

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Worldwide death toll from virus tops 1M

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Joginder Chaudhary was his parents' greatest pride, raised with the little they earned farming a half-acre plot in central India to become the first doctor from their village.

For the coronavirus, though, he was just one more in a million.

After the virus killed the 27-year-old Chaudhary in late July, his mother wept inconsolably. With her son gone, Prem-lata Chaudhary said, how could she go on living? Three weeks later, on Aug. 18, the virus took her life, too — yet another number in an unrelenting march toward a woe-ful milestone.

Now, 8½ months after an infection doctors had never seen before claimed its first victims in China, the pandemic's confirmed death toll has eclipsed 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

That is partly due to the virus's quicken-ing spread through India, where reported deaths have topped 96,000 and cases are increasing at the fastest rate in the world.

The United States, where the virus has killed about 205,000 people, accounts for 1 out of 5 deaths worldwide, far more than any other country despite its wealth and medical resources.

"It's not just a number. It's human be-ings. It's people we love," said Dr. Howard Markel, a professor of medical history at the University of Michigan who has ad-

vised government officials on containing pandemics. On a Thursday morning in February, Markel's mother, 84 and infirm, was stricken by an illness later diagnosed as COVID-19. She died before midnight.

"It's our brothers, our sisters. It's people we know," Markel said. "And if you don't have that human factor right in your face, it's very easy to make it abstract."

Even at 1 million — more than four times the number killed in the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean — the toll is almost certainly a vast undercount. Many deaths were probably missed because of insufficient testing and inconsistent re-ported, and some suspect concealment by countries like Russia and Brazil. And the number continues to mount. Nearly 5,000 deaths are reported each day on average. Parts of Europe are getting hit by new outbreaks and experts fear a second wave may await the U.S.

"I can understand why ... numbers are losing their power to shock, but I still think it's really important that we under-stand how big these numbers really are," said Mark Honigsbaum, the London-based author of "The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris."

Few people can testify to those numbers like the Rev. Mario Carminati, a priest in the northern Italian province of Ber-gamo, which was hit by one of Europe's

first major outbreaks last spring. When the virus overwhelmed local cemeteries, Car-minati opened his church to the dead, lin-ing up 80 coffins in the center aisle. After an army convoy carted them to a crema-tory, another 80 arrived. Then 80 more.

Eventually the crisis receded and the world's attention moved on. But the pan-demic's grasp endures. In August, Car-minati buried his nephew, 34-year-old Christian Persico.

"This thing should make us all reflect. The problem is that we think we're all im-mortal," Carminati said.

The virus first appeared late last year in patients hospitalized in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The first death was reported there on Jan. 11. By the time authorities locked down the city nearly two weeks later, mil-lions of travelers had come and gone. Chi-na's government has been accused of not doing enough to alert other countries to the threat.

Government leaders in countries such as Germany, South Korea and New Zealand worked effectively to contain it. Others, like President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, dismissed the severity of the threat and the guidance of scientists, even as hospitals filled with gravely ill pa-tients. Brazil has recorded the second most deaths after the U.S., with about 142,000. India is third and Mexico fourth, with more than 76,000.

## Small fire aboard USS Antietam injures 13 sailors

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Thirteen sailors received minor injuries in a small fire aboard the USS Antietam on Thursday, 7th Fleet officials told Stars and Stripes.

The sailors were hurt while responding to the blaze in an engineering space. They returned to duty after being treated by the guided-missile cruiser's medical team, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen said in an email Monday night.

"Crew members quickly extinguished the fire with no damage to engineering equipment and Antietam remains fully op-

erational," she said.

Investigators are working to discover the fire's cause, Mommsen said.

The Antietam was in the Philippine Sea last week participating in the Valiant Shield exercise with the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, amphibious assault ship USS America, dock landing ship USS German-town and dry cargo ship USNS Sacagawea, according to the Navy.

The Antietam's was the second fire re-ported aboard a U.S. vessel in the Western Pacific since last week.

On Sept. 20, five crew members of the Coast Guard cutter Woesche were hurt

while battling a blaze in the exhaust stack and nearby areas.

The Woesche diverted to Yokosuka on Sept. 22 to determine the fire's cause and extent of its damages.

The USS Antietam has been underway in the Western Pacific since deploying from its Yokosuka homeport in February.

In January 2017, the Antietam ran aground on shoals outside Yokosuka Naval Base and leaked approximately 1,100 gal-lons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. The ship's commander at the time, Capt. Jo-seph Carrigan, was relieved two months later following an investigation into the incident.

# Army brass reassessing suicide outreach

Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — If there were any signs that Staff Sgt. Jason Lowe was struggling, the soldiers he served alongside didn't see them.

The 27-year-old paratrooper was a top performer. He was on the Commandant's List and had just finished second in his class in the Army's Advanced Leader Course, setting him up for a promotion within the storied 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

Yet five days after graduation, after Lowe left texts and calls unreturned, Staff Sgt. Ryan Graves drove to Lowe's apartment in Fayetteville, N.C., with a bad feeling.

"On the way there, I think it set in that maybe there's some-

thing a lot worse going on," Graves said.

Graves opened Lowe's unlocked apartment door to discover his friend had taken his own life. Weeks later, the why remains unanswered.

"Everything they teach you, that you're supposed to look for, doesn't exist in this situation," Graves told The Associated Press. "No financial trouble, no relationship trouble."

Lowe's was the 10th suicide the 82nd Airborne Division has endured so far this year, a number that stood at four last year. In 2018, six division paratroopers took their own lives; four did so in 2017.

While the driving factors of the suicides remain unknown, Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who assumed command of the

division in July, believes that the forced periods of isolation and other stressors the coronavirus pandemic have imposed on his troops and their families have been a major factor. The increase has pushed Donahue to make suicide prevention a priority and frequent topic of conversation within his ranks.

"There is absolutely a stigma that's out there," Donahue said. "And if we don't acknowledge that, we're lying."

While suicide has long been a problem in the U.S. military, numbers have risen this year by as much as 20% as service members struggle with isolation and other impacts of COVID-19, added to the pressures of deploying to war zones and responding to national disasters and civil unrest. Inci-

dents of violent behavior also have spiked.

The numbers vary by service. Suicide is particularly taking its toll in the Army, where senior leaders told The Associated Press they've seen a 30% jump in active-duty suicides so far this year compared to last year. They're looking at ways to shorten combat deployments and put more focus on soldier well-being and less on combat readiness and weapons modernization in response to the rising numbers.

Peer support groups have been implemented for soldiers struggling with relationship issues, and a sober living initiative has been launched to house paratroopers struggling with substance abuse in alcohol and drug-free barracks.

## Navy reports 2 new virus cases in Japan

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The largest U.S. naval installation in Japan reported two new coronavirus cases Tuesday.

Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo and home to the 7th Fleet, announced on Facebook that the two patients are recent arrivals to Japan and were tested sometime since Friday.

Most of the new infections within the U.S. military in Japan and South Korea are new arrivals or returning travelers.

"Traveling from the United States proves to be the largest vector" behind coronavirus cases at Yokosuka, according to the Facebook post. Further, it stated, "the infection rate within the Japanese community has only marginally improved."

Travel to the U.S. is authorized for leave purposes, but "consider the risk before putting yourself and your family at risk," the post said.

Yokosuka, hit hard by the coronavirus early in the year, was in a virtual lockdown for three months in spring. On Tuesday, it reported eight active cases on base.

In Tokyo, where most U.S. personnel, including civilian employees and family members, are forbidden to travel, the metropolitan government reported 212 new cases on Tuesday, the first daily count in excess of 200 since Saturday, according to public broadcaster NHK.

The coronavirus maintains a stubborn, if statistically small, grip on the world's largest metropolis, bouncing between 59 and 270 new infections per day for the past seven days.

The seven-day moving average, which has trended downward since Sept. 21, on Monday stood at 147 cases on average per day. It was as high as 346 cases average per day in August.

## Marine who fled Lejeune charged in armed robbery

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A Marine who fled Camp Lejeune was one of four service members who police this week said were part of an armed robbery at a Catholic church in a beach town near the North Carolina base.

Lance Cpl. Shawn M. Miller, a field artillery cannoner with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, fled Thursday as authorities took the other suspects in the robbery into custody.

The 2nd Marine Division reported Miller "at large" in a statement published Friday evening, about 24 hours after he was seen in Jacksonville, N.C., nearby the base.

He was taken into custody a couple of hours later in Richlands, about 20 miles northwest of Camp Lejeune, and was booked into the county jail on an armed robbery charge, the division said Friday.

Miller, 21, was initially thought to be a victim of the

armed robbery on Aug. 10, in which cash and a cellphone were taken from three people in the parking lot at All Saints Catholic Church in Surf City, located about 15 miles from the base, the town's police chief said in an emailed statement Monday.

But investigators later found that Miller had conspired with the three other suspects — Jamario Devonte Rainey, 22, Quindarius Robertson, 20, and Jerry Qualls, 22, all of Jacksonville — police chief Ron Shanahan said in the statement. All four were on active duty at the time, he said.

Robertson, a private first class, and Rainey, a lance corporal, were also serving with the 2nd Marine Division, spokesman 1st Lt. Dan Linfante told Stars and Stripes via email. Qualls was not a part of the division, he said. Jacksonville police arrested Qualls on Thursday, Shanahan said. Rainey and Robertson had already been taken into custody.



# Pompeo angers Turkey while on visit to Greece

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations deteriorated to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean Sea.

His comments, however, angered Ankara, where a senior official accused Pompeo of not being impartial on the second day of a five-day regional tour.

Speaking from Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are “at an all-time high and getting stronger.”

Greece has been looking to the U.S. and the European Union for support in its dispute with neighboring Turkey, which it accuses of encroaching on its sovereign rights in the eastern Mediterranean. EU leaders are set to discuss this week potential sanctions against Turkey, which is not a bloc member.

Turkey last month sent a research vessel, accompanied by warships, to prospect for energy resources in an area where Greece claims exclusive rights. Athens also sent warships to the area and put its armed forces on alert. The dispute led to fears of open conflict.

The tensions at sea eased recently, with

Athens and Ankara announcing they would hold exploratory talks on relaunching stalled negotiations. Technical discussions on a military level also took place at NATO to prevent a military accident.

In Turkey, a senior ruling party official said Pompeo had “lost his impartiality” in the dispute by visiting Greece two times in a month and ignoring Turkish Cypriots during a visit to Cyprus.

“You cannot serve peace in the region by visiting only the Greek side on the island (of Cyprus), by paying two visits to Greece, and by making one-sided statements of support,” Omer Celik, the spokesman for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s ruling party, told reporters.

Amid the tensions with Turkey, Greece has announced major arms purchases, including fighter jets from France, as well as warships, helicopters and weapons systems.

Pompeo and Mitsotakis announced Tuesday that the USS Hershel “Woody” Williams, the second of a new class of seabasing ships, will be based out of Souda Bay.

“It’s literally the perfect choice in light of the facility’s strategic location. And it’s symbolic of a defense partnership that will continue to expand and to grow,” Pompeo said.

## Pentagon: Army reservist is 8th service member to die from virus

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A member of the Army Reserve is the fifth reservist and the eighth service member to die from the coronavirus, a defense spokeswoman said Monday.

The identity of the service member was not immediately released, however the person was with the Army Reserve, according to Cmdr. Sarah Flaherty, a spokeswoman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The death was first reported only as an increase in the number of military deaths in the Pentagon’s coronavirus case chart, which was updated Monday afternoon.

The last reported military death from the coronavirus was Army Reserve Sgt. First Class Clifford R. Gooding, 58, who died Aug. 28 in Largo, Fla.

Three other Army reservists have died from the coronavirus this year, as well as two Army National Guard members.

An active-duty sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt also died from the virus. Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 at a naval hospital on Guam. He was an aviation ordnanceman.

The military has had 45,246 cases of the coronavirus as of Monday, according to the Pentagon’s cumulative case chart posted online.

# Sheikh Sabah, ruler of Kuwait, dies at 91

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruler of Kuwait who drew on his decades as the oil-rich nation’s top diplomat to push for closer ties to Iraq after the 1990 Gulf War and solutions to other regional crises, died Tuesday. He was 91.

In a Middle East replete with elderly rulers, Sheikh Sabah stood out for his efforts at pushing for diplomacy to resolve a bitter dispute between Qatar and other Arab nations that continues to this day.

His 2006 ascension in Kuwait, a staunch U.S. ally since the

American-led war that expelled occupying Iraqi troops, came after parliament voted unanimously to oust his predecessor, the ailing Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, just nine days into his rule.

Yet as Kuwait’s ruling emir, he struggled with internal political disputes, the fallout of the 2011 Arab Spring protests and seesawing crude oil prices that chewed into a national budget providing cradle-to-grave subsidies.

“He represents the older generation of Gulf leaders who valued discretion and moderation and the importance of personal

ties amongst fellow monarchs,” said Kristin Diwan, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington who studies Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah is expected to be succeeded by his half brother, the crown prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

His country’s greatest crisis came in 1990, when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and occupied the nation for seven months. Fleeing with other Kuwaiti officials to neighboring Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Sabah collapsed and lost consciousness at one particularly stormy meeting of Arab leaders.

On Feb. 24, 1991, U.S. troops and their allies stormed into Kuwait. It ended 100 hours later. America suffered only 148 combat deaths during the whole campaign, while over 20,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed.

Even before the U.S. entered Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah and others began suggesting a permanent American presence in the region might provide them protection from Iraq and others.

Today, Kuwait hosts some 13,500 American troops, many at Camp Arifjan south of Kuwait City, which is also home to the forward command of U.S. Army Central.

## Experts: Trump debt raises national security concerns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Revelations that President Donald Trump is personally liable for more than \$400 million in debt are casting a shadow that ethics experts say raises national security concerns he could be manipulated to sway U.S. policy by organizations or individuals he's indebted to.

New scrutiny of Trump, who claims great success as a private businessman, comes after The New York Times reported that tax records show he is personally carrying a staggering amount of debt — including more than \$300 million in loans that will come due in the next four years.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., was blunt about the potential implications. “He may be vulnerable to financial blackmail from a hostile foreign power and God knows what else,” said Warren, a frequent Trump critic.

The Times said the tax records also show that Trump did not pay any federal income taxes in 11 years between 2000 and 2018, raising questions about the fairness of a president — who purports to be a billionaire — paying less in taxes than most Americans.

The politically damaging revelations about Trump's

tax avoidance, however, are perhaps less concerning than word the president is holding hundreds of millions of dollars of soon-to-mature debt, ethics experts said.

“Americans should be concerned about the president's debt because it's a national security risk for our country,” said Donald Sherman, deputy director of the nonprofit government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).

Trump, citing an ongoing Internal Revenue Service audit, has refused to follow the post-Watergate precedent set by other presidents of releasing his tax returns, so the complexities of his financial interests and whom he does business with have remained opaque. He's fighting ongoing court battles with New York's attorney general, Manhattan's district attorney and two House committees who want the records.

Trump on Monday suggested that his debt load is hardly unusual in comparison with his assets, claiming in a tweet that he's in fact “extremely under leveraged.”

“I have very little debt compared to the value of assets,” he wrote, adding that he may release a financial statement that spells out all assets, properties and debts.

## Firefighters eye dying winds to help in Calif.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Firefighters say they hoped dying winds would enable them to bear down on a wildfire that exploded in the Northern California wine country, prompting tens of thousands of evacuations while a second blaze killed at least three people.

The Glass Fire raged through Napa and Sonoma counties on Monday, tripling in size to around 56.6 square miles without any containment.

Some two dozen homes had burned, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

The fire north of San Francisco was driving through brush that hadn't burned for a century, even though surrounding areas were incinerated in a series of blazes in recent years.

But dry winds that gave the flames a ferocious push appeared to have eased by Monday evening and firefighters were feeling “much more confident,” said Ben Nicholls, a division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

“We don't have those critical burning conditions that we were experiencing those last

two nights,” he said.

The Glass Fire is one of nearly 30 wildfires burning around California and the National Weather Service warned that hot, dry conditions with strong Santa Ana winds could remain a fire danger in Southern California into Tuesday.

In a forested far northern part of the state, more than 1,200 people were evacuated in Shasta County for the Zogg Fire. Three people have died in the fire, Shasta County Sheriff Eric Magrini said Monday. He gave no details but urged people who receive evacuation orders: “Do not wait.”

Residences are widely scattered in the area, which was torched just two years ago by the deadly Carr Fire — infamously remembered for producing a huge tornado-like fire whirl.

Pacific Gas & Electric had cut power to more than 100,000 customers in advance of gusty winds and in areas with active fire zones. The utility's equipment has caused previous disasters, including the 2018 Camp Fire that killed 85 people and devastated the town of Paradise in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

## Dems try to stick to health care in court nomination fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats are confronting the limits of their power as they fight against the Supreme Court nomination of Amy Coney Barrett with a strategy aimed at avoiding costly mistakes that could hurt the party's candidates in November.

Unable to block President Donald Trump's pick on their own, they are arguing to voters that Barrett's nomination threatens the protections of the Affordable Care Act — a focus that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has embraced and many Democrats

see as a winning message. The court will hear a case challenging the constitutionality of President Barack Obama's health care law just after the election, adding to the urgency of the issue.

Hours after Trump named the Indiana-based federal judge as his pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died Sept. 18, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said a vote to confirm Barrett would be “a dagger aimed at the heart of the health care protections Americans so desperately need and want.”

But there will also be ample

opportunities for Democrats to move off-message as partisans on both sides infuse the nomination battle with cultural, gender and religious politics.

Some in the left wing of the Democratic Party are pushing for senators to boycott the hearings or commit to adding more justices to the court if Biden wins the presidential election. That has fueled concerns in the party about placing too much emphasis on procedural tactics that only delay votes by hours or days — even as precious time ticks away in the few remaining weeks before the Nov. 3 election.

Democrats see health care as the perfect counter to Republican hopes that Barrett's confirmation will bolster Trump's re-election.

More Americans now favor the ACA than have opposed it over the last few years, according to polls, and Democrats believe the coronavirus pandemic will only solidify that support.

Schumer, Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have been in touch and have agreed that health care is a strong focus, according to two aides with knowledge of the private discussions who spoke on the condition of anonymity.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Slave sale block to be shown with context

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — A 176-year-old stone block that was used for slave auctions in Virginia will go on display at the Fredericksburg Area Museum, with signs explaining the context of recent protests against racial injustice that left it covered in graffiti.

The knee-high stone block sat for nearly two centuries in downtown Fredericksburg until the city removed it recently. Now it's on loan to the museum, which will put it on display by mid-November, with the graffiti still intact, The Free Lance-Star reported Sunday.

Sara Poore, the museum's president and CEO, said visitors will have the option to see the actual stone or just an image of it, and there will be "clear signage that indicates the tone of the graffiti."

## Couple wed at bride's father's dialysis center

**MI** WYOMING — A couple in masks and protective gowns exchanged wedding vows outside a western Michigan dialysis center so the bride's father could attend.

Ernest Gee was receiving treatments Saturday before a return to hospice care. Connie Gee and Matt Tsuchiya of Portland, Ore., were married at a clinic in Wyoming, near Grand Rapids, WOOD-TV reported.

Visits with her father in hospice have been greatly restricted because of COVID-19.

"I know when Matt asked if he could marry me, my dad through the nursing room window said, 'Who's going to give you away?' and that to me made it very important to me that he was there," Connie said. "I knew we had to figure out how to have him be able to give me away."

## Police find guns in car with protesters around

**SC** CHARLESTON — Police in South Carolina spotted a truck surrounded by protesters over the weekend and discovered two men inside with loaded handguns, a rifle, a wooden club, knives and a stun gun, among other weapons.

Charleston police intervened when they saw a group of protesters leave the main crowd and surround a Chevrolet Silverado sitting in a parking lot Sunday night, the agency said in a statement.

Police broke up the crowd and noticed an AR-15 lying on the back seat of the truck. The passenger, Richard Ray, 59, told an officer there were more guns in the car, and the driver, Matthew Constantine, 46, was found to have a concealed handgun, the statement said.

## Person being arrested fires gun, injures self

**NE** OMAHA — A person being booked into the Douglas County jail fired a gun that officers discovered during a strip search and wounded himself, the county Department of Corrections director said.

Department Director Mike Myers said in a statement that the incident occurred Sunday night when Omaha police officers were trying to book the person into jail. After the gun was discovered during the strip search, the person threatened corrections officers and staff with it, then fired. The Omaha World-Herald reported that the person was taken to a hospital in critical condition and no other people were injured.

Myers said his agency and the local police will be analyzing the shooting "to ensure we never have a repeat of this event."

## Suspended driver facing charges after chase

**ND** GRAND FORKS — A suspended driver is facing a list of possible charges after leading officers on a chase in Grand Forks.

The 51-year-old man was known to be a suspended driver when officers tried to stop him at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, police said.

The driver pulled over, got out of his pickup as officers stopped him, but then got back behind the wheel and sped away, according to authorities.

Officers used a blocking maneuver to bring the man's vehicle to a stop and detain him. He was taken to Altru Hospital to be evaluated after complaining of neck pain.

## Man accused of shining laser pointer at plane

**WA** EVERETT — A Washington state man was arrested on a felony charge after police believe he shined a laser pointer at a Washington State Patrol airplane, authorities said.

Patrol troopers responded Friday to a home in Everett, where the airplane crew saw two people on the balcony of an apartment building, The Daily Herald reported.

The plane crew followed one of the two people after they attempted to flee the area, troopers said. The crew then gave directions to troopers on the ground.

## Man accused in theft, crash of police car

**MD** OLNEY — Authorities in Maryland arrested a man accused of stealing a police car and leading officers on a chase before crashing into another cruiser.

The man allegedly flagged down a Maryland-National Capital Park Police officer in Montgomery County at around 3:30 p.m. Saturday and complained of chest pain, the agency said in a statement obtained by news outlets.

The suspect was accused of then running to the cruiser, reaching through a window to unlock the doors and climbing inside. The officer and suspect struggled inside the car, but the officer escaped when it began to move, officials said.

Montgomery County police chased the car for about a mile before it crashed into an unmarked cruiser, according to park police. No officers were injured.

## Police pursuit ends in shoot-out

**IN** CLINTON — A high-speed chase in western Indiana involving a stolen car ended with the shooting of a Wisconsin man, state police said.

Omaree Shay Roby, 23, of Milwaukee, had carjacked a vehicle in Evansville and was speeding in Terre Haute, about 100 miles to the north, when a Vigo County sheriff's deputy began chasing him, police said.

The chase continued onto State Road 63 into Vermillion County, reaching speeds of 120 mph before Roby drove over a tire-deflation device, flattening the driver's-side tires, police said. Roby began shooting at officers before losing control of the stolen vehicle and leaving the highway.

Roby exited the vehicle and shot at officers, who returned fire, police said.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Lightning win Stanley Cup in bubble

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The joyful yells from the bench could be heard in the empty arena in the final seconds and the roar from players when Commissioner Gary Bettman called for Steven Stamkos to accept the Stanley Cup echoed even louder.

The triumph of winning the NHL championship in a bubble was certainly no less sweet for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Brayden Point scored his playoff-best 14th goal and the Lightning beat the Dallas Stars 2-0 in Game 6 on Monday night to finish off the most unusual NHL postseason in history, staged nearly entirely in quarantine because of the pandemic.

The clock hitting zeros with no fans in attendance set off a celebration for a team that endured years of playoff heartbreak and two months in isolation — and their fans outside Amalie Arena in Tampa celebrated right along with them.

“It takes a lot to be in a bubble for 80 days or whatever

long it was,” said defenseman Victor Hedman, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. “But it’s all worth it now. We’re coming home with the Cup.”

Before giving that trophy to Hedman, Bettman gave all the players credit for enduring a quarantine largely on their own for so long.

“To be in this place at this time under these circumstances is remarkable and frankly overwhelming,” Bettman said. “Frankly, all of the players who participated should feel like MVPs.”

Goals from Point and Blake Coleman and a 22-save shutout by Andrei Vasilevskiy in Game 6 were enough to power the Lightning to their second championship after winning it in 2004. That one came just ahead of a lockout that wiped out an entire season and similar uncertainty hangs in the air now because of the coronavirus.

Questions about the future were put off for a celebration by the Lightning and by the NHL, the first of the four major North American profes-

sional sports leagues to crown a champion since the start of the pandemic.

Tampa Bay’s core group closed out the final with an almost poetic display of what got the Lightning to this point over the past several years and months. Point’s goal came with assists from longtime standouts Nikita Kucherov and Hedman, key addition Coleman scored on an odd-man rush in the second and Vasilevskiy did his job on a relatively slow night in net.

Veteran defenseman Braydon Coburn was the first to get the Cup after Stamkos and Hedman, even though he played just three games in the postseason. He played 964 regular-season and 137 playoff games to get to this point, losing in the final twice before.

“The beauty of our team is everyone was chipping in,” Point said. “We got contributions from anyone and everyone at different times, and that’s what makes this win so special.”

It was more of a coronation than a challenge as the dominant Lightning outshot the Stars 29-22 and looked like the

powerhouse they’ve been for much of the past decade.

Tampa Bay’s power play turned the series around after Dallas won the opener. Point’s goal made it 7-for-16 over the past five games to decimate the Stars, who were undone by their lack of discipline and couldn’t get enough “Dobby” magic from goaltender Anton Khudobin.

“There is no feelings right now,” Khudobin said. “Just empty, you know? We battled hard, especially with this situation. It’s not easy to stay without families for two months and stuff like that.”

The Stars simply ran out of gas after injuries piled up.

“I couldn’t ask more from our players,” said coach Rick Bowness, an assistant for Tampa Bay for five years who was part of their 2015 run that fell short in the final. “So it wasn’t enough to beat that team, so it wasn’t enough. But it’s better than sitting here saying how we could have done this or could have done that. We don’t second-guess anything we’ve done.”

## Sports briefs

# Titans first NFL team to have COVID-19 outbreak

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans suspended in-person activities through Friday after the NFL said Tuesday three Titans players and five other personnel tested positive for the coronavirus, becoming the first COVID-19 outbreak of the NFL season in Week 4.

The outbreak threatened to jeopardize the Titans’ game this weekend against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The NFL issued a statement saying both the Titans and Minnesota Vikings suspended in-person activities Tuesday following the test results. The Titans beat the Vikings 31-30

in Minneapolis last weekend.

“Both clubs are working closely with the NFL and the NFLPA, including our infectious disease experts, to evaluate close contacts, perform additional testing and monitor developments,” the NFL said.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press the eight test results were all confirmed positives, making this the first outbreak since the season began. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of health privacy regulations.

The Vikings released a statement saying they had not received any positive results from their testing after Sunday’s game against the Titans.

They also said they followed NFL protocol by closing their facility immediately and were working to determine when they can reopen.

## Twins’ Donaldson out for wild-card series

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Twins third baseman Josh Donaldson will miss the best-of-three AL first-round series against Houston because of a nagging injury to his right calf, and the team included rookie Alex Kirilloff on the roster that was set on Tuesday prior to Game 1.

Donaldson missed 30 games this season with a muscle strain

and returned to the lineup on Sept. 2, but he was removed from Friday’s game after the first inning with cramping. The 2015 AL MVP award winner worked out with the team on Monday, but he was still experiencing soreness and unable to fully push off on his leg.

“Didn’t want him to push if he was feeling something that he could potentially do some long-term damage to,” Twins president of baseball operations Derek Falvey said, adding: “He wasn’t ready to go this series, and we felt the best thing to do was to continue to get him treatment and see where hopefully it is after this series if we’re lucky enough to move on.”



# Chiefs, Mahomes down Ravens

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — It wasn't just that Patrick Mahomes threw for a ton of yards and four touchdowns. Most impressive was how he did it.

Mahomes juked, danced, and jumped in and out of the pocket. Sometimes he just dropped back and fired pinpoint throws downfield. He tossed shovel passes and flung it sidearmed.

The common thread was that just about everything he did worked for the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, who rolled past the Baltimore Ravens 34-20 on Monday night.

Mahomes put on a scintillating show while outperforming Lamar Jackson, who's 0-3 against the Chiefs and 21-1 against the rest of the NFL as a regular-season starting quarterback.

With Mahomes leading the way, Kansas City (3-0) emphatically ended the Baltimore's 14-game regular-season winning streak while extending its own run to 12 games (including playoffs). Mahomes went 31-for-42 for 385 yards and averaged 6.5 yards on his four rushing attempts.

"They don't give that guy a half-billion dollars for no reason," Ravens defensive tackle Calais Campbell said. "He just made play after play. You've got to give him respect."

Mahomes, who signed a 10-year, \$503 million extension in July, gave the Chiefs their money's worth on Monday night, surgically shredding a Baltimore defense that had allowed only two touchdowns in its first two games.

"You got to give credit to Pat for leading the charge. He stepped up big," Kansas City coach Andy Reid said.

Mahomes was not intercepted, and avoided being sacked. The Chiefs led 27-10 at halftime and held on to defeat the Ravens (2-1) for the third year in a row.

"The plays we ran, we got in the right situations," Mahomes said. "I thought guys executed at a very high level on those plays."

In a duel between Mahomes, the 2018 NFL MVP, and the player who won that honor last year, Jackson was no match for the man whose résumé also includes a Super Bowl MVP trophy.

Jackson completed 15 of 28 passes for 97 yards and ran for 83 yards, 30 of them on one carry during Baltimore's opening possession. It wasn't nearly enough against Mahomes, whose performance Jackson described in one word: "Outstanding."

During a 13-play, 75-yard drive that produced the game-clinching score, Mahomes converted a third-and-5 with an 18-yard pass and ran for 12 yards on a third-and-10. He flipped a sidearm 12-yard pass to Sammy Watkins to set up a first-and-goal at the 2, from where Mahomes tossed a touchdown pass to appreciative tackle Eric Fisher with 8:14 remaining.

## Small crowd

There were an estimated 250 people in the seats consisting of immediate family members of Ravens players, coaches and front office personnel. They were scattered in several sections behind the Baltimore sideline.

They were far more animated than the cardboard cutouts of people behind each end zone.

# Djokovic rolls to straight-set win in Paris

Associated Press

PARIS — Novak Djokovic's first Grand Slam action since his disqualification at the U.S. Open went as smoothly as can be and Kristina Mladenovic had another late collapse.

Djokovic, the French Open's No. 1 seed, was hardly pushed at all in a 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 victory over 80th-ranked Mikael Ymer of Sweden under a closed roof at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Djokovic broke Ymer nine times and ended up with a 32-12 edge in total winners.

Mladenovic's first match since her nightmarish end to the U.S. Open produced another collapse and a controversial umpire's call Tuesday.

The French player lost to Laura Siegemund of Germany 7-5, 6-3 after serving for the first set at 5-1.

Mladenovic was furious with chair umpire Eva Asderaki for not spotting a double bounce on set point. During a 10-stroke

exchange, Mladenovic hit a drop shot that Siegemund ran for and got back over the net — although a TV replay showed the ball bounced twice. Mladenovic slowed up, looked confused, and wound up touching the net, which automatically gave the point to Siegemund.

"Mistakes are human but I don't see how the umpire can miss that. She didn't see a double bounce," Mladenovic said. "Unfortunately she will continue at Roland Garros, and I won't continue at Roland Garros."

Djokovic was defaulted from his fourth-round match at the U.S. Open this month for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball hit in anger after dropping a game.

There was little reason to show much frustration against Ymer.

On Tuesday it was Siegemund who faced questions of unsportsmanlike conduct for

not acknowledging the double bounce that should have handed Mladenovic the first set.

"If she would have done it, she would have all my respect and be super fair play," Mladenovic said. "But she's not the one responsible. I think the chair umpire is the one that should be really focused on that call."

Siegemund also said it wasn't up to her to make the call, and that she wasn't sure right away whether the ball bounced twice.

"I can maybe understand a little bit that (Mladenovic) is getting at me, but I think she should get at the umpire. She had plenty of other opportunities," she said. "I'm coming running full speed, if in that call I say 'Oh, it was a double bounce,' and later I see on the video it was not, I would be angry at myself."

Mladenovic suggested tennis should start using video

replays, like the highly controversial VAR system used in soccer.

"It would be great and we'd avoid a sad scenario like I had today," Mladenovic said.

It wasn't quite as sad as Flushing Meadows, though, where she served for the match at 6-1, 5-1 against Varvara Gracheva then lost a tiebreaker and lost 6-0 in the third set.

She called that the most painful loss of her career. Four days later, she was part of the top-seeded women's doubles team dropped from the U.S. Open for having been potentially exposed to COVID-19.

Public health officials who oversaw her tournament hotel said she was at risk after playing cards in a group including Benoit Paire, the Frenchman removed after testing positive for the virus. She had to go into quarantine.

# Hall of Famer Larkin looking to give MLB a handle on race

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Barry Larkin is gladly giving Major League Baseball a helping hand in these playoffs.

Two of them, actually.

Look closely at the bats being swung and you might notice something on the knobs: a label with a graphic design of Black and white hands clasped over the words “Heal” and “Unite.”

They’re the product of Larkin’s Project Unity, an initiative headed by the Hall of Famer to draw people together on the diamond and beyond.

“Everything is being so polarized,” the Cincinnati Reds great told The Associated Press on Monday. “Police brutality, protests in the streets and rioting, the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and others.

“I don’t want to be political,” he said. “But I just couldn’t sit around and not try to do something.”

The former winner of the Roberto Clemente Award for his humanitarian efforts developed the program this year. Later, the Black shortstop voted the NL MVP in 1995 came up with the bat labels.

Endorsed by MLB, the stickers were sent in team colors to every clubhouse in advance of the playoffs.

“My hope is that they’re embraced by many players,” he said from his home in Orlando, Fla.

Cleveland star Francisco Lindor and Dodgers infielder Edwin Rios work out with Larkin, so they figure to be on board. So might the players on one specific team — “the Reds, I think they will,” he said.

In a year when games in all sports have been postponed to focus attention on racial injustice, and in a season when

baseball has put messages about social issues on uniforms, scoreboards and stadiums, MLB put its stamp on the project.

“As our country navigates a global pandemic and addresses social injustices, we have seen our players and clubs step up in extraordinary ways. On behalf of Major League Baseball, we are proud to support Barry Larkin and his Project Unity to advocate for healing and uniting our communities through baseball,” Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.

“Historically, our game has played a unique role in uniting our country during challenging times. We hope our support of Project Unity and the other steps we have taken can play a small role in helping to make a difference,” he said.

The players’ union, the Hall of Fame, Phoenix Bats, Wilson Sporting Goods, Louisville Slugger and the music industry joined in backing Project Unity.

Larkin also is raising money for several groups, including the MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation. MLB will support the initiative with its diversity programs, such as the Hank Aaron Invitational.

“It’s a conduit to kindness. It’s a conduit to peace,” the 56-year-old Larkin said. “The end goal is to heal and unite.”

Starting with a symbol that hitters will bring into the batter’s box.

“It’s huge for MLB to allow players to do this in the post-season, I’m very appreciative,” said Larkin, who helped lead the Reds to the 1990 World Series championship.

Larkin realizes that not every player might attach a label. He completely understands that.

“Some guys are very particular about their bats,” he said.

## Marlins’ playoff berth could begin a new era

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Marlins’ first playoff appearance since 2003 is not supposed to last long.

They’re regarded as young, inexperienced overachievers who benefited from the short season and expanded playoff format. They were outscored by 41 runs this year, and no team has longer odds of winning the World Series at 33-1.

But even if their postseason ends this week in the wild-card round at Wrigley Field, the Marlins say they believe it’s just the beginning of a new era for the long-suffering franchise.

Three years into CEO Derek Jeter’s organizational overhaul, the Marlins appear to be built to last and just starting to win. They have an abundance of young pitching, a strong farm system and a modest, manageable payroll.

One year removed from a 105-loss season, the NL East runner-up Marlins will face the NL Central champion Cubs in the best-of-three wild-card round beginning Wednesday.

“To go through what we did last year, you feel like you’re in a boat in the middle of the ocean and you have no idea where land is, but you know it’s out there,” manager Don Mattingly said. “You have to have faith. That’s why it feels so good to get to this point, and this is the beginning of that, not the end.”

Attendance remains at zero because of the coronavirus, but the bandwagon is growing. Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores wore a Marlins cap at work Monday.

Few foresaw the Marlins as a playoff team, especially after a virus outbreak nearly ended their season after just three games. But a patchwork roster thanks to 174 roster moves produced the Marlins’ first winning season since 2009.

They navigated a marathon closing stretch — Monday was their first day off after 28 games in 24 days. And in the playoffs they can go about their

business feeling little pressure, especially compared to, say, the Cubs.

“We’re playing loose; we’ve got nothing to lose,” closer Brandon Kintzler said. “We’re playing with house money. We’re a dangerous team — we’ve got starting pitching that contends with anybody in baseball.”

The rotation is indeed the Marlins’ strength, and with Sandy Alcantara, Pablo Lopez and Sixto Sanchez, they have three young right-handers capable of taking over a short series.

“We know our dudes have got some stuff,” Mattingly said. “If they get on a roll, you don’t really want to be on the other side of that.”

Miami will be without right-hander Jose Urena, who broke his right forearm when he was hit by a line drive Sunday against the New York Yankees.

The Marlins’ last trip to the playoffs also included games at Wrigley Field. In 2003, they won the National League Championship Series there one night after a fan literally lent a hand to the Marlins’ comeback win in Game 6 by trying to catch a foul ball at a pivotal moment.

This time, because of the pandemic, there will be no fans in the stands. Mattingly figures that’s good news for his young team.

“It’s really different playing with nobody at Wrigley than with the streets going crazy and people packed into the building,” Mattingly said. “The younger guys get a little bit of a break not to have to walk in with the place packed and a hostile environment.”

Even minus spectators, however, the Marlins hear taunts from skeptics. One disparaging description — bottom feeders — stuck and raised their hackles even before the season began.

“That has been the term that has pushed us. Every time we won a game, we said, ‘Good job, bottom feeders,’” outfielder Lewis Brinson said.