

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## 1 Marine dead, 8 missing in accident off Calif. coast

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — One Marine died, two are injured and eight others are missing at sea after a training accident in an assault amphibious vehicle off the coast of southern California, the Marine Corps said Friday.

The accident happened late Thursday afternoon near San Clemente Island, when Marines reported the vehicle was taking on water, the service said in a statement. The injured Marines were taken to a local hospital, where they are in critical condition, the statement said.

Fifteen Marines, all assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and one sailor were on the assault amphibious vehicle, which is used for storming beaches. They were part of a routine training exercise with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group when the accident occurred. The 15th MEU is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Five other Marines were rescued. Search and rescue efforts, supported by the Navy and Coast Guard, are underway for the remaining eight missing service members, Marines said.

The USS San Diego and USS Somerset, amphibious transport dock ships that carry assault amphibious vehicles in the well deck, are part of the search. According to images posted online by 15th MEU, Marines from Battalion Landing Team 1/4 embarked onto the ships Saturday to conduct “training to increase Navy-Marine Corps interoperability in the eastern Pacific.”

“We are deeply saddened by this tragic incident,” said Col. Christopher Bronzi, commander of the 15th MEU. “I ask that you keep our Marines, sailors, and their families in your prayers as we continue our search.”

The name of the Marine who died will be withheld for 24 hours, pending notification of next of kin.

Assisting in the search for the missing are the USS John Finn, three U.S. Navy MH-60 helicopters, Coast Guard ships and helicopters, and multiple small boats from the USS Makin Island, USS Somerset and USS San Diego.

San Clemente Island is located about 70 miles west of San Diego and hosts communications equipment overseen by the Navy for managing air space, ranges, and operating areas, according to the official website for Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, San Diego. There are more than a dozen ranges and operational areas within a 60-mile radius of the island, according to the website.

A Marine Expeditionary Unit is comprised of about 2,200 Marines and sailors and broken out into four elements. Its Ground Combat Element has about 1,200 and includes a battalion landing team that consists of light armored reconnaissance vehicles, artillery, and assault amphibian vehicles, according to the 15th MEU official website.

There have been other accidents during training involving Marines from Camp Pendleton during recent years.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Braica, 29, a critical skills operator with 1st Marine Raider Battalion, died April 14, 2019 when the MRZR tactical vehicle that he was driving rolled over during a unit training exercise.

About a month later on May 9, 1st Lt. Hugh McDowell, 24, died and six other Marines from 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion were injured when their light armored vehicle rolled over during training at Camp Pendleton, Military.com reported.

Sgt. Wesley Rice, 27, died Jan. 14, 2011 when the assault amphibious vehicle that he was in went under water at Camp Pendleton during driver training exercises, The San Diego Union Tribune reported. Five other Marines were able to escape.

Stars and Stripes staff writer John Vandiver contributed to this story.

## Military seeing lower virus rate than public

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON—The rate of positive coronavirus cases in the military is slightly lower than the American average in all age groups except for troops between the ages of 18 and 24, according to Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs.

“We believe that the slightly increased confirmed case rate in that age group is a result of the success of [Air Force Maj. Gen. Lee] Payne and his testing task force. And the services in allowing us to test at the entry to basic training, at the exit to basic training, and at many other points in an active-duty service member’s career,” Friedrichs said Thursday during a Pentagon briefing about coronavirus response efforts.

He did not provide the actual rates of cases in each age group during the briefing.

Another reason why they might be testing positive at a greater rate is because 18- to 24-year-olds make up the largest age group of service members, Friedrichs said, and they are more likely to be tested across the Defense Department’s tiered testing system.

Friedrichs said he believes that in general the growth in cases is not higher in part because service members are adhering to the health protection measures such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

The military has had 26,408 cases of the coronavirus as of Wednesday, according to the Defense Department. The Army has the most cases of the service branches with 8,878 soldiers contracting the illness.

The military population has had a 5.3% positive rate of the coronavirus during the past several weeks even with the increase in testing, according to Payne, who is the assistant director for combat support at the Defense Health Agency. The rate is lower than the 8.6% positive coronavirus rate of the general population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# Guillen's family demands action, reform

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The 16-year-old sister of a slain Army specialist took the stage in front of 100 people on the National Mall in Washington on Thursday and fervently demanded Congress pass reforms to prevent more deaths.

"This has to stop," Lupe Guillen said. "Fort Hood should be held accountable. Their leadership has to be held accountable. They signed to protect and respect every soldier, but they didn't protect my sister, they didn't respect my sister."

Spc. Vanessa Guillen, a 20-year-old small arms repairer stationed at Fort Hood, was killed by another soldier April 22. She was reported missing

in late April, and her remains were found more than two months later about 20 miles from the base. Guillen's family has said that she faced sexual harassment on base but was too afraid to report it.

"My sister didn't report it," Lupe Guillen screamed to the crowd Thursday. "Why? Because she was afraid to. She was afraid of retaliation."

Guillen's family, along with their attorney, Natalie Khawam, gathered outside the Capitol on the National Mall to announce the #IamVanessaGuillen bill. The measure would allow service members to file claims of sexual harassment and assault to a third-party agency, rather than through the chain of command, Khawam said.

Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas,

attended the rally in support of the family, as did dozens of other people from as far as Texas and California. Following speeches from Lupe Guillen and Vanessa Guillen's mother, Gloria, the crowd marched to the White House. The Guillen family met with President Donald Trump on Thursday afternoon to present him with their bill.

"I'm grateful for the president to be hearing me," Lupe Guillen said.

The family met with Trump in the Oval Office for about 30 minutes Thursday afternoon, and Gloria Guillen, crying, spoke to him using a translator.

"She wants your help to bring justice for what happened to her daughter," the translator told Trump.

Trump responded: "It hit me

very hard. I saw what happened to your daughter Vanessa, who was a spectacular person. I invited you to the White House. ... We didn't want to have this swept under the rug, which could happen."

Trump said the family had his support.

"This was a very horrific situation," Trump said. "It impacted me. So we're going to get to the bottom of it."

In addition to announcing new legislation, the Guillen family again demanded a congressional investigation into Vanessa's death. As the family was speaking to the crowd in Washington on Thursday, the Army announced they would launch an independent review of Fort Hood.

## Three-day cease-fire begins in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban and Afghan government forces began a three-day cease-fire Friday, pausing violence that's persisted since the U.S. signed a peace deal with the insurgents earlier this year.

Both sides agreed not to conduct offensive operations to mark the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha but would fight back if they were attacked, they said.

Violence has "stayed well above historic norms" in recent months, with the Taliban attacking government forces in a bid to push Kabul past its breaking point, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report Friday.

The group perceives the bloodshed to be "within bounds" of the U.S.-Taliban

agreement, "probably to encourage a U.S. troop withdrawal and set favorable conditions for a post-withdrawal Afghanistan," a Defense Department assessment referenced in SIGAR's report said.

More than 3,500 government forces have been killed since the U.S.-Taliban deal was inked on Feb. 29 in Qatar, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Tuesday. No American troops in Afghanistan have been killed in combat during that time.

The cease-fire that began Friday was first announced by the Taliban and quickly welcomed by the government. It follows a similar three-day truce in May.

In a tweet Wednesday, U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad welcomed the latest pause in bloodshed, saying "our hope is this Eid brings all Afghans together in understanding & mutual respect and one step closer to a sustainable peace."

## Trump nominee's hearing pulled after Islam remarks

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee abruptly canceled a confirmation hearing Thursday on a controversial former general's nomination to a top Pentagon post after a furor over offensive remarks he made about Islam and other inflammatory comments.

The nomination of retired Army Brig. Gen. Anthony Tata to be the Pentagon's under secretary for policy was already under fire from Senate Democrats, who sent a letter to him this week calling for him to withdraw. Tata, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump and a Fox News commentator, has been working in the department as a senior adviser.

It wasn't clear Thursday if his nomination would be withdrawn.

According to media reports, Tata posted tweets in 2018 calling Islam the "most oppressive violent religion I know of," and

he called former President Barack Obama a "terrorist leader," and referred to him as Muslim. The tweets were later taken down.

The Senate Armed Services Committee chair, Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., announced the hearing's cancellation shortly before it was scheduled to start.

"There are many Democrats and Republicans who didn't know enough about Anthony Tata to consider him for a very significant position at this time," Inhofe said. He said the panel didn't get required documents from Tata until Thursday. "As I told the president last night, we're simply out of time with the August recess coming, so it wouldn't serve any useful purpose to have a hearing at this point, and he agreed."

Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesperson, told reporters that Tata continues to work as an adviser to Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

# Fauci: Virus vaccine possible next year

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — With the coronavirus death toll soaring in the United States, three of the Trump administration's top health officials — Infectious-disease expert Anthony Fauci, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield and Brett Giroir of the Department of Health and Human Services — were pressed Friday morning by a Democrat-led House panel about the ongoing crisis.

In opening remarks, Fauci, the federal government's top infectious-disease specialist, again said he was "cautiously optimistic" that a safe and effective vaccine is possible this year.

"We hope that as the time we get into the late fall and early winter we will have, in fact, a vaccine that we can say would be safe and effective," the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said. "One can

never guarantee the safety or effectiveness unless you do the trial, but we are cautiously optimistic."

The Phase 3 trial just launched for a vaccine candidate being developed by biotech company Moderna in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health. Fauci said that as of Thursday night, 250,000 people have volunteered to take part in the clinical trials.

Under questioning, Fauci said no corners were being

cut in developing the vaccine at this speed and that a goal of early next year is "realistic."

To some people, he said, "it seems like it is so fast that there might be compromising of safety and efficacy — that is absolutely not the case."

Scientists were able to move quickly compared to past vaccine development, he said, because "of very different technology" and because of the way the human body responds to this virus.

## Demos reject offer to extend jobless benefit

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — With aid expiring, the White House offered a short-term extension Thursday of a \$600 weekly unemployment benefit that has helped keep families and the economy afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Democrats rejected it, saying President Donald Trump's team failed to grasp the severity of the crisis.

Democratic leaders panned the idea in late-night talks at the Capitol, opting to keep the pressure on for a more sweeping bill that would deliver aid to state and local governments, help for the poor and funding for schools and colleges to address the pandemic. Without action, the benefit was expected to run out Friday.

"They want to do one small thing that

won't solve the problem," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer after meeting with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

"We have to have a bill, but they just don't realize how big it has to be," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Republicans have been fighting to trim back the \$600 jobless benefit in the next coronavirus package, but their resolve weakened with the looming expiration of the popular benefit — and as Trump indicated that he supports keeping the full \$600 benefit for now.

"We want a temporary extension of enhanced unemployment benefits," Trump said at the White House. "This will provide

a critical bridge for Americans who lost their jobs to the pandemic through no fault of their own."

He added: "It has to be substantial."

During the two-hour meeting at the Capitol, Trump's team offered a weeklong extension. But Democrats have so far rejected a piecemeal approach, saying the next relief bill needs to move as a complete package. The sides agreed to talk again Friday and into the weekend.

"On certain issues we made progress. On certain issues we're still very far apart," Mnuchin said after the two-hour meeting in Pelosi's office. "The speaker and Sen. Schumer said — and we feel the same way — that it is our objective to try to reach an agreement that's good for the American people."

## Bahamas braces as Hurricane Isaias approaches

*Associated Press*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — New Hurricane Isaias kept on a path early Friday expected to take it to the U.S. East Coast by the weekend as it approached the Bahamas, parts of which are still recovering from the devastation of last year's Hurricane Dorian.

Isaias had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph Friday morning and was centered about 15 miles south-southwest of Great Inagua Island in the Bahamas, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It was moving northwest at 17 mph.

It was forecast to pass over the southeastern Bahamas early Friday, be near the central Bahamas late Friday and move near or over the northwestern Bahamas and near South Florida on Saturday.

On Thursday while still a tropical storm, Isaias knocked out power, toppled trees and caused widespread flooding and small landslides in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, where at least 35 people were rescued from floodwaters and one person remained missing. Hundreds of thousands of people in Puerto Rico were left

without power and water.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the northwestern Bahamas, including Andros Island, New Providence, Eleuthera, Abaco Islands, Berry Islands, Grand Bahama and Bimini.

Two of those islands, Abaco and Grand Bahama, were battered by Dorian, a Category 5 storm that hovered over the area for two days and killed at least 70 people, with more than 280 reported missing. People are still living in tents on both islands, and officials said crews were trying to remove leftover

debris ahead of Isaias.

Prime Minister Hubert Minnis announced late Thursday that he was relaxing a coronavirus lockdown as a result of the impending storm, but said a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew would be implemented starting Friday. He said supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations and hardware stores would be allowed to be open as long as weather permitted.

"These are especially difficult days," he said during an online news conference. "We need at this time the spirit of love and unity."

# Oregon police try to tamp down protests

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon police took over protecting a federal courthouse in Portland that's been a target of violent protests as local authorities try to tamp down demonstrations that have wracked the city every night for more than two months following the killing of George Floyd.

Having state and local officers step up their presence was part of a deal between the Democratic governor and the Trump administration that aimed to draw down the number of U.S. agents on hand during the unrest.

Portland police cleared out a park Thursday morning across from the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse that demonstrators have used as a staging ground but reopened the park shortly before dark. By 10:30 p.m., hundreds of people had gathered and were listening to speeches in front of the Justice Center, a building that is one block over from the courthouse and houses city and county law enforcement offices. There was no sign of state troopers or local police, and the crowd remained peaceful.

Under the deal announced by Gov. Kate Brown, federal agents sent by President

Donald Trump were to begin a phased withdrawal, with Oregon State Police taking over outside the building. But federal officials insist agents wouldn't leave the city completely but be on standby in case they're needed.

Trump said in a tweet that U.S. officers would stay in Portland until the violence was under control.

In preparation for the handover, state troopers, the local sheriff and Portland police met and agreed not to use tear gas except in cases where there's a danger of serious injury or death, Mayor Ted Wheeler said.

# Trump rebuked for floating possible election delay

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump repeatedly tests the Republican Party's limits on issues including race, trade and immigration. Now he has struck a boundary.

GOP officials from New Hampshire to Mississippi to Iowa quickly pushed back against Trump's suggestion on Thursday that it might be necessary to delay the November election — which he cannot do without congressional approval — because of the unfounded threat of voter fraud. They reassured voters that the election would proceed on the constitutionally mandated day as it has for more than two centuries.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley was especially blunt: "All I can say is, it doesn't matter

what one individual in this country says. We still are a country based on the rule of law, and we want to follow the law."

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu vowed his state would hold its November elections as scheduled: "End of story." Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who leads the House Republican Conference, said, "The resistance to this idea among Republicans is overwhelming."

The top Republicans in the House and Senate, who have spent the past four years championing Trump in Congress, also distanced themselves from the notion of a delayed election.

It was a rare rebuke for Trump from his fellow Republicans but one that might not last. There was little conservative op-

position to Trump's broader push to raise questions about the legitimacy of the Nov. 3 election, including his suggestion later Thursday that a delayed result because of mail-in ballots would be a sign of fraud.

The simple reality remains that Republicans up and down the ballot this fall need Trump's fervent base on their side to have any chance of winning.

The dynamic has forced Trump-backed politicians to walk a delicate balance as they condemn the president's most erratic behavior and ideas while trying not to upset his die-hard loyalists. At the same time, many Republican leaders are struggling under the weight of health, economic and social crises that the Trump administration has failed to contain.

# At Lewis funeral, Obama warns of threats to voting

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Former President Barack Obama used Rep. John Lewis' funeral Thursday to issue a stark warning that the voting rights and equal opportunity the late civil rights icon championed are threatened heading into the 2020 election.

Speaking from the pulpit of the church that Martin Luther King Jr. once led, Obama did not mention President Donald Trump. But the first Black president drew unmistakable contrasts with his successor, and he implicitly lambasted how Trump has handled voting procedures and ongoing civil unrest amid a national reckoning over systemic racism.

Obama called on Congress to renew the Voting Rights Act, which Trump and Republican congressional leaders have left unchanged since the Supreme Court di-

minished the landmark law in 2012.

"You want to honor John? Let's honor him by revitalizing the law that he was willing to die for," Obama said, arguing that the bipartisan praise for the Georgia congressman since his death isn't enough.

Obama endorsed ending the Senate filibuster if that is what's needed to pass an overhauled voting law. He called the procedural hurdle that effectively requires 60 votes to pass major legislation a "Jim Crow relic," referring to the segregation era.

The Democratic-led House has adopted a sweeping rewrite of the Voting Rights Act, now named for Lewis. It faces opposition in the Republican-led Senate and likely couldn't get 60 votes even if Democrats reclaim a narrow majority after the November elections.

Specifically, Obama called for all Americans being registered to vote automati-

cally, restoring voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences, expanding early voting, ending partisan gerrymandering of districts and making Election Day a national holiday.

Obama noted that the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its renewals drew Republican and Democratic votes in Congress and were signed by presidents from both parties. Obama singled out former President George W. Bush, a Republican, who also spoke Thursday at Ebenezer Baptist Church near downtown Atlanta.

Still, Obama said, "There are those in power doing their darnedest to discourage people from voting by closing polling locations and targeting minorities and students with restrictive ID laws ... even undermining the Postal Service in an election that's going to be dependent on mail-in ballots."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Governor to take part in bus drag race

**NH** CONCORD — Republican Gov. Chris Sununu is set to race a school bus against the head of state's lottery at a drag strip in New Hampshire this weekend.

Sununu will battle New Hampshire Lottery Executive Director Charlie McIntyre on Saturday night at the NH Lottery Educational Cup Challenge. It will take place at the quarter-mile drag strip located in Epping.

The fourth annual event aims to raise awareness for the more than \$2 billion generated by the lottery for education since 1964. The 2020 teacher of the year, Kimberly Piper-Stoddard, will also be racing.

## Group breaks into lighthouse for view

**NC** HARKERS ISLAND — The National Park Service says that a group of young people broke into a lighthouse on North Carolina's southern Outer Banks seemingly for the view.

The Charlotte Observer reports that the alleged break-in occurred early Monday morning at the historic Cape Lookout Lighthouse.

Authorities said that the five suspects "in their late teens or early twenties" reached the island by boat. They then crept up to the lighthouse door and used tools to get inside.

"Seems they were looking to break in for the view," Cape Lookout Public Information Officer B.G. Horvat told McClatchy News. "Yes, they did make it to the top."

Horvat said they "admitted their guilt" and were issued citations. Nothing was damaged or taken.

## Train crash causes bridge collapse, fire

**AZ** TEMPE — A freight train traveling on a bridge that spans a lake in a Phoenix suburb derailed Wednesday, setting the bridge ablaze and partially collapsing the structure, officials said.

Video images showed huge flames and thick black smoke rising into the air and train cars on the ground near the lake.

None of the train's crew members were hurt but there was a report of someone suffering from smoke inhalation, said Tim McMahan, a spokesman for Union Pacific Railroad.

## Buffalo Soldiers museum vandalized

**TX** HOUSTON — A museum in Houston honoring the nation's Black Buffalo Soldiers was vandalized with graffiti, including with a symbol that appears to be a swastika, according to the facility.

Residents who live near the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum discovered the vandalism, according to a police report filed Tuesday.

The incident happened either Monday or Tuesday. The museum has been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The museum was spray-painted with what appears to be a swastika symbol and a statement that seems to read "Sucks Democratic Party," according to a Facebook post by Desmond Bertrand-Pitts, the museum's CEO.

## Amusement park plans to reopen

**VA** WILLIAMSBURG — The Virginia amusement park Busch Gardens Williamsburg says it plans to

reopen in early August.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported Wednesday that the park's parent company did not provide details on exactly when the reopening would be. The park is owned by SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.

"The company expects its Busch Gardens theme park in Virginia to commence a phased reopening in early August 2020," the company said in a news release.

## Police: Man dies trying to save 3 in rip current

**RI** BRISTOL — A Rhode Island man apparently drowned after jumping into the water to save three teenagers caught in a rip current, police said.

Hoen Chin, 56, of Providence, was visiting Bristol with family and friends on Wednesday, Bristol police Capt. Brian Burke said in a statement.

Chin entered the water at about 2:30 p.m. when two 13-year-old youths and one 14-year-old got caught in the rip current, police said.

Chin was swept under the water and wasn't found for five to 10 minutes, according to police.

He was pulled from the water by a bystander. The teens made it to shore safely.

Chin was taken to Rhode Island Hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

## Inmates thanked for saving injured deputy

**GA** LAWRENCEVILLE — A Georgia sheriff's office is thanking a group of inmates credited with rescuing a deputy who collapsed and suffered a head injury while supervising a jail housing unit.

The Gwinnett County deputy

was patrolling the unit when the inmates noticed he did not appear to be feeling well, according to an account the sheriff's office posted to social media Tuesday.

The inmates "kept an eye on him" as he returned to the deputy desk before witnessing him lose consciousness and hit the concrete floor, splitting his head open, according to the post.

A group of inmates then began pounding on their housing unit doors and shouting the deputy's name to try and wake him, the office said.

The sounds woke the deputy, who managed to get up and open the cell doors before collapsing again. Three inmates rushed to help the heavily bleeding deputy and use his radio to call for aid.

"We are deeply appreciative to these three inmates for the courage, determination and kindness they displayed when they came to the rescue of our deputy," the sheriff's office said, adding: "They didn't hesitate." The deputy survived and was recovering at home, officials said.

## Girl treated after she is attacked by fox

**NJ** LIVINGSTON — An 8-year-old was treated at a hospital after she was attacked by a fox in central New Jersey, police said.

The attack took place Wednesday afternoon outside the child's home on Springbrook Road.

The girl was playing near a shed when the fox attacked, Detective Lt. Chris Reinhardt told NJ.com. She sustained "small puncture wounds" on her shins and foot, Reinhardt said.

A neighbor chased the animal away.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Players, coaches kneel prior to NBA restart

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Black players were next to white players. Coaches from one team were next to their compatriots from the opposing side. Many locked arms with the man next to them, some shut their eyes tightly, a few including LeBron James briefly raising a fist into the air or pointing skyward.

The NBA had a strong, powerful reopening night message.

When it comes to demanding change, the league stands united — and Thursday, the four teams that played on the first night of the league's restart showed that by not standing.

They were unprecedented images for the league in unprecedented times: The Utah Jazz and New Orleans Pelicans knelt alongside one another during “The Star-Spangled Banner,” their way of joining the chorus of those demanding racial justice and equality in society. In the second game Thursday, James’ Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles

Clippers did the same thing during the anthem preceding their matchup.

“Tonight we witnessed sober, powerfully moving and heartfelt demonstrations by our players of their commitment to the pursuit of justice,” National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts tweeted. “Very proud.”

The NBA has a rule that dates to the early 1980s decreeing that players must stand for the national anthem, and Commissioner Adam Silver quickly announced that the policy is being adjusted. The anthems were pre-recorded: Jon Batiste performed the one before Pelicans-Jazz, the Compton Kidz Club had the task before Clippers-Lakers.

“I respect our teams’ unified act of peaceful protest for social justice and under these unique circumstances will not enforce our long-standing rule requiring standing during the playing of our national anthem,” said Silver, who watched from a plexiglass-enclosed suite be-

cause he has not been quarantined and therefore cannot be around players and coaches who are living inside the NBA’s so-called bubble at Walt Disney World.

The coaches, first New Orleans’ Alvin Gentry and Utah’s Quin Snyder and then the Lakers’ Frank Vogel and the Clippers’ Doc Rivers, were next to one another, their arms locked together. The scenes, which occurred with the teams lined up along the sideline nearest where “Black Lives Matter” was painted onto the court, were the first of what is expected to be many silent game-day statements by players and coaches who will kneel to call attention to many issues — foremost among them, police brutality following the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months.

James said he took a knee with Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco quarterback who began kneeling during anthems in 2016 — a protest against oppression, he called it

— in mind.

“I hope we made Kap proud,” James said. “Hope we continue to make Kap proud.”

Even the game referees took a knee during the pregame scene.

“I think it’s critical that all of us, in a unified way, turn attention to social justice,” Snyder said during a televised in-game interview. “And all the players, all the coaches, are united in that fact and committed to do what we can do to effect long-term change.”

Many players warmed up wearing shirts that said “Black Lives Matter.” Thursday also marked the debut of new jerseys bearing messages that many players chose to have added, such as “Equality” and “Peace.”

The NBA season was suspended when Rudy Gobert — who also scored the first basket of the restarted season — of the Jazz tested positive for the coronavirus and became the first player in the league with such a diagnosis.

## NBA roundup

# James’ layup lifts Lakers past rival Clippers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers showed some rust.

They knocked it off with time to spare.

Anthony Davis scored 34 points, James had the go-ahead basket with 12.8 seconds left and the Lakers moved closer to clinching the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs by topping the Los Angeles Clippers 103-101 on Thursday night in the second game of the NBA’s reopening doubleheader.

James had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists to help the Lakers move 6½ games ahead of the Clippers in the West with seven games remaining. Kyle Kuzma added 16 points.

“It felt like a real game to me, two teams battling ... Can’t complain for the first game,” Davis said.

Paul George had 30 points and Kawhi Leonard scored 28 for the Clippers, who

had an 11-point lead midway through the third in a game with deep ebbs and flows. The Clippers got that lead after a 26-5 run; the Lakers immediately rebutted with a 36-14 run to reclaim control.

And it still came down to the final moments.

George’s three-pointer with 1:50 left cut the Lakers’ lead to 99-98. James muscled his way to a layup on the next possession, and then George hit another three to tie the game at 101 with 29 seconds remaining.

James followed his own miss down the lane for the go-ahead basket, then was brilliant on the last defensive possession — forcing the ball out of Leonard’s hands and covering George as his three-point try at the buzzer misfired.

“We can’t have self-inflicted wounds and I thought we had too many of them,” said Clippers coach Doc Rivers, whose team gave up 29 points off turnovers.

**Jazz 106, Pelicans 104:** Rudy Gobert sank two free throws with 6.9 seconds left to cap a 14-point, 12-rebound and three-block performance, giving Utah a victory over New Orleans in the first game of the NBA’s restart.

New Orleans, which led for most of the game and by as many as 16 points, nearly pulled out the victory as time expired when Brandon Ingram’s three-point attempt rimmed out in a bitter end to his 23-point night.

“He’s made a ton of big shots for us this year, but the bottom line is I don’t think it should have come down to that,” Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. “We let a golden opportunity slip away.”

Zion Williamson, who missed nearly two weeks of practice after leaving the team for a family medical matter on July 16, was deemed fit to start. He scored 13 points in just more than 15 minutes.

# More positives, more postponements

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The coronavirus forced another change in Major League Baseball's schedule, bringing the league's total to eight teams affected in the first nine days of the season.

Friday's game between St. Louis and Milwaukee was postponed after two Cardinals employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

The league announced the schedule change hours before the game was to be played. It said the postponement in Milwaukee is "consistent with protocols to allow enough time for additional testing and contact tracing to be conducted."

The teams plan to resume their schedule Saturday night at Miller Park, pending results from the testing and contact

tracing, and make up Friday's game as part of a doubleheader Sunday.

"We are supportive of Major League Baseball's decision to postpone today's game and look forward to playing our home opener as soon as conditions safely allow," Brewers general manager David Stearns said in a statement. "The health and safety of our players and employees are, and will continue to be, our top priorities."

Two other games scheduled for Friday involving the Marlins, Nationals, Blue Jays and Phillies had already been postponed because of an outbreak among Miami players and two positive tests on Philadelphia's coaching staff.

The Cardinals played in Minnesota on Tuesday and

Wednesday before a scheduled day off Thursday. The Twins hosted Cleveland on Thursday night, meaning the Indians likely used the same visiting clubhouse as St. Louis. Minnesota is scheduled to host the Indians again Friday night.

A week into its virus-shortened season of 60 games and 67 days, Major League Baseball is scrambling to adjust its schedule.

The Marlins haven't played since Sunday, and Miami's situation has also led to schedule changes for the New York Yankees and Baltimore Orioles.

Miami learned Friday that another player tested positive, bringing its total to 18 players and two staff members, according to a person familiar with the situation. The person,

who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made, said none of the Marlins has shown serious symptoms.

The infected Marlins left Philadelphia in sleeper buses Friday to return to Miami, where they will remain together in quarantine, according to the person. The trip is expected to take about 18 hours.

The rest of the team will spend the weekend in isolation in Philadelphia, where the Marlins have been stranded since their outbreak began. It's uncertain when or where they will next play.

Officials were concerned that the latest Marlins positive test result came five days after the team was last together, when the Marlins beat Philadelphia.

## MLB roundup

### Indians' Bieber ties record for strikeouts over 2 games

Associated Press

CLEVELAND—Cleveland's Shane Bieber tied the major league record for strikeouts in a pitcher's first two starts of the season, punching out 13 Minnesota Twins over eight innings in the Indians' 2-0 victory on Thursday night.

Bieber (2-0) fanned 14 over six scoreless innings on Friday against Kansas City. His 27 strikeouts in the two games matched the record set by Karl Spooner of the Brooklyn Dodgers in September 1954 during the first two starts of his short career.

Facing a Twins team that came in with the second-best run differential in baseball, Bieber allowed three singles in his eight innings.

**Yankees 8, Orioles 6:** Aaron Judge hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning after visiting New York blew an early five-run lead, and the Yankees swept an impromptu two-game series.

Luke Voit hit his first career

grand slam for the Yankees, who stretched their winning streak against Baltimore to 18 games and notched their 17th consecutive victory at Camden Yards.

**Red Sox 4, Mets 2:** At New York, Christian Vazquez hit two more homers and Martin Perez gave Boston's patchwork rotation a much-needed lift.

Perez (1-1) overcame four walks and some shaky defense behind him, allowing only two hits while striking out five in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings for his first win with the Red Sox.

**Royals 5, Tigers 3:** Trevor Rosenthal pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save since 2017 and visiting Kansas City overcame Miguel Cabrera's first multihomer game since 2016.

Once a standout closer for St. Louis, Rosenthal has struggled with his health and his effectiveness in recent years, finishing 2019 with a 13.50 ERA in 22 appearances with the Nationals and Tigers.

**Braves 2, Rays 1:** Max Fried retired Tampa Bay's first 14 batters and combined with three relievers on a four-hitter to lead host Atlanta.

Dansby Swanson had a run-scoring single in Atlanta's two-run second inning.

**Nationals 6, Blue Jays 4:** Michael A. Taylor's second homer of the season helped the "visiting" Nationals knock around struggling Hyun-Jin Ryu and beat home-away-from-home Toronto before both teams head into a coronavirus-caused mini break.

Kurt Suzuki delivered a two-run double and Asdrubal Cabrera added an RBI double off Ryu (0-1), who gave up Taylor's two-run shot to straightaway center that he celebrated with a socially distanced dugout dance in the fourth.

**Mariners 8, Angels 5:** Jose Marmolejos and Shed Long Jr. homered, Marco Gonzales pitched into the seventh inning and visiting Seattle beat Los Angeles.

Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer off Dan Altavilla in the Angels' ninth. Ohtani's 42nd home run in the majors tied him with Kosuke Fukudome for fifth-most by a Japanese-born player.

**Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 3:** A.J. Pollock hit a two-run homer, Corey Seager and Max Muncy added solo shots and visiting Los Angeles rolled to its third straight win.

Ross Stripling (2-0) won his second game in two starts, pitching 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings while giving up three runs. Pedro Baez earned his first save of the season with a scoreless ninth.

**Padres 12, Giants 7 (10):** Tommy Pham hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning after Trent Grisham began at second base under baseball's new extra-innings rule for visiting San Diego.

Pinch-hitter Greg Garcia added a key two-run single against Tyler Rogers (1-2) in the big six-run 10th.

# NHL's expanded playoffs to begin

Associated Press

TORONTO — NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman took a short break from watching the final few exhibition games Thursday to ponder the significance of awarding the Stanley Cup some two months from now — should all go as planned.

The magnitude of the task it took to simply reach the cusp of resuming play following a four-and-a-half month pause certainly suggests this year's celebration has the potential of being a shared experience.

"That's a very profound question, and I think the answer is extraordinary times present extraordinary challenges. And it takes an extraordinary group of people with an extraordinary effort to get the result you want," Bettman told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"If you look at the NHL family as a whole, starting with our fans, our players, our people at the league office and our club, the focus, the determination, the desire and the effort — assuming we're able to get to that goal — will have been the ultimate collaboration," he added. "I believe whoever ultimately hoists the Stanley Cup will deserve it in ways we couldn't have imagined, and probably

still can't."

The first step towards closing the NHL's most unique season begins Saturday, with the start of the expanded 24-team playoffs in Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta.

A nine-day slate of a potentially 52 games — depending on the results of the eight best-of-five series — will begin with the Carolina Hurricanes facing the New York Rangers at noon (Eastern) in Toronto. The top four teams in each conference, meanwhile, will play a round-robin series to determine seeding for the first round to begin Aug. 11.

Rust will certainly play a factor, given how the exhibition games over the past three days featured a mix of sloppy and surreal.

The crispness might take some time to develop after months with no action, and the ice conditions will need to be monitored in the summer heat with as many as three games a day.

With players eager to hit opponents after weeks of practices and scrimmages, New York rivals Johnny Boychuk and Brendan Lemieux dropped the gloves for an old-time hockey tussle.

So much for self-isolation.

Keep in mind, too, what

might spill over with teams quarantining in a "bubble" in the same hotels — though staying on separate floors.

"The chance for weirdness is probably inevitable," New York Islanders veteran Cal Clutterbuck said.

"I'm sure there'll be a lot of head down, walk right by, maybe just give a quick nod if you run into somebody," he added, before breaking into a laugh. "I'm sure it'll be civil but strange, although you never know."

Little seems normal in the age of COVID-19.

Not the mostly empty streets of downtown Toronto, where the hustle and bustle of the business-suited crowd and tourists is down to a trickle.

The entrances of the Royal York Hotel, where some teams are staying, were completely fenced off and covered in black tarp featuring NHL and NHL playoff logos, with a notable security presence at each entry point.

"This is steady by comparison to a month ago," an employee at the Hall of Fame's gift store cracked, pointing to the two customers inside.

AP hockey writer Stephen Whyno and AP sports writer Dan Gelston contributed.

# Injured stars set for return

Associated Press

Seth Jones stood on his surgically repaired right ankle as his Blue Jackets teammates practiced and played without him. That took its toll.

"It gets mentally draining," Jones said.

Tampa Bay captain Steven Stamkos and Pittsburgh All-Star Jake Guentzel know the feeling.

Like Jones, they were injured late in the season and would have missed part or all of the playoffs had they started in April. Instead, the four-month shutdown has given them a second chance for them to heal up in time for the rescheduled battle for the Stanley Cup.

"I probably wouldn't have had that opportunity," said Stamkos. "For me personally from a hockey perspective, that was great."

Stamkos knew what to expect from his history of injuries. He felt good skating in a small group with no contact, then "hit a little rut" that caused him to miss the start of training camp and is now on pace to return during round-robin play next week.

## Briefly

### Doubleheaders to be cut to 7 innings

NEW YORK — Shortened season, shorter games.

Big league doubleheaders will now become a pair of seven-inning games, baseball's latest radical rule change during a season reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic.

Major League Baseball and the players' union reached agreement Thursday on the new twinbills, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

### Knicks hire Thibodeau as new head coach

NEW YORK — Tom Thibodeau is back in New York as the Knicks' new coach.

The former NBA Coach of the Year was hired Thursday, returning to the team he helped lead to the NBA Finals as an assistant.

"I know what New York is like when the Knicks are successful and there is nothing comparable," Thibodeau said in a statement. "I look forward to being a part of what we are building here and can't wait to get to work."

Terms were not disclosed.

### Koepka cards best round of year for lead

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Defending champion Brooks Koepka matched his career best with an 8-under 62 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead over Rickie Fowler in the FedEx St. Jude Invitational.

Koepka had nine birdies and a bogey on a windy day at TPC Southwind in the World Golf Championship event, a week after missing the cut in Minnesota in the 3M Open.

Jon Rahm, playing his first event since becoming No. 1 with a win at Memorial, shot 70.

### Inquiry finds racial bias in Iowa football

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Facing a scathing report that detailed racial bias against Black players in his program and bullying behavior by some of his assistants, Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said Thursday he would not be making any staffing changes as he apologized and promised to overhaul some of his policies.

University of Iowa President Bruce Harreld said the critical report by an outside law firm showed the "climate and culture must and will change within our football program."

— Associated Press