Shame in the name
Aircraft carrier honoring ‘Dixiecrat’ segregationist Stennis draws criticism

By Katherine Hafner
The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — As a Mississippi senator, John C. Stennis signed the infamous “Southern Manifesto” decrying integration. He fought Black equality in the Navy and, as a prosecutor, sought the execution of three Black men who had been tortured into confessing to a slaying.

For several decades, his name has graced an aircraft carrier currently based in Norfolk — the only senator to have that honor.

Now, amid a national reckoning over America’s racist roots, some are pushing for that to change.

“Today’s sailors, Marines, and officers should not have to make the

SEE SHAME ON PAGE 5

Aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

ERIKA KUGLER/U.S. Navy

VIRUS OUTBREAK

July 4th holiday fuels worries about skyrocketing cases

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The United States has dipped under 50,000 new daily infections for the first time in four days, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, but experts fear celebrations for the July 4th weekend will act like rocket fuel for the nation’s surging coronavirus outbreak.

Johns Hopkins on Sunday counted 45,300 new coronavirus infections reported Saturday in the U.S. after three days in which the daily count reached as high as 54,500 new cases. The lower figure does not mean the situation in the U.S. is improving, it could be due to reduced reporting on a national holiday.

The United States has the most infections and virus-related deaths in the world, with 2.8 million cases and nearly 130,000 dead, according to the university. Experts say the true toll of the pandemic is significantly higher, due to people who died before they were tested and missed mild cases.

Worldwide, nearly 11.3 million people have been infected and over 531,000 have died, with outbreaks surging in India, South Africa, Pakistan, Brazil and several

SEE CASES ON PAGE 7
Trump signs extension of business relief funds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday signed into law a temporary extension of a subsidy program for small businesses battered by the coronavirus.

The legislation extends the June 30 deadline for applying for federal loans that can be forgiven if businesses follow rules such as utilizing 60% of the loan for payroll costs. The loans have been a lifeline to almost 5 million firms, but business owners are looking for more flexibility and aid that helps them survive over the long haul.

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Chinese military exercises being held this week around disputed islands in the South China Sea "further destabilize" relations among nations staking claims in the waters, the Pentagon warned last week.

China state media announced late last month that it would conduct military training exercises in waters off the Paracel Islands Monday through Friday.

The announcement included descriptions of boundary lines that "no vessel shall be allowed to navigate within" during those days of operation. The number and types of vessels participating in the exercise were not disclosed.

"The designated area where the exercises are due to take place encompass contested waters and territory," the Pentagon said in a statement. "Conducting military exercises over disputed territory in the South China Sea is counterproductive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability."

Both China and Vietnam have claimed sovereignty over the Paracel archipelago, which China calls Xisha. The United States, among many other countries, regards much of the sea as international waters and thus open to free passage.

In what it calls freedom-of-navigation operations, U.S. Navy ships routinely transit near reefs and small islets that lie in the sea's international waters but are subjects of disputed claims of sovereignty by China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin conducted operations "in support of security and stability" in waters near the Paracel Islands in late May, according to the U.S. Navy.

The littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords was conducting routine operations in the South China Sea on Monday as the Chinese exercise kicked off. The Giffords operated near the Chinese survey ship Hai Yang Di Zhi 4 Hao, which over the past few months has ventured into the exclusive economic zones belonging to Malaysia and Vietnam.

The Pentagon statement said the exercise violates China's commitments under the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which calls for all parties to avoid activities that would "complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability."

China's actions also "further destabilize the situation in the South China Sea" and conflict with China's "pledge to not militarize the South China Sea," the Pentagon said.

The top U.S. general in Japan — the Northrop Grumman-built drones, which can cost $100 million depending on configuration, are among the high-tech equipment, simulated aircraft parts maintenance processes and training that is counterproductive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability," the Pentagon said.

"The United States continues to forward position some of its most advanced capabilities as a part of our commitment to the defense of Japan and to the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region," Schneider said in the statement.

"Since our arrival last month, our operations due to the Kanto communities surrounding the base."
Professor researches nanofiber body armor

BY J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Seven years of Harvard University research into bulletproof armor began with a simple question of how to protect soldiers’ private parts from blast wounds.

The problem inspired Harvard professor Kit Parker, a veteran of four tours in Afghanistan, to begin research that led to the development of a lightweight nanofiber material that can stop both bullets and burns.

“I try to do one science project for each thing that pissed me off in the war,” said Parker, whose research on a new nanofiber material was published in the scientific journal Matter last week.

The bioengineering and applied physics professor and Army Reserve lieutenant colonel has done work on traumatic brain injuries, lab-made meat and a robotic stinger that was part of a quest to build an artificial heart.

In 2013, knowing that mines and roadside bombs have left hundreds of troops with penis and testicle injuries, he began work to develop body armor so light it could fit in a soldier’s underwear.

Modern body armor is bulky, with multiple materials layered together, due to the difficulty of making a material that can protect against both projectiles and intense heat at the same time, Parker said in a phone call on Monday.

Typical bullet-stopping materials like Kevlar are made with grid-like molecular structures, while those that block intense heat, like Nomex, are fluffy with molecules more spread out.

But the Harvard researchers aimed to cut weight by creating a single material that could do both jobs at once. They used microscopically thin strands of Kevlar fibers, gathered like tiny bundles of spaghetti and arranged in a loose, uneven network.

“It’s mostly air with a scaffold,” Parker said.

The “long” fibers can stretch to stop the force of a bullet in its tracks, while air in the fabric’s pores absorbs intense heat — 20 times more than traditional materials, researchers said.

To test it, West Point cadets placed a blowtorch with a heater attachment beside a small gelatin astronaut figure.

The figure melted in minutes without any protection, and another body armor material, Twaron, protected him for 17 minutes, but the new nanofiber kept him cool and unmetlled after 30 minutes.

Army researchers at Harvard University along with the U.S. Army’s Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center in Natick will next attempt to replicate the Harvard team’s manufacturing techniques and conduct further research, a team’s manufacturing techniques attempt to replicate the Harvard material.

Parker, who jokes that his lab has more combat experience than most infantry platoons, thinks it could one day be used in soldiers’ facemasks or underwear.

West Point professor Col. John Burpo, an Iraq War veteran wounded in an improvised bomb blast and one of several combat veterans who took part in Parker’s research, hopes it will save lives one day.

“Experiences with getting banged around overseas certainly served as motivation,” Burpo said in a phone call last week.

“We’re excited about the potential the team is working on to protect a small gelatin astronaut figure from the heat of a blowtorch heater. Above: A close-up view of a nanofiber material developed by researchers at Harvard University along with the U.S. Army.

Woman sentenced in death of 4-year-old Army dependent

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The wife of an American soldier was sentenced to nine years in prison Thursday by a German court for killing her 4-year-old stepson last year at the family home in Eschenbach, German media reports said.

The 26-year-old woman was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced by a court in Weiden, news website Nordbayern.de reported. The woman had strangled the little boy, whose father was away at the time, the court said.

The prosecutor’s office had asked for a 10-year prison sentence.

The woman was arrested in November last year after police were called to a home near Vilsbeck, where the boy’s father was assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment’s Field Artillery Squadron, and found her stepson unconscious and not breathing.

An autopsy determined that “the child died from the effects of external violence that were first not visible,” a police statement said.

The family has three other children. The court in Weiden was not available for comment.

US military helicopter forced to land after takeoff at base in S. Korea

SEOUl, South Korea — A U.S. military helicopter was forced to make a “precautionary landing” on Thursday shortly after takeoff from Yongsan Garrison, U.S. Forces Korea said.

No injuries were reported to those on board the UH-60 Black Hawk or civilians near the landing site, according to a press release.

The helicopter landed in an empty field near a parking lot in a riverside park near the base.

The field was cordoned off and guarded by Military Police and South Korean police after the incident, which South Korean officials said occurred at about 4 p.m.

A fire official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said five fire trucks responded to the incident but left after about 50 minutes since there was very little damage. He said a tent and a television satellite were knocked over by the wind.

U.S. Forces Korea said the cause was under investigation.

“USFK and local authorities will assess any potential damage that may have occurred during the precautionary landing,” it said.
**Shame:** Retired chief calls for renaming of aircraft carrier

心理的に危機感のある様子で話す人がいるか、または在籍中の人物が提起しているか。

The Case for Renaming the USS John C. Stennis, Green outlines the former Democratic senator’s history as a white supremacist and urges the Navy to rename the ship. He suggested former sailor William S. Norman, a minority affairs assistant to the late operations chief in the early 1970s who pushed for improvements to racial equality, as one possible replacement. Norman grew up in Norfolk and attended Booker T. Washington High School.

A similar effort launched last winter aims to get Stennis’ name off a NASA space center in Mississippi.

Pentagon officials have said they would look into changing the name of the USS John C. Stennis, but a spokesman for the ship’s command denied that any such effort was underway.

Michael Clemens, a political science and African American studies professor at the University of Virginia, said he thinks renaming the ship “makes a whole lot of sense.”

“The Navy is too diverse at this point in time, too inclusive in its vision of diversity,” he said. “It’s time to recognize that the ship represents a symbol of the United States.”

Stennis served as a prosecutor in the 1990s, when President Donald Trump was a Navy judge advocate and state senator in his home state.

While a prosecutor, he sought to dismiss the confessions of black men accused of murder, despite “knowledge that the confessions had been obtained by torture,” Clemens said.

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“I often have thought about what it means to be a minority sailor to receive orders to serve on the Stennis,” Green wrote. “Most sailors and Navy leaders have little idea of his background, but the Navy, as an institution, has a mission to preserve and protect the Fourteenth Amendment.”

Clemens said symbols are “very powerful,” and an aircraft carrier’s name is one.

They’re often motivational to people. In this instance the kind of inspiration I would not expect to be all that positive.”

**Search is ongoing for US Marine in Japan**

BY JAMES BOLINGER AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Marine Corps said Sunday that “seaservicemen are still looking” for a Marine who went missing at sea days earlier during a recreational trip to a beach in Shimane prefecture.

The Japan Coast Guard office in Hamada received a call at approximately 11 a.m. Thursday about a person drowning near the Iwami Kaihin campground at Hamada Beach, an agency spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Saturday morning.

An earlier report in the Chugoku newspaper described the person as a 24-year-old Marine assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in neighboring Yamaguchi prefecture.

“About 20 people affiliated with the base were visiting the beach,” the report said. “The man went missing after he went to rescue two men in the group, who were already in the water.”

The coast guard came up empty after searching Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the spokesman said.

It’s customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

However, the Marine Corps said its operation continues.

The search efforts are still ongoing and there has not yet been a change in the Marine’s status, Capt. Marco Valenzuela, a spokesman for Marine Aircraft Group 12 at MCAS Iwakuni, said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Sunday.

The beach has not yet opened for the season, the coast guard spokesman said.

The sea was experiencing swells of up to nearly 10 feet at the time of the incident, along with strong winds.

The beach is a popular spot for local residents and the three in neighboring prefectures, he added.
Talk of bounties renews pain at loss of Marines

BY DAN LAMOTHE, MISSY RYAN AND PAUL SONNE  

WASHINGTON — With a burst of light and dust, an armored vehicle carrying Marines outside a major U.S. air base in Afghanistan erupted into flames, killing three men inside and plunging their unit into chaos.

The April 2019 car bombing about a mile from Bagram Airfield had the hallmark of the type of attack the Taliban launched in Afghanistan — as verified. In March, two Americans and one Briton, the life of a soldier supporting Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Saturday. Spec. Vincent Sebastian Ibarria, 21, of San Antonio, died Friday as a result of the incident, which is under investigation, a statement said. The accident happened in the capital of Farah province in the country’s southwest.

Ibarria was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. The Fort Drum, N.Y.-based unit, part of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, deployed to Afghanistan with the brigade in the spring.

“The entire Warrior Team mourns the loss of Vincent,” the brigade said on its social media pages. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Vincent’s Family, Friends, and fellow Soldiers.”

No other details, including the type of vehicle that rolled over, were released. 

Ibarria’s death brings the number of Americans killed in Afghanistan this year to nine.

In online tributes, friends remembered Ibarria as loyal, kind and positive.

“I’m lost for words right now I can’t believe you are gone,” said Trey Davis, who described Ibarria as his best friend, in a Facebook post on Saturday. “You will never be forgotten bro I love and miss you so much bro. I hope you’re looking down and smiling at the boys.”

Rocket fired toward Green Zone in Iraq

BY SAMYA KULLAB  

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi military said Sunday that a rocket aimed at Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone, home of the U.S. Embassy, struck a residential house and injured a child.

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A man cools off from the summer heat under an open-air shower in Baghdad on Sunday. The Iraqi military said Sunday that a rocket aimed at Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone, home of the U.S. Embassy, struck a residential house and injured a child.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Florida hits grim milestone

BY TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Florida health officials say the state has reached a grim milestone: more than 200,000 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus since the start of the outbreak.

State statistics released Sunday show an additional 10,000 confirmed cases. The highest number of confirmed cases in one day came Saturday, when more than 11,400 cases were reported. More than 3,700 people have died.

About 43 percent of the cases are in three counties: Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said Sunday on ABC News This Week that the high numbers of cases here both in his county and in the state are “extremely worrisome.”

“It’s clear that the growth is exponential at this point,” he said. “Our county closed down the beaches for the July Fourth weekend in the hopes that all these rules will have an impact — a positive impact. It takes a little bit of time to find out exactly but we’re obviously very closely monitoring hospitalizations and we’re very, very closely monitoring the death rate, which our lagging indicators that give us the impression that we have to take much stricter — much stricter measurements — measures.”

Suarez had the virus in March. Florida’s death count is the ninth highest in the country overall and the 27th highest per capita at 17.4 deaths per 100,000 people.

Some summer camps will open, but with safety limits

 Associated Press

FAYETTE, Maine — Camp Winnebago was founded during the Spanish Flu and weathered all manner of health scares from polio to the Spanish Flu over a century. It wasn’t about to let the coronavirus stop the fun.

But this year will be different this summer at this camp and others that buck the trend and welcome children. The vast majority of overnight camps are closed due to the pandemic.

Camps were tested five days before arriving and again five days later. The camp installed additional hand-washing stations on the 150-acre property. Each cabin has hand sanitizer that must be used when entering and leaving, and before and after group activities. Face coverings are required in larger groups.

“We believe that we can run a program safely and with the health of the campers at the top of our minds. We’re not doing this cavalierly. We’re taking this extremely seriously,” Camp Winnebago owner Andy Lilienthal said.

Nationwide, the summer camp picture is coming into sharper focus with many of the 15,000-plus summer camps opting to close because of health concerns surrounding the pandemic, or because of delays in receiving rules or guidelines from licensing officials.

All told, an estimated 19.5 million youths will miss out on either day camp or overnight camp this summer, said Tom Rosenberg, from the American Camp Association.

Even camps that do jump through the hoops to open are going to have a tough time. Most of them are losing money but believe strongly in the importance of the camp experience, said Ron Hall, from the Maine Summer Camps.

It was all too much for some camps.

In Vermont, Ellen Flight said the decision was made not to open the girls’ Camp Songadewin and the boys camp Keewaydin because the safety of campers could not be assured, especially when they’re camping out.

“When you start thinking about cooking a meal over the fire, you can’t touch the utensils that somebody else touched, you know, you just can’t run a program with any sense of safety,” said Flight, who’s also president of the Vermont Camp Association.

Cases: Texas, Florida set new records as nationwide virus cases spike

FROM FRONT PAGE

other Latin American countries. In a first, South Africa on Sunday reported more than 10,000 new confirmed cases in a single day.

To show just how steep the U.S. infection curve is, authorities were reporting under 20,000 new infections a day as recently as June 15. On Saturday, Florida and Texas reported more daily increases in confirmed cases and virus-related deaths have begun to rise.

Despite warnings by health experts to limit gatherings, President Donald Trump went ahead with a speech at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota on Friday and an event on his campaign Facebook page on her campaign Facebook page posing less than 6 feet away and without masks with Susan Gianforte, Donald Trump Jr. and Guilfoyle.

In the photo’s caption, Jurus wrote that the photo was taken the night before, on June 30, the newspaper reported.

“Since learning of their potential exposure, Greg, Susan, and Kristen have adhered to recommended guidelines. Out of an abundance of caution and for the health and safety of others, they will self-quarantine, be tested for COVID-19, and suspend in-person campaign events pending test results,” a Gianforte campaign spokesperson said.

Downding’s campaign manager Sam Loveridge confirmed Downing attended the event. Loveridge said in an email that neither Downing nor his staff were doing “in close proximity” with Guilfoyle.

“Out of an abundance of caution, Troy Downing will be tested as soon as possible and will avoid personal contact and all public functions until a negative test result can be confirmed,” Loveridge told the newspaper in an email.
Drinkers in Soho congregate, as coronavirus lockdown restrictions eased across the country, in London, on Saturday.

Naked men and drunks: England assesses the reopening of pubs

By Pan Pylas
Associated Press

LONDON — It seems to have been more like a typical Saturday night than a drunken New Year’s Eve.

The reopening of pubs in England does not seem to have overwhelmed emergency services as many had feared ahead of the biggest easing of Britain’s coronavirus lockdown. But one senior police officer said Sunday it was “crystal clear” that drunk people struggled, or ignored, social distancing rules.

For the most part, people appeared to abide by the rules and rejoiced at the chance Saturday to lift a pint in the company of their mates. In some places, however, large crowds raised concerns that the deadliest outbreak in Europe may find fresh legs.

Chris Newell, a 33-year-old courier, traveled to trendy Shoreditch in east London to see some friends.

“As long as everyone’s keeping their distance, we’re going to have a few drinks and just enjoy it and try and get back to a bit of normality,” he said.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the vast majority of people did “the right thing” and abided by social distancing rules to stay over 3 feet apart from members of another households if other safety measures were in place, such as hand sanitizers.

“It was really good to see people out and about and largely, very largely, socially distancing,” he said on Sky News.

Police forces across the country said on Twitter there were no significant issues.

“It’s vital that we don’t lose track of how far we have come and all act responsibly and play our part to minimise the spread of coronavirus,” said Bas Javid, a commander at London’s Metropolitan Police.

John Apter, chair of the Police Federation, who was on patrol in the southern England city of Southampton, said it was a busy shift, one that saw officers having to deal with naked men, “happy” drunks as well as “angry” drunks. He said the shift “managed to cope” but it was “crystal clear” that those who have imbibed one too many cannot, or won’t, socially distance.

Rafal Liszewski, a store manager in the London district of Soho, voiced concerns about Saturday’s swelling crowds.

“Quickly everything got out of control, and by 8 p.m. it was a proper street party with people dancing and drinking,” he said.

“ Barely anyone was wearing masks and nobody respected social distancing … with that many people on one street, it was physically impossible.”

The newspaper posted the cartoon on Friday, the day that Kelly’s mask order aimed at stemming the spread of the coronavirus took effect. It’s drawn several hundred comments, many of them strongly critical. Dane Hicks, the paper’s owner and publisher, said in an email to The Associated Press that he plans to publish the cartoon in the newspaper’s next edition Tuesday.

Kelly, who is Catholic, issued a statement saying, “Mr. Hicks’ decision to publish anti-Semitic imagery is deeply offensive and he should remove it immediately.”

But Hicks said in an email that political cartoons are “gross over-caricatures designed to provoke debate” and “ fodder for the marketplace of ideas.”

“The topic here is the government’s mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been widely criticized and is widely publicized,” he said.

As for the cartoon’s reference to the Holocaust, Hicks said critics of President Donald Trump have compared him to Adolf Hitler, and, “I certainly have more evidence of that kind of totalitarianism in Kelly’s actions, in a editorial cartoon sort of way, than Trump’s critics do, yet they persist in it daily.”

Hicks’ newspaper is based in the Anderson County seat of Garnett, about 65 miles southwest of Kansas City and has a circulation of about 2,100, according to the Kansas Press Association.

Hicks also is Anderson County’s GOP chairman.

“I think it’s important that people are challenged and that they have to defend their actions,” Hicks said.

The state-owned polling center ISPA published a June survey of 1,055 Tehran residents showing only 41% remain highly worried about the virus, down from 46% in May and 58% in April. The survey offered no margin of error.
Two dead, 8 hurt in South Carolina nightclub shooting

**Associated Press**

GREENVILLE, S.C. — A shooting at a nightclub early Sunday left two people dead and eight wounded in South Carolina, a sheriff’s official said.

Two Greenville County sheriff’s deputies noticed a disturbance at Lavish Lounge just before 2 a.m. and saw a large crowd running out of the building. Sheriff Hobart Lewis said at a press conference. There was “active gunfire from inside the building,” Lt. Jimmy Bolt said in an initial statement, and Lewis said all the shots were fired inside.

Both Lewis and Bolt initially said 12 people had been wounded — with at least four in critical condition. Lewis said — before adding that authorities were not sure what led to the gunfire.

Lewis said a “very large crowd” was at the nightclub for “some type of concert.”

A post on Lavish Lounge’s Facebook page advertised a July 4 party that included trap rapper Foogiano.

An Instagram direct message from the AP was not immediately returned, but a bookkeeper’s post told the AP that Foogiano was fine and his team was safe.

Coronavirus cases in South Carolina have risen swiftly, and the state’s rate of positive tests is three times the recommended level. In late June, the Upstate city of Greenville — which has experienced some of the state’s highest COVID-19 rates — became the first city to mandate face coverings in South Carolina, where Gov. Henry McMaster has refused to implement a statewide mask requirement.

McMaster reminded South Carolinians last week that he hadn’t lifted restrictions on large crowds, and that those operating nightclubs illegally for big social gatherings against his orders don’t have to be caught in the act to face criminal charges, but instead could be charged weeks later if COVID-19 cases traced back.

Lewis said at the press conference that he didn’t know whether the club had sought an exemption to the governor’s order or secured a permit for Saturday night’s event, but said it was clear that the club’s patrons weren’t 6 feet apart.

A phone call and an Instagram direct message from the AP to Lavish Lounge weren’t immediately returned, but the club posted on Instagram just before 6 a.m. that events “have been postponed until further notice.”

Lewis said the victims, whose names were not immediately released, were taken to the Prisma Health hospital in Greenville, some via private vehicle.

Of the eight wounded, some had non-life-threatening injuries and others were in critical condition, but he didn’t have a tally of the last.

FBI background checks show record hike in US gun sales

**By Catherine Leffert**

DALLAS — U.S. consumers are rushing to buy guns as the COVID-19 pandemic and protests over police brutality combine with U.S. presidential politics to fuel unprecedented demand.

Firearm background checks compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a proxy for gun purchases, jumped to a record in June as street demonstrations around the country.

The boom is lifting the shares of gunmakers Smith & Wesson Brands Inc. and Sturm Ruger & Co. after four mostly lean years for gun shop owners and Wall Street analysts predict new sales gains, especially if protests continue and Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden, who supports more restrictions on firearms, maintains his lead in national polls over President Donald Trump.

Gun sales are typically elevated for first-time gun buyers, and said his customers are concerned by the coronavirus crisis, ongoing protests and potential gun control legislation.

Not all gunmakers are soaring. Remington Arms Co. is preparing to file for Chapter 11 protection for the second time since 2018, The Wall Street Journal reported last week. The company is in talks for a potential bankruptcy sale to the Navajo Nation, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the matter. There’s no guarantee a deal will be reached.

Gun store owners say sales will continue to rise at least until the presidential election in November.

Firearm background checks, which jump every year and into 2021. Those missteps are a proxy for gun purchases, jumped to a record in June as street demonstrations around the country.

The boom is lifting the shares of gunmakers Smith & Wesson Brands Inc. and Sturm Ruger & Co. after four mostly lean years for gun shop owners and Wall Street analysts predict new sales gains, especially if protests continue and Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden, who supports more restrictions on firearms, maintains his lead in national polls over President Donald Trump.

Gun sales are typically elevated for first-time gun buyers, and said his customers are concerned by the coronavirus crisis, ongoing protests and potential gun control legislation.

Not all gunmakers are soaring. Remington Arms Co. is preparing to file for Chapter 11 protection for the second time since 2018, The Wall Street Journal reported last week. The company is in talks for a potential bankruptcy sale to the Navajo Nation, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the matter. There’s no guarantee a deal will be reached.

Gun store owners say sales will continue to rise at least until the presidential election in November.

Financial analysts are ratcheting up their revenue estimates for gunmakers after recent quarterly sales gains.

James Hillin, owner of Full Armor Firearms in Texas, said the store’s gun sales have increased 75% since January, and that 95% of those were by new gun owners.

“They’re scared,” Hillin said before cutting a brief interview short to attend to waiting customers. “They want to protect themselves.”
Facebook groups shift to attacks on Black Lives Matter

By Amanda Seitz

CHICAGO — A loose network of Facebook groups that took root across the country in April to organize protests over coronavirus stay-at-home orders has become a hub of misinformation and conspiracy theories that have pivoted to a variety of new targets. (Their latest: Black Lives Matter and the nationwide protests of racial injustice.)

These groups, which now boast a collective audience of more than a million members, are still thriving after states started lifting virus restrictions.

And many have expanded their focus.

One group transformed itself last month from “Reopen California” to “California Patriots Pro Law & Order” with recent posts mocking Black Lives Matter or changing the slogan to “White Lives Matter.” Members have used profane slurs to refer to Black people and protesters, calling them “animals,” “racists” and “thugs”—a direct violation of Facebook’s hate speech standards.

Others have become gathering grounds for promoting conspiracy theories about the protests, suggesting protesters were paid to go to demonstrations and that even the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police, was staged.

An Associated Press review of the most recent posts in 40 of these Facebook groups — most of which were launched by conservative groups or pro-gun activists — found the conversations largely shifted last month to attacking the nationwide protests over the killing of Black men and women after Floyd’s death.

Facebook users in some of these groups post hundreds of times a day in threads often seen by members only and shielded from public view.

“Unless Facebook is actively looking for disinformation in those spaces, they will go unnoticed for a long time and they will grow,” said Joan Donovan, the research director at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy. “Over time, people will drag other people into them and they will continue to organize.”

Facebook said it is aware of the collection of reopen groups, and is using technology as well as relying on users to identify problematic posts. The company has vowed in the past to look for material that violates its rules in private groups as well as in public places on its site. But the platform has not always been able to deliver on that promise.

Some groups in New Jersey, Texas and Ohio have labeled systemic racism a hoax. A member of the California Facebook group posted a widely debunked flyer that says “White men, women and children, you are the enemy,” which was falsely attributed to Black Lives Matter. Another falsely claimed that a Black man was brandishing a gun outside the St. Louis mansion where a white couple confronted protesters with firearms. Dozens of users in several of the groups have pushed an unsubstantiated theory that liberal billionaire George Soros is paying crowds to attend racial justice protests.

Private groups that balloon to that size, with little oversight, are like “creepy basements” where extremist views and misinformation can lurk, said disinformation researcher Nina Jankowicz, a fellow at the nonpartisan Wilson Center, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

“It’s sort of a way that the platforms are enabling some of the worst actors to stay on it,” said Jankowicz. “Rather than being de-platformed — they can organize.”

1 of 2 Seattle protesters hit by car dies

By Martha Bellisle

SEATTLE — A car drove onto a closed freeway early Saturday and struck two people in a crowd protesting against police brutality, killing one and critically injuring the other, authorities said.

Summer Taylor, 24, of Seattle died in the evening at Harborview Medical Center, spokesman Susan Gregg said. Taylor and Dzie Love, 32, of Portland, Ore., were hit by the car that barreled through a panicked crowd of protesters on Interstate 5 early Saturday morning, officials said.

Dawit Kelete of Seattle drove the car around vehicles that were blocking I-5 and sped into the crowd about 1:40 a.m., according to a police report released by the Washington State Patrol. Video taken at the scene by protesters showed people shouting “Car! Car!” before fleeing the roadway.

Love is in serious condition in the intensive care unit, Harborview, Gregg said.

Love was filming the protest in a nearly two-hour-long Facebook livestream. Captions “Black Femme March takes I-5” when the video ended abruptly; with about 15 seconds left, shouts of “Car!” can be heard as the camera starts to shake before screeching tires and the sound of impact are heard.

A graphic video posted on social media showed the white Jaguar racing toward a group of protesters who are standing behind several parked cars, set up for protection. The car swerves around the other vehicles and slams into the two protesters, sending them flying into the air.

The driver, who was alone, fled the scene after hitting the protesters, Trooper Chase Van Cleave told The Associated Press. One of the other protesters got in a car and chased the driver for about a mile. He was able to stop him by pulling his car in front of the Jaguar, Van Cleave said.

Troopers arrived, and the driver was taken into custody, Washington State Patrol Capt. Ron Mead said.

Kelete was booked into the King County Correctional Facility on Saturday morning on two counts of vehicular assault. Bail was denied.

Thousands in Australia in support of Black Lives Matter

SYDNEY — Several thousand people rallied in Black Lives Matter protests across Australia over the weekend to call for racial equality and highlight deaths of Indigenous people while in police custody.

About 500 people protested Sunday in Newcastle, north of Sydney, after the New South Wales state Supreme Court approved the rally following an attempt by police to have it banned.

A rally in Sydney on Sunday began with a ceremony at which people mourned the Indigenous Australians who have died in police custody.

There have been more than 400 Indigenous deaths in custody since a royal commission into the issue ended in 1991. No convictions have been recorded in any of the deaths.

On Saturday, Australians took part in Black Lives Matter rallies in the cities of Brisbane, Darwin, Perth and Adelaide. Many of the protesters wore masks and attempted to maintain social distancing due to coronavirus concerns.

Australia’s Indigenous people are the most disadvantaged ethnic minority in the country. They have higher-than-average rates of infant mortality and poor health, as well as shorter life expectancy and lower levels of education and employment than other Australians.
As statues fall, Confederate wall poses challenge

By Kate Brumback and Russ Bynum

Associated Press

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. — Some statues of figures from America’s slave-owning past have been yanked down by protesters, others dismantled by orders of governors or city leaders. But the largest Confederate monument ever crafted — colossal figures carved into the solid rock of a Georgia mountainside — may outlast them all.

Stone Mountain’s supersized sculpture depicting Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson mounted on horseback has special protection enshrined in Georgia law.

Even if its demolition were sanctioned, the monument’s sheer size poses serious challenges. The carving measures 190 feet across and 90 feet tall. An old photo shows a worker on scaffolding just below Lee’s chin barely reaching his nose.

Numerous Confederate statues and monuments to American slave owners have come down across the South amid recent protests against racial injustice. Stone Mountain hasn’t escaped notice.

Many organizing a protest where thousands marched in neighboring Atlanta, Zoe Bamba- ra, 19, held a demonstration June 4 with a much smaller group — her permit allowed no more than 25 — inside the state park where the sculpture has drawn millions of tourists for decades.

“The Confederacy doesn’t celebrate the South; it celebrates white supremacy,” said Barbera, who is Black. “The people on that mountain, they hated me. They didn’t know me, but they hated me and my ancestors. It hurts to see those people celebrated and a memorial dedicated to them.”

I suspect,” Bentkowski said. “With the logistics, the safety aspect of it, you’d have a budget certainly north of $1 million, I suspect,” Bentkowski said. “You’ll need insurance for the project, you’ll need hazard pay for people working on the surface of it. It could easily take a year or more.”

There’s also a sizable legal obstacle.

When Georgia lawmakers voted in 2001 to change the state flag that had been dominated by the Confederate battle emblem since 1861, language to guarantee the preservation of the Stone Mountain sculpture was included as a bargaining chip.

The law states that “the memorial to the heroes of the Confederate States of America graven upon the face of Stone Mountain shall never be altered, removed, concealed, or obscured in any fashion.”

Ryan Gravel, an Atlanta-based urban designer, noted the law doesn’t mandate maintenance. He suggested allowing nature to take its course, letting vegetation grow over the sculpture from its nooks and crannies.

“I think we’re in a moment where pushing the limits of that law is possible,” Gravel said. “And certainly the scale of the challenge at Stone Mountain warrants that.”

Other ideas — such as adding a bell tower atop the mountain in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — have failed to hold. And Democratic proposals to strip the protective language from Georgia law have fallen flat with the Republican-controlled Legislature.

As I’ve said many times, we can’t hide from our history,” Kemp said, while citing the new hate crimes law he signed the same day as a significant step in fighting racial injustice.

Stone Mountain wasn’t a battle site and had little historical significance to the Civil War. But 50 years after the war ended, the exposed surface of the mountain’s northern face sparked an idea among the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

“The mountain itself is absolutely breathtakingly beautiful and the carving is an engineering marvel,” said Paula Smith, a 70-year-old white woman who dismissed talk of removing or altering the carving as an attempt to “steal American history.”

Christopher Columbus statue toppled by Baltimore protesters

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Baltimore protesters pulled down a statue of Christopher Columbus and threw it into the city’s Inner Harbor on Saturday night.

Demonstrator used ropes to topple the monument near the Little Italy neighborhood, news outlets reported.

Protesters mobilized by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police have called for the removal of statues of Columbus, Confederate figures and others. They say the Italian explorer is responsible for the genocide and exploitation of native peoples in the Americas.

According to The Baltimore Sun, the statue was owned by the city and dedicated in 1984 by former Mayor William Donald Schaefer and President Ronald Reagan.

A spokesman for Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young told The Sun the toppling of the statue is a part of a national and global reexamination over monuments “that may represent different things to different people.”

“We understand the dynamics that are playing out in Baltimore are part of a national narrative,” Lester Davis said.

Statues of Columbus have also been toppled or vandalized in cities such as Miami, Richmond, Va.; St. Paul, Minn.; and Boston, where one was decapitated.

Also in Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University is investigating the discovery of a rope tied into a noose at a construction site in a building it owns off its campus.

Johns Hopkins officials also notified federal authorities about what the university calls a potential hate crime, the Baltimore Sun reports.

“Johns Hopkins University condemns this act of hate,” President Ronald J. Daniels said in a message emailed to the university community Friday. “We find such racist imagery horrifying and repugnant and a direct threat to the Black community at Johns Hopkins and in Baltimore, standing in stark opposition to the values of equity, justice, and humanity to which we are firmly committed.”

A large group of armed protesters on Saturday marched through Georgia’s Stone Mountain Park, calling for the park’s massive Confederate carving to be removed.

The predominantly Black demonstrators spoke out against the huge sculpture depicting Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, WXIA-TV reported. Carved into a granite mountain, the bas-relief sculpture is the largest Confederate monument ever crafted.

Stone Mountain Memorial Association spokesman John Bankhead said there were between 100 and 200 protesters. He said the protesters, many of whom carried large rifles, were peaceful.

Although the park has historically been a gathering spot for white supremacists, the city of Stone Mountain nowadays has a majority-Black population.

The park usually holds a Fourth of July laser show and fireworks display with the carving as a backdrop, but this year’s presentation was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
At least 34 dead in Japan amid flooding, mudslides

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Deep floodwaters and the risk of more mudslides that left at least 34 people confirmed or presumed dead hampered search and rescue operations Sunday in southern Japan, including at elderly home facilities where more than a dozen died and scores were still stranded.

Helicopters and boats rescued more people from their homes in the Kumamoto region. More than 40,000 defense troops, the coast guard and fire brigade personnel were taking part in the operation.

Large areas along the Kuma River were swallowed by floodwaters, with many houses, buildings and vehicles submerged almost up to their roofs. Mudslides dashed into houses, sending people atop rooftops waving at rescuers.

At a flooded elderly care home in Kuma Village, where 14 residents were presumed dead after rescuers reached them on Saturday, rescue efforts continued Sunday for the dozens of remaining residents and caregivers.

Sixty-five residents and about 30 caregivers were trapped at the riverside care facility Senjuin when floodwaters and mud gushed in. All remaining 51 residents, including three who had hypothermia, had been rescued by boats and taken to hospitals for treatment by Sunday afternoon, officials said.

As floods eased in parts of Kumamoto on Sunday, vendors machines and cars lay scattered on mud-coated streets. Some people were cleaning their homes, taking out damaged furniture and rinsing off mud.

More than 200,000 residents in Kumamoto prefecture were urged to evacuate following pounding rains on Friday evening and into Saturday. But the evacuation was not mandatory and many people opted to stay home because of concerns over catching the coronavirus.

Koike wins second term as governor of Tokyo

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike has won a second term to head the Japanese capital.

Koike was buoyed to the win in Sunday’s election by public support for her coronavirus handling despite a recent rise in infections that has raised concerns of a resurgence of the disease.

In her victory speech, Koike pledged to do her utmost to take measures to protect Tokyo residents amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Young scuba diver killed in shark attack in Australia

Associated Press

SYDNEY — A 20-year-old scuba diver died Saturday after being attacked by a shark off the coast of Australia’s Queensland state, authorities said.

The man was attacked at around 2 p.m. near Indian Head on the eastern side of Fraser Island. A doctor and nurse at the scene provided first aid until paramedics arrived and were winched down by helicopter.

They provided emergency treatment but the man, who had been bitten around the legs, could not be saved and died at the scene, said the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that the attack was a tragic event for the community.

“Our deepest condolences go to this young man’s family and friends,” he said.
Kenya’s worst locust outbreak far from over

BY KHALED KAZZIHA and CARA ANNA 
Associated Press
NAIROBI, Kenya — The crunch of young locusts comes with nearly every step. The worst outbreak of the voracious insects in Kenya in 70 years is far from over, and their newest generation is now finding its wings for proper flight.

The livelihoods of millions of already vulnerable people in East Africa are at stake, and people like Boris Polo are working to limit the damage. The logisticsian with a helicopter firm is on contract with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, helping to find and mark locust swarms for the targeted pesticide spraying that has been called the only effective control.

“It sounds grim because there’s no way you’re gonna kill all of them because the areas are so vast,” he told The Associated Press from the field in northwestern Kenya on Thursday. “But the key of the project is to minimize” the damage, and the work is definitively having an effect, he said.

For months, a large part of East Africa has been caught in a cycle with no end in sight as millions of locusts became billions, nibbling away the leaves of both crops and the brush that sustains the livestock so important to many families.

“The risk of significant impact to both crops and rangelands is very high,” the regional IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Center said in a statement.

For now, the young yellow locusts cover the ground and tree trunks like a twitching carpet, sometimes drifting over the dust like giant grains of sand.

In the past week and a half, Polo said, the locusts have transformed from hoppers to more mature flying swarms that in the next couple of weeks will take to long-distance flight, creating the vast swarms that can largely blot out the horizon.

Once airborne, the locusts will be harder to contain, flying up to 124 miles a day.

Many left dead, missing this year as China braces for more storms

BEIJING — A wide swath of southern China braced Sunday for more seasonal rains and flooding that state media said has already left more than 120 people dead or missing this year.

The National Meteorological Center raised the weather alert to yellow Sunday morning, the third highest of four levels, for more than half a dozen provinces and the cities of Shanghai and Chongqing. Heavy to torrential rains were forecast into Monday night.

Footage on state broadcaster CCTV showed flooded streets and farmland in Anhui province. To the south in Jiangxi province, more than 8,000 people have been evacuated and 54 houses collapsed after rainstorms in recent days.

Nationwide, flooding-related disasters have destroyed 17,000 homes, caused $5.9 billion in economic losses, the official People’s Daily newspaper said in a social media post, citing the Ministry of Emergency Management.

The National Meteorological Center said some parts of Anhui, Hubei, Hunan and Zhejiang provinces could see 10 inches of rain. It also issued a yellow alert for rain in two northeastern provinces, Heilongjiang and Jilin.
Business as usual — for now

A trainer, top, at Mountainside Fitness, works with a client in Phoenix. Mountainside Fitness CEO Tom Hatten said he would keep his chain open for now. “We are going to stay open until we have our day in court, which is Monday morning,” Hatten said at a Mountainside location in Scottsdale. “If the court does not allow a stay, we will comply and respect the court’s decision. We will deal with being closed again.”

Family warned of penalties for chalk art

The number of years it took for Mississippi to allow the possession of alcohol in every county in the state after the end of Prohibition in the United States. The new bill, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 2021, does not legalize the sale of alcohol. Residents would have to vote to allow that. Under the current law, Mississippi is still considered a completely “dry state” but residents have been able to vote in local government elections to decide whether to allow liquor in their county or city. Currently, only 29 of 82 counties are dry.

Former junkyard now a pollinator habitat

In Dresser — Butterflies, bees, birds, bats and small mammals have found a home in a former auto junkyard along the Wabash River in western Indiana.

A pollinator habitat has sprung up at the site of the Wabashki Fish and Wildlife Area due to a $20,000 grant from Duke Energy and the efforts of the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department, the (Terre Haute) Tribune-Star reported.

County parks Superintendent Adam Grossman noted that the old junkyard gives Monarch butterflies a place to visit during their annual journey from Canada to Mexico. About 20 plant species are growing in a raised bed at the site.

Rick Burger, district manager for Duke Energy, said the project is an exciting environmental development that cleaned up a junkyard and benefits the community.

University investigates racist sticker sightings

In Tucson — The University of Arizona is investigating the appearance of racist stickers around campus that advocate white supremacy.

Campus police said the stickers with hate messages have been spotted on utility poles, buildings and other exteriors.

Issaiah Johnson, a member of the football team who is Black, posted a picture of one of the stickers on his Twitter account. The sticker states “#whitelivesmatter” and “to kill a black on sight.”

According to police, a special investigations unit is focused on the case. No suspects have been identified.

Potato chip heiress wins back control of estate

In Montgomery — The heiress to the Golden Flake potato chip empire is, for now, back in control of her fortune after a ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court.

The court voided a 2019 probate order granting an emergency conservator that came after two employees claimed that Joann Bashinsky, 88, has dementia and is mentally unfit to handle her vast estate.

Justices said Bashinsky’s basic due-process rights were egregiously violated when the probate court made the emergency decision without giving her time to obtain counsel after her lawyers were disqualified. The permanent petition remains pending before the court.

Lawsuit claims racial bias at Frito-Lay

In Topeka — Black employees at the Frito-Lay plant in Topeka were subjected to ongoing racial harassment and discrimination, including hearing racial slurs and being threatened with lynching by white employees, according to a federal lawsuit.

Plant managers tolerated the discrimination and did not discipline white employees who were involved, according to the lawsuit filed on behalf of two former employees and one current employee.

The employees also allege in the suit that Black workers were disciplined for offenses that white employees were not and that white employees were promoted ahead of Black employees, The Kansas City Star reported.

“Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated within Frito-Lay or its parent company, PepsiCo,” the company said in a statement.

The men are suing the company for violation of the Civil Rights Act.

From wire reports
Union tells ‘Songbird’ actors production conditions unsafe

From wire reports

The union that represents film actors told its members Tuesday, July 2, not to work on the upcoming pandemic thriller “Songbird,” saying the filmmakers have not been up front about safety measures and had not signed the proper agreements for the film that is among the first in production after coronavirus closures.

Actors had reportedly been rehearsing remotely for the film produced by Michael Bay and directed by Adam Mason.

The film’s pre-production listing on IMDbPro.com says its stars include Demi Moore, Peter Stormare and Craig Robinson, and gives the description, “In a post-pandemic world, an even more serious virus continues to mutate.”

But the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Actors issued a do-not-work order to its members, saying the production company “has failed to complete the signature process,” and warned the film could result in disciplinary action.

The small film was among the first to attempt to resume production after the long closure. California Gov. Gavin Newsom gave the green light to resume shooting in the state starting June 12, so long as strict coronavirus restrictions were in place.

Actor says director Whedon was ‘abusive’

Actor Ray Fisher says director Joss Whedon’s behavior was “abusive” on the set of the 2017 film “Justice League.”

“Joss Whedon’s on-set treatment of the cast and crew of ‘Justice League’ was gross, abusive, unprofessional, and completely unacceptable,” Fisher, who played the young superhero Cyborg in the DC Comics film, tweeted Tuesday, July 1.

Fisher added that Whedon was “enabled, in many ways, by Geoff Johns and Jon Berg,” two producers on the film who were executives running DC Films for Warner Bros. Pictures at the time.

Whedon has not responded.

Berg told Variety that it was “categorically untrue that we enabled any unprofessional behavior.”

Whedon, known for his writing and directing on Marvel’s “Avengers” films and television’s “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” was brought in during post-production to replace director Zack Snyder on “Justice League.” He oversaw extensive reshoots, editing and visual effects on the film.

Other news

• The 27th Screen Actors Guild Awards is the latest awards show to push its date. The awards show, presented by Hollywood actors to Hollywood actors, will take place March 14, 2021. That pushes it back more than a month from its original intended date of Jan. 24. The nominations are now set to be announced Feb. 4.

• Hugh Downs, the genial, versatile broadcaster who became one of television’s most familiar and welcome faces with more than 15,000 hours on news game and talk shows, died July 1 at age 99 of natural causes at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz. He worked on NBC’s “Today” and “Tonight” shows, the game show “Concentration,” co-hosted the ABCmegahit “20/20” with Barbara Walters and the PBS series “Over Easy” and “Live From Lincoln Center.”

• Actress Christina Ricci has filed for divorce July 2 from her husband of seven years, and is asking for sole custody of their 5-year-old son, Freddie. Ricci filed documents in Los Angeles County Superior Court to dissolve her marriage with camera operator James Heerdegen, citing irreconcilable differences.

• Saroj Khan, a top Bollywood choreographer, died of cardiac arrest late Monday, according to her family. She was 71. The three-time National Award winner choreographed more than 2,000 songs in her career, which spanned more than 40 years.

Prince Royce calls positive test for virus a wake-up call

By Sigal Ratner-Arias

Associated Press

Singer Prince Royce says he got a wake-up call with a COVID-19 diagnosis and now he wants to “make sure others do too.

Royce revealed that he is recovering from the virus in a July 2 interview with The Associated Press.

Royce, 31, said he decided to speak up out of a growing frustration with seeing people going out and gathering without masks—even while cases are spiking in several states.

“At first, I was very scared, like ‘Nobody can find out, I shouldn’t tell anybody,’ but I felt that I have a duty to tell my communities, you know. I live in Florida, I’m from New York, I have a place in California. And I’m seeing that’s happening across the country. I see what’s happening in the world,” said Royce via Zoom from his home in Miami.

For him, it all started about two weeks ago on a Sunday, when he woke in the middle of the night not feeling well after spending the day at the pool making TikTok videos and battling a “really bad headache.” But he attributed it to a day in the sun, and went back to sleep.

When he woke up in the morning, he was feeling worse and had a temperature of 101 degrees. He took some painkillers. On Monday, the fever was gone, but the headache persisted.

“I said, ‘I’m gonna go get tested for COVID just to be responsible, but I don’t think I have it.’ And that’s how I found out,” said the multi-platinum Bachata singer.

Royce said he was told the diagnosis shocked him.

“I thought I was washing my hands,” he said. “I thought I was wearing the mask, you know. And I think that for me it was just a wake-up call, like I’ve been seeing this on TV every day, I’m on WhatsApp groups with my family, I’ve been sending them stuff. I thought for sure like I wouldn’t have gotten it cause I’ve been taking precautions.”

Royce doesn’t know how he got COVID-19, but he admits that, after spending three months in quarantine, the reopening of bars and restaurants gave him a false sense of security.

“I was home this whole time, and I went out to some restaurants because things opened, and I thought, ‘Well, Florida hasn’t been so bad, and New York is the one with the problem.’ I fell for that and I think many people can fall for that and will fall for that,” he said.

“And that’s what made me think, I need to come out and tell my story. Because it’s upsetting me. It’s so frustrating to me to see people at supermarkets without a mask. It’s so frustrating to me to see that people are being irresponsible and not protecting others.”

‘Hillary’ doc culled from campaign footage, interviews

By Glenn Whipp

Los Angeles Times

“Hillary,” Hulu’s four-part documentary about Hillary Clinton, came out of 2,000 hours of footage shot during her 2016 presidential campaign, 35 hours of fresh interviews with the subject herself and a bevy of archival material that filmmaker Nanette Burstein found while researching the movie.

When Burstein had a version of the movie that was close to locked, she sent it to Clinton at her home in Chappaqua, N.Y., where she watched it in a single sitting. As you might expect, taking it all in, Clinton says, chuckling, was an “overwhelming experience.”

Clinton recently discussed the documentary.

Los Angeles Times: Were there things in the documentary that surprised you? Maybe the footage of your daughter Chelsea putting herself in, Clinton says, chuckling, was an “overwhelming experience.”

Clinton: That was one of those moments that I remembered, but I hadn’t seen the footage for years until I saw the movie. Watching it again was pretty emotional. I had no idea Chelsea was going to do that.

Los Angeles Times: “Hillary” documents the media’s gender bias in your presidential campaigns. How do you think the women running for president this year were treated?

Clinton: It was a very mixed picture. On the one hand, we had more women running, which was a big positive because then you could see that women, just like men, had different styles, different approaches, different platforms. And yet at the same time, there were still some of the same tropes and attitudes being expressed about women becoming president and what kind of person could beat Donald Trump and all of the usual questioning. It was a step forward, but not as big a step as I wish it had been.

Some of the clips in the movie — men screaming, “Iron my shirt,” or John Edwards saying, “I’m not sure about that coat” during a debate — seemed particularly crazy. Did you ever come close to snapping?

We all have that choice. You can escalate or you can try to take a deep breath and deal with it thoughtfully. I believe strongly in what I think is right. And I am willing to stand up for it. But I’m not interested in engaging in some kind of verbal confrontation for the sake of delivering a flashpoint.

“Hillary” is now available on Hulu.
Facebook’s dodes protest validate Facebook’s management. By David Zurawik

July 1 is not a date Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is likely to forget anytime soon.

One of the most iconic and biggest spending brands in American life — including Coca-Cola, The Hershey Co. and Ford Motor Co. — have joined a call for the suspension of advertising on Facebook this month. From Adidas to Verizon, many of the brands you see every night advertising to the masses have done so, according to a list at the boycott’s website.

The action was called last month by a civil rights coalition that includes the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) the NAACP and Color of Change.

We asked companies to act against hate and disinformation being spread by Facebook in our campaign, Stop Hate for Profit,” the group says on its website, stopping if Facebook doesn’t respond. “We’ve asked Facebook to show that it understands that businessess to temporarily pause advertising on Facebook and Instagram in order to force Mark Zuckerberg to address the effect that Facebook has on our society.” (Facebook owns Instagram.)

Hate, disinformation and the effect Face- book has on our society. Amen. This is a righteous and much needed campaign. I hope it succeeds where other attempts in recent weeks have failed to criticize, shame, expose or get Zuckerberg to be more socially responsible have failed.

For most of my professional life, I have been against boycotts of media companies.

But then came Zuckerberg and Face- book. They are not just a social media giant following the presidential election of 2016 when I saw how Donald Trump’s campaign used Facebook for lies and potentially libelous content. I saw it again last week, in the advertising that has been allowed on Facebook, and I was shocked to see how different Trump’s campaign was from the one I had watched in 2016.

Trump and his team had learned from their mistakes in 2016. They had a clear strategy, and they executed it well. They knew how to get their message out, and they did.

But now, with the election of a president who is even more extreme than Trump, it’s clear that Facebook is no longer the same company.

So what does this mean for the future of social media? What can be done to protect free speech and free association? And how do we ensure that social media companies are not used to suppress free speech?

This is a question that we all need to consider. The future of social media is in our hands. We need to make sure that it continues to be a platform for diverse voices and ideas, and that it does not become a tool for censorship or suppression.

The stars and Stripes is a media outlet that is not afraid to challenge power. We will continue to do so, and we invite you to join us in this fight for free speech and free association.

Facebook's dodes protest validate Facebook's irresponsible management. By David Zurawik.
China extends unabashed reign of random fear

By George F. Will
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

The French revolutionaries’ instrument for administering the 1793-1794 Reign of Terror was the Committee of Public Safety. Today, China’s Party-state has, less than halfway through their commitment, shredded the 1997 agreement to respect Hong Kong’s autonomy until 2047. The new law mocks the rule of law, which requires sufficient specificity to give those subject to the law due notice of what is proscribed or prohibited. The new law stipulates four major offenses: separatism, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign governments. These will be defined post facto, in capricious enforcements against those whose speech is not chilled by the law’s menacing vagueness. The “law” and its committee to operate秘密 was released at 11 p.m. Tuesday, probably to deter demonstration on the anniversary of Beijing’s 1997 agreement. Modern technologies of communication enable the world to watch darkness descend on the 21st century’s vibrant metropolises. Modern technologies of surveillance enable Beijing to refine a deep, personal data collection operation. Beyond what Winston Churchill could have imagined when he warned that Nazism’s triumph would mean the world would “sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.”

China’s faux law, which echoes Josef Stalin’s use of randomness to intensify fear, serves two purposes: It smashes Hong Kong dissent — Leninism brooks no challenge to the party’s supremacy. And it distracts attention from reports that Beijing is pioneering a sinister fusionism that melds Leninism and Stalinism with an ethno-nationalism reminiscent of fascism. The regime reportedly is employing forced abortions and sterilization to infiltrate what has been called “demographic genocide” on Muslim Uighurs and other minorities. U.S. customs officials have seized some Chinese-made beauty products perhaps made from human hair harvested from Xinjiang concentration camps. China’s signatures on the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and on the Sino-British Joint Declaration guaranteeing Hong Kong’s autonomy are equally constraining. Next year, President Joe Biden and a Democratic-controlled Congress should match Britain’s generosity in welcoming refugees from Hong Kong’s talented, freedom-loving citizenry.

In diplomatic parlance, China is a “revi-sionist” power, aiming to revise the global order. In less antigovernment language, it is a particular power whose crudeness, born of cultural condescension toward others, includes special contempt for an America distracted domestically by various hyste-riases, and choosing retreat abroad. President Biden’s urgent foreign policy tasks will include revising the longstanding U.S. policy of “strategic ambiguity” regarding Taiwan. Beijing is demonstrating in Hong Kong “one country, two systems” actually means one system dominated by new notions of Lebensmum and Stalinism flavored with fascism.

The dictator Xi Jinping has repeatedly said that Taiwan’s current status — na- tionhood in all but name — is intolerable and “should not be passed down genera-tion after generation.” A reelected Donald Trump, whose cranked notion of Ameri-ca’s role in the world is confined to continually bookkeeping, might swap Taiwan’s freedom for increased Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans. When at noon Jan. 20 the U.S. ends the policy of making America number one again, Biden should adopt strate-gic clarity, informing Beijing that the U.S. legal obligation to sell Taiwan weaponry needed for self-defense entails a moral obligation to assist with that project.

The Korean War, which brought Americans into combat against Chinese troops, began 65 years ago after Dean Acheson, President Harry S. Truman’s secretary of state, gave a speech in which he left South Korea outside his definition of America’s defense responsibilities. Biden has drawn a “nine-line dash” to demarcate extrava-gant claims to sovereignty over the South China Sea that are incompatible with in-ternational law and disdainful of the legal rights of various nations in the region. The Biden administration should draw a line that parallels the weld within the sphere of regional nations whose self-defense imple-vates vital U.S. interests.

Beijing’s true agenda, according to this France’s Committee on Public Safety was created in April 1793. Maximilien Robespierre, who prefigured Lenin, joined it on July 27. One year after Napoleon had triumphed forces he had fomented, he was guillotined in Paris’ Place de la Revolution, now called Place de la Concorde. Beijing’s totalitarians, who have murderous French precursors, may one day have a similarly disagreeable rendezvous with their handshake.

The US-China confrontation is not another Cold War

By Richard Fontaine
Special to The Washington Post

With U.S.-China relations in free fall, the Trump administra-tion’s chief arms control negotiator recently proclaimed that “we know how to win these races and we know how to spend the adversary into oblivion.” This obvious allusion to America’s triumph in the Cold War was only the latest sign that the decadeslong rivalry with the Soviet Union has recap-tured the attention of Washington’s foreign policy elite.

One prominent camp of experts and former dignitaries is arguing that a new Cold War is under way. A China-first strategy, advocates argue, will best serve America’s in-terest and economic needs, to be avoided at all costs. Others are offering advice for how to pre-vent: Enlist India as an ally, say, or perhaps rekindle Russia. While China’s foreign minister is warning that the United States is pushing “to the brink of a new Cold War,” and we know how to spend the adversary into oblivion.

As a result, cookie-cutter Cold War poli-cy is becoming unnecessary. In Asia, America’s military alliance, a geographical containment strat-egy or all-out economic warfare — are as ill-suited as they are unlikely to succeed. Need for an answer. Contested spaces saw proxy wars and battles for alignment, and there's more. China lacks the vast, strong and free havens and competing effectively where neces-sary, and conserving energy and resources where not.

Frustrating even America’s best grand strategists, the right approach for the Unit-ed States will vary. Some issues will be containment-like: trying to stymie the ex-port of China’s high-tech authoritarianism, for instance. Some will be more defensive, primarily aiming to prevent China’s domi-nance, as are the South China Sea. Others will require focusing on U.S. power at home separate and apart from China, such as boosting domestic innovation. In areas such as climate change and non-proliferation, cooperation with China may be necessary, but rather than building coalitions of the willing on different issues, such as responding to China’s unfair trade prac-tices, supporting Taiwan or dealing with repression in Xinjiang.

This is where the China debate should now focus: on not on top-down questions of how to wage or avoid a Cold War, but rather a bottom-up discussion of where competitiveness, with more serious de-bates about specific issues and less nostalgia or naivety over past rivalries.

In December 1989, George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev met in Malta to declare the Cold War over. It still is. A new and different era of competition between the U.S. and China is about to begin. Washington needs to update its mindset as well.

Richard Fontaine is chief executive of the Center for a New American Security and former deputy national security adviser to former Vice President Joe Biden.
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

I WONDER HOW LEMONADE GETS TO BE THE KING OF THE SUMMER DRINKS.

YOU THINK THE SAME THING MADE FROM GRAPEFRUIT JUICE WOULD BE JUST AS GOOD.

THOUGH GRAPEFRUIT JUICE MAY NOT ROLL OFF THE TONGUE AS QUICKLY.

TRUE AND ON A LEMONADE DAY, MILLISECONDS COUNT.

GOAL FOR THE WEEK
Be right more then wrong.

THAN NOT THEN

WILL BE LONG WEEK.

ACROSS
1 British "Inc." 60 Trio after Q
7 Jog 61 Lad
11 "Cat on -" 62 Shakespeare "Sailor"
"Tin Roof"
12 Large snake 26 Dreaded dino
14 Theater award 28 Fibs
15 "Downton Abbey" 29 "Woe -!"
"countess"
16 Mess up 30 Tibetan monk
17 Cleopatra's river 2 Grand
18 Delicious 31 Speck
20 Actor Morales 33 Campus digs
22 Silent 35 Luau bowlful
40 Approves
55 41 Guns
62 High school subj.
24 Manage, in slang 40 "The Sixth Sense" actress
28 Pond floater 77 "The Sixth Sense" actress
32 Sub detector 8 MLB stat
33 Cesar's "vidi" 9 Peanut product
34 Police officer 10 Casual shirt
36 Theater box 12 "Stand by Your Man" singer
37 TV tropes 19 "Uh-huh"
39 Hammer's place 21 Small
41 Spooky gathering 25 Diner order
43 White House nickname 50 Diner order
44 Big article 51 Carnival city
46 Rise 52 PC key
50 Nanny's headache 54 Animal doc
53 "Mazel -!" 55 Diner order
55 Mother of Helios 56 PC key
56 Happy tune 58 Hoops great
57 Away from WSW 59 Carry
58 Hoops great 60 Trio after Q
59 Carry

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2 Grand 27 Dreaded dino
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35 Luau bowlful 29 "Woe -!"
38 High school subj.
40 Approves 30 Tibetan monk
42 Go In 45 Billions of years
47 Melville's "obessed"
48 Roman 47 Melville's "obessed"
emperor 48 Roman
49 Tyne 48 Roman
50 Diner order 48 Roman
51 Carnival city 49 Tyne
52 PC key 49 Tyne
54 Animal doc 50 Diner order

C A N D A R V O L L Y
CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK
I told him to set up a Zoom meeting with Cola Cola. As soon as I
Corona virus, the executive was left at me and quickly left the
meeting.

Dick Fink denies it, but I'm sure it's the one who somehow added a
fudge that made me look like I was in Black Rock.

M A R K O G E S HAS NOW
ACHIEVED TOTAL HARMONY AND IS
AIRBORNE.

WELL, THE AVIATION AUTHORITIES DIDN'T WANT TO
MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS.

I TAKE BEFORE AND AFTER SHOTS
THAT WAS QUICK!

I wear a black shroud every day at work, so when I'm off-duty, I
like to change things up.

Facebook.com/SitesOnLine ©2018 by King Features

CRYPTOQUIP

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PHXXI HGEHLE BKG DHOCZQA

ED A JQQT S: YE Q JSZ BAQZ.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: KIND OF PYROTECHNICS
THAT WERE SPECIALLY MADE TO BE
LAUNCHABLE FROM AIRPLANES: FLIERWORKS:

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P
Mobile apps with constantly updating news, featuring breaking news and stories from reporters at overseas bases. Unique galleries of images available nowhere else presented in an uncluttered interface and a responsive, intuitive design. One iOS app serves both phone and tablet devices.

In print, we serve military stationed overseas in contingency areas, Europe and Pacific. Daily editions focus on military news and include sports, comics and opinion. Available by mail delivery to any U.S. address.

Discover unique stories from reporters at bases around the world and embedded with downrange forces at Stripes.com, along with military news from every part of the country and photo galleries you’ll see nowhere else. DoDDs sports also gets good coverage online. If it concerns our U.S. forces, you’ll find it on our website.

UNBIASED NEWS WHATEVER WAY YOU WANT IT.
SEATTLE — Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder Andy Rose needed to have a lot of conversations and make hard decisions when Major League Soccer first started moving toward returning to action in a tournament format. There were concerns about potentially exposing his young son and pregnant wife to the coronavirus. And as someone living with Type 1 diabetes, significant concerns about his own personal health.

“You’re trying not to read too much. There’s so much information out there,” Rose said. “I checked in with my endocrinologist a couple weeks ago, we had a conversation. And then obviously going through this process of going to Orlando while my wife is pregnant. I’ve been in constant communication with our team doctor and he’s been amazing in terms of giving me updates.”

The majority of the league’s players will be taking part when the tournament starts this week. For some like Rose, that will include balancing underlying health concerns with the opportunity to return to the field.

Rose had to decide whether to stay from just inside the penalty area. When two Whitecaps players also tested positive, forcing the team to stay in Canada for now, Thursday’s MLS is Back tournament match between FC Dallas and the Whitecaps had to be postponed.

Rose is a primary care provider to patients. He said it’s best to protect himself knowing diabetics have a higher risk of complications if they contract the coronavirus. That meant a lot of talks with doctors, his endocrinologist and infectious disease specialists.

“Having all those conversations, given my health, given how seriously I take managing my diabetes on a daily basis, I came to the conclusion fairly early on even before Orlando was a go — this was still during negotiations — that I would feel safe going,” Rose said.

MLS has said players can opt out inside the tournament for various reasons. Players who are deemed high risk have to be cleared by their primary care provider to participate. Some of those high-risk conditions include moderate to severe asthma, heart conditions, diabetes and being immunocompromised.

The caution has been warned as six players for FC Dallas tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Florida and the entire team was quarantined. When two Whitecaps players also tested positive, forcing the team to stay in Canada for now, Thursday’s MLS is Back tournament match between FC Dallas and the Whitecaps had to be postponed.

D.C. United defender Chris Odoi-Atsem, left, who has overcome cancer, is one of several MLS players in the MLS Back tournament this week with underlying health issues they must balance with the risk of the coronavirus.

Players balance health history with virus risk as league rejoins

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

Seattle’s Jordan Morris, who both have Type 1 diabetes, are among the most prominent, partly because of their philanthropic efforts to help those with similar conditions.

But there are other examples. Orlando City goalkeeper Mason Stajduhar underwent chemotherapy for bone cancer in 2018. D.C. United’s Chris Odoi-Atsem overcame Stage II Hodgkin’s lymphoma and returned to action for the club last season.

In Odoi-Atsem’s case, the little time he had to play over the past couple of seasons made the Flori-da decision fairly easy.

“For me, my past health condition made me want to go down there even a little bit more,” Odoi-Atsem said. “I’ve missed a lot of time in my pro career due to my cancer and even injuries and things like that. This is a point in my career where I’m fully fit, fully healthy and a chance to play in real, official games in the league is what I’m really concerned about. I’m really excited to get back to playing.”

HERRIMAN, Utah — Kristie Mewis and Shea Groom scored to give the Houston Dash a 2-0 victory over OL Reign on Saturday in the opening day of the NWSL’s Challenge Cup tournament.

The Dash have five goals, most of any team in the tournament. Mewis scored in the 12th minute, taking a sweet buck heel pass from Groom and blastting the ball past Olorunniwe. Groom scored on a precisely executed leaping header in the 54th minute. It was her second goal of the match. The Dash now have five goals, most of any team in the tournament.

Dash, Royals roll to wins in Challenge Cup

Associated Press

HERRIMAN, Utah — Kristie Mewis and Shea Groom scored to give the Houston Dash a 2-0 victory over OL Reign on Saturday in the opening day of the NWSL’s Challenge Cup tournament.

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HARRISON, N.J. — Rachel Daly scored two goals in Houston’s opening game, a 3-3 draw with the Utah Royals. She was listed as questionable for the game against the Reign, but started.

The Reign were coming off a scoreless draw against Sky Blue in its opening game. They have yet to score a goal in the tournament.

Former Reign coach Vlatko Andonovski, who now coaches the U.S. women’s national team, was at Zions Bank Stadium for the game.

The Royals defeated Sky Blue 1-0 earlier Saturday on Amy Rodriguez’s goal late in the first half.

**Scoreboard**

**MLS is Back tournament**

At Orlando, Fla. 0

Wednesday, July 8

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**MLS is Back tournament**

At Orlando, Fla. 0

Wednesday, July 8

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**NWSL Challenge Cup**

Herriman Utah

Saturday, June 27

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**NWSL Challenge Cup**

Herriman Utah

Tuesday, July 14

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**NWSL Challenge Cup**

Herriman Utah

Wednesday, July 15

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## Dixon breaks through at Indianapolis with win in GP

**Associated Press**

INDIANAPOLIS — It took Scott Dixon 12 years to make a second trip to victory lane at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

He’s already plotting a third trip next month.

The 2008 Indianapolis 500 winner ended what had been a frustrating quest for a second win at the Brickyard, beating Graham Rahal to the checkered flag by 19.9203 seconds for his seventh career win, which also included the 2003 and 2008 IndyCar Grand Prix titles.

“It’s really nice to get another win at Indianapolis even though it’s not the big one,” Dixon said. “It’s significant, man, to win at this place. Sometimes you need a little bit of luck and sometimes you need a clean race like we had today.

The atmosphere at Indy was subdued.

Dixon donned a face mask as he raised his arms and pumped his fist inside the recently redone winner’s circle. The stands were empty and the usual celebratory noise was almost nonexistent.

But after three consecutive runnings of the Brickyard 500 victory, Dixon was going to have fun, and he appeared to savour one of the rare spoils of victory — giving the starting command for NASCAR’s inaugural Xfinity Series race on the road course.

Dixon couldn’t have scripted a better strategy for the 14-turn, 2.439-mile course, either.

He opted to start on the slower Goodyear slicks and reeled off 2.9496 seconds.

“The tires were good today,” Dixon said. “That’s tough. I wish they would give us more.

Will Power stalled in the pits.

Ericsson couldn’t have scripted the start for Rahal, it was only a matter of pole-winner Dixon getting the break he needed at the 14-turn, 2.439-mile course.

Just when rookie Oliver Askew crashed into the outside wall as he tried to enter the front straightaway.

Dixon controlled most of the race.

He opted to start on the Goodyear slicks.

Some of those drivers were Ericsson, Dixon, Alexander Rossi and Jack Harvey.

“We were in the right situation having a better strategy for the 14-turn, 2.439-mile course. That’s tough. I wish they would give us more,” Dixon said.

The former Oklahoma State star, though, has struggled enough this season that he was 100th in the Brickyard 500.

Go get ‘em Buckeye,” one fan yelled.

Wolff made a 35-foot putt on the 138-yard No. 5 birdie, his second of the day.

“I heard the ice cream truck and I’m like, ‘I have a good feeling about this,’” Wolff recalled. “I just don’t think that’s necessarily the right thing to do.”

Ryan Armour and Bryson DeChambeau were tied for second after 67.

DeChambeau had a testy exchange with a TV cameraman after a bogey on the sixth hole.

“Just going to go out there, have fun, and I’m like, ‘I have a good feeling about this,’” Wolff recalled. “I just don’t think that’s necessarily the right thing to do.”

Armour played well and was in a good mood on the front nine while making five birdies to reach under par, giving him a shot at the lead.

He chatted and laughed with some fans, watching the tournament from beyond a chain-link fence, near the seventh tee.

The former Ohio State star, though, has struggled enough this season that he was 100th in the Brickyard 500.

“Go get ‘em Buckeye,” one fan yelled from the back of a home.

Otherwise, it was often so quiet that the jingle from an ice cream truck in the neighborhood and a single-engine plane overhead broke through the eerie silence.

They missed the cut at the previous two tournaments and was 54th at the PGA and 19th at the fifth event after its restart.

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They missed the cut at the previous two tournaments and was 54th at the PGA and 19th at the fifth event after its restart.
JrueHoliday says he expects the second round of the playoffs. The hope is plus rules keeping families away until at least will be restrictions on where players can go, some increased restlessness. "It is going to leave the guys with a lot of time on their hands? Orlando, Fla., this month to resume their suspended season. Holiday's wife, Lauren, a former U.S. national team soccer player, is pregnant with the couple's second child at a time when much of society has been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic. The veteran New Orleans guard might be away from home for more than a month. Meanwhile, Memphis rookie Ja Morant expects to miss his daughter's first birthday next month. Boston's Gordon Hayward may leave the team when his fourth child is born in September. And players such as Washington's Bradley Beal and Portland's Damian Lillard wonder how intense NBA restrictions on play will be for much of the hiatus. Holiday said. "I try my best not to bring my personal life in the NBA's bubble when 22 teams gather in Central Florida to resume their suspended seasons. "You're restricted, and you can't do the things that you're normally used to doing."

Bradley Beal
Washington Wizards guard on life in the NBA bubble

Too much time on their hands?
League, union make mental health resources available to players in bubble

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

Jrue Holiday says he expects basketball to be the easy part. The Pelicans guard will be living in the NBA's "bubble" when 22 teams gather near Orlando, Fla., this month to resume their suspended season. Holiday's wife, Lauren, a former U.S. national team soccer player, is pregnant with the couple's second child at a time when much of society has been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic. The veteran New Orleans guard might be away from home for more than a month. Meanwhile, Memphis rookie Ja Morant expects to miss his daughter's first birthday next month. Boston's Gordon Hayward may leave the team when his fourth child is born in September. And players such as Washington's Bradley Beal and Portland's Damian Lillard wonder how intense NBA restrictions on player movement will be received. These are but a few examples of why the NBA, its teams and the players' union are making mental health and wellness resources available to players now and once they arrive at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex. "It is going to leave the guys with a lot of time on their own, and challenges with families, newborns and whatever else they have going on in their personal lives are going to be magnified because they're going to be in confined spaces for prolonged periods of time," said William Parham, a Loyola Marymount psychology professor and director of the National Basketball Players Association's mental health and wellness program. "There's no way around it, so I would anticipate some increased anxiety, some increased tension, some increased restlessness. There will be no fans at Disney. There will also be restrictions on where players can go, plus rules keeping families away until at least the second round of the playoffs. The hope is to significantly limit exposure to COVID-19 inside the bubble. Even under normal circumstances, Holiday sees family time as a cherished respite. Life at Disney will clearly complicate that. "This is one of the mental parts about it that goes to adjust to, where someone like me, I go home and it's where I kind of relax," Holiday said. "I try my best not to bring my work home with me so I can hang out with my wife, my dog, and my daughter and I can do things like that. ... I think that's going to be a little bit of a challenge, especially after like seven to 10 days." Likewise, Beal said living in the bubble will hardly be "a walk in the park." "We can't just leave. We can't just order whatever food we want. We can't just do activities we want to do. We can't go to our teammates' rooms," Beal said. "You're restricted, and you can't do the things that you're normally used to doing.

The Pelicans' mental health and wellness program is led by team psychologist Jenna Rosen, and New Orleans general manager David Griffin calls it "critical." "Let's not kid ourselves. This quarantine situation is going to be very difficult," Griffin said. "We will work through mindfulness training with Jenna literally every day. ... It's going to be about who can keep themselves in the best frame of mind, quite frankly." Mental health has been a priority for the NBA and the NBPA, especially after players such as Cleveland's Kevin Love and San Antonio's DeMar DeRozan opened up about their inner struggles.

DeRozan knows it won't be easy at Disney. "It's tough," he said. "You're taking guys who've been with their families every single day for the last few months and all of a sudden separating everybody into this one confined space and taking away a lot of joyful things that we do outside of basketball." Milwaukee forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, who has played for Greece's national team, said being away for three weeks during international tournaments was challenging. This trip to Disney could last three months if the Bucks make the NBA Finals. "Not being able to see your family, being there for three months, playing games with no fans, it's going to be mental," Antetokounmpo said. "You've got to push yourself through this."

Daniel Medina, the Wizards' chief of athletic care and performance, said some players are concerned that an interrupted season might make them more prone to injury, which could be career-altering to players with expiring contracts. Parham, who helped launch the NBPA's mental health program in 2018, expects many players to handle the resumption well. Still, the unprecedented nature of the bubble, will present challenges. Another issue, Parham said, is how the restart coincides with protests. "People are angry and you can't do the things that you're normally used to doing.

"We'll see a lot of balls, people throwing the ball through the stands, turnovers." Giannis Antetokounmpo Bucks forward and reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "Guys are going to be rusty. We'll see a lot of balls, people throwing the ball through the stands, turnovers... But I think as we move forward and guys get more comfortable, the level of basketball is going to get better each game.

An early top-seed clinching also could see Lakers forward LeBron James breaking his routine. Typically once James' team is locked into a playoff seed, he shuts it down and begins preparing for the postseason. But because of the layoffs, it could be argued that James might want to get a bit more game action.

"If we want to play certain guys 47 minutes? Obviously, no," Vogel said. "We'll be intelligent with the whole process." AP Basketball Writer Tim Reynolds in Miami contributed to this report.
Defending champ Nats return healthy, careful

By Stephen Hawkins

WASHINGTON — Dave Martinez’s mantra of going 1-0 every day followed the Washington Nationals to their first World Series title.

When they resumed workouts Friday at summer training camp in the midst of a global pandemic, the manager’s mantra remained. Only, it has a different meaning for the defending champions touting health and safety protocols that made baseball feel anything but natural.

“When you see the guys come in after not seeing them for a while, you want to give them a big hug, a fist bump, high-five,” Martinez said by video conference from the bowls of Nationals Park. “We’re trying to figure out what we can do to emulate some kind of handshakes or fist bumps or elbow tap or feet tap — whatever. We’ll figure something out.”

The team that danced itself from a 24-31 start to a championship in 2019 is off to a relatively positive start in 2020. Martinez learned depth catcher Welington Castillo is joining Ryan Zimmerman and Joe Ross from opting out of the season, but he said the 37 players at camp are all good to go.

Ace Max Scherzer threw 65 pitches in his return to the park, fellow right-hander Stephen Strasburg looked sharp and there are plenty of reasons for optimism.

“The important thing is we came into spring training 2.0 in good shape,” general manager Mike Rizzo said.

Washington is long past the departure of third baseman Anthony Rendon and is adding 2020 first-round pick Cade Cavalli to its pool of 60 available players. Three weeks remain until opening day against the New York Yankees, and the monumental challenge is trying to be game ready for baseball’s version of a 100-yard sprint.

“We’re so used to it being a long season and it actually becoming a marathon,” Martinez said. “Now, you want to get out of the gate, get out strong, put some wins on the column early. You can’t fall behind.”

In an effort to start strong, Martinez spaced out workouts from 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to allow players to practice in small groups and coaches to use their time at the park wisely. Scherzer and Strasburg threw in the morning, some position players took batting practice and fielded grounders in the 95-degree heat, and all of it came in the shadow of a new “World Champions” sign in center field.

For those in charge of steering a bid to repeat, it felt comforting to be back, even if the new normal feels completely different from October.

“You can’t just come in here with a clear mind,” Rizzo said. “You have to keep yourself safe and look out for the other guys. You walk in here excited, but also with things on your mind to adhere to the protocols and conduct yourself in a manner that is safe for yourself, your family and your teammates.”

Tough day for MLB

Price out, Freeman positive, Tanaka injured

By Steve Megargee

Associated Press

Freddie Freeman tests positive for COVID-19, Masahiro Tanaka gets hit in the head by a line drive. David Price announces he won’t play this season.

On this Fourth of July, even the return of baseball didn’t offer much cause for celebration.

As teams prepared to start their pandemicterrupted seasons, a few reminders of the game’s potential danger took place at camps across the country.

Major League Baseball is getting ready for a 60-game season that won’t include Price, a former Cy Young Award winner who was traded from the Boston Red Sox to the Los Angeles Dodgers in February.

“After considerable thought and discussion with my family and the Dodgers, I have decided it is in the best interest of my health and my family’s health for me to not play this season,” the five-time All-Star tweeted Saturday.

“I will miss my teammates and will be cheering for them throughout the season and on to a World Series victory. I’m sorry I won’t be playing for you this year, I look forward to representing you next year,” Price said.

The 34-year-old Price said he was opting out about five hours after Atlanta manager Brian Snitker announced Freeman had tested positive along with Braves pitchers Will Smith and Touki Toussaint as well as infielder Pete Kozma. Snitker said Smith and Toussaint were asymptomatic and noted Kozma had a fever.

“Freeman is ‘not feeling great,’” Snitker said.

“It will be a while before we can get him back,” he said of the four-time All-Star first baseman.

It was uncertain whether Freeman would be ready for the start of the season, scheduled for July 23.

The New York Yankees said All-Star infielder DJ LeMahieu and pitcher Luis Cessa tested positive for COVID-19 before traveling to New York and were self-isolating at home. Manager Aaron Boone said LeMahieu was asymptomatic and Cessa had mild symptoms.

Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez and Twins first baseman Miguel Sano also tested positive.

Dealing with the virus, Freeman said it still felt comforting to be back, even if this was going to look like a week from now much less two months from now, he said.

Posey’s comments came one day after three-time AL MVP Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels said he still doesn’t “feel that comfortable” about playing this season with his wife expecting their first child in August.

Trout said he is planning to play at this point but that much would depend on how he feels the next couple of weeks.

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Finding the right balance

All but guaranteed top two playoff seeds, Lakers, Bucks can focus on preparation

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE

The Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers have all but guaranteed themselves the top two playoff seeds and face a balancing act when the NBA returns to action.

While other teams will be fighting for a postseason berth or playoff seedings when they play the final eight regular season games in Florida, the Lakers and Bucks will be looking to shake off the rust after a 4½-month hiatus while also staying healthy.

"At least from a player's aspect, you can expect us to go out there and play as best as we can and as hard as we can during this situation," Bucks forward Khris Middleton said. "That's the only thing we can control, really."

With the league playing the remainder of the regular season and the entire playoffs at Walt Disney World as a safety precaution amid the coronavirus pandemic, owning a No. 1 seed may not matter as much as usual. But the Bucks and Lakers are virtually assured of having the top seeds in their respective conferences regardless.

Milwaukee owned the NBA's best record at 53-12 and the Lakers were next at 49-14 when the pandemic caused a suspension of play in mid-March.

The Lakers will arrive at Disney World with a magic number of three in the race for the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. That number could get trimmed to one on re-opening night if they beat the Los Angeles Clippers in the second game of the July 30 doubleheader.

Milwaukee's magic number for the East's No. 1 seed is two. The Bucks can't drop below the No. 2 spot in the East, no matter what happens, and they could lock up the top spot on their half of the bracket as early as Aug. 2.

The race for the NBA's best overall record still could be in doubt at that point. But with no home-court advantage to play for in these playoffs, the only thing left to decide would be which team is assured of wearing white uniforms for Game 1 of the NBA Finals if the title series is a Bucks-Lakers matchup.

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