

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Biden accepts presidential nomination

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Joe Biden accepted the Democratic presidential nomination with a vow to be a unifying “ally of the light” who would move an America in crisis past the chaos of President Donald Trump’s tenure.

In his strongest remarks of the campaign, Biden spoke Thursday night both of returning the United States to its traditional leadership role in the world and of the deeply personal challenges that shaped his life. Virtually every sentence of his speech was designed to present a sharp, yet hopeful, contrast with the Republican incumbent.

“Here and now I give you my word: If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I’ll be an ally of the light, not the darkness,” Biden said. “Make no mistake, united we can and will overcome this season of darkness in America.”

For the 77-year-old Biden, the final night of the Demo-

cratic National Convention was bittersweet. He accepted a nomination that had eluded him for over three decades because of personal tragedy, political stumbles and rivals who proved more dynamic.

But the coronavirus denied him the typical celebration, complete with the customary balloon drop that both parties often use to fete their new nominees. Instead, Biden spoke to a largely empty arena near his Delaware home.

Afterward, fireworks lit the sky outside, where supporters waited in a parking lot, honking horns and flashing headlights in a moment that finally lent a jovial feel to the event.

The keynote address was the speech of a lifetime for Biden, who would be the oldest president ever elected if he defeats Trump in November. Trump, who is 74, publicly doubts Biden’s mental capacity and calls him “Slow Joe,” but with the nation watching, Biden was firm and clear.

Still, the convention leaned

on a younger generation earlier in the night to help energize his sprawling coalition.

Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois senator who lost her legs in Iraq and is raising two young children, said Biden has “common decency.”

Cory Booker, only the ninth African American senator in U.S. history, said Biden believes in the dignity of all working Americans.

And Pete Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former South Bend, Ind., mayor and a gay military veteran, noted that Biden came out in favor of same-sex marriage as vice president even before President Barack Obama.

“Joe Biden is right, this is a contest for the soul of the nation. And to me that contest is not between good Americans and evil Americans,” Buttigieg said. “It’s the struggle to call out what is good for every American.”

Above all, Biden focused on uniting the nation as Americans grapple with the long and fearful health crisis, the related

economic devastation, a national awakening on racial justice.

Biden’s positive focus Thursday night marked a break from the dire warnings offered by Obama and others the night before. The 44th president of the United States warned that American democracy itself could falter if Trump is re-elected, while Biden’s running mate, Kamala Harris, the 55-year-old California senator and daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, warned that Americans’ lives and livelihoods were at risk.

Biden’s Democratic Party has sought this week to put forward a cohesive vision of values and policy priorities, highlighting efforts to combat climate change, tighten gun laws and embrace a humane immigration policy. They have drawn a sharp contrast with Trump’s policies and personality, portraying him as cruel, self-centered and woefully unprepared to manage virtually any of the nation’s mounting crises and policy challenges.

## Trump and Iraqi PM sidestep troop drawdown

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Iraq no longer needs U.S. combat troops to defend itself against Islamic State but will require continued foreign military assistance to help strengthen its security forces, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said during a visit to Washington on Thursday.

“We definitely don’t need combat troops in Iraq, but we do need training and capacity enhancement and security cooperation,” he told reporters following a White House meeting with President Donald Trump.

But both leaders declined to provide specific information about how quickly the more than 5,000 troops in Iraq would leave

the country, in line with a demand earlier this year from Iraqi lawmakers.

Asked about any decisions on troop levels, al-Kadhimi said “technical teams” from both countries would work out details about the future troop presence. The American president, he said, had “coupled the presence of U.S. troops to how much they are needed inside of Iraq,” al-Kadhimi said through an interpreter.

The official visit is a consequential one for the Iraqi leader, a former journalist and intelligence official who took over three months ago after his predecessor was ousted amid major protests. Al-Kadhimi is now facing a host of challenges, including a major coronavirus outbreak, a crippling re-

duction in government revenue due to low oil prices, and widespread unrest among Iraqis fed up with widespread corruption.

During an Oval Office event with al-Kadhimi earlier in the day, Trump said the United States has been withdrawing its troops “fairly rapidly” from Iraq, and “we look forward to the day when we don’t have to be there.”

Trump punted the question about a timeline to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who responded that Trump had “made very clear he wants to get our forces down to the lowest level as quickly as we possibly can.” They would leave, he said, “as soon as we can complete the mission.”

# Ex-sailor details misconduct by SEALs

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — U.S. Navy intelligence specialist Colleen Grace was asleep on a remote air base in Iraq when she was woken up by knocking on the door next to her room, and then a voice she recognized.

The voice belonged to a Navy corpsman she knew. He was upset and speaking loudly to the Army colonel who lived next door. Grace heard the corpsman say that a sailor who attended a Fourth of July barbecue had just been raped by a member of the Navy SEAL platoon on the base. The corpsman asked the colonel what to do because the victim was afraid that if she reported the incident, retribution would follow.

Grace looked down at her phone to check the time and saw a missed text from a friend asking her to come over. “Urgent,” the message read.

When Grace got to her friend’s room around 1:50 a.m., she found her friend in bed with a bruised face and realized she was the person who said she’d been raped. She told Grace that she and the SEAL started out having consensual sex but then he started choking her and at one point she thought “what is he going to do with my body when he kills me?”

Grace photographed her injuries, then hugged her and cried, unsure of what would happen next.

Within weeks, the entire Foxtrot platoon of SEAL Team 7, known as Trident 1726, was sent home early. It was an extremely rare move to cut short the mission of a unit that was there to combat remnants of Islamic State. Navy officials have given few details other than to say there was an alleged sexual assault and drinking at a Fourth of July barbecue in Iraq in 2019 in violation of Navy rules barring deployed troops from consuming alcohol.

The story of the platoon being pulled from Iraq has been previously reported, but documents obtained by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act and interviews with nearly a dozen people give the first in-depth view into what led to that rare recall.

Records obtained by the AP from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service also reveal a previously unknown reported allegation of sexual misconduct against the SEAL platoon chief, Special Warfare Operator Chief Nicholas Olson, two days before the barbecue. Olson denies any wrongdoing.

The platoon was withdrawn after the Navy made an unusually public push to strengthen order and discipline in its secretive elite force amid a series of scandals.

**‘It literally broke my heart because these were people that were my heroes.’**

**Colleen Grace**

former U.S. Navy intelligence specialist

The Navy fired three SEAL leaders in the aftermath of the alleged rape and charged an enlisted SEAL with sexual assault, aggravated assault via strangulation and assault by battery for allegedly biting the victim on the face, among other counts. He faces a court-martial in November. A hearing in the case will be held Friday at Naval Base San Diego.

His lawyer, Jeremiah Sullivan, said his client is innocent. The SEAL, who was charged Dec. 30, filed a counter claim in February against the sailor alleging she sexually assaulted him.

AP is not naming the SEAL despite his criminal charges nor the sailor because they both say they were victims of sexual abuse and AP has a policy of not identifying victims unless they choose to be.

Grace is the first service member to publicly talk about what happened in Iraq. She spoke to the AP in an exclusive interview.

AP spoke to other service members who asked not to be named or quoted for fear it could jeopardize their military careers. The sailor who reported being sexually assaulted on July 4, 2019, declined to be interviewed.

Two days before the Fourth of July barbecue, a military jury in San Diego acquitted Special Warfare Operator Chief Edward Gallagher of murder in the death of a captive ISIS fighter and attempted murder in the shooting of civilians during a deployment to Iraq in 2017.

Gallagher — who was convicted of a single charge for posing with the dead teen militant’s body — got support from President Donald Trump, who prevented the military from taking disciplinary action against the former SEAL.

The Fourth of July incident led to a second ethics review of America’s commando forces in a year. The review by the Special Operations Command found a problematic culture that overemphasized combat and put troops at times far from supervision.

The Fourth of July was a holiday and for some of the special operators, there was even more reason to pop open a bottle with the military jury in San Diego acquitting Gallagher, ending a war crimes case that

had tarnished the commando force’s image.

Grace said only two days earlier, one of her friends had knocked on her door crying and said Olson exposed himself to her after they met at a makeshift lounge on Camp Freiwald.

According to a July 16, 2019, report by NCIS, a male, whose name was redacted, met a female on July 2, and during the encounter, he reached into his pants and “exposing his penis,” grabbed her from behind her neck and pulled her toward his groin area.

Despite the redactions, the AP was able to confirm the incident involved Olson and a sailor.

Olson’s lawyer, Timothy Parlatore, said the July 2 allegation is false.

The case was closed after the victim signed a statement on July 13, 2019, saying she did not wish to participate in the investigation.

The woman told Grace she was concerned reporting Olson would hurt her career.

After the Fourth of July, Grace said she reported the July 2 assault despite the victim’s desire to stay silent.

Grace said Olson also had warned her friends that everyone at the barbecue will get into trouble if the rape is reported.

Olson denies trying to stop anyone from reporting the allegation.

Back home, Olson was reprimanded and has since lost his Trident pin, the symbol of his membership in the SEALs. He is appealing the decision.

The Navy’s top SEAL, Rear Adm. Collin Green, also fired SEAL Team 7’s commanding officer, Cmdr. Edward Mason, Command Master Chief Hugh Spangler, and Navy SEAL Lt. Cmdr. Luke Im, saying their leadership failures led to a breakdown of order and discipline within two units in Iraq.

Mason and Spangler said they were being used as scapegoats and filed a complaint with the Department of Defense Inspector General but the independent agency said there was insufficient evidence to investigate the firings, said Dwerna Allen, an agency spokeswoman.

Grace said she underwent therapy because of what happened in Iraq. She left the Navy in February.

“It literally broke my heart because these were people that were my heroes,” she said of the SEALs. “It was going to be the highlight of my career, and what do I learn? That these people would rather, you know, have each other’s backs and cover up a sexual assault.”



# 5 killed, homes threatened by Calif. fires

Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Sky-darkening wildfires that took at least five lives and forced thousands of people from their homes blazed throughout California on Friday as firefighting resources strained under the vastness of the infernos authorities were trying to control.

Three major complexes encompassing dozens of fires chewed through a combined 770 square miles of forests, canyons and rural areas north, east and south of the San Francisco Bay. Thousands of acres were ablaze elsewhere in the state.

Tens of thousands of homes were threatened by flames that drove through dense and

bone-dry trees and brush. Many of the fires were sparked by lightning strikes from brief thunderstorms this week as a high-pressure area over the West brought a dangerous mix of triple-digit weather and monsoonal moisture pulled from the south.

And while some evacuations were lifted in the small city of Vacaville, between San Francisco and Sacramento, other areas expanded their evacuation areas. The University of California, Santa Cruz, was evacuated and a new fire burning near Yosemite National Park also prompted evacuations.

Santa Cruz itself, a coastal city of 65,000, wasn't affected

but Mayor Justin Cummings urged residents Thursday evening to be prepared to evacuate by gassing up their vehicles and packing important documents, medicines and other belongings.

Although temperatures were predicted to ease slightly on Friday, they were also expected to be hot enough so that firefighters would not be able to count on cool evening weather aiding them. Erratic winds also could drive the fires unpredictably in multiple directions, state fire officials said.

"There's so much heat in these fires that they create their own wind ... and they may blow in any direction, and very er-

atically," said Daniel Berlant, an assistant deputy director with the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Winds gusting to 20 mph over ridge tops could challenge the overnight firefighting efforts in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, said the incident commander, Cal Fire Assistant Chief Billy See.

More than 64,000 people were ordered evacuated in those counties.

The ferocity of the fires was astonishing so early in the fire season, which historically has seen the largest and deadliest blazes when gusty, dry winds blow in the fall.

## Postmaster: No plan yet but ballots No. 1 priority

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, pressed by senators over mail delivery disruptions, said Friday he was unaware of changes that sparked a public uproar, but his responses raised fresh questions about how the Postal Service will ensure timely delivery of ballots for the November election.

DeJoy told senators he has zero plans to restore blue mailboxes and sorting equipment that have been removed, saying they are "not needed." He did say that election mail would continue to be prioritized for delivery as in years past.

But while DeJoy distanced himself from President Donald Trump's complaints about mail-in ballots that are expected to surge in the coronavirus pandemic, he told senators he could not yet provide a detailed plan about how he will ensure on-time election mail delivery.

DeJoy promised the Postal Service "is fully capable and committed to delivering the nation's election mail securely and on-time." He said that was his "No. 1 priority between now and Election Day."

"I think the American people should be able to vote by mail," DeJoy testified.

The new postmaster general, a Trump donor and ally who

took the job in June, has faced a public outcry over changes and delivery delays. Democrats warn his cost-cutting initiatives are causing an upheaval that threatens the election.

They peppered him with questions about the Trump administration's push to starve the Postal Service of funds to process ballots for November. Trump had said he wants to block agency funds to make it harder for the Postal Service to handle the expected surge of mail-in ballots during the COVID-19 crisis.

DeJoy flatly told senators he has had few conversations with White House officials.

He said he had "no idea"

equipment was being removed until the public outcry.

The top Democrat on the panel, Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan, said DeJoy owed the nation an "apology" for the widespread mail disruptions since he took over the service.

Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, defended the postmaster and dismissed the Democratic claims of election "sabotage."

The hearing was held remotely as Congress is on recess and lawmakers have been conducting much of their business during the coronavirus outbreak in virtual settings.

## Protesters clash again outside ICE building in Ore.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Protesters in Oregon's largest city have clashed again with federal agents outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building that has become a new focus of the demonstrations that have gripped Portland for months, officials said Friday.

People in a group of about 100 late

Thursday and before dawn Friday sprayed the building with graffiti, hurled rocks and bottles at agents and shined laser lights at them, Portland police said in a statement.

The agents set off smoke or tear gas and used crowd-control munitions to try to disperse the crowd, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. Three people were arrested, police said in their statement.

The violence came a day after protest-

ers clashed with federal agents for the first time since July in a demonstration that also targeted the ICE building. Two people were arrested and several officers suffered minor injuries.

Violent demonstrations have happened in Oregon's largest city for more than two months following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

# German doctors: Navalny fit to be moved

Associated Press

MOSCOW — German doctors who examined a Russian opposition leader suspected of having been poisoned said he is fit to be flown abroad for medical treatment, according to a charity representative. But physicians at the hospital in Siberia where Alexei Navalny lies in a coma have refused to authorize the transfer.

Navalny, a 44-year-old politician and corruption investigator who is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, was admitted to an intensive care unit in the Siberian city of Omsk on Thursday. His supporters believe he was poisoned and that the Kremlin is behind it.

A plane with German specialists and

equipment necessary to transfer Navalny landed at Omsk airport on Friday morning, but doctors at the Siberian hospital said his condition was too unstable to transport him.

Navalny's supporters denounced that as a ploy by authorities to stall until any poison would no longer be traceable in his system. A senior doctor in Omsk said no poison had been found so far.

The German doctors later examined Navalny and determined that he was fit to fly to Germany for treatment, according to a representative of the NGO that has organized the plane to bring him to Berlin.

"I understand he's still unconscious, but they're used to such special assignments

and they say very clearly he can fly and they want to fly him," film producer Jaka Bizilj, of Cinema For Peace, told The Associated Press after being in touch with the German medical team.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he wasn't aware of any instructions to stop the transfer and that it was purely a medical decision.

"It may pose a threat to his health," Peskov said.

Navalny's wife told reporters that hospital staff and men she suspected were law enforcement agents didn't let her speak to the German specialists, who she said were brought into the facility in secrecy, through a back door.

## Demand to 'snap back' Iran sanctions meets opposition

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The Trump administration ran into immediate opposition after its top diplomat officially informed the United Nations it is demanding the restoration of all U.N. sanctions on Iran, with allies and opponents declaring the U.S. action illegal and doomed to failure.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted Thursday that the United States has the legal right to "snap back" U.N. sanctions even though President Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers that was endorsed by the U.N. Security Council.

Russia and China, along with European allies Britain, France and Germany, who often disagree, are united in declaring the U.S. action "illegal" on grounds that you can't withdraw from a deal and then use the resolution that endorsed it to re-impose sanctions.

How this dispute plays out in the weeks ahead remains to be seen, but Thursday's U.S. move set the stage for a showdown in the United Nations that could lead to a crisis of credibility for the Security Council, its most important and powerful body.

Pompeo came to the U.N. to deliver a letter to Indonesia's ambassador to the U.N., Dian Triansyah Djani, whose country currently holds the rotating council presidency. It cited significant Iranian violations of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, a requirement to "snap back" U.N. sanctions.

Pompeo said his message was simple: "The United States will never allow the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism to freely buy and sell planes, tanks, missiles, and other kinds of conventional weapons ... (or) to have a nuclear weapon."

And he said U.N. sanctions will continue the arms embargo on Iran, set to expire on Oct. 18, as well as prohibit ballistic mis-

sile testing and nuclear enrichment that could lead to a nuclear weapons program — which Tehran insists it is not pursuing.

Pompeo was sharply critical of "our friends in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom" who didn't support a U.S. resolution to indefinitely extend the arms embargo on Iran, which was resoundingly defeated a week ago.

He accused them of privately agreeing with the U.S. but lacking courage to say so publicly and proposing "no alternatives."

"Instead they chose to side with ayatollahs," Pompeo said. "Their actions endanger the people of Iraq, of Yemen, of Lebanon, of Syria and indeed their own citizens as well."

Following Pompeo's half-hour meeting, the council president began one-on-one consultations with its 14 other members on the legality of the U.S. action, council diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions were private.

## Ex-Navy SEAL says he's banned from Delta after tweet

New York Daily News

Former Navy SEAL Robert O'Neill, who claims to have single-handedly killed Osama bin Laden, has been banned from Delta Air Lines after tweeting a maskless selfie aboard an apparently packed flight this week, he said Thursday.

"I just got banned from @Delta for posting a picture. Wow," he wrote on Twitter.

The ban comes a day after the former service member posted a photo of himself sitting in an airplane without wearing a

mask, an apparent violation of Delta's rules to prevent the spread of coronavirus on its flights.

The photo, which he captioned with the phrase, "I'm not a p---y," quickly went viral before it disappeared from Twitter hours later.

O'Neill said he was not the one who removed the picture. "I didn't delete my tweet. My wife did," he wrote Wednesday.

But the damage had already been done. The photo caught the attention of many critics, including actress and activist Alys-

sa Milano.

"You do realize you may be a-symptomatic and give the virus to other people that could potentially kill them," she wrote in a reply to his tweet. "I think that makes you a sociopath. Besides, p-----s are actually so strong that we can deliver human beings out of them. Please, I'm begging you, wear a damn mask."

O'Neill took issue with her characterization, saying, "I do wear a mask, @Alyssa\_Milano ... this attempt at a joke did NOT go over well ..."



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Border collie keeps birds away from aircraft

**WV** CHARLESTON — West Virginia's Yeager Airport said it had no collisions between wildlife and aircraft during the third quarter of the fiscal year and credited its wildlife dog named Hercules.

The information came from a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the airport in Charleston said Wednesday.

Birds are the most common wildlife at the airport. Hercules, a 3-year-old border collie, took on the job in 2018 of harassing wildlife along the runway and taxiways, Yeager said in a statement.

Hercules harassed nearly 900 animals, mostly birds, on the airfield during the third quarter, the statement said.

## Bear family enters occupied Airbnb

**VT** WILMINGTON — The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is asking people who rent properties in bear country to provide information about bears to renters after a bear family entered an occupied Airbnb property in Wilmington.

The renter locked herself in a bedroom on Sunday until police arrived and reported seeing a female bear and two cubs leaving the residence and entering the woods. The woman was escorted to a nearby car, the department said.

The bears had entered the residence through an open sliding door on a second-level deck, the department said. Nothing was disturbed or damaged in the home but two bags of garbage were in the kitchen and a torn bag of trash was found nearby in the woods, officials said.

## Teen pinned underneath golf cart loses her life

**WI** MADISON — A 17-year-old girl has died after she was pinned underneath a golf cart at a campground in Columbia County.

The girl died Wednesday at University Hospital in Madison, three days after she was injured at the Crystal Lake Campground in the Town of West Point, authorities said.

The teen and her mother were thrown from the golf cart Sunday when it rolled down a steep hill to the Crystal Lake shoreline. The golf cart landed on its side, pinning the girl underneath, according to sheriff's officials.

Bystanders were able to get the golf cart off the girl before emergency services arrived, the State Journal reported.

## Fuel truck slams into house after crash

**IA** WATERLOO — A man sleeping inside a Waterloo home escaped injury early Thursday when a fuel tanker truck slammed into the house, authorities said.

Part of a neighborhood was evacuated after the fuel truck hit the home. The truck driver was extricated from the truck and taken to a hospital, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported.

Officials at the scene said the truck driver apparently lost control after hitting a minivan before hitting two parked SUVs in the home's driveway and then slamming into the house.

Authorities said officers responded to a call at a nearby convenience store/fuel facility involving the tanker truck moments before the house was hit.

A person drove a semi cab through a fence and crashed

into trees and when a Kwik Star driver pulling a tanker with more than 7,000 gallons of diesel stopped to check on the crashed cab, the cab driver drove off in the tanker, authorities said.

## Quilt museum plans 19th Amendment exhibit

**KY** PADUCAH — The National Quilt Museum in western Kentucky is planning a special exhibit to commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The exhibit, titled "Women's Right to Vote — Revolution and Evolution," will run from Sept. 1 through Oct. 16, The Paducah Sun reported.

The exhibit was not originally on the museum's agenda, but CEO Frank Bennett said he was excited to add it and worked with the collection's curator, Cindy Smith, who runs the Hastings Pioneer Room museum in Minnesota.

Smith and a group in Hastings put out a national call for quilts themed around the suffragette movement and then chose 36 to mount for the exhibit, Smith said.

The quilts will arrive at the Paducah museum after they are shown in Minnesota.

## Lobster boats get more time to meet standards

**ME** PORTLAND — The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is giving lobster boat builders a few more years to meet low emissions standards.

Administrator Andrew Wheeler made the formal announcement during a visit to Maine on Thursday, the Portland Press Herald reported. The emissions standards became part of the national ma-

rine diesel program in 2008, and large lobster boats were expected to begin using new cleaner engines by 2017.

Boat builders will have an extra two to four years to meet the standards, the newspaper reported. Wheeler said in a statement that the reprieve "gives boat builders and operators flexibility to meet EPA standards during the next several years." He said there aren't enough of the newer model engines available for all users yet.

The lobster industry faces other challenges including trade hostilities with China and recent bait shortages.

## Man sentenced to 5 years in lottery scheme

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — A Jamaican man has been sentenced to five years and six months in federal prison in the U.S. for running a lottery scheme in Florida and his home country.

A federal judge in Jacksonville sentenced Darryl Cleon Forbes, 27, earlier this week, according to court records. The court also ordered Forbes to forfeit \$2.4 million and pay \$1.1 million in restitution.

He pleaded guilty in November to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

From 2015 to 2017, Forbes and others operated a fraudulent sweepstakes scheme, prosecutors said. Forbes and his co-conspirators, posing as FBI and Department of Treasury officials, falsely informed victims in the U.S. that they had won a prize in a sweepstakes and had to pay various fees and taxes to retrieve their prize. The group often targeted the elderly. No victim of the conspiracy ever received a promised prize, investigators said. Forbes and his co-conspirators kept all the money.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Silence will be deafening for Indy 500

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — It's race weekend and the tiny enclave of Speedway looks virtually barren.

The usually colorful campgrounds and parking lots are empty, green grass untouched and white gravel undisturbed. There is no sign of the familiar sweet smells of food staples like turkey legs and deep fried Oreos. The traditional signs welcoming race fans to town are missing, as are the lawn chairs along the berm of Crawfordsvile Road in the shadow of Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The 104th running of the Indianapolis 500 is Sunday, weather permitting. For the surrounding community of Speedway, which bills itself as the racing capital of the world, many residents will be watch-

ing from home and they are filled with sadness.

"It's been one of the most constant things in my life and I look forward to it every year, just the race itself," said Tom Beaudry, a longtime racing vendor who can hear the roar of the engines from his backyard. "I haven't missed one since I was 5. You know, it's bittersweet hearing them running — knowing they are running and knowing you can't go inside."

Inside the historic speedway are grandstands with 232,00 seats now covered in red stickers reading "Do not use." With suites and infield crowds, the race is generally considered the largest single-day sporting event in the world each year with more than 300,000 in attendance.

This weekend, it will be zero.

New speedway owner Roger Penske couldn't wait to show the fans what he'd done to the place after buying it and pouring millions of dollars into renovations this spring. Now the grand reopening has been rescheduled until at least October or more likely May, when the Indy 500 is usually run.

Nearby restaurants, hotels and other small businesses have lost tens of thousands of dollars and the patio parties that are all the rage in Speedway were put off.

IndyCar drivers and team owners don't like the deafening sound of silence, either.

A.J. Foyt, one of three four-time race winners, called the fanless qualifying weekend lonely. Tony Kanaan, the 2013 winner from Brazil who

drives for Foyt, described the unfettered strolls through Gasoline Alley as eerie. Even two-time world champion Fernando Alonso of Spain, who will make his second 500 start from the No. 26 qualifying spot, finds the empty rows of seats discombobulating.

"When you're out there running, you almost have the feeling that you're testing. Most of the guys have done that here," Alonso said. "But that was a very strange feeling for me because it was the first time I've done that here."

Penske moved the race from Memorial Day weekend to late August, believing fans would be able to attend. On Aug. 4, he backtracked and ever since, IMS President Doug Boles has been inundated with hundreds of requests for exceptions.

## NHL playoffs roundup

# Beavillier, Islanders oust Caps, advance to 2nd round

Associated Press

TORONTO — Anthony Beauvillier paid the price for scoring when he absorbed a big hit from Tom Wilson into one of the goalposts. He shook off the pain and returned to the game.

From start to finish, the play on Beauvillier's second goal in Game 5 Thursday night encapsulated the New York Islanders. They have the young speed, skill and talent to make a deep run in the Stanley Cup playoffs and coach Barry Trotz's trademark structure and toughness that makes them a difficult opponent for any team in the NHL.

"When we're playing the right way, you can feel it on the bench," forward Josh Bailey said after eliminating the Washington Capitals with a 4-0 win in Game 5 on Thursday night. "(Beauvillier has) really stepped up his game, been a big leader for us, scored some big goals. ... He's doing a lot of things well. It's a lot of fun to

play with him."

The Islanders are having fun and take some major confidence into the next round after dispatching the Capitals. They'll face the Eastern Conference top-seeded Philadelphia Flyers if they hold on to beat the Montreal Canadiens and the Boston Bruins if they don't.

If New York plays like it did for most of the first round, it'll give either Philadelphia or Boston a major challenge.

"As a team, we always try to say that it's about what we do, so it doesn't matter who we're playing," defenseman Adam Pelech said. "We just try to stick to our game plan and the things that make us successful."

That's team defense from the forwards back to goaltender Semyon Varlamov — the kind of suffocating style that when done correctly can bother even the most talented players on the other side.

"We knew what kind of hockey team they are over there

and how they can be very frustrating to play against," said Capitals Norris Trophy finalist John Carlson, who won the Cup with Trotz in 2018. "We didn't do enough long enough."

That's Trotz hockey, and it works even better with scoring punch to go the other way. In Washington, it was Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom, Evgeny Kuznetsov, T.J. Oshie and Carlson, while in New York it's Beauvillier and Matt Barzal, who combined for five goals in the first round.

"It was a team effort," Trotz said. "There wasn't anybody that you could say, 'This line wasn't really good, this line wasn't really good.' ... You just want to bring your best, and if your best is not good enough and you don't win, you can accept that."

**Stars 7, Flames 3:** At Edmonton, Alberta, Denis Gurianov scored four goals, including a hat trick in the second period when also assisting on the go-ahead score, as Dal-

las rallied from a quick three-goal deficit to beat Calgary and wrap up the first-round playoff series in six games.

Gurinaov had two goals in the first 3:25 of the second period to tie the game at 3, before his helper on Radek Faksa's power play goal about 2½ minutes later pushed the Stars ahead to stay. It was 6-3 after Gurianov's next goal late in their five-goal second period, and he scored on a rebound midway through the third period.

Miro Heiskanen added a goal and three assists for the Stars, while Joe Pavelski had a goal and two assists. Pavelski had a hat trick in Game 4 of this series, which was the first for the franchise since moving to Dallas before the 1993-94 season.

Stars goalie Anton Khudobin stopped the last 34 shots he faced after giving up three goals in Calgary's first seven shots in the first 6:34 of the game — before Dallas even had a shot on goal.



# Timberwolves win top pick in NBA Draft

Associated Press

The NBA Draft lottery was delayed three months. The Minnesota Timberwolves are certainly feeling like the wait was worthwhile.

The Timberwolves won the lottery Thursday night, giving them the No. 1 pick. The lottery was conducted virtually because of the pandemic, with NBA officials doing the actual draw in Secaucus, N.J.

Golden State holds the No. 2 pick, Charlotte got the No. 3 pick and Chicago will pick fourth. The Hornets and Bulls both bucked the odds to move into the upper echelon.

The Timberwolves were 19-45 this season, marking the 14th time in 15 years that they failed to make the playoffs and finished with a losing record. And a month ago, Glen Taylor — who has owned the franchise since 1994 — said he “will entertain” offers for the Timberwolves’ WNBA team, the Minnesota Lynx.

It’ll be Minnesota’s first time holding the No. 1 pick since 2015.

Chicago had a 32% chance of moving into the top four spots, Charlotte about a 26% chance. It leapfrogged four teams that had better top-four odds — Cleveland, Atlanta, Detroit and New York.

For now, the delayed draft — originally set for late June — is scheduled for Oct. 16. The NBA has been hoping for a Dec. 1 start to the 2020-21 season, though Commissioner Adam Silver said on the ESPN telecast of the draft lottery that date now “is feeling a little bit early to me.”

Without fans at games, a major revenue stream is obviously lost for the league and its teams. There have been talks about starting next season with one or multiple bubbles, like the one where the league is playing now at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, but the obvious preference is to have fans returning to games.

“Our No. 1 goal is to get fans back in our arenas,” Silver said on the telecast. “My sense is, in working with the players association, if we could push back even a little longer and increase the likelihood of having fans in arenas, that’s what we would be targeting.”

So not only is it unclear which player is going when — but it’s also unclear when anyone will see their NBA debuts.

Unlike a year ago, when Zion Williamson was clearly going to be the first selection, there is no consensus about the No. 1 pick. Top candidates include Georgia’s Anthony Edwards, Memphis’ James Wiseman and LaMelo Ball — the brother of New Orleans guard Lonzo Ball.

Edwards, a 6-foot-5 guard, averaged 19.1 points in 32 games for Georgia in his lone college season. Wiseman, a 7-foot-1 center, played in only three games for Memphis and averaged 19.7 points before giving up what had been a lengthy

fight with the NCAA over his eligibility. Ball, a 6-foot-7 guard, averaged 17 points in 12 games while playing in Australia’s top pro league this past season.

Cleveland got the fifth pick, followed by Atlanta, Detroit, New York, Washington, Phoenix, San Antonio, Sacramento and New Orleans at No. 13.

Memphis, which had 200-1 odds of winning the No. 1 pick and was 97.6% certain of finishing 14th, ended up in exactly that spot — a pick that will now be conveyed to Boston as part of a trade that happened in 2015. It means the Celtics could have three first-round picks on draft night, barring any moves by Boston beforehand.

The rest of the first-round order, starting with the No. 15 pick and going to No. 30, as of now is: Orlando, Portland, Minnesota, Dallas, Brooklyn, Miami, Philadelphia, Denver, Utah, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City, Boston, New York, the Los Angeles Lakers, Toronto and Boston.

## NBA playoffs roundup

# Lakers bounce back, even series with Blazers at 1

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Anthony Davis had 31 points and 11 rebounds and the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers bounced back from an opening loss to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 111-88 on Thursday night in Game 2 of the first-round Western Conference playoff series.

LeBron James had 10 points, six rebounds, seven assists and six turnovers. He had 23 points, 17 rebounds and a playoff career-high 16 assists in Game 1.

The Trail Blazers stunned the Lakers 100-93 in Game 1, but things went horribly wrong in Game 2. A poor performance got worse when All-Star guard Damian Lillard dislocated the index finger on his left hand in the third quarter. He left the

game for good, and the team said X-rays were negative.

Lillard was held to 18 points after ripping the Lakers for 34 in Game 1.

Davis scored 21 points in the first half to help the Lakers take a 56-39 lead. The Trail Blazers’ high-powered offense shot 35% in the half.

Early in the third quarter, Davis aggressively grabbed a defensive rebound, then fired a long pass to Kentavious Caldwell-Pope for a breakaway jam that gave the Lakers a 63-41 lead.

The Lakers continued to pour it on and led 88-58 after three quarters. Los Angeles led by 32 points in the period.

**Bucks 111, Magic 96:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 20 rebounds and Milwaukee rode a fast start to

beat Orlando and tie the Eastern Conference first-round series at a game apiece.

The Bucks boasted the NBA’s best regular-season record at 56-17, but went 3-5 in the eight seeding games at Disney’s Wide World of Sports and opened the playoffs by losing 122-110 to Orlando.

Milwaukee bounced back Thursday, building a 23-point lead in the first half, though Orlando got the margin down to nine in the fourth quarter.

**Heat 109, Pacers 10:** Duncan Robinson hit his first six shots, all from three-point range, and finished with 24 points to help Miami beat Indiana and take a 2-0 lead in their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Robinson opened the game by making the Heat’s first three

baskets, all threes. He didn’t miss until midway through the third quarter, and Robinson tied the Heat record for threes made in a playoff game with seven. He finished 7-of-8 shooting, all beyond the arc.

Victor Oladipo, who had been questionable with an injured left eye, led Indiana with 22 points.

**Rockets 111, Thunder 98:** James Harden had 21 points and nine assists and Houston made 19 of an NBA-record 56 three-point attempts to beat Oklahoma City for a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference series.

Former Thunder star Russell Westbrook was out for the Rockets again with a right quad strain, but plenty of other Houston players picked up the slack. Danuel House Jr. scored 19 points.

## MLB roundup

# Astros stretch streak to 8

Associated Press

DENVER — Abraham Toro homered in the second of two five-run innings by the Astros and Houston extended its major league-best winning streak to eight games with a 10-8 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Thursday.

Jose Altuve had two hits, including a two-run double that fueled a five-run second inning, when the Astros batted around against German Marquez (2-4). It was Altuve's second straight multihit game since being returned to the No. 2 spot in the batting order after three games in the No. 6 hole following early season struggles.

"He's getting two hits a day since we moved him back into that second spot," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "Everybody here is pulling for Jose every time he goes up there and I'm sure Jose is proud of himself, the way he's battled back, but he's still got a ways to go to get off that interstate."

Ryan McMahon hit two homers for the Rockies, who lost all four games of a home-and-home set against Houston.

**Giants 10, Angels 5:** Mike Trout flinched after yet another high-and-tight fastball from San Francisco reliever Shaun Anderson, prompting a warning from the plate umpire Thursday night in the Giants' 10-5 win over visiting Los Angeles.

Two days earlier in Anaheim, Trout was upset when Anderson twice threw near his head in the ninth inning. After that game, Giants manager Gabe Kapler said he was giving Anderson, a 25-year-old with control issues, some needed work after not pitching for a while.

**Padres 8, Rangers 7 (10):** Eric Hosmer hit a historic shot that made his team the first team in major league history to launch grand slams in four straight games, and host San Diego got an unearned run in the 10th inning to beat Texas.

The Padres swept the four-game, home-and-home series, with a slam in each one.

**Cardinals 5, Reds 4:** Kolten Wong hit an RBI single and St. Louis returned home to Busch Stadium with a rousing rally, scoring three runs in the ninth inning to beat Cincinnati.

The Cardinals played their first home game since July 26. They were idle for 17 days after 10 players tested positive for the virus.

**Indians 2, Pirates 0:** Unbeaten Shane Bieber racked up 11 more strikeouts and visiting Cleveland completed a three-game sweep and extended its winning streak to a season-high six games by beating Pittsburgh.

Bieber (5-0) allowed six hits and walked

none in six innings, throwing 99 pitches. He has struck out a MLB-best 65 in 40<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, an average of 14.4 per nine innings.

**Athletics 5, Diamondbacks 1:** Matt Chapman homered twice and Matt Olson also connected to help Sean Manaea (1-2) finally earn his first victory of 2020 for host Oakland.

Chapman hit a solo drive in the first and a two-run shot in the eighth. Olson added a two-run homer in the fourth for the AL-best A's (18-8).

**Dodgers 6, Mariners 1:** Clayton Kershaw struck out a season-high 11 in seven strong innings and Cody Bellinger homered for the second straight game to lead visiting Los Angeles past Seattle.

Kershaw (3-1) moved past Don Drysdale and into second place on the Dodgers' all-time strikeout list. He now has 2,493 and trails only Don Sutton (2,696).

**Twins 7, Brewers 1:** Jose Berrios pitched one-hit ball over six scoreless innings and Nelson Cruz hit a two-run homer for host Minnesota in its victory over Milwaukee.

Ryan Jeffers drove in a run with a single in his first major league at-bat, going 2-for-3 with a hit by pitch and catching Berrios (2-3).

**Rays 10, Yankees 5:** Tampa Bay completed its first sweep at Yankee Stadium in six years and took over first place in the AL East, getting a three-run homer from Mike Zunino.

Tampa Bay beat the Yankees for the sixth time in seven meetings in the abbreviated 10-game season series.

**White Sox 9, Tigers 0:** Lucas Giolito matched his career high of 13 strikeouts in seven dominant innings, hot-hitting Tim Anderson stroked his fourth homer of the series and host Chicago completed its first four-game sweep of Detroit in 15 years.

Giolito (2-2) allowed three hits and one walk as the White Sox won their fifth straight.

**Red Sox 7, Orioles 1:** Nathan Eovaldi allowed five hits over seven innings, Xander Bogaerts and Mitch Moreland homered and visiting Boston handed Baltimore its fifth straight loss.

Coming off a poor performance against the Yankees, Eovaldi (2-2) was dominant in his longest outing since Aug. 4, 2018. The right-hander struck out six and walked one.

**Blue Jays 3-9, Phillies 2-8:** Rowdy Tellez homered and hit a go-ahead single in a seven-run sixth inning and host Toronto swept a doubleheader from Philadelphia.

In the first of the seven-inning games, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. chopped a single over a drawn-in infield in the seventh.

## Sports briefs

# FedEx Cup: Four share lead at 64

Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Harris English made the difficult look easy Thursday in The Northern Trust, just like he has done all year to even reach this position in the PGA Tour's postseason.

Facing the tough stretch at TPC Boston in the middle of his round, English hit 5-iron on the 11th and 12th holes, both of them to about 8 feet for birdies. He followed with two long birdie putts to run his streak to four, and finished at 7-under 64.

By the end of the opening round, English shared the lead with Kevin Streelman, Cameron Davis of Australia and Russell Henley, who finished with a tap-in eagle.

Good starts were important to so many in the FedEx Cup playoffs, which are as much about advancing as avoiding elimination. The top 70 from the 122-man field (three players have withdrawn) move on to next week for another \$9.5 million event. The goal then is to reach the top 30 for the Tour Championship and its \$15 million prize to the winner.

Tiger Woods opened with a 68 with five birdies over his last 10 holes.

Of the top 11 players who were separated by one shot after the first round, five of them began the week outside the top 70, with Bubba Watson on the bubble at No. 66.

## Clijsters pulls out of tuneup

NEW YORK — Four-time Grand Slam champion Kim Clijsters withdrew from the Western & Southern Open on Friday because of an abdominal injury she wants to rest before the U.S. Open.

The 37-year-old Belgian already is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and came out of retirement this year.

## Washington coach has cancer

Washington Football coach Ron Rivera has a form of skin cancer, which the team called "very treatable and curable" because it was discovered at an early stage.

A team spokesman confirmed Thursday night Rivera was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. The team said Rivera, 58, detected it in a lymph node from a self-care check and that the prognosis is good for him to make a full recovery.