

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump blasts Biden to largely maskless crowd

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump blasted Joe Biden as a hapless career politician who will endanger Americans' safety as he accepted his party's renomination on the South Lawn of the White House. While the coronavirus kills 1,000 Americans each day, Trump defied his own administration's pandemic guidelines to speak for more than an hour Thursday to a tightly packed, largely maskless crowd.

Facing a moment fraught with racial turmoil, economic collapse and a national health emergency, Trump delivered a triumphant, optimistic vision of America's future. But he said that brighter horizon could only be secured if he defeated

his Democratic foe, who has an advantage in most national and battleground state polls.

"We have spent the last four years reversing the damage Joe Biden inflicted over the last 47 years," Trump said, referring to the former senator and vice president's career in Washington.

When Trump finished, a massive fireworks display went off by the Washington Monument, complete with explosions that spelled out "Trump 2020."

His acceptance speech kicked off the final stretch of the campaign, a race now fully joined and, despite the pandemic, soon to begin crisscrossing the country. Trump's pace of travel will pick up to a near daily pace while Biden, who has largely

weathered the pandemic from his Delaware home, announced Thursday that he will soon resume campaign travel.

Teasing once more that a vaccine could arrive soon, the president promised victory over the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 180,000 people in the U.S., left millions unemployed and rewritten the rules of society. And, in the setting for his speech, Trump sought to project a sense of normalcy by throwing caution about the coronavirus aside.

All week long, Republicans at the nonconvention convention tried to create the illusion that the pandemic is largely a thing of the past. The rows of chairs on the South Lawn were inches apart. Protective masks

were not required, and COVID-19 tests were not administered to everyone.

As his speech brought the scaled-back Republican National Convention to a close, Trump's rhetoric risked inflaming a divided nation reeling from a series of calamities, including the pandemic, a hurricane that slammed into the Gulf Coast and nights of protest after Jacob Blake, a Black man, was shot by a white Wisconsin police officer.

The president spoke from a setting that was both familiar and controversial. Despite tradition and regulation to not use the White House for purely political events, a huge stage was set up outside the executive mansion.

## Medal of Honor eyed for fallen NCO who saved lives in Iraq

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is poised to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe, who suffered fatal burns while repeatedly bursting into a burning vehicle in Iraq to save the lives of fellow soldiers.

Cashe's actions "merit award of the Medal of Honor," Defense Secretary Mark Esper said this week in a letter to members of Congress who have taken up his case. That determination means that the award, the nation's highest for valor in combat, has agreement from the Army, leaving final approval to the president.

"The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President," Esper said in the letter, dated Aug. 24. "My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be."

Cashe, 35, of Oviedo, Fla., would be the first African American recipient of the award for combat valor in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has long been seen within the military community as one of the great heroes of the Iraq War, and he was recommended this year as a potential new namesake for one of 10 Army installations named for Confederate military officers who fought to preserve slavery.

The Medal of Honor approval process is considered secretive, with defense officials rarely commenting on a case before approval. Esper sent the letter because there is a five-year time limit to award the Medal of Honor from the date of a service member's heroic actions, and Cashe's occurred nearly 15 years ago, on Oct. 17, 2005.

"Before we can take further action with this nomination, Congress must waive this time limit," Esper wrote. "Once

legislation is enacted authorizing the President of the United States to award, if he so chooses, the Medal of Honor to SFC [Cashe], I will provide my endorsement to the President."

Similar congressional waivers have been granted in other cases, and approving one is not expected to face resistance.

Cashe was deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division in Samarra, Iraq, when his armored Bradley Fighting Vehicle rolled over an improvised explosive device, according to his Silver Star citation. He was slightly injured and drenched in fuel and realized that the armored vehicle's fuel cell had erupted and the vehicle had burst into flames.

Cashe made numerous trips into the vehicle despite suffering burns in the process.

"Without regard for his personal safety, Sergeant First Class Cashe rushed to the back of the vehicle, reaching into the

hot flames and started pulling out his soldiers," the Silver Star citation said. "The flames gripped his fuel soaked uniform. Flames quickly spread all over his body."

Cashe continued to help others even after he was on fire, the citation said. He suffered burns over 72% of his body.

The civilian translator traveling with the soldiers was also killed. Ten soldiers were injured in the incident, seven badly, according to Army accounts of the incident.

Cashe died Nov. 5, 2005, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, which is known for its facility treating burns suffered in combat.

Three other soldiers — Staff Sgt. George Alexander Jr., 34, of Killeen, Texas; Sgt. Michael Robertson, 28, of Houston; and Spec. Darren Howe, 21, of Beatrice, Neb. — died of injuries suffered in the attack.

# Russian navy conducts drills near Alaska

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian navy conducted major war games near Alaska involving dozens of ships and aircraft, the military said Friday, the biggest such drills in the area since Soviet times.

Russia's navy chief, Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, said that more than 50 warships and about 40 aircraft were taking part in the exercise in the Bering Sea, which involved practice missile launches.

"We are holding such massive drills there for the first time ever," Yevmenov said in a

statement released by the Russian Defense Ministry.

Yevmenov emphasized that the war games are part of Russia's efforts to boost its presence in the Arctic region and protect its resources.

"We are building up our forces to ensure the economic development of the region," he said. "We are getting used to the Arctic spaces."

The Russian military has rebuilt and expanded numerous facilities across the polar region in recent years, revamping runways and deploying additional air defense assets. Russia has prioritized boosting its

military presence in the Arctic region, which is believed to hold up to one-quarter of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas. Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited estimates that put the value of Arctic mineral riches at \$30 trillion.

Russia's Pacific Fleet, whose assets were taking part in the maneuvers, said the Omsk nuclear submarine and the Varyag missile cruiser launched cruise missiles at a practice target in the Bering Sea as part of the exercise. The maneuvers also saw Onyx cruise missiles being fired at a practice target in the Gulf of Anadyr from the

coast of the Chukchi Peninsula, it added.

U.S. Northern Command spokesman Bill Lewis noted that the Russian military exercise is taking place in international waters, well outside U.S. territory. But the presence of Russian military assets in the area did cause a stir for U.S. commercial fishing vessels in the Bering Sea on Wednesday.

"We were notified by multiple fishing vessels that were operating out the Bering Sea that they had come across these vessels and were concerned," U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Kip Wadlow said Thursday.

## Pentagon condemns Russian actions in Syria

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday called Russian actions in northeastern Syria "dangerous and unacceptable" two days after U.S. service members were injured during an encounter with Russian troops.

"On Tuesday, Russian forces breached our deconfliction arrangement in Syria and injured U.S. service members with their deliberately provocative and aggressive behavior," Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said Thursday in a statement.

The U.S. service members were conducting a routine security patrol in northeast Syria as part of the Defeat-ISIS Coalition when they encountered a Russian military patrol near Dayrick, John Ullyot, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said Wednesday.

At one point, a Russian vehicle hit an American vehicle, which caused injuries to the crew. CNN reported Wednesday that as many as four U.S. service members suffered "concussion-like injuries."

The coalition patrol left the area after the encounter with Russian forces to avoid escalating the situation, according to a

National Security Council statement. Hoffman praised their actions, which he said were done "through professionalism and restraint, which are hallmarks of the U.S. military."

The Pentagon has told the Russians that "their behavior was dangerous and unacceptable," Hoffman said. "We expect a return to routine and professional deconfliction in Syria and reserve the right to defend our forces vigorously whenever their safety is put at risk."

Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke on the phone Wednesday with his Russian counter-

part Gen. Valery Gerasimov. A Russian Defense Ministry statement said the two generals discussed the incident and that Gerasimov stated their military had notified the U.S.-led coalition about the route of a military police convoy, The Associated Press reported.

"Despite that, in violation of the existing agreements, the U.S. troops attempted to block the Russian patrol," the Russian Defense Ministry said in the statement, the AP reported. "In response to that, the Russian military police took the necessary measures to prevent an incident and to continue the fulfillment of their task."

## US bombers, alliance escorts overfly NATO nations

Stars and Stripes

United States B-52 Stratofortresses and fighter escorts from several nations were expected to overfly all 30 NATO member states Friday as part of a training mission, NATO and the U.S. military said.

The six bombers from the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air

Force Base, N.D., taking part in the daylong exercise, were to be split into two flights. Two of the eight-engine jets were expected to fly over the U.S. and Canada, while the remaining four were expected to cover NATO member states in Europe, a statement said. Those four jets arrived in Europe on Saturday.

At various stages of the event, dubbed "Allied Sky," the bombers were expected to be escorted by about 80 fighter jets from across the alliance, "providing an opportunity to boost Allies' ability to train and operate alongside each other," the NATO statement said.

"Training events like this help ensure that we fulfil our

core mission: to deter aggression, prevent conflict, and preserve peace," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in the statement.

Since 2018, the U.S. has conducted more than 200 Bomber Task Force sorties over Europe, primarily in response to Russia's military resurgence.

## Coast Guard joined by shark while on swim call

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
AND CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Coast Guard swim call in the Pacific Ocean nearly turned into a scene from “Jaws” when a shark tried to join the party, according to harrowing video the service published recently.

The crew had finished their operations somewhere in Oceania on Aug. 21 and had not been off the ship for weeks when they decided to have the swim call, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Kimball said in a Facebook post.

“There were no vessels around for miles, the weather was perfect and we were a zillion miles from land,” the post said. “[We] were at that point where every day feels like ‘Groundhog Day’ and were looking for something to break up the monotony.”

A shark appeared to be happy to spice up the day for the approximately 40 Kimball crew members swimming within 50 yards of the cutter, according

to the post.

The uninvited guest was between 6 and 8 feet long, the Coast Guard said in the caption of a video of the encounter.

It was likely a blue shark or a silky shark, said biologist Gavin Naylor, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research.

The footage shows Petty Officer 1st Class Samuel Cintron, a maritime enforcement specialist aboard the Kimball, shooting at the shark as it circled the cutter and approached the swimmers. The shark briefly turned away after each round of shots but kept circling back.

“Our goal was to keep [the shark] away from shipmates, not harm it, if possible. It was most likely curious and not looking for a meal,” the Facebook post said. “We picked our location to try and avoid such an encounter, but it is their ocean after all.”

Cautiously, the swimmers made their way to a rescue boat as the shark swam nearby. Others climbed a rope ladder hanging off the side of the cutter.

## Judge refuses to release ex-Green Beret before trial

*Associated Press*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal magistrate judge in Virginia refused Thursday to free a former Army Green Beret who was arrested last week on a charge that he divulged U.S. military secrets to Russian intelligence agents.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John Anderson agreed with federal prosecutors that Peter Rafael Dzibinski Debbins, 45, poses a risk to flee if he is released from custody before trial.

Anderson said Justice Department prosecutor Thomas Traxler adequately explained why more than a year elapsed between the start of the investigation and Debbins’ arrest last Friday.

Traxler said investigators had to corroborate details of a confession that he said Debbins

gave when FBI agents questioned him last year. Debbins mistakenly thought he could talk his way out of trouble and has a far greater incentive to flee now that he faces a maximum life sentence if he is convicted, the prosecutor said.

“The defendant has done nothing to earn the court’s trust on this matter,” Traxler said.

Defense attorney David Benowitz said Debbins voluntarily met with authorities eight times since learning about the investigation 13 months ago.

“To say that Mr. Debbins is a risk of flight, it just doesn’t fly in this case,” he said.

Debbins was charged with conspiring to gather or deliver defense information to aid a foreign government. The espionage took place from 1996 to 2011, prosecutors say.

# Storm moves east, leaving devastation across Louisiana

*Associated Press*

LAKE CHARLES, La. — The remnants of Hurricane Laura unleashed heavy rain and twisters hundreds of miles inland from a path of death and mangled buildings along the Gulf Coast, and forecasters warn of new dangers as the tropical weather blows toward the Eastern Seaboard this weekend.

Flooding and more tornadoes were possible Friday as the leftovers of the once fearsome Category 4 hurricane, now a tropical depression, move eastward. Already, an apparent tornado tore through a church and homes in Arkansas. Forecasters said it could become a tropical storm again when it moves off the mid-Atlantic coast.

More than 750,000 homes and businesses were without power in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas in the storm’s wake, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

One of the strongest hurricanes ever to strike the U.S., Laura was blamed for six deaths as it barreled ashore near the Louisiana-Texas state line.

A sense of relief prevailed that Laura was not the annihilating menace forecasters had feared, but a full assessment of the damage could take days.

Entire neighborhoods were submerged and ruined along and near the coast. Twisted sheets of metal and debris, downed trees and power lines littered nearly every street. Caravans of utility trucks were met Friday by thunderstorms in the sizzling heat, complicating recovery efforts.

“It is clear that we did not sustain and suffer the absolute, catastrophic damage that we thought was likely,” Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said. “But we have sustained a tremendous amount of damage.”

Finishing search and rescue efforts was a top priority, Edwards said, followed by efforts to find hotel or motel rooms for those unable to stay in their homes. Officials in Texas and Louisiana both sought to avoid traditional mass shelters to avoid spreading COVID-19.

Edwards called Laura the most powerful hurricane to strike Louisiana, meaning it surpassed even Katrina, which was a Category 3 storm when it hit in 2005.

The hurricane’s top wind speed of 150 mph put it among the strongest systems on record in the U.S. Not until 11 hours after landfall did Laura finally lose hurricane status as it plowed north and thrashed Arkansas. It remained a tropical storm Thursday night, sustaining winds of 40 mph, flooding roads and spawning tornadoes.

Four people were killed by falling trees in Louisiana, including a 14-year-old girl and a 68-year-old man. A 24-year-old man died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator inside his residence. Another man drowned in a boat that sank during the storm, authorities said. No deaths were confirmed in Texas, which Gov. Greg Abbott called “a miracle.”

A lower-than-expected storm surge also helped save lives. Edwards said ocean water rose as much as 12 feet rather than the 20 feet that was predicted.

More than 580,000 coastal residents evacuated despite fears of coronavirus infections. It’s unclear when their journeys might end. There’s no electricity or running water in many places, and the coastal towns of Cameron and Holly Beach were swamped. Restoring essential services could take weeks.

President Donald Trump planned to visit the Gulf Coast this weekend to tour the damage.

# Japan's Abe to resign for health reasons

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has expressed his intention to step down due to his declining health, according to reports Friday by NHK and other Japanese media.

The Prime Minister's Office said the report could not be immediately confirmed, but that Abe was believed to be meeting top ruling officials at the party headquarters. The Liberal Democratic Party spokesman did not answer the phone.

Concerns about Abe's chronic health issues, simmering since

earlier this summer, intensified this month when he visited a Tokyo hospital two weeks in a row for unspecified health checkups.

Abe, whose term ends in September 2021, is expected to stay on until a new party leader is elected and formally approved by the parliament.

He had abruptly resigned from his first stint in office in 2007 due to his health, which was fueling concerns about his recent condition.

Abe on Monday became Japan's longest-serving prime minister by consecutive days

in office, eclipsing the record of Eisaku Sato, his great-uncle, who served 2,798 days from 1964 to 1972. But his second hospital visit Monday eclipsed festivity for his record and has accelerated speculation and political maneuvering toward a post-Abe regime.

Abe has acknowledged having ulcerative colitis since he was a teenager and has said the condition was controlled with treatment. He has not made clear if it is related to his recent health issues or hospital visits.

After his recent hospital visits were reported, top officials

from Abe's Cabinet and the ruling party said Abe was overworked and badly needed rest.

His health concerns added to speculation that Abe's days in office are numbered, when his support ratings are already at their lowest levels due to his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and its severe impact on the economy, on top of a slew of political scandals.

Shigeru Ishiba, a 63-year-old hawkish former defense minister and Abe's archrival, is a favorite next leader in media surveys, though he is less popular within the ruling party.

## Thousands gather on National Mall for equality rally

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Capping a week of protests and outrage over the police shooting of a Black man in Wisconsin, civil rights advocates began highlighting police and vigilante violence against Black Americans at a commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Thousands gathered Friday near the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have A Dream" address, a vision of racial equality that remains elusive for millions of Americans.

And they gathered on the heels of yet another shooting by a white police officer of a Black man — this time, 29-year-old

Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis., last Sunday — sparking days of protests and violence that left two dead.

"I want to give space for Black people in the crowd to say they are not okay," said Jumaane Williams, New York City's public advocate, who addressed march attendees shortly after the program began.

"We are like the nameless grandmothers who got in the streets and said 'We will make you live up to what America says she is,'" Williams said. "We are here. We're not going anywhere."

Early on, the march was shaping up to be the largest political gathering in Washington since the coronavirus pandemic began. Many attendees showed up wearing T-

shirts bearing the image and words of the late Rep. John Lewis who, until his death last month, was the last living speaker at the original March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which went on to become one of the most famous political rallies in U.S. history and one of the largest gatherings at the nation's capital with over 200,000 people advocating for social change.

The thousands of participants that were streaming in for the march late Friday morning stood in lines that stretched for several blocks, as organizers insisted on taking temperatures as part of coronavirus protocols. Organizers reminded attendees to practice social distancing and wear masks throughout the program.

## Protesters hit Calif. streets after Wisconsin shooting

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California demonstrators protesting the shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin by a police officer vandalized buildings and tried to start a fire in downtown Sacramento while others in Los Angeles targeted the home of the city police chief.

The protests Thursday night were expected to be followed Friday with at least three rallies in the San Francisco Bay Area and again in Los Angeles, where a rally and car caravan were planned.

Blake is the 29-year-old Black man who was shot in the back seven times on Sunday by police in Kenosha, Wis., as he pulled away from an officer and leaned into his

SUV, in which three of his children were seated. A family attorney on Tuesday said Blake was paralyzed, and it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again.

The destructive Sacramento march in downtown Sacramento happened after a separate peaceful march ended and involved a crowd of about 150 people, "wearing all dark clothing, helmets, and body armor," the Sacramento Police Department tweeted.

While the chaotic demonstration was underway, police said they received reports of someone trying to light a fire at the district attorney's office plus vandalism that included spray paint and broken windows, the police department said. There was damage at businesses, City Hall and

at other municipal buildings, KCRA-TV reported.

The second rally was promoted on Facebook by a group called Antifa Sacramento, the Sacramento Bee reported.

After the downtown vandalism, the crowd marched to the state Capitol where they were met by a huge force of California Highway Patrol officers, chanted anti-police slogans for a half hour and left, the newspaper said. Police said there were no immediate arrests.

In Los Angeles, protesters showed up at Police Chief Michel Moore's home in a gated community and plastered the house with anti-police posters, KABC-TV reported.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Lawnmower incident ends in fifth DUI charge

**DE** LINCOLN — A Delaware man with a history of drunken driving arrests has been charged with DUI again after allegedly operating a riding lawnmower while intoxicated.

Delaware State Police arrested Ralph J. Cahall, 60, of Greenwood on Tuesday after receiving a report about a person lying along a grassy roadside near a lawnmower.

As troopers were headed to the scene, authorities received another report that the person had been driving the lawnmower on the road and traveling through yards while acting disorderly.

Police say troopers found Cahall leaning against his lawnmower and detected a strong odor of alcohol. Cahall was charged with fifth offense-DUI, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and criminal trespass.

## Woman aimed handgun at census worker

**SC** ORANGEBURG — An 82-year-old South Carolina woman is accused of pointing a handgun at a census worker on her porch and shooting two rounds over the top of the employee's vehicle.

The Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office has charged Willadean Bishop Harrell with first-degree assault and battery, The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reported Wednesday. The charges followed the alleged incident on Tuesday afternoon, when Harrell told a 25-year-old female census taker to get off her porch, pointing a .38-caliber Taurus handgun at her.

Harrell admitted to firing two shots after the census worker got in her car and was backing out of the driveway, according

to an incident report. Harrell said she could not clearly see the census worker's identification badge.

## Police make arrests in dirt bike, ATV crackdown

**PA** ALLENTOWN — Police in Allentown are vowing to continue efforts to rein in illegal use of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles on city streets after making arrests last weekend.

The Morning Call of Allentown said Thursday that seven people were charged and 15 vehicles were seized during the enforcement push on Friday and Saturday. Police say they also found drugs and guns.

Allentown police Capt. John Hill says there have been many complaints about the riders harassing people and damaging other vehicles.

## 23-year-old giraffe, Malaika, dies at zoo

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A giraffe who had lived at the Louisville Zoo since 1997 has died, the zoo announced.

Malaika suffered from musculoskeletal problems that led to stiffness, lameness and difficulty moving, the zoo said Wednesday. When the 23-year-old female Masai giraffe's pain could no longer be controlled, her keepers and veterinarians decided to euthanize her Wednesday, the staff said.

Malaika was born at the Los Angeles Zoo and arrived at the Louisville Zoo in 1997. She gave birth to five bull calves between 2000 and 2012.

Two other Masai giraffes shared the exhibit with Malaika — 4-year-old male Baridi and 3-year-old female Kianga.

Masai giraffes are the largest subspecies of giraffe and the tallest land mammals on Earth, reaching between 15

to 18 feet and 1,800 to 2,600 pounds.

## Fundraiser auctions Tom Hanks' typewriter

**GA** ATLANTA — A human rights organization founded by former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, is taking its annual fundraising event online.

The Carter Center in Atlanta was hosting a virtual, four-day auction that started Wednesday and features an original oil painting by the former president, a vintage Remington typewriter from Tom Hanks' typewriter collection and a photo of Jimmy Carter with former President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, the Carter Center said in a news release. The photo is signed by all three of them.

The bidding runs through Saturday. The winning bidder for Carter's painting will be able to choose from three options: one featuring a branch of mountain laurel, one featuring two Northern Cardinals and one featuring Tahrir Square in Cairo.

## Free app alerts drivers about vehicle recalls

**MI** DETROIT — The U.S. government's road safety agency is offering a smartphone app that will alert drivers if their vehicles are recalled.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration was scheduled to roll out the free app for both Android and Apple phones Thursday.

Owners key in or scan their 17-digit vehicle identification number, and the app will search the agency's database for recalls. If there is one, the app will send an alert, the agency says.

People also can add child

seats, trailers and tires, and the app will check those for recalls.

## School system closes after ransomware attack

**NC** WAYNESVILLE — A North Carolina school system is closed to its students after officials discovered a ransomware attack.

Haywood County Schools closed for the week following an announcement on Wednesday, the Asheville Citizen Times reported Thursday. The system says there will be optional workdays for staff.

School staff discovered the attack on Monday and classes were canceled for the next three days. According to the school system, a third-party attacker asked for ransom in exchange for stopping the attack. System officials said the attack is requiring the school system to rebuild its entire network and technology services.

## Erosion forces removal of section of pavilion

**HI** WAILUKU — Maui County started work to remove a section of an 80-year-old pavilion that is in danger of sliding into the ocean because of erosion.

The county Department of Parks and Recreation announced the temporary closure of Baldwin Beach Park in Paia this week to remove part of the structure, The Maui News reported Wednesday.

County spokesman Brian Perry said about a third of the pavilion would be removed at a cost of \$54,295.

The parks department is developing a Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan, which will include the addition of new pavilions, Perry said.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# 1 by 1, sports shut down in protest

Associated Press

The day was extraordinary, unleashing a movement that played out in real time, stretching across racial and gender lines, sweeping up one sport after another until it seemed as though every professional athlete was screaming in unison.

ENOUGH!

Enough with the killing. Enough with racial injustice. Enough with being a most imperfect union.

No one knows exactly what impact these 24 hours will have in the weeks and months and decades to come, but one thing is certain.

American sports will forever be divided into two distinct eras.

What it was before the 26th of August in the year 2020.

And what it is now.

After yet another act of violence by police against an unarmed Black man, a crescendo of necessary outrage — “good trouble,” John Lewis would’ve called it — ignited across our arenas and stadiums on Wednesday.

The Milwaukee Bucks refused to take the court for their NBA playoff game against the Orlando Magic and were willing to forfeit if that’s what it came to.

It was a staggering gesture by a team with high hopes of winning its first championship in almost a half-century, demonstrating just how much fear and pain and marginalization so many are feeling.

Even if they happen to be star athletes.

The Magic refused to accept the forfeit, showing their solidarity with the Bucks.

Left with no other alternative, the NBA postponed all three playoff games scheduled for Wednesday at its Disney World bubble, where everyone thought the biggest threat to finishing the season was the coronavirus pandemic.

Turns out, we should’ve been paying more attention to the plague of racial injustice, which has stained our nation for all of its 244 years.

“It’s such a terrible situation that we’re going through in this country still, after so many years of this,” said Kyle Kuzma of the Los Angeles Lakers, whose game against the Portland Trail Blazers was scrapped. “It’s kind of depressing.”

Quickly, others were swept up in the moment. The WNBA called off its evening games after the players refused to take the court. Five Major League Soccer games were postponed as well, along with three Major League Baseball games.

There were more postponements on Thursday, including a remarkable scene in New York where both the Mets and the Miami Marlins took the field, observed a 42-second moment of silence in honor of Jackie Robinson, then walked back to their respective dugouts. All they left behind was a “Black Lives Matter” T-shirt covering home plate.

For African American athletes, who have played such an enriching role in our country’s sporting history, the humiliation of being treated as second-class citizens as soon as they change out of their uniforms has reached a boiling point.

“Ending police brutality is more important than sports,” tweeted Cole Tucker of

the Pittsburgh Pirates, a baseball player whose father is African American and mother is white.

A white athlete, soccer player Jeff Lentowicz of Atlanta United, spoke Thursday on the need for athletes in all sports to stick together.

“It does feel like we’re reaching a point that this is enough. There has to be change,” he said. “The point of yesterday is to show we’re all together, we all back each other, and when you do push to make that change, you’re not going to turn around not see anyone behind you. You’re going to see a lot of others behind you.”

Sadly, some less-diverse sports declined to go all-in with the cause.

The NHL, whose players are mostly white, carried on with its postseason despite calls from Black players that games be postponed. Evander Kane says the league needs to send “a clear message that human rights take priority over sports.”

The PGA Tour, which has a similar racial makeup, took the course Thursday for its tournament at Olympia Fields outside Chicago — less than 100 miles from Kenosha, Wis., where Jacob Blake was gunned down in front of his children.

But at least one golfer did make a fashion statement. Cameron Champ, who has a Black father and a white mother, wore two different-colored shoes.

One black. One white.

On the white shoe, he wrote in pen “Jacob Blake BLM.”

Let’s heed the message from our favorite athletes, the ones now trying to guide us to a better place.

ENOUGH!

## Hall of Fame basketball coach Olson dies at age 85

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Lute Olson, the Hall of Fame coach who turned Arizona into a college basketball powerhouse, died Thursday. He was 85.

Olson’s family said he died Thursday evening. The cause of death wasn’t given.

“Coach Olson is the absolute best, one of the greatest coaches ever and one of the greatest human beings ever,” Georgia Tech coach and former Arizona player Josh Pasnter tweeted. “My feelings of gratitude and appreciation cannot be put in words. I love him dearly. My

heart hurts, but I know he is now in heaven. May god bless his family. #RIP”

Olson spent 24 seasons at Arizona, revitalizing a fan base in the desert while transforming a program that had been to the NCAA Tournament just three times in 79 years before he was hired in 1983.

Olson first took the Wildcats to the NCAA Tournament during his second season in Tucson to start a string of 25 straight appearances. The streak would have been the third-longest in NCAA history, but the 1999 and 2008 appearances were later vacated by the NCAA for im-

permissible benefits to players and recruiting violations.

The Wildcats won a national championship under Olson in 1997 with a team led by Mike Bibby, Jason Terry and Miles Simon. Olson’s Arizona teams reached the Final Four four times and lost the 2001 national title game to Duke.

Olson won a school-record 589 games at Arizona, 11 Pac-10 titles and was named the conference coach of the year seven times. He led Arizona to 20 straight 20-win seasons and is one of five coaches in NCAA history with 29 seasons of at least 20 wins.

Olson’s 327 conference victories are most in Pac-10/12 history and he was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2002.

“It’s rare that a man is a Hall of Famer and still under appreciated,” former Arizona and NBA player Richard Jefferson tweeted. “I’ll always feel like you never got the credit you deserved as a leader, family man, grandfather, coach and as a mentor. I love you Coach O.”

Olson had a series of health issues late in his coaching career, leading to his retirement in 2008.

# NHL postpones playoffs for two days

Associated Press

Vegas forward Ryan Reaves was struggling with the decision of whether to sit out the Golden Knights' playoff game to protest racial injustice, when he discovered the players around the NHL had his back.

Reaves woke up Thursday to find a text from Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk, prompting a conversation that helped lead the NHL to postpone four playoff games over two days.

"That, I think, was more powerful than the conversation started with white players on other teams wanting to talk," said Reaves, who is Black. "And I think that's the most powerful thing that happened today. You see us all coming together here."

The NHL is back on pause a month into its playoffs, which followed a 4½-month break caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision to postpone two sets of second-round games Thursday and Friday was prompted by the threat of members of the Golden Knights and Vancouver Canucks preparing to sit out Game 3 of their series, and in the face of withering criticism from Black players accusing the league of being slow to acknowledge the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin.

"After much discussion, NHL players believe that the best course of action would be to take a step back and not play tonight's and tomorrow's games as scheduled," a joint statement released by the league and the NHL Players' Association said. "Black and brown communities continue to face real, painful experiences. The NHL and NHLPA recognize that much work remains to be done before we can play an appropriate role in a discussion centered on diversity, inclusion and social justice."

The announcement came an

hour before the Philadelphia Flyers and New York Islanders were to play Game 3 of their series in Toronto, with Vegas and Vancouver to face off in Edmonton, Alberta, later on Thursday.

The other postponed games were Game 4s on Friday: Boston against Tampa in Toronto, and Dallas against Colorado in Edmonton.

Blake, who is Black, was shot in the back seven times Sunday by police in Kenosha, Wis. The shooting sparked protests, and led to the NHL being questioned for allowing its playoffs to proceed Wednesday, when numerous other leagues — starting with the NBA — postponed games.

Shattenkirk texted Reaves upon learning the Golden Knights were preparing to not play, and was struck by the tough guy's message.

"When we got with them to speak with Ryan Reaves and talk about the issue at hand and how important this is, I think it was something we were fully

behind," Shattenkirk said.

"I think it unified us as a group to realize that any Black player in this league, any Black player who's a kid coming up playing hockey can feel like that they have a voice, can feel that the NHL and the sport itself is a safe place and a place," he added. "They have the support of every single one of us, and that's what we're trying to achieve here is inclusion."

Reaves was impressed by the support, especially coming from a league predominantly made up of white players.

"Most of these guys have never lived through some of the stuff that Black athletes have," he said.

"But for them to say, 'Look, we see what's going on in society and we disagree with it and something has to change now,' that was my message," Reaves said. "Standing together here is more powerful than anything you can do."

## Second day of NBA playoff games halted

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — An unprecedented NBA walkout over racial injustice postponed a second day of the playoffs Thursday, although players pledged to finish the postseason even as they wrestled with their emotions about wanting to bring change in their communities.

For now, the basketball courts in the NBA's virus-free bubble at Disney World remained empty. And other athletes across the sports world also said they weren't ready to resume playing.

They are still angry and emotional after the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wis. NBA players considered not playing again the rest of the postseason and going home to their communities, although they decided Thursday they wanted to continue, according to a person with knowledge of the details. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

"We obviously agree that whether we play or not, we still have to do our best to make change and we still have to do our

part in the community," Orlando guard Michael Carter-Williams said in a video interview with a Magic public relations official.

"It's obviously not easy, given everything that's going on. But I think that if we can go out there and do our best and also have a list of things that we want to accomplish, everything gets completed."

The NBA decided to postpone three more games Thursday to join the three that weren't played a day earlier.

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said the league hoped to resume Friday or Saturday.

The tennis tours had already decided they would pause play Thursday at the Western & Southern Open in New York; a number of NFL teams canceled practices; and the NHL postponed two nights of playoff games. A second night of WNBA games were postponed and other teams and sports pondered whether they would play on.

"This is not a strike. This is not a boycott. This is a affirmatively day of reflection, a day of informed action and mobilization," WNBA players' union president Nneka Ogumike said on ESPN.

At least four MLB games also were postponed.

NBA players agreed to resume their season in July at Disney, making clear they intended to chase social justice reform just as passionately as a championship. But the video of Blake's shooting on Sunday left them so disgusted and dispirited that they wondered whether they should continue.

The players voiced their frustrations in a meeting Wednesday night, then continued talks Thursday morning. As they prepared to do that, NBA referees led a march around campus to show their support in the fight against racism.

Before coming to Disney, many NBA players wrestled for weeks about whether a return to games would take attention off the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months.

They ultimately decided that playing would give them the largest platform — while also providing a target for critics.

President Donald Trump was critical of the league again Thursday, likening them to a 'political organization.'

"That's not a good thing," Trump said.

# MLB has uneven response to injustice

Associated Press

In a typically awkward way, Major League Baseball has been pulled into America's discussion about racial injustice.

Some teams are playing. Some aren't. Two teams walked off the field after the national anthem.

But across the sport, one theme became clear: Baseball shouldn't avoid potentially difficult conversations and decisions regarding social issues. Though the process may be imperfect, there was agreement that coaches, players and teams should speak their mind.

"This is at the forefront now," said Oakland infielder Tony Kemp, who is Black. "By sitting out tonight's game, I feel like it's just a small building block of what we want to see. These couple days are historic times in sports. One day our kids are going to look back and ask us what was going on and what did

we do to help bring awareness to these issues in the world and we're going to say, 'One game we just decided not to play.'"

Oakland's game at Texas was among seven that were postponed by Thursday evening, along with Philadelphia at Washington, Baltimore at Tampa Bay, Minnesota at Detroit, Colorado at Arizona and Boston at the Blue Jays in Buffalo, N.Y. Some games were played as scheduled.

The New York Mets and Miami Marlins jointly walked off the field after a moment of silence, draping a Black Lives Matter T-shirt across home plate as they chose not to start their scheduled game Thursday night.

The national anthem was played and all players and coaches stood.

Mets outfielder Dominic Smith — a Black man who wept Wednesday night while discussing the shooting by police

of a Black man in Wisconsin over the weekend — then led New York onto the field. Players took their positions, then reserves and coaches filed out of both dugouts and stood silently for 42 seconds. The game was then postponed.

Without much apparent guidance from MLB, teams were left to make decisions for themselves. Some games were officially postponed a few hours before the scheduled start time. Others, like Colorado-Arizona, appeared to be on schedule until a few minutes before first pitch.

St. Louis Cardinals ace Jack Flaherty was frustrated there wasn't a more unified response. Baseball has sometimes lagged behind its pro sports counterparts in addressing social issues.

"It's tough because yesterday would have been the day for league-wide action, and it wasn't able to happen league-

wide yesterday," Flaherty said. "Hopefully it could happen today, but it doesn't seem like it's going to be able to happen today."

The decisions not to play Thursday night came a day after three MLB games were postponed in response to the shooting of 29-year-old Jacob Blake.

The Phillies met Thursday about 5½ hours ahead of the scheduled start of the game at Nationals Park. After 30 to 40 minutes of discussion, the players decided to not play. Phillies manager Joe Girardi passed that along in a phone call to Nationals counterpart Dave Martinez, who said the Nationals would join their opponents in sitting out.

Baseball has dealt with a slow decline in the number of Black players for decades. In recent seasons, the percentage of Black players has hovered around 8%.

## MLB roundup

### Marmolejos' grand slam helps Mariners earn split

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Rookie Jose Marmolejos hit his first grand slam and Shed Long Jr. also connected in the six-run first inning that carried the Seattle Mariners to an 8-3 victory against the San Diego Padres and a split of Thursday's doubleheader.

The Mariners took two of three from the Padres, who got three home runs in the doubleheader from red-hot Manny Machado.

In the first game, Wil Myers hit a game-ending three-run homer to cap a seven-run rally with two outs in the seventh inning and give the Padres a 10-7 win. Machado had two homers among his three hits and drove in four runs.

The Mariners jumped all over Garrett Richards (1-2) in the first. Marmolejos, added as

the "29th" player for the doubleheader, hit his grand slam with one out and Long connected with two outs to give Seattle a 6-0 lead and chase Richards. It was Marmolejos' third and Long's second.

Machado homered in the bottom of the first off Yusei Kikuchi (1-2), his 11th. The Padres continued to cut into the lead on Jurickson Profar's RBI single and Trent Grisham's RBI single. That scored Jorge Mateo, aboard on his first career hit, a ground-rule double.

In the first game, San Diego rallied from a 7-3 deficit to stun the Mariners.

Seattle's Taylor Williams (0-1) took the loss. Pierce Johnson (3-1) got the win.

**Dodgers 7-2, Giants 0-0:** Clayton Kershaw pitched six scoreless innings, leading visiting Los Angeles past San

Francisco in Game 1 of a doubleheader shutout sweep.

Joc Pederson homered and Will Smith added an RBI double as the Dodgers won the nightcap. They used relievers and didn't allow a baserunner until Brandon Belt's leadoff single in the fifth — San Francisco's lone hit until Belt singled again in the seventh.

The Dodgers recorded two shutouts in a day for the first time since Sept. 19, 1971, against Atlanta. Those scores were 12-0 and 4-0.

**Pirates 4-2, Cardinals 3-0:** Erik Gonzalez and Adam Frazier singled in runs, rookie Cody Ponce earned his first big league victory and visiting Pittsburgh beat St. Louis for a doubleheader sweep.

Cole Tucker drove in the go-ahead run in extra innings in the Pirates' 4-3 win in the

opener.

Ponce (1-1) made his first major league start and went 5 2/3 innings, holding the Cardinals scoreless and scattering five hits. Nick Turley pitched the seventh to record his first save in the majors.

**Reds 6-6, Brewers 1-0:** Wade Miley allowed one hit over four scoreless innings to help visiting Cincinnati to a win in the nightcap and a doubleheader sweep of Milwaukee.

Miley allowed only a leadoff single in the third, striking out three and walking one, with a hit batter.

Nick Castellanos and Jesse Winker, who combined for three homers, six hits and five RBIs in the 6-1 victory in the opener, had consecutive RBI doubles in the fifth inning off Freddy Peralta to put the Reds up 4-0.