

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, June 25, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Navy ships break record for staying at sea

Associated Press

The two U.S. warships in the Middle East weren't aiming to break a record.

But when the coronavirus made ship stops in foreign countries too risky, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS San Jacinto were ordered to keep moving and avoid all port visits.

On Thursday, as they steamed through the North Arabian Sea, they notched their 161st consecutive day at sea, breaking the previous Navy record of 160 days. And they're on pace to crush it, since they won't hit land again until they get home to Virginia later this year.

The milestone, Navy Capt. Kyle Higgins said, "is not one that I think we really wanted but one that the circumstances of the world thrust upon us. And we embraced it with style."

When the ships left home in January, COVID-19 was just

starting to emerge. By the time they crossed the Atlantic and moved into the Mediterranean Sea, the virus was escalating.

In March, Vice Adm. Jim Malloy, the Navy's 5th Fleet commander, ordered a stop to all port visits to reduce the chance of spreading the virus through the fleet. Other ships were battling outbreaks, including the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which got sidelined in Guam.

With that, Higgins, the Eisenhower commander, and Capt. Edward Crossman, the San Jacinto commander, knew their sailors wouldn't set foot on land for some time. Both were interviewed a few days before the ships broke the record.

For more than five months, the Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier, and the San Jacinto, the guided-missile cruiser that accompanies it, have been at sea, with no onboard visitors

and strict controls over how aircraft deliver their supplies.

The isolation has been challenging. Port calls not only give sailors time for rest and relaxation, but they also allow experts to come aboard to do difficult repairs.

When the San Jacinto's helicopter bay door broke, the crew members had to get creative. It was the middle of the night, and they realized they needed to replace a large sprocket.

"My guys did the research, and they said, 'Hey, these 90-pound dumbbells are made from the same material that we need for this gear,'" Crossman said. So, they took the dumbbell down to the machine shop and created the part.

"If they were magicians," Crossman said, "they'd have 100 rabbits running around the house because they keep pulling them out of their hats."

Crew entertainment has also

gotten creative. Disappointed sailors watched as they passed countries along the Mediterranean and headed through the Red Sea without stopping.

They plan more swim days and "steel beach picnics" when sailors can wear civilian clothes and barbecue on the flight deck. The Eisenhower crew had cigar socials with jazz music. One popular event, said Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Bush, was a slam dunk basketball contest that he said relieved stress and showed off some talent.

On the San Jacinto, sailors substituted a mustache contest for the March Madness tournament. The 64-person bracket competed to see who could grow the ugliest mustache.

"There's definitely some disappointment in not going into port, especially considering our original plans. But we've made it this far," Grimes said.

## Trump: Some troops 'probably' will move to Poland

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump on Wednesday reaffirmed his plans to pull large numbers of troops from Germany, saying "probably" some of them would be shifted to Poland while others will return to the United States.

However, Trump offered no details about a long-planned boost in troops to Poland as he spoke alongside Polish President Andrzej Duda at the White House.

"We will probably be moving them from Germany to Poland," Trump said. "Some will be coming home and some will be going to other places and Poland would be one of those places."

Meanwhile, Duda urged Trump not to cut forces from Europe, where he said Russian President Vladimir Putin has imperial aims.

"I do not deny that I requested Mr. President that he not withdraw U.S. forces from Europe," he said.

A U.S. pullout would be "detrimental" to European security, Duda said.

Trump intends to cut 9,500 troops from Germany, which would reduce the number of service members in the country by nearly one-third. It's not clear what units could be affected or when the reduction is expected to happen. The Pentagon, which was initially unaware of the plan, has been silent on the issue. In Congress, Republican and Democratic lawmakers have also spoken out against the idea.

A lack of a firm commitment from Trump to make a big military boost falls far short of Poland's desire for a "Fort Trump" in the country.

Last year, the U.S. and Poland agreed to a 1,000-troop increase in Poland, where U.S.

forces have long rotated on missions focused on deterring Russian aggression. So far, that deal has not come to fruition. The increase is intended to involve rotational forces focused on building up logistics and special operations missions, as well as setting up a drone squadron.

The U.S. has also regularly rotated a tank brigade through Poland, where forces live in austere deployment-style conditions. There have been discussions about upgrading facilities, but it remains unclear what that could entail.

Any costs, however, would be paid by Poland, Trump said.

Trump also took shots at Germany, repeating past complaints that the country doesn't invest enough in defense.

"We will only be satisfied when all [NATO] members pay their fair share," Trump said.

# US, South Korea urge North to denuclearize

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea urged North Korea to denuclearize and abide by past agreements aimed at improving relations Thursday as the allies marked the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of war on the divided peninsula.

The appeals came after weeks of inter-Korean tensions that culminated with Wednesday's surprise announcement by the North that it was suspending plans for military retaliation against the South.

North Korea has expressed increasing frustration over the lack of progress in efforts to restart nuclear talks with the United States, which hit a high point during a June 2018 summit in Singapore. At the time, leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump made a vague promise to "work toward denuclearization."

Talks collapsed in February after the leaders failed to agree on the extent of sanctions relief in exchange for disarmament steps and other details.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in expressed hope the North would rejoin efforts to forge a lasting peace, since the war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. But he warned that Seoul will respond firmly to any threats.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo said earlier that they "remain firmly committed to defending the hard-fought peace on the Korean Peninsula, to include supporting ongoing diplomatic efforts for the complete denuclearization" of North Korea.

"Both leaders call on [North Korea] to meet its commitments in alignment with the Singapore Summit joint statement," along with an inter-Korean military agreement and other deals, according to the joint statement, which was issued to commemorate the septuagennial.

Many experts have said the North is likely trying to pressure Seoul into offering more economic concessions and support in future negotiations with the United States.

# Afghan official: Violence stalling talks with Taliban

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Peace talks with the Taliban are unlikely to start if violence remains high throughout Afghanistan, the head of the country's reconciliation team said this week.

Escalating violence remains "a serious challenge," said Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of Kabul's High Council for National Reconciliation, in an online video conference Wednesday.

"The continuing level of violence, which is not justified at all, it makes the people worry and extremely concerned," he said. "That makes the political environment very difficult. I hope everybody gets that message."

The start of Afghan-Taliban negotiations is a requirement for withdrawal of American and allied forces from Afghanistan under a deal between Washington and the insurgent group signed in late February. Talks were originally supposed to begin within two weeks of the signing.

Other hurdles that have been preventing the talks, including an Afghan political quarrel and

disputes over a prisoner exchange, have been worked out or are close to being completed, officials said.

But the high levels of violence do not create "a good environment for the start of negotiations," Abdullah said during the discussion hosted by the Washington-based U.S. Institute of Peace.

His comments came days after Kabul claimed the Taliban had conducted over 420 attacks last week, killing 291 Afghan security forces and wounding 550 others. Stars and Stripes could not independently verify the figures, which officials said marked the bloodiest seven-day period in over 18 years of war.

The Taliban's actions have been "inconsistent with their rhetoric on peace," Afghan National Security Council spokesman Javid Faisal said Monday in a series of tweets about the casualty and attack data.

While the text of the U.S.-Taliban deal doesn't explicitly prohibit the Taliban from attacking Afghan forces, a spokesman for U.S. Forces in Afghanistan said the insurgents had made a verbal agreement to reduce violence by 80%.

# Outgoing PACAF commander: China's airpower on rise

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

As Gen. Charles Brown, commander of Pacific Air Forces, prepares to leave the Pacific theater for the service's top job next month, he takes with him a firsthand sense of China's military ambitions in the region.

"I'm concerned by increasingly opportunistic activity by [China] to coerce its neighbors and press its unlawful maritime claims while the region and the world is focused on addressing the pandemic," Brown told reporters during a conference call Wednesday.

"We are committed to upholding the rules-based international order to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific that protects

the sovereignty of every nation, ensures the peaceful resolution of disputes without coercion and promotes free and reciprocal trade."

Earlier this month, the Senate confirmed Brown's nomination to become the 22nd Air Force chief of staff, making him the first African American to serve as top officer of a military service. He will replace Gen. David Goldfein, who is expected to retire in the coming weeks.

Brown is slated to turn over the Pacific command to Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach on July 8.

Brown told reporters the changes he has seen in China's air force go beyond technological advances. Just as significant, he said, are the number and types of activities China's aircraft now conduct in the region.

"It's not only the capability, but it's the intent and how they use it," he said.

Brown said China rarely made overwater flights with its H-6 bombers when he assumed command in July 2018.

"Now it's an everyday occurrence," he said.

In April, the U.S. Air Force stopped deploying B-52 bombers to Guam, ending the series of six-month rotations after 15 years in favor of less predictable missions from varying locations around the globe.

"Our tempo for number and quantity and locations from where we're flying bombers is pretty much the same as when we had the B-52s in Guam all the time," Brown said. "It's pretty transparent to our partners. But I will tell you, we have a lot more flexibility in the approach we're taking."



# USAF tests missiles from cargo planes

By SETH ROBSON

*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force is currently developing cruise missiles that could be launched in large numbers from the back of cargo planes, according to officials from the service's research laboratory.

The lab combined with the Air Force Special Operations Command to launch simulated versions of the missiles from an MC-130J special operations tanker in January at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

Researchers are seeking knowledge rather than aiming to field the weapons to troops in the field. A glide test is planned for next month, said Col. Gary Haase, director of the Air Force Research Laboratory Munitions Directorate at Eglin

Air Force Base, Fla.

"Toward the end of the year in December we will do another flight test under engine power," he said in a telephone interview June 19.

The weapon they're developing — the Cargo Launch Expendable Air Vehicle with Extended Range, or CLEAVER — is a cruise missile that launches from a pallet which can be deployed in the same way that other cargo is dropped from planes, Haase said.

"It's not planned as a program of record or as an acquisition to turn into an inventory weapon," he said of the project. "We can share these lessons back with industry partners or roll them into another program of record."

Launching missiles from pallets makes it easy for flight

crews to deploy them without much training, Haase said. The researchers plan to use the same pallet that Special Operations airmen already use for other missions.

"It's a known quantity for customers who have experience dropping things off on it," he said. "It would be like dropping anything else out of the back of a cargo aircraft."

Eight or nine missiles can be strapped onto a single pallet. When a missile is dropped, it separates from the pallet, deploys its wing, starts its engine and glides off toward a long-range target, Haase said.

The researchers will look at basic flight operations for CLEAVER, including navigation, waypoint management and terminal guidance, he said.

A C-130J Super Hercules

can carry three or four pallets loaded with missiles and a C-17 Globemaster III can carry about 10 pallets, CLEAVER program manager Jerry Provenza said in a telephone interview June 19.

Cargo planes have been used to drop bombs before. An MC-130 dropped the 11-ton Massive Ordnance Air Blast, nicknamed the Mother of All Bombs, in Afghanistan in April 2017.

CLEAVER, however, is the first effort to drop multiple munitions from cargo planes and to use pallets to deploy them, Haase said.

"The goal is to be able to carry these en masse," he said.

It's hard to estimate how much the palletized missiles might cost since they're experimental, but the goal is to learn how to make them cheaply, he said.

## Governor pitches Ohio air base as Space Force's headquarters

*Associated Press*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, as well as the surrounding Dayton region, would make an ideal location for the Pentagon's new Space Force headquarters, Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday in a letter to the U.S. Air Force.

The area is already home to several research centers, including the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, and Air Force Materiel Command, DeWine said in a letter to the U.S. Air Force assistant secretary.

"It's a powerful combination and a synergy that you can't find anywhere else," DeWine, noting the new headquarters could bring up to 1,400 employees to the area.

Space Force is the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947.

## Navy awards \$9.5B sub contract to Electric Boat

*Associated Press*

GROTON, Conn. — The Navy has announced a proposed \$9.5 billion contract with General Dynamics' Electric Boat to build the first two submarines of a new generation of ballistic missile vessels.

The new Columbia-class submarines are being built at Electric Boat's shipyards in Groton, Conn., and Quonset Point, R.I. Early construction began at Quonset Point in 2017. Final assembly is set to begin in 2024 in Groton.

The contract announced by the Navy on Monday requires congressional approval.

Electric Boat is planning to hire up to 18,000 additional workers over the next decade to work on the 12-submarine Columbia program. The new submarines will be the largest ever built by the United States.

## Lockheed Martin pauses F-35 jet deliveries to avert fuel explosion

*Bloomberg*

Lockheed Martin halted deliveries of its F-35 jets to the U.S. Air Force for much of this month because of a flaw in a system used to prevent explosions if fuel tanks are hit.

Flaws in tubing used to circulate inert gas into fuel tanks to

prevent explosions were found in 14 of 24 Air Force models of the fighter jet inspected, the Pentagon's F-35 program office said in a previously undisclosed June 5 memo that highlighted the halt in deliveries.

But Lockheed said Wednesday that it resumed deliveries,

with two of the fighter jets provided Tuesday. It recommended that flights be restricted "within 25 miles of lightning or thunderstorms" as a safety precaution while the contractor works with the Defense Department's F-35 program office on a corrective plan.

# Slight drop in requests for jobless aid in US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of laid-off workers in the U.S. who applied for unemployment benefits declined slightly to 1.48 million last week, the 12th straight drop and a sign that layoffs are slowing but are still at a painfully high level.

The steady decline in claims suggests that the job market has begun to slowly heal from the pandemic, which shuttered businesses and sent the unemployment rate up to 14.7% in April, its highest level since the Great Depression. The total number of people who are receiving jobless aid also fell last week, evidence that employers are rehiring some of the workers who had been laid off since mid-March.

Yet the latest figure also coincides with a sudden resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the United States, especially in the South and West, that's threatening to derail a nascent economic rebound. On Wednesday, the nation set a record high of new coronavirus cases. Many states are establish-

ing their own records for daily infections, including Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Oklahoma. Cases of coronavirus have also jumped in Florida and Georgia.

Should those trends continue, states may reimpose some limits on businesses that would likely trigger job cuts. Whether by choice or by government order, fewer consumers would shop, travel, eat out and visit bars or gyms. All those scenarios would result in renewed layoffs and hinder the economy.

"The health crisis continues to cast a dark shadow over the economic landscape," said Bob Schwartz, a senior economist at Oxford Economics, a forecasting firm.

Before this week's heightened worries about the pandemic, many economists had been relatively optimistic. In May, the unemployment rate unexpectedly declined, though to a still-high 13.3%. Consumers began spending again, sending retail sales jumping by a record amount. And sales of

new homes rose as record-low mortgage rates fueled buyer interest.

The economy shrank at a 5% annual rate in the first three months of the year, the government estimated Thursday. Yet economists envision a much sharper plunge in the April-June quarter — a rate of up to 30%, which would be the worst since record-keeping began in 1948. Analysts expect the economy to rebound in the second half of this year before potentially regaining its pre-pandemic level in late 2021 at the earliest.

Yet all that assumes that the pandemic doesn't intensify, force widespread business closures again and set the job market and the economy even further back. If it does, the damage could be dire.

For now, real time data on small businesses suggests that the economy's improvement slowed in June compared with May and then stalled in the past week in some states that had reopened their economies the earliest.

## States, nations react as cases of coronavirus surge

Associated Press

Coronavirus case numbers are rising to dire new levels in several U.S. states and around the world, potentially wiping out two months of progress in fighting the pandemic and prompting governments and businesses to impose new restrictions.

Indonesia exceeded the 50,000 mark for confirmed infections on Thursday as the government allowed businesses to reopen amid increasing economic pressures. In Melbourne, Australia, health workers planned to go door-to-door to test more than 100,000 residents in a coronavirus hot spot that threatens to undo the nation's success in battling the virus.

In the Indian capital of New Delhi, which has reported over 70,000 cases, authorities will conduct house-to-house screenings for the virus. With the city's hospitals overwhelmed, military personnel were providing care at makeshift medical wards fashioned from railroad coaches. India reported a record 16,922 cases on Thursday, taking the national total to 473,105, with nearly 15,000 deaths.

American hospital officials and health experts, meanwhile, are warning that politicians focusing on the economy and a public tired of being cooped up are letting a deadly medical disaster spiral to new heights. The 34,700 COVID-19 cases reported Tuesday returned the U.S. to near its late April peak of 36,400 new cases in one day, according to a count kept by Johns

Hopkins University.

Several states have set single-day case records this week, including Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Oklahoma. Some also broke hospitalization records, as did North Carolina and South Carolina.

"People got complacent," said Dr. Marc Boom, CEO of the Houston Methodist hospital system. "And it's coming back and biting us, quite frankly."

The virus has been blamed for over 120,000 U.S. deaths — the highest toll in the world — and more than 2.3 million confirmed infections nationwide. On Wednesday, the widely cited University of Washington computer model of the outbreak projected nearly 180,000 U.S. deaths by Oct. 1.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont announced that their states, which were devastated by early outbreaks that appear to be under control, will now require travelers from certain states to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

The quarantine applies to people coming from states with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents on a seven-day average, or with a 10% or higher positive rate over seven days.

European nations appeared on track to reopen their shared borders by July 1, and their EU representatives debated criteria for lifting restrictions on visitors from outside Europe. In Greece, aviation officials

were visiting regional airports that are due to open to direct international flights on July 1.

Americans are unlikely to be allowed into EU nations for at least the next few weeks, given how the pandemic is flaring in the U.S. and President Donald Trump's ban on Europeans entering the United States.

World financial markets were rattled by the setbacks in fighting the pandemic, which clouded prospects for recoveries of economies mired in their worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Asian shares fell Thursday after the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost over 700 points overnight for a drop of 2.7% and the broader S&P 500 fell 2.6%.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that the continent's cases have surged to more than 336,000, up by 10,000 from a day earlier. The Africa CDC chief said the pandemic on the 54-nation continent "is picking up speed very quickly" while shortages of testing materials and medical equipment remain severe.

Alarmed, some states are moving to ensure more consistent use of face masks and other anti-virus measures.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, ordered people to wear masks in public as the daily count of hospitalizations and new cases hovered near records. In Florida, several counties and cities recently enacted mask requirements.



# Postal Service pushed into election spotlight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service's famous motto — "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers" — is being tested like never before, by challenges that go well beyond the weather.

Its finances have been devastated by the coronavirus. The Trump administration may attach big strings to federal bailouts.

The agency's responsibilities, meanwhile, are mounting. A dramatic shift in many states to voting by mail is intended to protect voters from spreading the virus at polling places. But it's also making more work for post offices and contributing to delays in determining election winners.

Results were delayed this week in Kentucky and New York as both states were

overwhelmed by huge increases in mail ballots. Both states are now giving voters extra time after Election Day to return mail ballots, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday.

"What we don't need is more chaos in the chaos," said Wendy Fields, executive director of the voting rights advocacy group The Democracy Initiative, who said worries about undue strain at the post office only exacerbate larger struggles against voter suppression.

President Donald Trump opposes expanding voting by mail, arguing it will trigger fraud, even though there's no evidence that will happen. Trump and many of his administration's leading voices frequently vote absentee themselves.

The president has also called the Postal

Service "a joke" and says package shipping rates should be at least four times higher for heavy users like Amazon. But shipping and packages are actually a top revenue generator for the Postal Service, and critics say Trump is merely looking to punish Amazon founder Jeff Bezos in retaliation for unflattering coverage in The Washington Post, which the billionaire Bezos also owns.

Trump has acknowledged larger political calculations are at work, tweeting that expanding vote by mail will "LEAD TO THE END OF OUR GREAT REPUBLICAN PARTY." Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has suggested the Republican president's opposition to absentee voting and criticism of the Postal Service may help him "steal" the election.

## Kosovo PM cancels trip to US for talks with Serbia

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — The prime minister of Kosovo on Thursday canceled his plans to attend a White House meeting with leaders of Serbia following the indictment of Kosovo's president on war crimes charges stemming from the 1990s armed conflict between the two Balkan countries.

Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti said he informed U.S. presidential envoy Richard Grenell of his decision, which is likely to torpedo the talks. Grenell had expected Hoti to fill in for Kosovo President Hashim Thaci and co-lead the talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

Thaci called off his trip to Washington after learning Wednesday of the indictment charging him and nine other former Kosovo rebel fighters with crimes against human-

ity and war crimes, including murder.

Thaci has not returned to Kosovo yet and his close staff could not say where he was or when he would be back home.

Grenell posted on Twitter that he understood Hoti's decision to cancel participation in Saturday's discussions and "we look forward to rescheduling the meeting soon."

The White House meeting on Saturday was to be the first talks between Serbia and Kosovo in 19 months. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, a move Serbia has not recognized. The United States and the European Union have been working to help normalize ties between the two countries.

The EU has been leading negotiations for nine years, and the Washington meeting wasn't coordinated with Europe. EU

spokesman Peter Stano did not comment on the White House talks Thursday. He repeated that the EU was committed to facilitating the dialogue and said it would resume in Brussels next month.

"There is no alternative to the EU-facilitated dialogue to address the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia," Stano said.

Hoti met Thursday in Brussels with European Council President Charles Michel to talk about visa rules, the coronavirus impact and other issues.

On Wednesday, the prosecutor for the Kosovo Specialist Chambers said Thaci and the nine others "are criminally responsible for nearly 100 murders" of Serbs and Roma, as well as Kosovo Albanian political opponents.

## Court rules officer's fatal shooting of Black man justified

Associated Press

PETAL, Miss. — An appeals court has upheld a ruling that a Mississippi police officer was justified when he fatally shot a Black Louisiana man, who called police after a car crash.

U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett ruled in September that Petal police officer Aaron Jernigan was protecting himself when he fatally shot Marc Davis of LaPlace, La., in 2017.

On Monday, the 5th Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with Starrett's ruling, The Clarion Ledger reported.

Davis, 34, was driving on Mississippi 42 on June 2, 2017, when he was involved in a car crash in Petal. Davis called police and Jernigan arrived, but later the pair got into an argument and Jernigan shot Davis three times. Davis later died at the hospital.

Jernigan said Davis physically assaulted him, attempted to take his gun and refused or-

ders to stand down.

Yoshanta Albert, mother of Davis' five children, filed a wrongful death lawsuit in 2018, claiming Jernigan shot Davis unexpectedly and without a warning shot. The lawsuit also claimed that Jernigan used excessive force.

Starrett threw out the lawsuit, stating Jernigan didn't use excessive force and if he did, Jernigan was "entitled" to, considering the situation.

Albert was among the large

crowd that rallied earlier this month in front of the state Capitol against police brutality after the death of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed in Minneapolis last month while in police custody.

"This is not what justice looks like: a child without a father," Albert said at the protest, as she waved a photo of her 2-year-old daughter, Leah, standing next to her father's casket. "I waited three years. His death was swept under the rug."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man guilty of selling 55 grams of fentanyl

**MS** BILOXI — A Mississippi man pleaded guilty to selling over 55 grams of fentanyl officials said.

Carter Tranh Tran, 43, pleaded guilty Monday to possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, according to a U.S. Attorney's Office press release.

Authorities began investigating Tran in 2018, after they received information about Tran using his store and home to sell narcotics. An undercover agent paid \$900 for 100 doses of Percocet and 128 doses of Adderall on Aug. 29, 2018, The Sun Herald reported. When the narcotics were tested by the Drug Enforcement Administration, authorities determined the Percocet was methamphetamine and the purported Adderall was 56.76 grams of fentanyl.

Tran is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 28.

### Charges: Trooper sent woman's pics to phone

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota state trooper is accused of sending a woman's nude photos from her cellphone to his own phone while responding to a crash in Minneapolis.

The Hennepin County Attorney's office charged Albert Kuehne, 36, of Dayton, on Tuesday with two felony counts of stalking with bias, since the victim is a woman. According to the complaint, Kuehne responded to a crash on Interstate 94 in March and detained the 25-year-old woman on suspicion of drunken driving. When the woman took out her phone, Kuehne demanded that she turn it over, prosecutors said.

When the woman returned home, her boyfriend saw on her laptop that her phone was accessed and nude photos were

texted from it to an unknown phone. When the boyfriend called the number, the person who answered eventually identified himself as Kuehne, the Star Tribune reported. Investigators used a search warrant to seize Kuehne's phone and found three photos of the woman on his phone, according to the complaint.

The patrol put Kuehne on paid administrative leave pending the case's outcome.

### Woman claiming health issues accused of fraud

**IL** EAST ST. LOUIS — A southern Illinois woman who allegedly lied about having muscular dystrophy and other health issues in order to obtain financial assistance and other benefits pleaded not guilty Monday to federal charges.

Sarah Delashmit, 35, of Highland, is accused of faking illnesses to attend Camp Summit in Dallas, which serves people with muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy, between October 2015 and March 2016. She allegedly used another person's identity and provided that person's Social Security benefit statements as proof of income.

### Court: Family owns dinosaur fossils on land

**MT** HELENA — Dinosaur fossils worth millions of dollars unearthed on a Montana ranch belong to the owners of the land's surface rights, not the owners of the mineral rights, a U.S. appeals court ruled.

The June 17 ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a 2016 decision by U.S. District Judge Susan Watters, of Billings, Mont., that found dinosaur fossils were part of the surface estate, not the mineral estate, in cases of split

ownership. The surface rights where the fossils were found are owned by Mary Ann and Lige Murray.

Brothers Jerry and Bo Severson, who owned two-thirds of the mineral rights on property once owned by their father, appealed Watters' decision to the 9th Circuit.

The dinosaurs unearthed on the ranch include a T. rex found in 2013, a triceratops skull discovered in 2011 and the 2006 discovery of a pair of dinosaurs that appeared to have been locked in battle when they died.

### Woman, son turned away; eatery apologizes

**MD** BALTIMORE — A Baltimore restaurant issued an apology Monday after video showed a Black woman and her son being denied service because of the boy's clothes while a white child dressed a similar way had been served.

Atlas Restaurant Group, which owns Ouzo Bay, said it was disturbed by the incident and placed the manager seen in the video on "indefinite leave," news outlets reported.

The video posted by Marcia Grant shows her son wearing athletic shorts, sneakers and an Air Jordan T-shirt. The unidentified manager tells Grant that her son's outfit violates the restaurant's dress code. Grant turns her camera toward a white boy at the restaurant wearing a graphic T-shirt and similar-looking shorts who was being served, but the manager replies the child wasn't wearing shorts like Grant's son. The manager also said he didn't get a good look at the white child.

Atlas said they were immediately changing their policy so that children ages 12 and under aren't subject to the dress code.

### Vandals damage interior of Indian restaurant

**NM** SANTA FE — Vandals damaged the interior furnishings of an Indian restaurant in downtown Santa Fe and spray-painted racist comments on walls and art objects in the building.

Cost of the damage to the India Palace was estimated at \$100,000, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported.

The damage included smashing a buffet and overturning tables and chairs. The comments included "white supremacist stuff" and remarks such as "go back to your country," said Cameron Brown, an associate of restaurant owner Bajit Singh and Singh's son, Baljot Singh.

The Anti-Defamation League's Mountain States Region said Tuesday in a statement that it was "deeply disturbed by reports of significant vandalism and racist, xenophobic graffiti at India Palace restaurant in downtown Santa Fe."

### Cops: Man stole yacht, got stuck, abandoned it

**FL** LARGO — A Florida man stole a million-dollar yacht, then quickly abandoned it after accidentally ramming into some pilings, deputies said.

Donnovan Russell Jester, 28, was charged with grand theft of a vessel last week. Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies say Jester stole the 46-foot 2019 Jeanneau Leader with a value of \$899,179 in March.

According to an arrest report, he cruised off, but slammed into four channel-marker pilings and quickly abandoned the boat. Deputies found a thumbprint on the cabin door that matched Jester, arrest reports said.

From wire reports

STARS  STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News



## Navy plans July 5 return

*The Washington Post*

The Navy football team will return to campus on July 5 and immediately enter a 14-day quarantine as part of its protocols to fight the coronavirus pandemic, coach Ken Niumatalolo said Wednesday during a video conference call with reporters.

Universities across the country are in the midst of constructing their own plans to open campuses in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Navy, however, does have at least one advantage going for it.

"At the academy, it's a lot easier to kind of self-isolate and quarantine," Niumatalolo said. "We're surrounded by a gate with guards, so hopefully that will be beneficial for us."

Players will be tested upon arrival and then separated into groups of two roommates. There won't be any workouts until after quarantine and the team will begin a phase of summer workouts afterward, adhering to NCAA guidelines.

Among the schools dealing with multiple positive coronavirus tests among student-athletes are LSU, Texas, Houston, Florida, Clemson, Auburn and Alabama. Some have suspended workouts.

"We couldn't come back early like everybody else is coming back early in June," Niumatalolo said. "I'm like, 'Man, we're going to be behind.' Then you see some of the things that are happening, I'm kind of grateful for some of the wisdom of our medical people."

College football finds itself in a difficult position. Spring practices were eliminated for most programs and many teams have not returned. Niumatalolo thinks there might be a silver lining for the Midshipmen.

Navy, with its triple-option offense, is a particular pain for opponents to play against, especially in the era of pass-heavy spread systems. Defenses have to prepare much differently than most weeks and many begin that process in spring and summer practices. That was before the pandemic halted all workouts.

## Five players pull from Travelers

*Associated Press*

Brooks Koepka and Webb Simpson were among five players who withdrew from the Travelers Championship, four of them out of a chain-reaction abundance of caution over the coronavirus that put the PGA Tour on notice.

"The snowball is getting a little bit bigger," Graeme McDowell told The Associated Press after withdrawing Wednesday because his longtime caddie, Ken Comboy, tested positive for the virus.

The tour released results that showed three positive tests at the TPC River Highlands in Connecticut — Cameron Champ and the caddies for Koepka and McDowell. There were no positive tests on the Korn Ferry Tour event in Utah.

As it enters the third week in its return from the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down golf for three months, the tour has administered 2,757 tests at PGA Tour and Korn Ferry Tour events in five states, with seven positive results.

On the PGA Tour alone, there have been 1,382 tests and four positive results.

"It's a low number on a percentage basis, but every number hurts," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "I think we all need to remind ourselves that we're all learning to live with this virus."

"It's pretty clear that this virus isn't going anywhere."

Nick Watney was the first player to test positive last week at the RBC Heritage in Hilton Head Island, S.C., which was teeming with people on summer vacation.

Champ tested positive on Tuesday at the Travelers and immediately withdrew.

Four more players withdrew even with negative test results.

Koepka said his caddie, Ricky Elliott, tested positive and then took another test that came

back negative. No matter. He chose to withdraw, and was especially gutted that his younger brother, Chase Koepka, withdrew after earning a rare chance to play through a Monday qualifier.

When his brother made it, Koepka arranged a house for him to stay in starting Tuesday, so he had his brother stay with him in the meantime. Then, the brothers played a practice round with McDowell and British Open champion Shane Lowry.

Both Koepkas said they felt they should withdraw because they were in close contact with someone who tested positive.

"I feel terrible for Chase," Koepka said. "This course is made for him, he's playing as good as I've ever seen him. And I put him in that situation. It's one thing if I withdraw. He doesn't get this opportunity very often."

Simpson, who won the RBC Heritage last week with a record score that moved him to No. 5 in the world, withdrew when he learned a family member had tested positive.

Monahan said the tour would continue, and that there was no set number of positive tests that would lead to golf shutting down again.

"We feel like we're on a path that's going to allow us to continue to sustain our return to golf," Monahan said. "But rest assured, there won't be many sleepless nights. When you're working in a world of uncertainty, these are the things you worry about."

He also said the tour will no longer pay for players or caddies to be in self-isolation for positive tests if they have not followed the health and safety plan.

"All of us have an extraordinary responsibility to follow these protocols," Monahan said, adding he has been guilty at times as he adjusts to a new way of living. "For any individual that does not, there will be serious repercussions."

## Iginla 4th Black NHL player to make Hall

*Associated Press*

Like most kids growing up in Edmonton, Jarome Iginla admired Oilers legends Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier. As a young Black hockey player, he paid particular attention when he saw someone in the NHL who looked like him in Grant Fuhr.

Iginla idolized Fuhr, cherishing their pictures taken together over the years, and soon will join him in the Hockey Hall of Fame. The longtime Calgary Flames captain headlined the hall's six-person 2020 class Wednesday, making it in his first year of eligibility.

Iginla will be the fourth Black player inducted after Fuhr, women's hockey pioneer Angela James and Willie O'Ree. Iginla and Fuhr are the only Black NHL players enshrined for their on-ice accomplishments, while O'Ree was chosen in the builder category in 2018 for breaking the league's color barrier 60 years earlier.

"I didn't view myself in minor hockey as a Black hockey player but I was also aware that I was," Iginla said. "It really was special to me to see the Black players that were in the NHL — to see Grant Fuhr starring, to be able to say to other people: 'Look

at Grant Fuhr. He's an All-Star.' And to see Claude Vilgrain and Tony McKegney and to have answers for the other kids. It was very, very important for me following my dreams."

Iginla was the first Black player to lead the NHL in goals and points and was the first Black male athlete in any sport to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics.

Iginla was joined in the 2020 class by winger Marian Hossa, defensemen Kevin Lowe and Doug Wilson, Canadian women's goaltender Kim St. Pierre and longtime general manager Ken Holland.

# Carter retires after 22 NBA seasons

Associated Press

Vince Carter made his retirement official on Thursday, announcing on his podcast that his 22-year NBA career has come to an end.

The announcement was largely a formality because the 43-year-old Carter had said many times over the course of this season that this would be his last in the NBA. His 22 seasons are the most in league history, and he became the first NBA player to appear in four different decades.

Carter appeared in 1,541 NBA games, behind only Robert Parish (1,611) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,560) on the league's all-time list. He started his career with Toronto, then played for New Jersey, Orlando, Phoenix, Dallas, Memphis, Sacramento and spent his final two seasons with Atlanta.

Carter's first season was the 1998-99 campaign, which was shortened to 50 games because of labor strife. His final season was shortened by the coronavirus pandemic, and the Hawks will not be part of the 22 teams headed to the Disney complex near Orlando, Fla., next month for the planned resumption of NBA play.

"It's kind of a cool situation for me because I came into the league on a shortened season and I walk away from the league on a shortened season," Carter said on the "Winging It" podcast. "So for me, it's just kind of a unique situation."

Carter scored 25,728 points in his career, 19th-most in NBA history.

The Hawks quickly lauded Carter for what he's done, not just in two years with Atlanta but over the totality of his career.

"Throughout his historic 22-year journey covering an unprecedented four different decades, his evolving career arc was perhaps like none other in league history — from Top 5 Draft Pick to Rookie of the Year to Slam Dunk Champion to superstar and eight-time All-Star to Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year and valuable role player," the Hawks said in a statement.

Carter's last game was March 11, a contest the Hawks lost at home in overtime to New York. By the time that game was winding down, the NBA already had announced that it was suspending the season at the conclusion of that night's play after Utah center Rudy Gobert became the first player in the league known to test positive

for the coronavirus.

The moment was not lost on Atlanta fans, who chanted "We want Vince!" repeatedly with 19.5 seconds left in overtime and with the Knicks' victory clearly decided. Carter checked back into the game at that point, inbounded the ball to Trae Young, then trailed the play as the Hawks headed downcourt.

Young flipped the ball back to Carter, who took an uncontested three-pointer. The shot went in, Carter threw his arms skyward, and the clock ran out on the game a few seconds later.

"There were times, probably in April, I was like, 'Man, I wish this didn't happen like that,'" Carter said. "And then, after a while, I was kind of like, 'It is what it is.' Once I was able to kind of put that aside and say: 'Retire, Vince. You can go and golf now,' it's been easier."

Carter was an eight-time All-Star selection, was rookie of the year in 1999, won the slam dunk contest in 2000 and helped USA Basketball win a gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics — highlighted by his dunk over 7-foot-2 French center Frederic Weis.

## Multiple NBA players test positive for virus

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NBA expected positive coronavirus results to happen once players began undergoing mandatory tests, and three players revealed Wednesday they are dealing with COVID-19.

Indiana Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon and Sacramento Kings players Jabari Parker and Alex Len all said they have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Brogdon and Parker made announcements in the form of statements released by their teams. Len announced his status in an Instagram post. All three said they expect to be with their teams when the NBA season resumes at the Disney complex near Orlando, Fla., next month.

"I recently tested positive for the COVID virus and am currently in quarantine," Brogdon said in his statement. "I'm doing well, feeling well and

progressing well. I plan to join my teammates in Orlando for the resumption of the NBA season and playoffs."

All 22 NBA teams that will be part of the resumed season began mandated testing Tuesday. League officials have expected that positive tests would be inevitable, and believed that starting a testing regimen now — roughly five weeks before games begin at Disney — will give players with positive results time to recover and get back with their teams before those contests start July 30.

"Several days ago I tested positive for COVID-19 and immediately self-isolated in Chicago, which is where I remain," Parker said. "I am progressing in my recovery and feeling well. I look forward to joining my teammates in Orlando as we return to the court for the resumption of the NBA season."

Len said his positive result

came after a test taken in Sacramento on Tuesday. He said he "immediately entered isolation" and thanked the NBA "for putting the protocols in place to allow me to catch this early."

All teams will arrive at Disney between July 7 and July 9 to start a brief quarantine and training camp. The NBA is in the process of finalizing the game schedule for the resumed season.

Brogdon's case is not the first that the Pacers organization has dealt with during the pandemic. Myles Turner's father was hospitalized in Texas with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, but has recovered.

Brogdon wasn't healthy before the season was suspended on March 11, sitting out with a leg and hip muscle injury. But the stoppage gave him time to recover. He was averaging 16.3 points, 7.1 assists and 4.7 rebounds in 48 games in his first

season with Indiana.

"Malcolm says he's 100%, ready to go," president of basketball operations Kevin Pritchard said in mid-April. "He is hungry."

Parker has appeared in one game with the Kings. He was traded to Sacramento in February by Atlanta, after averaging 15 points in 32 games with the Hawks this season. Len was also part of that trade involving the Hawks and Kings, and has averaged 6.6 points in nine games with Sacramento.

Brogdon also has become a prominent voice speaking out against racial injustice. He and Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics spoke at a protest in Atlanta earlier this month following the death of George Floyd.

Brogdon has said he hopes to lead a march in Indianapolis. His grandfather, John Hurst Adams, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 1960s civil rights movement.