

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Dems formally nominate Biden as candidate

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Democrats formally nominated Joe Biden as their presidential candidate, with party elders, a new generation of politicians and voters in every state joining in a pandemic-cramped virtual convention to send him into the general election campaign to oust President Donald Trump.

As someone who has spent over 30 years eyeing the presidency, the moment Tuesday night was the realization of a long-sought goal. But it occurred in a way that the 77-year-old Biden couldn't have imagined months ago as the coronavirus pandemic prompted profound change across the country and in his presidential campaign.

Instead of a Milwaukee convention hall as initially planned, the roll call of convention delegates played out in a combination of live and recorded video feeds from American landmarks packed with meaning: Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the headwaters of the Mississippi River, a Puerto Rican community still recovering from a hurricane and Washington, D.C.'s Black Lives Matter Plaza.

Biden celebrated his new status as the Democratic nominee alongside his wife and grandchildren in a Delaware school library. His wife of more than 40 years, Jill Biden, later spoke of her husband in deeply personal terms, reintroducing the lifelong politician as a man of deep empathy, faith

and resilience to American voters less than three months before votes are counted.

"There are times when I couldn't imagine how he did it — how he put one foot in front of the other and kept going," she said. "But I've always understood why he did it. He does it for you."

Speaking Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show, Jill Biden said her husband is up for the job of president and called a Trump campaign ad questioning his mental fitness "ridiculous."

"Joe's on the phone every single minute of the day talking to governors who are calling him and Nancy Pelosi. He's on the Zoom. He's doing fundraisers. He's doing briefings," she said. "I mean he doesn't stop from 9 in the morning till 11 at night. That's ridiculous."

The convention's most highly anticipated moments will unfold on the next two nights. Kamala Harris will accept her nomination as Biden's running mate on Wednesday, the first Black woman to join a major party ticket. Former President Barack Obama will also speak as part of his stepped-up efforts to defeat his successor.

Biden will deliver his acceptance speech Thursday night in a mostly empty convention hall near his Delaware home.

Biden used the second night of the four-day convention to feature a mix of party elders, Republican as well as Democratic, to make the case that he has the experience

and energy to repair chaos that he said Trump has created at home and abroad.

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State John Kerry — and former Republican Secretary of State Colin Powell — were among the heavy hitters on a schedule that emphasized a simple theme: Leadership matters. Former President Jimmy Carter, now 95 years old, also made a brief appearance.

Some of them delivered unusually personal attacks against Trump, all in an effort to establish Biden as the competent, moral counter to the Republican president.

"Donald Trump inherited a growing economy and a more peaceful world," Kerry said. "And like everything else he inherited, he bankrupted it. When this president goes overseas, it isn't a goodwill mission. It's a blooper reel."

Clinton said Trump's Oval Office is a place of chaos, not a command center.

"If you want a president who defines the job as spending hours a day watching TV and zapping people on social media, he's your man," Clinton said.

For his part, Trump spent Tuesday courting battleground voters in an effort to distract from Biden's convention. Appearing in Arizona near the Mexican border during the day, the Republican president claimed a Biden presidency would trigger "a flood of illegal immigration like the world has never seen."

AFRICOM is monitoring Mali situation following coup

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

All U.S. service members in Mali were safe and accounted for, U.S. Africa Command said the day after Malian soldiers seized the country's president and forced his resignation.

"We will continue to monitor this situation as it develops," Nicole D. Kirschmann, AFRICOM's spokeswoman for West Africa, said Wednesday. "The United States strongly condemns the ongoing mutiny and any attempts at a military seizure of power."

AFRICOM declined to say how many U.S. troops are in Mali, citing security con-

cerns. Pentagon data from June showed there were 22 active-duty personnel there and that most were Marines, likely a security detachment at the U.S. Embassy in the Malian capital of Bamako.

Since the September 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities during unrest in Benghazi, the State Department and the Pentagon have formed forces to respond to crises on the continent that might threaten American lives.

One is the East Africa Response Force, based out of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Another, the Special Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa Command, based in Moron Air Base in Spain, was pictured rehearsing reinforcement of

the U.S. Embassy in Mali last year.

AFRICOM and State Department officials declined to say whether additional troops would be deployed to the region.

The U.S. has for years aided counterterrorism operations in Mali. During a visit last year to Bamako, part of a trip that included stops in neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger, AFRICOM boss Gen. Stephen Townsend said the U.S. military was focused on helping secure the country.

"We believe strongly in our partnership and look forward to strengthening our cooperation to help Mali bring security and stability to their citizens and the region," Townsend was quoted saying in a State Department statement.

Prison sought for former soldier called a Satanist

Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. — A former Army soldier who prosecutors said is a Satanist who hoped to overthrow the U.S. government should spend around three years in prison for providing viable instructions for building explosive devices to people who wanted to commit violence, the government argued Tuesday.

Jarrett William Smith, 24, a private first class stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., and previously at Fort Bliss, Texas, was discharged from the military after admitting in February that he provided information about explosives in September to an FBI undercover agent.

In a motion opposing the lenient punishment sought by the defense, Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi wrote that Smith has admitted he posted on the internet a recipe for constructing an explosive device and a recipe for creating improvised napalm.

FBI bomb technicians have determined those recipes were viable, he said.

“He admitted providing the information even to individuals who told him they wanted to use the information to harm others,” Mattivi wrote.

At his sentencing hearing Wednesday, Smith faced up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine following his guilty pleas to two counts of distributing information related to explosives.

With no prior criminal history, the guideline range is between 2½ to just over three years in prison. Mattivi recommended that the court impose a sentence within that range.

Federal public defender Rich Federico had urged the court last week to impose 15 months imprisonment as he recounted his client’s lifetime of victimization, isolation and trauma that led him to become involved with online extremist groups.

Lawsuit: Fla. towing company sold deployed Marine’s car

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A Florida towing company that sold a Marine’s car while she was serving overseas is being sued by the Justice Department for violating her civil rights.

Prosecutors allege that Target Recovery Towing Inc. and Target Recovery & Transport Inc. of Tampa violated a federal law that protects service members from having their property sold “during any period of military service ... and for 90 days thereafter” without the seller first obtaining a court order.

The towing company sold the 2011 Nissan Versa that then-Sgt. Jennifer Ko, who now goes by Jennifer Wilbur, left with her sister in Florida when she deployed to Okinawa in 2017 for about two years, according to the lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Lawyers for the towing company argued it had “no way of knowing that the subject vehicle ... was owned by an active duty service member,” the complaint said.

But inside the car were documents showing Ko’s military status, the complaint said. And after towing the vehicle in March 2018, Target Recovery sent a letter to Ko at her unit, Combat Logistics Battalion 15 based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., advising her of their intent to sell the vehicle, it said.

The letter was returned to them in May 2018 marked “addressee unknown.” Less than a week later, “despite having ample evidence that Sgt. Ko was an active duty service member, the Target Defendants auctioned off her 2011 Nissan Versa without first obtaining a court order,” the complaint said.

Ko, who was honorably discharged this year, appeared to have been unaware that her car had been sold and continued to make monthly payments on it while she was overseas. She returned to the U.S. in early 2019.

“Imagine returning home after honorably serving your country only to find that your sole means of transportation and its contents are gone and lost to you forever as a result of a towing company’s callous disregard of the law,” U.S. Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband said in a statement.

The lawsuit seeks financial compensation for Ko and unspecified civil penalties against the towing company, which it said had a practice of not seeking court orders before selling off service members’ property and has been inactive since the fall 2018.

USS Mustin makes Navy’s 10th trip through Taiwan Strait this year

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin steamed through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, the 10th such passage by the U.S. Navy this year, the most in a single year since 2016, according to the Navy.

The Mustin cruised southwest through the strait from the East China Sea to the South China Sea on a “routine transit,” according to a U.S. Pacific Fleet statement on Wednesday. The strait, about 110 miles wide, separates the island of Taiwan from China.

“The transit demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free

and open Indo-Pacific,” according to the fleet statement. “U.S. 7th Fleet conducts forward-deployed naval operations in support of U.S. national interests in the Indo-Pacific area of operations.”

The number of Navy trips through the strait has escalated along with tensions between the U.S. and China in the South and East China seas.

The U.S. sent warships through the strait nine times last year and three times in 2018, according to figures provided earlier this year by Pacific Fleet spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Rachel McMarr. In 2016, the Navy made 12 transits through the strait, according to McMarr.

The U.S. this year has also held carrier drills, conducted bomber overflights and sent its ships cruising past disputed islands and reefs in the region.

China typically objects to the Navy’s presence and trips through the strait. It asserts sovereignty over those waters and over Taiwan, a self-governing island with its own elected government.

The U.S. regards the strait as international waters and acknowledges China’s claim to Taiwan under its “One China” policy but views the island’s status as unsettled. Taiwan split from mainland China in 1949.

USPS halts changes amid outcry, lawsuits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing mounting public pressure and a crush of state lawsuits, President Donald Trump's new postmaster general says he is halting some operational changes to mail delivery that critics blame for widespread delays and warn could disrupt the November election.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said Tuesday he would "suspend" several of his initiatives — including the removal of the distinctive blue mailboxes that prompted an outcry — until after the election "to avoid even the appearance of impact on election mail."

"We will deliver the nation's election mail on time," DeJoy said in a statement.

The abrupt reversal from DeJoy, who is set to testify Friday before the Senate, comes as more than 20 states, from New York to California, announced they would be suing to stop the changes. Several vowed they would press on, keeping a watchful eye on the Postal Service ahead of the election.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is pushing ahead with Saturday's vote to prevent election-year mail changes and provide emergency postal funds.

"I don't, frankly, trust the postmaster general," Pelosi said in San Francisco.

The crisis at the Postal Service has erupted as a major election year issue as DeJoy, a Republican donor who took control of the agency in June, has swiftly engineered cuts and operational changes that are disrupting mail delivery operations and raising alarms that Trump is trying to undermine the agency ahead of the election.

At the White House, Trump has flatly denied that he is seeking to slow down the mail, even as he leveled fresh assaults Tuesday on mail-in voting and universal ballots. More Americans than ever are expected to choose to vote absentee this year during the coronavirus

outbreak.

"You can't have millions and millions of ballots sent all over the place, sent to people that are dead, sent to dogs, cats, sent everywhere," Trump told reporters.

Some of the initiatives DeJoy said he was shelving until after the election had already been announced.

DeJoy said Tuesday he is halting the planned removal of mail-processing machines and blue collection boxes, as well as an initiative to change retail hours at post offices. He also said no mail processing facilities will be closed and said the agency has not eliminated overtime.

Trump promises storm recovery aid for Iowa

Associated Press

Kim Reem recounted Tuesday how the unusually powerful storm that tore through Iowa last week destroyed her Cedar Rapids home and laid waste to more than 100 large trees on her property.

During a briefing at the airport in Iowa's second-largest city, Reem, who heads a local homeless shelter, told President Donald Trump that it would cost roughly a quarter of a million dollars to clear the trees from her land because that damage wasn't covered by insurance — leading Trump to express surprise.

Reem said the people staying at her Mission of Hope shelter are "hungry for compassion from our leaders. Just to know our leaders care." And she said people are generally worn down by the coronavirus pandemic that left many without work. Some had just returned to their jobs only to be idled again by the Aug. 10 storm.

"We're strong and resilient, but Mr. President, we are tired and we need your help," she said.

More than a week after the

storm, a rare derecho, raked the state with hurricane-strength winds, thousands are still picking through the pieces of broken homes and hauling fallen trees and other debris from their properties. About 40,000 customers still don't have power, and a group of African refugees was living in tents outside of their decimated apartment building, initially refusing to leave despite the pleas of human services workers.

Cedar Rapids, which is in eastern Iowa, was hardest hit and drew the attention of Trump, who promised to approve a request for \$180 million in aid for damaged homes and infrastructure in the state. He also promised additional funding for farmers who were affected by an unusually powerful storm that tore through the state last week.

During the Tuesday briefing, local officials and homeowners spoke of the devastation to their communities, including Marion Mayor Nick AbouAssaly, who said up to 95% of the homes and businesses in his city of 40,000 northeast of Cedar Rapids were damaged.

'Cyborg locusts' advancing under Navy-funded research

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Navy-funded researchers have discovered that a locust's sensitive "horns" can distinguish between the scents of TNT and other explosives — a development that could one day herald the deployment of bomb-sniffing, electronically augmented bug swarms.

The research by a team from Washington University in St. Louis, published this month in the science journal "Biosensors and Bioelectronics: X," is the first proof-of-concept for a system that aims to tap into the antennae and brainpower of garden-variety bugs to create an advanced bomb detection sensor.

The work is funded by two Office of Naval Research grants totaling more than \$1.1 million, and biomedical engineering professor Barani Raman believes it has the potential to produce a bio-robotic sniffer that would be leaps ahead of entirely man-made "electronic noses."

Locusts have had about 250 million years to refine their sensory organs. A single anten-

na, or horn, has 50,000 neurons of some 50 different types, researchers have said.

That makes for far more "perfected" and complex sensing organs than systems developed by engineers, said Raman, whose doctoral research focused on electronic noses. For the last four years, his lab has studied how those advanced biological sensors could be hijacked and coupled with modern computing power.

A critical question was whether the bugs could actually detect compounds that don't typically play an active role in their lives — unlike, for example, the chemicals that give green leaves their scent, Raman said.

"What we did not know was, again, something like a TNT and DNT, which has no meaning to the insects, you would not expect them to have sensors for that," Raman said. "But it turns out ... the insects do have sensors for them and very exquisite sensors ... because they can pick up some of these odors at extremely low concentrations of parts per billion and below."

Students warned to avoid reckless behavior

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Students at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville could face punishments as stiff as expulsion if they are “irresponsible” in hosting big parties, if they won’t cooperate with COVID-19 contact tracing or if they don’t complete forms documenting their self-isolation, the chancellor said Tuesday.

The news comes as Tennessee school officials grapple with identifying and publicizing virus related data in schools across the state.

“It’s possible that you could be expelled from school and I will not hesitate to do that if people, our students, are irresponsible,” Chancellor Donde Plowman said in a video conference.

Plowman also noted five cases linked to an off-campus party last week.

Wednesday was the first day of classes at the flagship campus. School officials have confirmed 75 active COVID-19 cases there, involving 66 students and nine employees. About 6,500 students have moved in on campus, while another 30,000-plus live off campus.

The campus currently has 270 people in isolation due to contacts, symptoms or positive tests, including 51 students living on campus, Plowman said.

The state on Tuesday confirmed more than 135,700 positive cases of COVID-19 in Tennessee since the outbreak began, including 1,426 deaths.

Hawaii

HONOLULU — Indoor or outdoor social gatherings larger than five people will not be allowed on Hawaii’s most populous island of Oahu, officials announced Tuesday in an attempt to tamp down on an increase in positive coronavirus cases.

Face coverings will be required at all shopping malls, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said. Masks will also be required at spiritual services and no singing or wind instruments will be allowed.

Recent daily COVID-19 counts in the triple digits have also prompted delaying Hawaii’s pre-travel testing program to at least Oct. 1, Gov. David Ige said. Allowing travelers to bypass a 14-day quarantine by testing negative for the virus before trips was intended to allow Hawaii’s tourism-dependent economy to rebound.

For a time the state had the lowest number of cases in the nation per capita. But as restrictions were relaxed, the virus began spreading more, especially on Oahu.

“It was the gatherings that were probably most problematic,” state Health Director Dr. Bruce Anderson said of the surge.

The latest measures go into effect Thursday for 28 days, Ige said.

Illinois

CHICAGO — Chicago Public Schools on Tuesday released a “final reopening framework” that gives specifics on how much time each grade will spend daily learning remotely as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

The Chicago Teachers Union immediately criticized school officials, saying they created a plan without imagination and without consulting union officials.

“As we prepare for an unprecedented start to the upcoming school year, we’ve set clear expectations for students and staff to improve remote instruction and ensure that our students are supported and their unique needs are met,” schools CEO Dr. Janice K. Jackson said in a statement.

The district’s plan establishes expectations for remote learning, instruction time by grade, emotional and social supports for its approximately 350,000 students, plans to assist non-English speaking students and the distribution of devices to students who need them.

President Jesse Sharkey said the teachers union has filed a grievance about the district’s remote learning guidance.

Iowa

IOWA CITY — An Iowa county said Tuesday that a clinic failed to report up to 3,000 negative coronavirus test results, as concerns about inaccuracies in the state’s official pandemic data continued to mount even as schools use it to determine their fall plans.

Webster County Public Health department spokeswoman Kelli Bloomquist said her agency uncovered the clinic’s failure to report negative tests last week, and the clinic belatedly submitted the 3,000 results. The county didn’t say why the clinic was not reporting the negative results.

The state system rejected the submissions, but a subsequent review confirmed that many tests had not been entered, Bloomquist said. The new information dramatically reduced the county’s 14-day positivity rate, which the state is using to determine whether school districts must return for at least 50% in-person instruction.

The Fort Dodge Community School District announced late Monday that the lower positivity rate would allow school to start Aug. 25 as initially envisioned.

Separately, Humboldt Community School District Superintendent Jim Murray said he learned Tuesday that the county positivity rate of 22.6% — highest in the state — will be lower once unspecified data errors are corrected. He said the district would not seek a waiver to start online.

The Associated Press reported Monday

that potentially thousands of positive coronavirus cases have been backdated due to an error in the state system. The problem appears to have artificially lowered many local positivity rates, independent researchers say.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — Labor unions in Las Vegas began a campaign Tuesday to get area lawmakers to require employers to return furloughed casino, tourism, hospitality, airport, entertainment and hospital employees to their jobs when the coronavirus pandemic ebbs and business resumes.

Several hundred idled workers demonstrated at the Clark County Government Center before representatives asked the all-Democratic county commission to consider a law Sept. 1 giving workers a “Right to Return” to former positions.

“I’m here because they should respect my seniority,” said Moises Cuellar, an out-of-work casino employee with nearly 10 years’ experience at the New York-New York resort on the Las Vegas Strip.

The 52-year-old married father of two said he has a home and a mortgage, and he was worried that co-workers with less time on the job have already been called back to work.

The Nevada State AFL-CIO said the fledgling “Save Our Jobs” drive represents some 87,000 Nevada nurses, bartenders, operating engineers, service employees, teamsters, auto industry and stage and theatrical workers.

Texas

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas reported more than 200 additional coronavirus deaths Tuesday as the total number of infections surpassed 550,000 statewide.

Texas this week reached 10,000 virus deaths, joining New York, New Jersey and California as the only states to reach that grim milestone. Nearly four in five of those deaths have come since the beginning of June, and August has routinely seen hundreds of deaths added daily in the aftermath of a massive summer outbreak in Texas.

Despite the mounting deaths, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and local leaders say the outlook in Texas is improving. Hospitalizations have plunged by the thousands from July’s peak and held steady with about 6,200 patients Tuesday. The rolling average of people who test positive for the virus in Texas also remained around 11%.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said a positivity rate under 10% is an indicator that a state has robust testing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man attacked by group with shovels, rake

MD ANNAPOLIS — Police were investigating a report that a group of assailants emerged from the woods in Maryland's capital city and attacked a man with shovels and a garden rake.

The victim was at a "flea market type event" where multiple vendors were set up in a parking lot in Annapolis when the suspects struck him multiple times with the garden tools, police said in a report.

The man was taken to a hospital after suffering head pain and cuts and abrasions to his arms and hands, The Capital Gazette quoted police department spokesman Cpl. Dave Stokes as saying.

The victim told investigators he did not recognize the men that allegedly attacked him, Stokes said.

Man convicted of illegal possession of grenades

NH CONCORD — A New Hampshire man was found guilty of possessing hand grenades following a weeklong federal jury trial, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Daniel Musso, 56, of Brentwood, engaged in a series of efforts to obtain ammunition and military weapons and explosives in 2015, prosecutors said. After he told a firearms dealer about it, the FBI arranged for Musso to meet an undercover agent, who told Musso about the hand grenades.

Musso explained that he was part of a group that was seeking to bring forth the "original constitution" and that he and his associates were seeking to obtain military weapons and explosives to "take our country back," prosecutors said. He was arrested in 2016 after he bought

four military hand grenades from the undercover agent in Seabrook.

Lincoln park to mark amendment centennial

KY HODGENVILLE — The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park plans to observe the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Crews will illuminate the Memorial Building on Aug. 26 in the colors of purple and gold, which were traditionally used by the suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote, the park said in a statement. The evening event is free and open to the public.

People are also encouraged to submit names of individuals who have struggled for equality for a "Freedom Roll Call" that will be read during the event.

Motorcyclist survives violent bison attack

SD CUSTER — A motorcyclist survived a violent attack by a bison in the Black Hills of South Dakota, sheriff's officials said.

A bystander's video shows several bikers had stopped while a herd of bison crossed a road in Custer State Park. A 54-year-old Iowa woman got off the motorcycle on which she was a passenger and approached a bison calf, the Custer County Sheriff's Office said.

An adult bison then charged and attacked the woman. The bison cow caught the woman's belt and jeans on its horns and swung her around — violently ripping off her pants before running away, according to the park's visitor services manager Kobe Stalder.

The woman was taken by a medical helicopter from the scene, Stalder said.

Woman walking her dog bitten by a javelina

AZ TUCSON — A Tucson woman was recovering after being bitten by a javelina, authorities said.

Arizona Game and Fish Department officials said the 29-year-old woman was walking her dog in the Catalina Foothills when she saw six javelina, also known as peccary.

One of the javelina charged the unidentified woman and bit one of her thighs, leaving her with a 6-inch gash.

She was treated at a hospital and given a rabies vaccine as a precaution.

Game and Fish officials said javelina don't see well, but they have a strong sense of smell. And when javelinas smell a dog, they interpret it as a coyote and react instinctively. They said the Tucson area typically sees about two or three injuries from javelina every year.

Virtual ceremony honors Navajo Code Talkers

AZ WINDOW ROCK — Hundreds of Navajo Code Talkers who helped the Allied forces covertly communicate during World War II were honored in a ceremony last week.

Code Talkers Day is celebrated annually on Aug. 14, the date of the Japanese surrender marking the end of the war. The ceremony was taken online this year because of the pandemic.

Hundreds of Navajos serving in the U.S. Marine Corps transmitted messages using a code based on the Navajo language. The code developed by an original group of 29 Navajos was used to confound Japanese forces. It was never broken. Only a handful of Code Talkers are still alive.

First plague case in 5 years confirmed

CA SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — Health officials have confirmed a case of plague at South Lake Tahoe — the first in California in five years.

El Dorado County officials said Monday the California Department of Public Health notified them of the positive test of a resident who is under medical care while recovering at home.

Plague bacteria are most often transmitted by fleas that have acquired it from infected squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents. Dogs and cats may also carry plague-infected fleas.

Health officials believe the South Lake Tahoe resident may have been bitten by an infected flea while walking a dog along the Truckee River corridor or in the Tahoe Keys area.

Woman attacked by bald eagle along lake

MN LUTSEN — A resort lodge employee came to the aid of a woman being attacked by a bald eagle on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

The woman had approached the eagle to get a closer look when it was perched on a fireplace chimney at the Cascade Lodge and Restaurant near Lutsen.

The eagle suddenly attacked the woman and gripped its talons around her leg.

Restaurant chef Bernie Banks saw what happened and sprang into action. He put his chef's jacket over the eagle's head and pulled the bird off the woman and let it go.

From wire reports

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Kanaan wants do-over on farewell tour

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Tony Kanaan wanted to celebrate this season with his longtime, loyal fans.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. Suddenly, races were being postponed or canceled, schedules were being revised and race organizers could only sell a limited percentage of tickets — if any at all.

Now with Kanaan qualified 23rd for Sunday's Indianapolis 500, the popular Brazilian is plotting a sequel to his "Last Lap" season, one that appears to be taking him to new venues and multiple series.

"I don't change my mind very often," Kanaan said. "But this isn't how I planned it. Personally, I feel the same way about Jimmie Johnson in NASCAR. You can't go out like this. It's just not right."

The truth is, Kanaan never intended to ride off into the sunset after this season.

Instead, he used the January

announcement to say only that he was "stepping back a bit" from racing after ABC Supply, a longtime sponsor for A.J. Foyt Racing, said it would scale back on its funding for the No. 14 car.

Initially, the plan was to run one race — the 500. But Foyt and IndyCar officials managed to scrape enough money together to fund five races, all on ovals, all with different primary sponsors. Kanaan's final two races this season are now scheduled for next week in metro St. Louis.

But shortly after arriving at the Brickyard's historic 2.5-mile track, the first August race in the event's storied history, rumors started swirling about Kanaan's potential 500 return next season. Then after spending the past week driving around empty grandstands, walking around an empty Gasoline Alley, seeing the wide-open infield and hearing the cries from his fans, Kanaan clarified his intentions.

"I definitely don't think I

should do my last 500 this way," Kanaan said. "I will do everything I can to get back. I definitely want to come back and it is not going to be a full season, 100%. Certainly there's going to be one race or five races or five ovals."

But even Kanaan understands how difficult the journey could be for a 17-time race winner, a former series champion and a record 317 consecutive IndyCar starts on his résumé.

Finding sponsorship money is always rough and after an unprecedented economic collapse caused by the pandemic, next season could pose even greater fiscal challenges for the series, its teams and the companies who keep them running.

It might prove even more difficult to convince businesses to stick with a 45-year-old veteran who is winless in his last 86 starts. Plus, Kanaan doesn't want to block opportunities for a promising group of young IndyCar drivers, either.

And the 2021 schedule is already starting to fill up, too.

Kanaan quickly accepted an invitation to compete in Tony Stewart's new racing league, Superstar Racing Experience.

The league spearheaded by Stewart, a three-time Cup champion and the 1997 IndyCar champ, NASCAR Hall of Fame crew chief Ray Evernham, agent Sandy Montag and former NASCAR COO George Pyne, plans to run six short-track races on dirt, paved ovals and road courses next year. Twelve drivers will compete, randomly paired with a crew chief for two 45-minute heats. There will be no pit stops.

"I'm excited," the 2004 IndyCar champion said. "One thing I told Ray, I definitely could commit (regardless) whatever happened here. When I announced in February I knew for certain I was not going to become a full-time IndyCar driver ever again. I mean even if an opportunity presents here, it was going to be part-time anyway. I said, 'Great, just make sure you don't book a race in May.'"

NBA roundup

Top seeds in each conference drop playoff openers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — First it was Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks, unable to call upon what was one of the best defenses in the league.

Then came LeBron James and the Lakers, clanging three-pointers off the rim to provide a steady sound in a mostly empty gym.

These NBA playoffs already promised to be the most challenging yet. They got a little tougher Tuesday for the league's top teams.

Milwaukee and Los Angeles lost their playoff openers, the first time both conference No. 1 seeds have been beaten by the No. 8s to start their postseasons since 2003.

So good for most of the season, the top seeds are having

trouble in the bubble.

There's no home-court advantage to lose in this postseason at Walt Disney World, making it easier not to panic in what would normally be a tougher predicament.

"No frustration because the game is the game and we came in with a mindset to win. We didn't take care of business, but we've got another opportunity on Thursday to even the series and that's my only mindset," James said.

The Lakers knew they were in against a tougher-than-usual No. 8 seed in the Portland Trail Blazers, who came back from the coronavirus-caused suspension of the season healthy and then played their way into the postseason by winning a play-in series.

Los Angeles didn't help itself in trying to slow down a hot opponent by shooting just 15.6% (5-for-32) from three-point range and wound up losing 100-93.

Heat 113, Pacers 101: Jimmy Butler scored 28 points, Goran Dragic had 24 and Miami beat Indiana in the opener of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

The Heat pulled away in the closing minutes, long after the Pacers had lost star guard Victor Oladipo to an eye injury.

Bam Adebayo had 17 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Miami, which was just a little bit better in a mostly even matchup between the Nos. 4 and 5 seeds, who were separated by a game in the standings in this pandemic-shortened season.

T.J. Warren and Malcolm Brogdon scored 22 points apiece for the Pacers, who will try to even the series on Thursday.

Rockets 123, Thunder 108: James Harden had 37 points and 11 rebounds, and Houston rolled past Oklahoma City in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Rockets All-Star Russell Westbrook, who played his previous 11 years with the Thunder, was out with a quad injury.

Fourth-seeded Houston still made 20 three-pointers and shot 48% from the field. Jeff Green scored 22 points and Eric Gordon added 21.

Danilo Gallinari matched a playoff career high with 29 points for fifth-seeded Oklahoma City.

Maeda no-hit bid fails but Twins win in 12

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With his move to Minnesota, Kenta Maeda welcomed the opportunity to be a full-time starter and finally be done dabbling in the bullpen.

His capability and durability were on display Tuesday night.

Maeda lost a no-hitter in the ninth inning for the Twins, who blew a three-run lead but came back to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4-3 in 12 innings.

“He was in total control. He’s showing us all of the different dimensions to what he can do out on the mound,” Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. “Even for people who are in baseball, to watch a performance like that does put you a little bit in awe.”

Maeda’s no-hit bid ended on Eric Sogard’s soft single that soared just over the glove of leaping shortstop Jorge Polanco. Maeda set a club record with eight consecutive strikeouts and finished the game with 12 punchouts on 115 pitches — the most thrown by any pitcher in baseball this season and the most in Maeda’s five-year major league career since arriving from Japan.

“In my days back in Japan, it’s normal for me to throw this many pitches per outing. But then again, it’s been a while since the last time I pitched in Japan, so I’m kind of tired today,” Maeda said.

Byron Buxton helped salvage his gem. Buxton slid headfirst into home on a slow roller against a five-man infield in the 12th for the winning run. Jorge Polanco poked

the grounder past David Phelps (2-2), and second baseman Luis Urias fielded the ball cleanly but couldn’t send it home in time to beat Buxton, who was charging from third after opening the inning as Minnesota’s automatic runner at second.

“I still think on a regular ground ball we have a chance to throw him out,” Brewers manager Craig Counsell said.

Sogard’s hit gave them a chance.

“We knew we were still in the game. We needed baserunners,” Sogard said. “He was throwing the ball great.”

Said Twins catcher Alex Avila: “I’ve seen a lot of no-hitters broken up that way with broken-bat hits and stuff like that. It’s heartbreaking at times, but he was incredible today.”

MLB roundup

Nats use 17-hit attack, defense to down Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Victor Robles denied a homer with a brilliant catch above the center-field wall and Washington bounced back from a stunning loss to beat Atlanta 8-5 Tuesday night.

With every starter contributing to a 17-hit attack and Eric Thames driving in three runs, the Nationals overcame a 5-2 deficit with a four-run fifth inning.

Freddie Freeman homered for the Braves, and Austin Riley could’ve had one in the fifth if not for Robles.

Tyler Matzek (2-2) surrendered six hits and four runs — and committed a throwing error — while recording only a single out.

Adam Eaton, Juan Soto and Yan Gomes all had RBI singles off Matzek before Thames drove in the go-ahead run with a hard grounder to first.

Wander Suero (1-0) earned the win with that big assist from Robles. Daniel Hudson held on for his fifth save.

Rays 6, Yankees 3: Brandon Lowe homered for the fifth time in six games, Austin Meadows also connected and Tampa Bay won at AL East-leading New

York.

Second-place Tampa Bay cut its deficit to 1½ games in the opener of this three-game set. The Rays have won four of five in the season series.

Luke Voit hit his third homer in two days and Gary Sanchez also went deep, but the Yankees ended a six-game winning streak and dropped to 10-1 at Yankee Stadium this season.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 3: Yu Darvish pitched six effective innings in his fourth straight win, and banged-up Chicago beat visiting St. Louis.

Darvish allowed one run and eight hits while improving to 4-0 with a 1.04 ERA since he struggled in his first start of the season July 25 against Milwaukee — matching his career-best winning streak. He struck out seven and walked one.

Dodgers 2, Mariners 1: Corey Seager singled home Austin Barnes with the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning and host Los Angeles beat Seattle for its seventh consecutive victory.

Barnes scored both runs for the Dodgers, who improved to an NL-best 18-7 and sent the Mariners to their seventh straight defeat.

Indians 6, Pirates 3 (10):

Carlos Santana hit a towering, three-run homer in the 10th inning and drove in five runs to lift Cleveland to a win at Pittsburgh.

With one out and the score tied at 3, Santana’s drive sailed high over the foul pole and landed at the top of the left-field rotunda at PNC Park. The Pirates argued that the ball had curved foul, but the umpire’s call stood.

Padres 6, Rangers 4: Wil Myers hit a first-inning grand slam and San Diego, with Fernando Tatis Jr. again leading the charge, won at Texas.

Jurickson Profar added a two-run homer against his former team and five Padres relievers combined for six scoreless innings to close out the victory.

Phillies 13, Red Sox 6: Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer during a seven-run sixth inning and Philadelphia came from behind to crush host Boston and send it to its ninth consecutive loss.

Rhys Hoskins, Phil Gosselin and Jay Bruce also homered for the Phillies, who fell behind 3-0 and still trailed 4-2 before sending nine batters to the plate with two outs in the sixth — getting seven hits and a walk

before Colten Brewer, Boston’s third pitcher in the inning, struck out Jay Bruce to end it.

Mets 8, Marlins 3: Brandon Nimmo had three hits and two RBIs, leading New York to its second straight win at Miami.

White Sox 10, Tigers 4: Tim Anderson welcomed pitching prospect Tarik Skubal to the majors with a leadoff homer, and host Chicago beat Detroit for its third straight win.

Astros 2, Rockies 1 (11): Myles Straw’s RBI single with one out in the 11th inning lifted his team over visiting Colorado and extended Houston’s winning streak to a season-high six games.

Giants 8, Angels 2: Mike Yastrzemski and Pablo Sandoval homered, and San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak with a win at Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 10, Athletics 1: Nick Ahmed homered and had five RBIs, Luke Weaver pitched five effective innings and host Arizona stretched its winning streak to six games with a win over Oakland.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 7 (10): Travis Shaw scored on a throwing error in the 10th inning, and Toronto won at Baltimore after blowing a four-run lead.

NHL roundup

Golden Knights oust Blackhawks

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Facing an early deficit, the Vegas Golden Knights were sparked by their stars, setting the stage for Alex Tuch to send the top seeds in the Western Conference into the next round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Tuch scored the tiebreaking goal 1:34 into the third period, and the Golden Knights rallied from an early two-goal deficit to eliminate the Chicago Blackhawks with a 4-3 win in Game 5 of their first-round playoff series on Tuesday night.

Vegas became the first team in the playoffs to advance to the conference semifinals. The Golden Knights will face the lowest remaining seed in the next round.

“We were glad to get it over with tonight because they weren’t going away quietly,” Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said. “They made us earn it. It was a hard-fought hockey game. We got in that hole early and I just like how we’ve responded to adversity when it’s appeared during this playoff.”

Max Pacioretty scored in the closing seconds of the first period and Mark Stone scored less than a minute into the second

as the Golden Knights quickly erased Chicago’s early 2-0 advantage. Alec Martinez scored on a power play midway through the second period after Patrick Kane had given the Blackhawks a 3-2 lead.

Robin Lehner made 23 saves, including a couple of big stops in the closing seconds, and improved to 8-1 since being acquired by Vegas from Chicago back in February.

Lehner had an emotional trip through the handshake line with his former teammates.

Capitals 3, Islanders 2: After his team gave up two goals less than halfway through the first period, Washington coach Todd Rierden called a timeout. The Capitals started playing better right after, turning the tide with a big penalty kill and some big saves.

Alex Ovechkin scored twice, including the go-ahead goal early in the third period, as Washington rallied from two goals down to beat the New York Islanders and avoid a sweep in their first-round series in Toronto.

Flyers 2, Canadiens 0: At Toronto, Carter Hart stopped 29 shots for his sec-

ond straight shutout, Michael Raffl and Phil Myers each scored and Philadelphia took a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Flyers, who had a chance to wrap up the series Wednesday, haven’t advanced to the second round of the playoffs since 2012, made the Stanley Cup Final since 2010 or won it all since 1975.

It’s the fifth time in NHL history a goalie had back-to-back postseason shutouts before age 23 and the first since Felix Potvin in 1994.

Montreal’s Carey Price finished with 20 saves.

Stars 2, Flames 1: At Edmonton, Alberta, John Klingberg scored his first goal since the NHL’s restart early in the third period, and Dallas held on to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference playoff series.

Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin teamed up for the first goal for the Stars, who can reach the conference semifinals for the second straight year with a victory in Game 6 on Thursday. It’s been 19 years since the Stars won playoff series in consecutive seasons.

Briefly

Dallas releases DT McCoy after season-ending injury

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys released defensive tackle Gerald McCoy on Tuesday, a day after the newcomer sustained a season-ending leg injury.

McCoy tore his right quadriceps muscle Monday while engaging defensive tackle Antwaun Woods during an individual drill. It was the first padded practice of training camp for the Cowboys.

The injury waiver means the Cowboys pay only the \$3 million signing bonus on the \$18 million, three-year contract McCoy signed as a free agent during the offseason.

The 32-year-old McCoy was the first of four significant additions on the defensive line in free agency. He and Dontari Poe were expected to help fill the middle while pass rushers Aldon Smith and Everson Griffen were added to make things a little easier for DeMarcus Lawrence on the outside.

McCoy spent his first nine seasons with Tampa Bay.

In other NFL news:

■ Miami Dolphins linebacker Vince Biegel suffered a significant right leg injury in practice, coach Brian Flores said Wednesday.

The Dolphins were still awaiting test results after Biegel was carted off the field Tuesday.

■ A Florida appeals court ruled Wednesday that police violated the rights of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and others when they secretly video recorded them paying for massage parlor sex acts, barring the tapes’ use at trial and dealing a potentially deadly blow to their prosecution.

The state 4th District Court of Appeals ruled Kraft’s rights were violated under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Prosecutors will likely appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court, but if it stands, the misdemeanor charges brought against

Kraft and other customers would have to be dropped for lack of evidence.

■ Pro Bowl running back Nick Chubb has been placed in concussion protocol after he sustained a head injury while being tackled around the neck by starting linebacker Mack Wilson during the Cleveland’s first fully padded practice on Monday.

Wilson sustained a hyperextended knee and will miss some time, a person familiar with the injury told the Associated Press on Tuesday night.

Injured Koepka won’t play Northern Trust

NORTON, Mass. — Brooks Koepka ended a forgettable season Wednesday when he withdrew from The Northern Trust with what he described as nagging hip and knee injuries.

Koepka was No. 97 in the FedEx Cup standings.