



## CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Veterans, families try to reconcile quick collapse of nation after US exit with the years of military sacrifices they made

### 'Punched in the gut'

By Alison Bowen  
Chicago Tribune

The dark evenings spent saluting coffins loaded onto aircraft bound for America.

The Afghan boy with a wounded arm, recovering in an American military hospital.

The wife of a Marine who was killed, posting on the memorial page for her husband, "What was the purpose?"

All are moments connected to area veterans' service in Afghanistan; all are memories they now struggle to reconcile with the collapse of Kabul following the U.S. exit from the region.



The Road Home Program's Ashton Kroner plays with her service dog, Ariel, on Wednesday at her home. STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

Turn to Veterans, Page 13

### Islamic State threats slow evacuations

US tells its citizens not to go to airport without instruction

By Ahmad Seir, Rahim Faiez, Kathy Gannon and Lolita Baldor  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Potential Islamic State threats against Americans in Afghanistan are forcing the U.S. military to develop new ways to get evacuees to the airport in Kabul, a senior U.S. official

said Saturday, adding a new complication to the already chaotic efforts to get people out of the country after its swift fall to the Taliban.

The official said that small groups of Americans and possibly other civilians will be given specific instructions on what to do, including movement to transit points where they can be gathered up by the military. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

Turn to Afghanistan, Page 13

### For man in sting, freedom once more

Stash-house convict home 12 years after controversial arrest

By Annie Sweeney and Jason Meisner  
Chicago Tribune

Dwayne White stood outside the Greyhound bus depot in Birmingham, Alabama, two weeks ago taking in the night air and cityscape.

That Friday morning, a staff member had appeared at his federal prison cell in FCI Yazoo City to tell him he'd been granted an early release after serving most of his adult life in prison.

Now, 12 years after he was handed a heavy 25-year sentence despite a limited criminal past and playing just a minor role in a drug stash-house robbery sting, White was headed home.

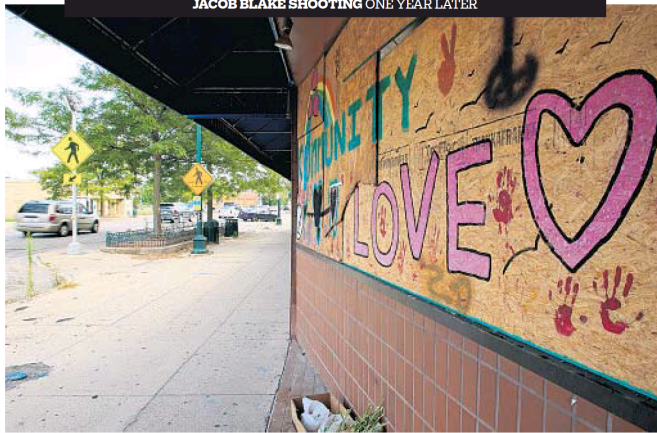
His release was the culmination of years of controversy and litigation over the so-called stash-house stings, a government program designed to go after repeat violent offenders

Turn to Freedom, Page 2



Dwayne White hugs his daughter Diera White, 11, as he drops her off for her first day of school on Wednesday in Zion. STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE

### JACOB BLAKE SHOOTING ONE YEAR LATER



Vehicles pass a boarded-up section of 22nd Avenue in the Uptown neighborhood of Kenosha on Thursday. The racially diverse neighborhood suffered the brunt of last year's civil unrest in the city after a police officer shot Jacob Blake. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

## WHAT'S CHANGED?

Kenosha sees uneven recovery after civil unrest thrust city into spotlight

By John Keilman  
Chicago Tribune

KENOSHA — One year after protests over the police shooting of Jacob Blake boiled into looting and arson, plywood bearing messages of hope still covers burned-out storefronts in Kenosha's Uptown neighborhood.

"Peace will prevail," reads one mantra, elegantly scripted in black and pink letters. Across the street, Aisha Gordon wasn't so sure.

"It's still crazy up here," she said, hanging out with a cluster of people near a convenience store. "You ain't got no youth centers, no community centers. I keep seeing a liquor store and a church. I guess that's all you get in the hood."



Walter McMorris, 49, lives in the block in Kenosha where Jacob Blake was shot by Officer Rusten Sheskey nearly a year ago.

But less than a mile away, in the city's lakefront downtown, a different mood prevailed. Broken windows have been replaced, graffiti has been scrubbed away and concrete street barriers minded by National Guardsmen have given way to vibrant sidewalk cafes.

"I'm totally excited about all the things that will be happening downtown so I don't absorb the fear factor," said Maria Caravati, owner of Equinox Botanical Boutique. "In the evenings it's busy, busy, busy. That, to me, shows that everybody has hope."

Those are just two fragments

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### Jesse Jackson, wife hospitalized

The famed civil rights leader and his wife tested positive for COVID-19 and are being treated at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. **ChicagoLand, Page 12**

### Ugly showing, QB conundrum

After a 41-15 preseason loss to the Buffalo Bills at Soldier Field on Saturday, where do the Bears go from here? **Dan Wiederer in Chicago Sports**

### No slowdown in home sales — yet

The Chicago-area housing market has continued to boom through the spring and summer, new data shows — but it might be easing up somewhat. **Real Estate**

Tom Skilling's forecast High 83 Low 66

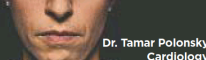
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# A ride on the WILD SIDE

Always wanted to go on a safari? This might be your year

By Anne Z. Cooke  
Tribune News Service

MAUN, Botswana — “Look, look, she’s standing up. No, she’s coming over here,” whispered my nephew Eric, turning pale and clutching my hand as the lioness we’d been watching — one of 11 dozing under a tree — stood up, yawned and ambled in our direction.

“Take a picture, take a picture,” urged his sister, Sarah, next to my husband in the Land Rover’s rear seat. Fearless, eager for adventure, she leaned forward for a better look.

“Sit still, sit very still and watch. They are only curious,” said Moro, our tracker at Shinde Game Lodge, who had moved from his seat on the fender to a seat in the car.

My family, traveling together on an African safari, were lucky indeed to see so many lions. Fifty years ago there were 200,000 in Africa; today there are fewer than 15,000. As for African elephants, their numbers are worse. Ninety years ago there were an estimated 10 million on the continent, but four years ago there were just 350,000.

Poaching for skins or meat, habitat loss and conflicts with farmers are the killers. But in recent years, a handful of Africa’s 54 countries have realized that wildlife has value, for tourism if not for cultural or ecological reasons. Parks and preserves are saving savannas and forests and wildlife conservation is taught in school. But success is still a question.

Which is why my

husband and I decided to treat our family to an African safari in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia, three countries where wildlife conservation is at the center of public policy. We wanted the kids to experience the African bush the way we have, while there’s still time.

If you’ve been thinking about going yourself, you are sure to have questions. Is African travel safe? Which countries have the most wildlife? What are game lodges like, and how do they find animals? Do you stay in a tent, or in a lodge, and do they have bathrooms? What about visas, clothes, the weather? Where can you learn about game lodges and safaris?

## Where to start looking

Since most safari lodges now have websites, comparing them is easy. Treat yourself to a leisurely tour through Uyaphi.com and Go2Africa.com, travel and touring companies that book family, individual, group and customized safaris. The websites are a treasure trove of photographs. Descriptions include locations, indoor and outdoor areas, gardens, views and extras, from mokoro (canoe) rides to spas and swimming pools. Prices per-person per-night vary widely because they include not just full-service game lodges but area hotel rooms.

## My favorite lodges

My Botswana favorites, all in the Okavango Delta, are traditional lodges with eight to 10 spacious tent cabins bolted onto wood decks, per conservation regulations. Shinde is close to water and open plains; Kanana, near water, adds mokoro (canoe rides) to birding islands. Chiefs’



Lions ignore game-drive vehicles, as long as passengers sit still. STEVE HAGGERTY/COLORWORLD

Camp and Stanley’s Camp explore a mix of wooded islands and surrounding lagoons.

In Kruger National Park, my favorite is Londolozi ([www.londolozi.com](http://www.londolozi.com)), highly rated and a sentimental destination. Now enlarged and divided into four different lodges, it remains true to its origins as the country’s first leopard conservation project.

In the Sabi Sands Preserve, also in Kruger National Park, Bush Camp ([www.sabisabi.com](http://www.sabisabi.com)) is a big, lively lodge that would fit best in the resort category. It has 25 luxury suites and is an ideal place to meet other travelers and their children. Activities include daily game drives, cultural community visits, swimming pools, a spa, an exercise gym, a child-care play center, a gift shop, and a waterhole near the dining

room, where guests sip tea as the elephants come to drink.

In Zambia, the Bushcamp Company Group, in South Luangwa River National Park, is unique ([www.bushcampcompany.com](http://www.bushcampcompany.com)). The main lodge, with an open-air lounge, casual restaurant and 12 adjacent cabins, is a 30-minute drive from Mfuwe town, thus a handy getaway for passing travelers who come to watch the elephants that walk through the lobby. More importantly, this is headquarters for eight distant lodges, intimate, isolated and rustic hideaways sleeping no more than eight. At cozy Bili-mungwe, you’ll meet the elephant family. At Chamilandu you can spend a morning up in the “Hide,” as it’s called, waiting for the parade of animals that comes daily to drink.

## Why choose southern Africa?

Not only do these countries have many animals, but they use 4x4 vehicles with open tops and bench seats for game drives. Open-air seats allow unimpeded views and better photography while sitting. In East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) most parks permit only minivans or enclosed cars with open tops, limiting viewing.

## Reasons to book through a tour company

It’s possible to book your own plane flights, game lodge reservations and ground connections. But many North American travelers would rather spend more for a trip they can plan on the phone with an experienced representative from a full-service tour company. It’s a relief when a local employee meets you

upon arrival, helps with luggage, drives to your hotel or lodge, and drives you to the next day’s lodge or flight.

A partial list of top-rated companies includes Sanctuary Retreats ([www.sanctuaryretreats.com](http://www.sanctuaryretreats.com)); Ker & Downey ([www.ker-downeyafrica.com](http://www.ker-downeyafrica.com)); Wilderness Safaris ([www.wilderness-safaris.com](http://www.wilderness-safaris.com)); Bushcamp Company in Zambia ([www.bushcamp-company.com](http://www.bushcamp-company.com)); Abercrombie & Kent ([www.abercrombiekent.com](http://www.abercrombiekent.com)); and SabiSabi Company ([www.sabisabi.com](http://www.sabisabi.com)).

## When to go

June through August (winter) are dry months, with chilly nights and mild, sunny days. September and October are warmer and dry with less foliage on the trees, but they offer better game viewing because of it.



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