two decades. Many motorists stopped for photos and selfies with the friendly creature, which sported two humps.

Oliver Camel’s Facebook page announced that he died on Feb. 21. It did not cite the cause of his death.

The Facebook post noted that “Ollie” was loved and spoiled, and looking forward to an afterlife.

Drunken driver hits 2 state trooper cars

MA CHICOPEE — Two Massachusetts State Troopers escaped serious injury after a suspected drunken driv-
Convincingly CANINE

Movement coach Notary helps CGI dog in ‘Call of the Wild’ come to life

By Bethonie Butler
The Washington Post

Terry Notary didn’t fall into the film industry so much as he glide into it like the Cirque du Soleil acrobat he was. Notary had just left the circus entertainment company when Ron Howard spotted him teaching extra how to move like the Whos in Whoville on the set of the 2000 comedy “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Notary had never worked on a film set before — he and several other Cirque alums had been recruited by the film’s stunt coordinator to create movement for the Whos — and it seemed obvious to him that all of Whoville’s residents should move like they were from the same, however fictional, species. It hadn’t occurred to him that he had broken an unwritten rule of set decorum by taking it upon himself to teach them until the famed director called Notary into his office.

Luckily for Notary, Howard was impressed by what he had seen. The director asked if he would teach everybody. Within a week Notary had a sound stage and equipment, ranging from trampolines to unicycles, at his disposal. He also landed a job title he hadn’t previously known existed: movement choreographer.

Twenty years after Howard’s Dr. Seuss adaptation hit theaters, Notary is still teaching actors how to move. He’s been a movement choreographer on the sets of the “Planet of the Apes,” “Avengers” and “Hobbit” franchises, among other films. “It’s about undoing effort and getting back to our roots,” Notary explained. He can currently be seen in theaters playing Buck, the canine protagonist in the adaptation of Jack London’s “The Call of the Wild,” opposite Harrison Ford.

Notary’s career has become a hybrid of movement choreography, stunt coordination and motion-capture acting. He’s lent his carefully studied movements to apes, hobbits and the Na’vi humanoids of James Cameron’s “Avatar.” Social media users have gotten a kick out of GIFs highlighting Notary’s transition into the doe-eyed St. Bernard mix. But Notary said playing man’s best friend to a man played by Harrison Ford wasn’t awkward at all. “We just got super comfortable being really close to each other all the time.”

That doesn’t mean it wasn’t challenging. “I had to look into his soul, you know, without any judgment, without any baggage,” Notary said. “You just have to be this sort of open, spongy receiver.”

The Los Angeles-based actor used his own dogs — one, he said, is “dumber than a doornail” — and the other is “just the smartest thing you’ve ever met in your life” — as inspiration while getting into character. He filmed them in slow motion in their natural habitat: the front yard. “It was interesting watching it back and really just seeing how they moved and the little nuances that they have,” Notary said. “They read tone, inflection, expression and energy all at the same time. So it’s like this wave of everything coming at them.”

Notary has also studied apes — his favorite animal to play. He learned a great deal about them after getting acquainted with two chimpanzees on the set of Tim Burton’s “Planet of the Apes.”

Notary has done 10 films with Andy Serkis, the London-born actor known for playing Gollum in “Lord of the Rings” and for creating the holographic character for Disney’s “War for the Planet of the Apes.”

Notary, who has called Serkis “one of the greatest actors ever,” is set to direct the actor in “The Last Nut- anderthal” this year. The film will mark Notary’s directorial debut.

Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images

Green Day, ‘The Amazing Race’ change plans due to virus fears

From wire reports

Green Day and BTS have joined the list of music acts postponing or axing shows around the world due to coronavirus concerns.

“We have unfortunately made the difficult decision to postpone our upcoming shows in Asia due to health + travel concerns with coronavirus,” the “American Idiot” rockers tweeted Feb. 27. “We know it sucks, as we were looking forward to seeing you all, but hold on to your ticket-ets we’ll be announcing the new dates very soon.”

Green Day was to have played a total of nine dates in March in Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan.

K-pop stars BTS also canceled four hometown shows set for April 11, 12, 18 and 19 in Seoul, South Korea, last week due to coronavirus concerns.

British rapper Stormzy has, per his website, canceled a March 28 date in Hong Kong and a March 29 show in Seoul, and

New Order put off shows with Pet Shop Boys on March 3-4 in Tokyo and March 5 in Osaka, Japan.

R&B singer Khalid made the decision earlier than most, two weeks ago, when he postponed the entire Asian leg of his tour, which was to have hit Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Seoul, Mumbai and Bangalore between March 24 and April 14.

Meanwhile, in Italy, which as of Sunday had the largest coronavirus outbreak outside of Asia, the trash-metal band Testament canceled a Milan show.

Production on world-travel competition television series “The Amazing Race” has taken the precautionary measure of temporarily suspending production on the 33rd season of the series. All contestants and production staff are in the process of returning home, the network said in a statement.

No racers or members of the traveling production team on the 10-time Emmy-winning show have contracted or shown symptoms of the virus, the network said, nor were they known to be exposed. CBS postponed the involvement of contestants to be monitored after returning home.

No new production start date has been set.

“The Invisible Man” tops box office with $29 million

The Elisabeth Moss-led thriller “The Invisible Man” rode a wave of good reviews to a very visible spot atop the box office this weekend. Universal Pictures on Sunday estimated that the film from writer-director Leigh Whannell earned $29 million from North American theaters. Internationally, the Blumhouse production picked up an additional $20.2 million.

“The Invisible Man” carried a relatively modest budget, costing under $10 million to produce.

“The Sonics the Hedgehog” slid to second place in its third weekend in theaters adding $16 million to its domestic total to $128.3 million. “The Call of the Wild,” with Harrison Ford, placed third in its second weekend with $13.2 million.

America Ferrera to depart NBC comedy ‘Superstore’

“Superstore” is losing its manager — star America Ferrera says she’s departing the NBC sitcom after its current season. Ferrera plays the manager of a big box store in the show, which has already been renewed for a sixth season. The actress also serves as an executive producer on the series and has directed several episodes.

The actress became the first Latina actress to win the top comedy actress Emmy Award for her role as an employee on the series “Ugly Betty” in 2007.

She announced on New Year’s Eve that she is expecting her second child.

“Superstore” airs Fridays on AFN-Prime.
Hostage crisis in Philippines ends peacefully

BY JIM GOMEZ
AND AARON FAVILA
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A recently dismissed security guard freed dozens of hostages and was subdued by police after walking out of a shopping mall in the Philippine capital on Sunday, ending a daylong hostage crisis in an upscale commercial district near the police and military headquarters, officials said.

The former guard at the Greenhills shopping center, identified by police as Archie Paray, left the mall in San Juan City in metropolitan Manila with the remaining hostages, who were then secured by police. Several others had managed to escape earlier, police said.

“Everyone is in shock, very traumatized. We’ll have to give them time to recover,” said San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora, who ordered an investigation, including into how the suspect was able to enter the mall with a pistol and grenades.

Instead of being immediately arrested, the suspect was allowed to speak for several minutes to journalists and authorities to describe his grievances against his former bosses, whom he accused of corruption and abuse before police approached and subdued him.

“I’m very thankful that everything ended up peacefully,” said the mayor, who negotiated with the hostage-taker to give up his weapons and surrender for safety shortly before the crisis ended.

The gunman shot and wounded a security officer at the V-Mall, part of the Greenhills complex before he rushed to the second floor and took the hostages, Zamora said. The mall officer was in stable condition at a nearby hospital.

The hostage taker was dismissed after abandoning his job in recent weeks without notifying management, Zamora said.

Anti-government protesters hold Iraqi flags during a rally in Baghdad on Sunday.

Shortly after he spoke, two mortar shells landed in Iraq’s Green Zone where the U.S. Embassy and government offices are located, without causing any injuries, two security officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Iraq on Sunday marked five months since a popular uprising against the country’s corrupt political class erupted in Baghdad and southern provinces. Iraqis took to the streets in the hundreds on Oct. 1 to decry rampant government corruption, unemployment and poor services. Demonstrators rejected Allawi’s candidacy outright, saying he was the choice of the political elite and not the street.

Putin boasts about new weapons for defense plan

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin says that Russia has developed unique offensive weapons without the intention of starting a war with anyone but to maintain “strategic balance” and “strategic stability” in the world.

“We are not going to fight against anyone. We are going to create conditions so that nobody wants to fight against us,” Putin said in an interview with the state Tass news agency, a part of which was released Monday.

The three-hour-long interview marks Putin’s 20 years in power and is being divided into 20 parts being released over a period of weeks and each dedicated to a separate issue. In episodes that have already been released, Russia’s leader talked about the recent government reshuffle, Ukraine, mass protests in Moscow this summer and the use of modern technology.

Russia has created “offensive strike systems the world has never seen,” and which are forcing the U.S. to try to catch up, Putin told Tass.

Having these systems in place allows the Kremlin to “maintain strategic stability and strategic balance” that the U.S. tried to “upset” with their missile defense systems, the president added.

“It is essential not only for us but also for global security,” Putin concluded.

Iraq’s PM-designate withdraws from post

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq’s prime minister-designate announced his withdrawal from the post Sunday night after failing to secure parliamentary support for his Cabinet selection, prolonging the political deadlock in the country amid multiple economic, health and security challenges.

Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Allawi blamed political parties he did not name, saying they were “not serious about implementing reforms that they promised to the people” and accusing them of placing obstacles in the way of a new and independent government.

“If I agreed to offer concessions, I would be prime minister now, but I tried everything possible to save the country from sliding toward the unknown and resolve the current crisis. But the negotiations hit repeated snags,” he said in a short address to the nation, explaining his decision to withdraw. He accused some parties of negotiating “purely for narrow interests.”

Allawi’s withdrawal a month after he was selected for the post plunges the country in more uncertainty at a critical time and as the country weathered troubled times, including ongoing anti-government protests and the constant threat of being ensnared by terrorist organizations, I would be prime minister now,” he said.

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Child dies as migrants rush Greek-Turkish border

BY ANDREW FAREY
Associated Press

KASTANIES, Greece — Greek police fired tear gas at migrants trying to push into Greece from Turkey through the land border Monday, and a child died when a dinghy boat capsized during a sea crossing after Turkey opened its frontier for migrants and refugees to enter Europe.

The child’s death, reported by the Greek coast guard, was the first since thousands of migrants began massing at the frontiers with Greece over the weekend after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced an easing of restrictions on those wishing to cross to Europe.

Turkey’s announcement, initially by an official on Thursday, marked a dramatic departure from a previous policy of containing the hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants in Turkey. Erdogan apparently aims to pressure Europe into offering Turkey more support in dealing with the fallout from the Syrian war to its south.

Erdogan said Monday that Western leaders had started to call him urging him to reverse the border opening. He said he told them, “It’s done, the doors are open now. You will have your share of this burden now.” He added that soon “the number of people going to the border will be expressed in millions.”

Thousands of migrants on Monday tried to find a way across Turkey’s land border into Greece, which has made clear its borders will remain closed. Dozens managing to pass through either border fences or fording the river. As Greek police fired tear gas, several hundred migrants holding white flags shouted “peace, peace.” Others were trying to reach Greek islands from the Turkish coast.

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A warm winter means that for the first time Germany’s vineyards will produce no ice wine.

Warm winter nixes special German ice wine

Associated Press
FRANKFURT, Germany — A warm winter means that, apparently the first time in the history of German winemaking, the country’s vineyards will produce no ice wine — a pricey nectar made from grapes that have been left to freeze on the vine.

The German Wine Institute said Sunday that none of the country’s wine regions saw the necessary low temperature of 19 degrees Fahrenheit.

A succession of warm winters have cut into ice wine production recently, the institute said, noting that in 2017, only seven producers managed to make it.

“If warm winters become more frequent over the coming years, ice wines from Germany’s regions will soon become an even more expensive rarity than they already are,” said wine institute spokesman Ernst Buescher.

Freezing the grapes before they are crushed concentrates the sugar and leads to an intensely sweet, golden wine often served with dessert.

Friends say Tijuana woman was stalked even after death

BY MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press
MEXICO CITY — The man was obsessed with Marbella Valdez. He sent her gifts, bought food for her friends. Prosecutors say he even planted a tracking device on her car.

And when the 20-year-old law student’s body was found beaten, bound and strangled, he approached police to demand the case be solved. He even turned up at her funeral bearing a floral arrangement and wearing a T-shirt with her photograph and the feminist slogan “Not One More Woman” printed on it.

A week later, he was arrested and charged with her murder.

The man — identified by Mexican rules only by his first name, Juan — has insisted he is innocent.

But friends and family say that Valdez was stalked in life and even after death.

A week after his arrest, police found a GPS locating device to her car, and Messick said that he believed the man may have taken a copy of the keys to her apartment.

For three days after her disappearance, relatives had been telling police they suspected Juan of taking her. Villarreal believes that if they had searched Juan’s house, they could have found her alive.

“The level of suffering is so many degrees, it’s so painful,” Messick said, days after the initial arraignment. “The guy was smiling at the hearing.”

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Get entertained with...
By Hugh Hewitt
Special to The Washington Post

Biden’s moment in the sun likely won’t last

Former Vice President Joe Biden handily won the South Carolina Democratic primary last Saturday, but his back story and the victory weren’t nearly as promising as his campaign might have hoped. Biden finished fourth in both New Hampshire and Iowa — steps back and the victory wasn’t nearly as promising as his campaign might have hoped. Biden finished fourth in both New Hampshire and Iowa — steps back and the victory wasn’t nearly as promising as his campaign might have hoped. Biden finished fourth in both New Hampshire and Iowa — steps back and the victory wasn’t nearly as promising as his campaign might have hoped. Biden finished fourth in both New Hampshire and Iowa — steps back and the victory wasn’t nearly as promising as his campaign might have hoped.
Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

FOR EXTRA (PRE-APPROVED) CREDIT, WHO CAN TELL ME WHAT GROUP HAS A RECORD $14 TRILLION DOLLARS IN PERSONAL DEBT?

AMERICANS. IN A CLASS ALL BY THEMSELVES

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service

ARE YOU CONFIDENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF THE CORONAVIRUS?

WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

I'VE GOT THE IDOL... I'VE GOT THE IDOL...

INDIANA PENCE AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF DOOM

WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service

WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service
**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1. Gridlock sound
5. 50-and-over org.
9. Deli choice
12. Wheel bar
13. — En-lai
14. “Suits” network
15. Object of an epic pursuit
17. Tom Collins
18. Alliances
19. Lindsay of “Mean Girls”
21. Some Pacific salmon
24. Floating ice mass
25. Portent
26. Romper room
30. Genetic stuff
31. Attempts
32. 100% 
33. Laterally
35. L-Q bridge
36. Pace
37. “Kick from champagne...”
38. Dorm alternatives
40. Sahara
42. Felon’s flight
43. Super-shiny, like paint
48. Census stat
49. One of homes
50. Rocker Clapton
51. Cooking fuel
52. Carvey or Delany
53. Bigfoot’s cousin

**DOWN**

1. “Humbug!”
2. Outer (Pref.)
3. Right angle
4. Quarterback
5. Farm unit
6. Cries of discovery
7. King, in Cannes
8. Grooved wheels
9. “Love, Actually” actor
10. India’s continent
11. “Death in Venice” author
16. USO patrons
20. Mouths (Lat.)
21. Atlantic catches
22. High-end hotel chain
23. Psychological tactics
24. Cave creatures
26. Excellent, in slang
27. Myrna of movies
28. Carolina college
28. Dog food brand
31. Made a rustling noise
34. “Mangia!”
35. Musical mix
37. Showbiz job
38. Banner
39. Star’s music
40. Opposite of “for”
41. Mother of Zeus
42. Playwright
45. Raw mineral
46. Perch
47. High school subj.

---

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

F A I L E D  E A T  C O P S
A M E N A B L E  O B I E
Z A N Z I B A R  B O C A
Y D S  I S W E A R
M A G N A  M A G N E S I U M
O D I E  C L A M B A R
B O G  H A I R S  R A P
S I D E B A R  D E F T
U R L S  B E A T S
A T T L E E  S O L
V I A L  C I N N A B A R
E L L I E  A L I E N A T E
C E L S  R E P  O M A N

3-3

**CRYPTOQUIP**

M W Z C Z E G P H C C M R F Z
P Z X O G M A Z O G H E Z B X M V J
E P Z W J M V J G B H V F M W Z X A
M R C Z W Z R F G X A H W R Z R.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: MEMORABLE SONGWRITER WHO HAD NUMEROUS NEAR MISSES WHEN HE WAS OUT DRIVING: SWERVING BERLIN.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

Lap Leaders:

Time of Race:

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led):
J. Johnson 71; R. Blaney 72-91; W. Byron 92-105; J. Johnson 110; C. Elliott 77-80

Mens’s score:
G. Woodland, $204,750 70-67-74-67—278 -2
L. Westwood, $280,000 67-69-71-70—277 -3
Sungjae Im, $1,260,000 72-66-70-66—274 -6

Women’s score:
East Coast Conference
First Round

Atlantic Sun Conference
First Round

Big South Conference
First Round
1. Campbell vs. Big South Champion

Southeastern Conference
First Round

Mountain West Conference
First Round
1. San Diego State vs. Air Force

First Round

Second Round

West Coast Conference
First Round

Southwest Conference
First Round

Mountain West Conference
First Round
1. San Diego State vs. Air Force

First Round

Second Round

West Coast Conference
First Round

Mountain West Conference
First Round
1. San Diego State vs. Air Force

First Round

Second Round

West Coast Conference
First Round

Mountain West Conference
First Round
1. San Diego State vs. Air Force

First Round

Second Round

West Coast Conference
First Round

Tuesday, March 3, 2020
DB Guidry's 4.29-second 40-yard dash sets pace

By Michael Marot  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — College football's top players turned the NFL's annual scouting combine into speed week.

Running back Jonathan Taylor promised to run the 40-yard dash in under 4.4 seconds. He did. Receiver Henry Ruggs III came, literally, a few ticks away from matching the fastest time recorded in the event's 35-year history. Linebacker Isaiah Simmons showed he had receiver-type speed on Saturday, and even the big men turned heads with their fleet feet.

On Sunday, the trend continued with cornerback Javelin Guidy of Utah clocking a 4.29 — the best on the final day of workouts in Indianapolis and tied for third-best among defensive backs since 2003. Only Jalen Myrick of Minnesota in 2017 and Stanford Routt in 2005 posted faster times.

"It was a 4.28 at a Texas camp my sophomore year," Guidry said earlier this week when asked what his fastest 40 was. "I really focused on it (track) when we moved to Texas. Coach Larry Weather in Austin, he really put it on me to focus on track and running and DB drills as well. He's a DB coach, but running was the main thing."

Guidry did more than that in Indy. He also posted a 235-pound bench press, tied for fifth among defensive backs.

Jeff Okudah, widely considered the top cornerback in the draft. Allen had 44 tackles, 10 ½ sacks, and was an alternate the last two seasons.

The speedy strip-sack specialist made the Pro Bowl in 2017 and was an alternate in 2018. He forced fumbles in four seasons.

And was an alternate the last two seasons.

Speed thrills on final day of scouting combine


Jonathan Taylor: The fastest running back in Indianapolis also made in bigger than his two nearest competitors, J.K. Dobbins of Ohio State and D'Andre Swift of Georgia, to be the first runner selected. He outran Swift in the 40 (4.48) with a 4.39, and posted better numbers in the vertical jump and broad jump than Swift, too. An injured ankle, meanwhile, limited Dobbins to only the bench press. Dobbins had 23 reps compared with 17 for Taylor.

Mekhi Becton: A massive 364-pound offensive tackle from Louisville raised eyebrows with a stunning 5.11 in the 40 but may have raised questions with only 23 reps. He tied for 25th among the 39 offensive linemen who lifted — and had two fewer than punter Michael Turk of Arizona State. Next up: Perhaps seeing Becton board a boat at the Bellagio on draft weekend.

Kyle Dugger: The only Division II player in Indy thought he would run in the 4.3's. Instead, his two attempts came in at 4.50, inches and a 41-inch vertical jump.

"It's always going to be risk-reward," he said before working out. "You chose if you're going to get the reward or if you're going to get the risk."

Risers

Tristan Wirfs: At 6-foot-5, 322 pounds, Iowa's former offensive tackle might not look like the most athletically gifted player. But he posted a better vertical jump (36.5 inches) than two of the draft's top receivers — Jerry Jeudy (35) and CeeDee Lamb (34-5). He also won three prep state championships in the discuss, two in the shot put and was an elite swimmer by age 6.

Isaiah Simmons: The former Clemson linebacker started this week as a potential top-10 pick. He helped himself by running a 4.39-second in the 40, matching Taylor's time and finishing ahead of all but six receivers. He also had the second-best broad jump (11 feet) and tied for third-best vertical jump (39 inches) among linebackers.

Disgruntled pass rusher Ngakoue wants out of Jacksonville

By Mark Long  
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Standout defensive end Yannick Ngakoue no longer wants to sign a long-term deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Ngakoue announced his desire to play elsewhere via social media Monday, a move that could force Jacksonville to place the franchise tag on the 24-year-old disgruntled defender and trade him.

"The Jaguars are aware I no longer have interest in signing a long-term contract in Jacksonville," Ngakoue posted on Twitter and Instagram. "Thank you for everything and gave you guys everything I got. I’m thankful for the journey and look forward to continuing my career elsewhere."

Ngakoue has 37 ½ sacks and 14 forced fumbles in four seasons. The speedy strip-sack specialist made the Pro Bowl in 2017 and was an alternate the last two seasons.

A third-round draft pick from Maryland in 2016, Ngakoue cleared to have surgery. The recovery time...
**Roundup**

**Flyers’ win streak hits six with victory over Rangers**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carter Hart made 32 saves and the surging Philadelphia Flyers extended their winning streak to a season-high six games with a 6-2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

Matt Niskanen, Sean Couturier and Travis Konecny each scored power-play goals and Pavel Buchnevich also tallied two power-play goals and Cory Schneider made 42 saves and Los Angeles improved to 6-2-1 in its last nine games with a win at Vegas.

On the momentum for the Rangers. Zibanejad has a career-high 32 goals on the season.

Kings 4, Golden Knights 1: Anze Kopitar scored twice, rookie Calvin Petersen made 42 saves and Los Angeles improved to 6-2-1 in its last nine games with a win at Vegas.

The Kings, in last place in the Pacific Division, snapped the Golden Knights’ franchise record-tying win streak at eight games. Vegas hadn’t lost since a 4-0 defeat in Minnesota on Feb. 11.

Petersen, who improved to 2-0-0 against the Golden Knights, was brilliant in stifling a normally potent offense that clearly was missing Mark Stone, who is week-to-week with a lower-body injury. Of his 42 stops, 19 came in the third period.

Devils 3, Ducks 0: Pavel Zacha scored two power-play goals and Cory Schneider made 34 saves for his first shutout in more than a year to lift New Jersey to the win at Anaheim.

Nicole Hischier had a goal, Nikita Gusev had an assist to extend his point streak to six games, and the Devils extended their streak of games earning a point to six. New Jersey is 4-0-2 in that span.

Schneider’s shutout was the 26th of his career, and his first since Feb. 21, 2019, against Ottawa.

John Gibson made 31 saves for the Ducks, who could not put together their second three-game winning streak of the season.

Blue Jackets 5, Canucks 3: Zach Werenski and Emil Benstrom scored on power plays during host Columbus’ four-goal, third-period rally and the slumping Blue Jackets stunned Vancouver.

Riley Nash and Gustav Nyquist also scored in the third period for Columbus, which ended a two-game skid and moved three points ahead of Carolina for the second Eastern Conference wild-card. It was the Blue Jackets’ first regulation win since Feb. 7 and their second victory in 11 games.

Bo Horvat, Elias Pettersson and J.T. Miller scored for the Canucks, and Louis Domingue stopped 30 shots in his first appearance since being acquired from New Jersey at the trade deadline. Vancouver has dropped three in a row and six of its last seven games on the road.

Flames 3, Panthers 0: Cam Talbot made 38 saves, and Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and an assist to lead Calgary to a win at Florida.

TJ Brodie and Milan Lucic also scored for the Flames, and Mark Giordano had three assists.
Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, reaches for the ball as New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson drives to the basket. Williamson had 35 points and seven rebounds and James had 34 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds in the Lakers’ 122-114 win Sunday in New Orleans.

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — LeBron James keeps finding ways to assert his supremacy over the upstart New Orleans Pelicans and rookie sensation Zion Williamson — with or without the help of fellow Lakers All-Star Anthony Davis.

James had 34 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds, and Los Angeles overcame both Davis’ absence and Williamson’s highest-scoring effort in a 122-114 win Sunday in New Orleans.

“We had one of the best players in the league out tonight, that is what makes the win feel that much better,” Vogel said. “Kuz was great and our bigs were much better,” Vogel said. “Kuz made a dunk and a layup. His dominant presence served as an emphatic encore to springing out of his seat and standing on the sideline.

When they brought double-teams, he is one of the best passers in the league,” Vogel added. “He showed it tonight and picked his defense apart.”

“He is who he is — incredible player,” Williamson said of James. “I give respect when it’s due. He hit a big shot and it helped them seal the game.”

Davis, who spent the first seven of his eight seasons with the Pelicans, sat out with a sore right knee, one night after playing in Los Angeles’ 106-88 loss at Memphis. His injury did not appear too serious; he was on the bench in street clothes and routinely waved his arm to players by springing out of his seat and standing on the sideline.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 13 and JaVale McGee asserted himself inside with six blocked shots and eight points, including his layup in the final minute that made it 120-112.

“We had one of the best players in the league out tonight, that is what makes the win feel that much better,” Vogel said. “Kuz was great and our bigs were great. A lot of guys contributed on the perimeter, in particular on the defensive end. ... Just a heck of a win for us.”

James punished New Orleans on consecutive possessions in the fourth quarter when double-teams arrived late, beating guard and former teammate Josh Hart with explosive dribble drives for a dunk and a layup. His dominance served as an emphatic encore to his season-high 46 points in a victory over the Pelicans six days earlier in Los Angeles.

LeBron too much for Pelicans, Zion

Roundup

Porzingis steps up, lifts Mavs past Timberwolves

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Being without All-Star guard Luka Doncic for 13 games this season, the Dallas Mavericks have discovered how to stay successful without their leading scorer and assist man.

Lean on Kristaps Porzingis.

Porzingis tied a season high with 30 points, 20 rebounds and six assists over Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday afternoon with Doncic sitting out with a left thumb sprain.

Porzingis added 13 rebounds and five assists, while also connecting on a career high-tying three-pointers. He’s the only player in NBA history with at least 35 points, 10 rebounds, five blocks and five made threes in a game, according to Basketball Reference.

The 38 points tells about a quarter of what he did in this game,” Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. “Defensively, he was phenomenal. Changing shots, blocking shots, rebounding the ball, deflecting, saving balls. It was a defensive clinic.

Porzingis scored 22 points in the first half as Dallas led by 20 points and never looked back. Tim Hardaway Jr. added 19 points as the Mavericks won for the third time in four games.

D’Angelo Russell had 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, but Minnesota lost for the 20th time in 22 games.

“We’re already, we’ve got to come out with a more competitive mindset early on, especially against these teams like Dallas, who’s an execution-based team who’s been together,” Timberwolves coach Ryan Saunders said. “I’m sure they’re figuring out how to step up and put the ball in the basket, how to get the ball into the right hands. It was a defensive clinic.”

The Clippers — who shot 59.2% from the field — trailed by two at halftime but took control in the third quarter, outscoring the Sixers 32-15.

Shake Milton led Philadelphia with 39 points, hitting seven three-pointers. The first-year guard had 26 points in the first half, which tied a team season high.

Former Clippers forward Tobias Harris had 25 points and Alec Burks 15.

Nuggets 133, Raptors 118:
Nikola Jokic had 23 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists for his 12th triple-double of the season to lead Denver past short-handed Toronto.

Jokic has 43 triple-doubles in his short career, completing his latest by feeding Jerami Grant on a dunk that helped the Nuggets hand the defending champion Raptors their third straight loss.

Grant finished with 16 points, Toronto played without Serge Ibaka and Fred VanVleet for a second straight game, but got a career night from OG Anunoby. He had 32 points on 12-for-16 shooting.

Wizards 124, Warriors 110:
Bradley Beal had 34 points, eight assists and a season-best five steals and Washington won at Golden State for the first time in six years.

Beal has scored at least 25 points in a franchise-record 18 straight games. Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points for the Warriors, who have lost nine straight at home.

Kings 106, Pistons 100:
De’Aaron Fox scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and host Sacramento overcame a 17-point deficit to beat Detroit.

Buddy Hield added 19 points, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 15 and Harrison Barnes had 10 points and eight rebounds for the Kings. Sacramento has won four of five since the All-Star break.

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Above: Alex Bowman pits under yellow during the second stage of a NASCAR Cup Series race Sunday in Fontana, Calif. Below: Bowman celebrates with the checked flag after winning the race.

**Bowman holds off Busches at Fontana for second Cup win**

**By Greg Beacham**

FONTANA, Calif. — Before Alex Bowman started looking for tattoo shops somewhere between Los Angeles and Phoenix, he celebrated a win that suggested even more permanent success ahead for the hard-working driver and his resurgent team.

Bowman raced to his second career NASCAR Cup Series victory Sunday, holding off Kyle and Kurt Busch at Fontana.

The win was the culmination of a tremendously encouraging weekend for Bowman, who has run 156 Cup races without extraordinary success. He is in the final year of his contract with Hendrick Motorsports.

But his No. 88 Chevrolet felt like the fastest car on this weathered, wide asphalt from the moment he unloaded — and Bowman decisively proved he knew what to do with it.

“We’ve been so good to start this season,” Bowman said. “We’ve got to go win a bunch more, but man, it feels good to have one this early.”

Bowman’s future might be uncertain, but he’s fine with it after this dominant performance at Fontana. He led 110 laps and managed to stay out front after the final pit stops before cruising to the checkered flag in a smooth, fairly eventful race featuring only one caution outside of the stage breaks.

“We’ve been talking about it for the last two weeks. Apparently I have to get a neck tattoo, which I’m not real sure if that’s going to happen or not. But yeah, next time we’re all together, I guess we’re all going to get tattoos.”

Defending Fontana champion Kyle Busch was 8.9 seconds behind in second place in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. His older brother Kurt was third, and Bowman teammate Chase Elliott came in fourth.

**Jimmie’s farewell**

Six-time Fontana champion Jimmie Johnson finished seventh after running near the front for most of the race. The full-time driver at the NASCAR track closest to his native El Cajon, Calif., about 100 miles away. His winless streak is at a career-worst 98 races, but he showed impressive pace before his Hendrick teammate took charge of the race.

“Our team is going in the right direction,” Johnson said. “We just faded too much at the end. I thought I was going to blow a tire, but we salvaged a top 10 out of it. It’s a huge thing for us out here in March.”

Johnson started on the front row at the track where he has won twice. It’s a huge feat for us out here in March.

**Misbehavior**

Daytona 500 champion Denny Hamlin finished sixth after starting at the back when he changed a shock absorber before the start. Hamlin then put Kyle Larson into the wall during the first stage with a bump from behind, and Larson needed significant repairs.

The crew chiefs of Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Ryan Preece were ejected after NASCAR found illegal body modifications on the cars, which had to drop to the rear on the pace laps.

**With virus on mind, Korea’s Im wins at the Honda Classic**

**By Tim Reynolds**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Moments after getting his first career PGA Tour win, Sungjae Im paused to reflect on what it means.

For not himself — for his homeland, and for those dealing with a virus that has the world on edge.

The 21-year-old South Korean started fast and finished stronger Sunday, winning the Honda Classic by one shot over Mackenzie Hughes and two over Tommy Fleetwood for his first victory in 50 tries on tour. But before he could be whisked back to the course to collect the trophy, Im made sure to speak out about the coronavirus and tell those in South Korea — where nearly 4,000 cases have been confirmed — that he was thinking of them.

“And it’s kind of a huge deal with everybody. But I’m just glad as a Korean player that I can deliver some good news to the countrymen back home — to do something for the country and make everybody proud.”

Im shot a 4-under 66 on Sunday, finishing at 1-under to match the second-highest winning score since the Honda moved to PGA National in 2007. He was the tour’s rookie of the year last season, plus has played more tournaments and more rounds than anyone since the 2018-19 season began nearly a year and a half ago.

And now, he’s a winner, picking up $1.26 million this week and becoming the Honda’s 10th international champion in the last 16 seasons.

But his No. 88 Chevrolet felt like the fastest car on this weathered, wide asphalt from the moment he unloaded — and Bowman decisively proved he knew what to do with it.

“We’ve been so good to start this season,” Bowman said. “We’ve got to go win a bunch more, but man, it feels good to have one this early.”

Bowman’s future might be uncertain, but he’s fine with it after this dominant performance at Fontana. He led 110 laps and managed to stay out front after the final pit stops before cruising to the checkered flag in a smooth, fairly eventful race featuring only one caution outside of the stage breaks.

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With virus on mind, Korea’s Im wins at the Honda Classic

**Langer rallies to win 41st PGA Tour Champions title**

**Associated Press**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Bernhard Langer took another step closer to the PGA Tour Champions victory record by closing with an 8-under 65 to turn a four-shot deficit into at two-shot win in the Cologuard Classic.

Langer was flawless until the final hole at Tucson National. He made nine birdies in 17 holes to seize control Sunday, and he wound up two shots ahead of Woody Austin.

Langer won for the 41st time on the 50-and-older circuit. Hale Irwin holds the PGA Tour Championships record with 45 victories, the last one coming in 2007.

That was the year Langer was eligible for the senior circuit. The 62-year-old German now has gone 14 consecutive seasons with at least one victory.

“I feel if I can play my best, I can win out there,” Langer said. “I can’t play at 80%. There’s too many good players nowadays that will lap me if I don’t play my best.”

He was good enough at Tucson National. Is he good enough to catch Irwin?

“I don’t think about it,” Langer said with a smile. “But I get reminded of it just about every week. One closer. We don’t live and die for records, but it’s fun to have a couple of them.”

Langer finished at 18-under 202, and moved to the top of the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Brett Quigley began the final round with a three-shot lead and was still in the mix until a double bogey on the par-5 12th hole. He closed with a 73 and tied for third with Rod Pampling.

**Associated Press**

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., by one shot Sunday over Mackenzie Hughes. Hughes, a Canadian who made the cut on the number Friday, shot his second consecutive 66. Playing alongside Im, he was part of some serious fireworks on the last two holes and missed a birdie putt at the par-5 finishing hole that would have gotten him into a tie for the top spot.

“I love being in the mix,” Hughes said.
Pitchers return to the mound after being on the mend

Associated Press

Lance McCullers struck out Paul Goldschmidt on a curveball, then looked toward the Houston dugout.

That was enough on this day.

After being out of the game for more than a year, 16 pitches were plenty Sunday. McCullers, an Astros starter, and Corey Kluber of the Texas Rangers pitched Sunday after a long absence because of injuries. New York Mets ace Jacob deGrom, another key starter, albeit one who was healthy last season, also made his spring debut.

McCullers' previous outing against big league hitters was in relief on Oct. 17, 2018, in the AL Championship Series against Boston.

"He was smooth with his delivery," manager Dusty Baker said following Houston's 5-4 victory.

"He wasn't overthrowing, which I thought he might do from not being out there."

Kluber goes 3 innings

Texas newcomer Kluber faced hitters for the first time since a line drive broke his pitching arm last May with Cleveland, working three innings and allowing two runs on two hits and two walks and striking out four. Kluber, 25, said he didn't feel any differently.

"Maybe a little bit beforehand," the right-hander said Sunday after throwing three innings against the Los Angeles Dodgers. "But once you get out there and start stretching, playing catch, getting loose in the bullpen, all that stuff kinda goes away.

"It just turns into another start, whether it's the regular season or spring training. That's kind of how everything usually goes for me."

deGrom solid in return

Two-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner deGrom was sharp in his spring training debut, giving up a hit and striking out two in three innings. The 31-year-old right-hander retired the side on seven pitches in his first inning and his fastball touched 98 mph. deGrom worked a clean inning of relief and Justin Wilson struck out the side in his inning of work.

Los Angeles Angels outfielder Jo Adell, picked 10th overall in the 2017 draft, played 21 games in Triple-A last season and hit .321. He doesn't turn 21 until April 8.

New Angel in the outfield: Adell's prospects growing

"Whether it is running, hitting, hitting with power, the whole defensive gig, he's got it all going on and he's really young."

Joe Maddon

Angels manager on prospect Jo Adell

"Every position in the lineup has its own tasks," Adell said. "It is pretty cool to bounce around and try to figure that out."

With season in doubt, Japanese baseball taps virus experts

Associated Press

TOKYO — The opening of the Japanese baseball season is in doubt because of the outbreak of the new virus, officials acknowledged Monday, as the nation's baseball and soccer leagues tapped three medical experts as advisers.

Baseball commissioner Atsushi Saito said protecting fans, players and coaches was critical. Preseason games are being played in empty stadiums, with a hope the regular season can begin as scheduled on March 20.

But Saito acknowledged assessing whether the regular season can open — with or without fans — is a delicate decision, noting the virus outbreak wasn't expected to subside soon.

"That is the difficult part," Saito said.

"At this point, we still can't say what action we will take under what conditions."

The J-League soccer competition joined Nippon Professional Baseball in forming the panel to assess the virus outbreak. The panel, to be up and running by Tuesday, will include representatives from each of the 12 professional baseball clubs, as well as J-League representatives. It will come up with recommendations by the middle of this month, officials said.

The J-League had begun, but has suspended play. It hopes to resume on March 18. J-League chairman Mitsuru Murai said matches attract crowds and unexpected problems.

"We must realize we have a responsibility for people's health," Murai said.

Reporters at the news briefing were required to wear masks, although Saito and Murai did not wear masks. They also shook hands afterward.

The Japanese government has indicated it sees the next couple of weeks as crucial to containing the spread of COVID-19, which began in China late last year.

The virus has sickened more than 89,000 people worldwide, mostly in China, but also Italy, Iran and South Korea. Japan has about a dozen deaths and about 1,000 cases.
Top 25 roundup

Hot-shooting St. John’s sinks No. 10 Creighton

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Greg Williams Jr. made seven three-pointers and scored a career-high 21 points as St. John’s routed No. 10 Creighton 91-71 on Sunday.

Rasheem Dunn had 19 points, a career-high 10 assists and six rebounds for the Red Storm (15-14, 4-12 Big East), who topped a three-game skid. LJ Figueroa added 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Julian Champagnie scored 13.

One of the worst three-point shooting teams in the country, St. John’s went a season-best 14-22 from long range in its biggest victory under first-year coach Mike Anderson. It was the school’s first win over a top-10 team at Carnesecca Arena on campus since beating Bernard King and No. 7 Tennessee in December 1975.

“St. John’s was terrific,” Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. “When you get out-scored by 30 on the three-point line in somebody else’s building, it’s hard to win.”

Over the years, St. John’s has played many of its big-time games at Madison Square Garden.

Damián Jefferson equaled a career best with 20 points and Ty-Shon Alexander scored 19 for the Bluejays (22-7, 11-5), who had

Gain: Longhorns, Friars among teams on the rise entering tournament season

FROM BACK PAGE

113 tournament projections, appearing in 83 mock brackets for the 68-team field ahead of home games against Xavier and DePaul to close the regular season.

“They’re definitely an NCAA Tournament team,” Villanova coach Jay Wright said after Saturday’s loss.

The Longhorns (18-11, 8-8 Big 12) lack the same certainty, yet they’ve at least put themselves back in contention entering Tuesday’s trip to fellow bubble team Oklahoma.

Texas earned Quadrant 1 wins against No. 20 West Virginia and No. 22 Texas Tech in the past week, and has no resume-wounding losses in lower-tier Quadrant 3 or Quadrant 4 games. That has helped the Longhorns climb from No. 71 in the NET in late January to No. 58.

They appear in only two tournament projections on BracketMatrix while ESPN and NBC Sports each listed them among the top eight teams on the wrong side of the bubble.

Still, it’s a better spot than a month ago.

Rising

East Tennessee State: Patrick Good’s eight of their last 10.

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East Tennessee State: Patrick Good’s eight of their last 10.
Scouting combine’s ‘speed week’ wraps up » NFL, Page 18

NET gain
Providence, Texas climbing rankings

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

Providence and Texas are headed into March with wins, momentum and improving résumés for the NCAA Tournament.

The Friars and Longhorns have spent significant stretches looking little like teams that would earn a bid. But they have each won four straight games, the last coming Saturday on the road against a ranked opponent. And they've been climbing the NCAA's NET rankings since late January.

"It's late in the season — we're playing for our lives," Providence coach Ed Cooley said after Saturday's win at 12th-ranked Villanova, saying his team was "as desperate as anybody could possibly imagine."

The Friars (17-12, 10-6 Big East) suffered Quadrant 3 losses to Northwestern, Penn and College of Charleston in November. They stood at No. 146 in the mid-December debut of the season NET rankings and 80th after a Jan. 25 home loss to Villanova left them at 11-10.

But Providence claimed six Quadrant 1 wins to top their résumé in February, including five straight wins against AP Top 25 teams, and now sit at No. 44 in the NET rankings.

As of midday Sunday, Providence looked to be on the right side of the bubble as a No. 11 seed in BracketMatrix.com's average of

SEE GAIN ON PAGE 23

Inside:
- No. 10 Creighton sunk by St. John’s three-point barrage, Page 23

PROVIDENCE’S Kalif Young is embraced by teammate Emmitt Holt after the Friars knocked off No. 12 Villanova 58-54 Saturday in Philadelphia. After five straight wins against AP Top 25 teams, Providence now sits at No. 44 in the NCAA’s NET rankings.