

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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GOP convention opens with stars, warnings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A rising generation of Republican stars offered an optimistic view of President Donald Trump's leadership but was undermined on the opening night of the GOP's scaled-back convention by speakers issuing dark warnings about the country's future and distorting the president's record, particularly on the coronavirus pandemic.

As Trump faces pressure to expand his appeal beyond his loyal supporters, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the Senate's sole Black Republican, and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, sought to cast the GOP as welcoming to Americans of color, despite the party's overwhelmingly white leadership and voting base.

"I was a brown girl in a black and white world," Haley said Monday night, noting that she faced discrimination but reject-

ing the idea that "America is a racist country." She also gave a nod to the Black Lives Matter movement, saying "of course we know that every single Black life is valuable."

But the prime-time convention proceedings, which featured a blend of taped and live speeches, focused largely on dire talk about Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic challenger in the November election. Speakers ominously warned that electing Biden would lead to violence in American cities spilling into the suburbs, a frequent Trump campaign message with racist undertones. One speaker called Trump the "bodyguard of Western civilization."

Scrambling to find a message that sticks, Trump's team tried out multiple themes and tactics over the course of the night. They featured optimism from those who could represent the GOP's future, attempts to

characterize Biden as a vessel for socialists and far-left Democrats despite his moderate record and humanizing stories about the 74-year-old man who sits in the Oval Office.

Trump and a parade of fellow Republicans misrepresented Biden's agenda through the evening, falsely accusing him of proposing to defund police, ban oil fracking, take over health care, open borders and raise taxes on most Americans. They tried to assign positions of the Democratic left to a middle-of-the-road candidate who explicitly rejected many of the party's most liberal positions through the primaries.

The opening night of the four-day convention reflected the rising urgency fueling Trump's push to reshape a presidential contest that he's losing, at least for now, with Election Day just 10 weeks away. It was continuing Tuesday, when first lady Melania Trump was to de-

liver remarks from the White House.

Biden and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, are keeping a relatively low profile this week. In a tweet Monday night, Biden told supporters to "stay focused."

The emphasis on diversity at Trump's convention was an acknowledgement that he must expand his coalition beyond his largely white base. Polling shows that Black Americans continue to be overwhelmingly negative in their assessments of the president's performance, with his approval hovering around 1 in 10 over the course of his presidency, according to Gallup polling.

Trump's political future may depend on his ability to convince voters that America is on the right track, even as the coronavirus death toll exceeds 177,000 and pandemic-related job losses also reach into the millions.

'Star Trek' actor seeks debate on Space Force structure

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The original Capt. James T. Kirk of the starship USS Enterprise would like a word with Space Force officials about the new service branch's rank structure, and some lawmakers appear to be on his side.

"I'm just a nobody here but I was wondering; is it true that the commanding officer on-board a 'Space Force' ship is designated a Colonel & not a Captain?" William Shatner, the actor who played Kirk on "Star Trek," wrote to the service on Twitter. "Is this up for debate? I think I'd like to debate the issue."

His post over the weekend came days after the service, which falls under the Department of the Air Force, touted the transfers into its ranks of two Air Force officers and their promotions to lieutenant general.

But Shatner may have characteristically beamed himself into an ongoing fray, as lawmakers have proposed requiring the service to use Navy ranks and grades.

The House last month approved its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act with an amendment by Texas Republican and former Navy SEAL Dan Crenshaw that would force the service

to call its O-1s "ensigns" and those with stars on their shoulders "admirals." That version has yet to be reconciled with the Senate's.

The service won't comment on pending legislation, Space Force spokesman Maj. Nicholas Mercurio said when asked about Shatner's query. Officials are still developing the service's uniforms and hope to soon unveil what they've decided the service's personnel will be called to help craft its "unique and identifiable culture," he said.

Two service branches having different rank structures within the same department would not be unprecedented. The Ma-

rine Corps, which falls under the Department of the Navy, has a rank structure more like the Army.

But earlier this month, retired Air Force three-star general David Deptula, now dean of the Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies, blasted Crenshaw's proposal as misguided and a bad precedent in an op-ed published in The Hill.

"Rather than look backward on more than 1,000 years of naval ritual at sea — and a few decades of TV and movie fantasy — let's empower the Space Force to live out its Semper Supra motto and rise above such petty nonsense," he wrote.

New virus numbers remain relatively low across Japan

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases Tuesday as the number in the capital city bumped up to nearly 200.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported 182 new cases Tuesday, according to the public broadcaster NHK, more than the previous day's 95 but still below the most recent daily high of 339 on Thursday.

Tokyo has reported 19,610 infections during the pandemic as of Tuesday, according to NHK. As of Monday, 352 people have died due to the virus, according to the metro government website.

On Okinawa, the Marine Corps reported three new cases Tuesday morning, one at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and two at Camp Schwab, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific. All three were discovered during testing while the patients were in a 14-day quarantine, according to the post. U.S. military personnel must test negative for the coronavirus before leaving isolation.

Okinawa prefecture, home to the bulk of U.S. forces in the country, reported 32 new infections Tuesday, the sixth day in a row below 50 new daily cases, according to a prefectural public health spokesman.

The prefecture also reported four deaths due to the coronavirus late Monday, all patients between 70 and 90 years old. Twenty-three people have died on Okinawa so far from the pandemic.

"We had tested around 1,858 cases by chasing the close contacts from active patients last week and around 700 cases at local hospitals and clinics per doctors' order," the official said.

"Our number goes higher when we try to contain a cluster case by testing aggressively," he said.

The prefecture is not planning any further mass testing like it did in Matsuyama, the entertainment district of Naha city, anytime soon because it cannot afford the needed manpower, the spokesman said. The prefecture tested more than 2,000 workers and customers in the district.

Infections move fast, far from Sturgis Rally

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — The hundreds of thousands of bikers who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally may have departed western South Dakota, but public health departments in multiple states are trying to measure how much and how quickly the coronavirus spread in bars, tattoo shops and gatherings before people traveled home to nearly every state.

From the city of Sturgis, which is conducting mass testing for its roughly 7,000 residents, to health departments in at least six states, health officials are trying to track outbreaks from the 10-day rally that ended on Aug. 16. They face the task of tracking an invisible virus that spread among bar-hoppers and rallygoers, who then traveled to over half of the counties in the U.S.

An analysis of anonymous cellphone data from Camber Systems, a firm that aggregates cellphone activity for health researchers, found that 61% of all the counties in the U.S. have been visited by someone who attended Sturgis, creating a travel hub that was comparable to a major U.S. city.

"Imagine trying to do contact tracing for the entire city of (Washington), D.C., but you also know that you don't have any distancing, or the distancing is very, very limited, the masking is limited," said Navin Vembar, who co-founded Camber Systems. "It all adds up to a very dangerous situation for people all over the place."

Health departments in South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming have reported a total of 81 cases among people who attended the rally. South Dakota health officials said Monday they had received reports of infections from residents of two other states — North Dakota and Washington. The Department of Health also issued public warnings of possible COVID-19 exposure at five businesses popular with bikers, saying it didn't know how many people could have been exposed.

Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at the Minnesota Department of Health, on Friday advised people to quarantine for two weeks if they attended the rally. She said, "We're expecting that we're going to see many more cases associated with Sturgis."

Marine staff sergeant killed in car crash on Okinawa ID'd

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps identified Staff Sgt. James A. McNeil Jr., 31, as the service member who died in a car crash Sunday on Okinawa.

McNeil, from Brooklyn, N.Y., was attached to 3rd Marine Logistics Group. He apparently lost control of his vehicle at around 11 a.m. while southbound on Route 330 in Kitanakagusuku village, Marine and local police spokesmen said Monday.

McNeil struck a tree and a traffic-light pole near the headquarters gate for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, an Okinawa police spokesman said Monday. He was rushed to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, where he was pronounced dead, according to a Marine statement.

"This past weekend, we experienced the tragedy of losing a fellow Marine," logistics group commander Brig. Gen. Brian Wolford wrote in a statement posted Tuesday on the group's Facebook page. "Losing a fellow Marine is always difficult and unfathomable. We extend

our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and anyone else dealing with this tragedy."

The cause of the crash is under investigation, according to the statement. No other service members or civilians were harmed in the incident. Okinawa roads were slick from rain at the time of the crash as Typhoon Bavi bore down on the island, an Okinawa police spokesman said Monday. McNeil was wearing his seatbelt.

McNeil enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 2008, logistics group spokesman 1st Lt. Jonathan Coronel wrote

Tuesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. He deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, in 2010 and 2012. He also spent time at sea aboard the dock landing ship USS Ashland.

McNeil was a recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the NATO Medal for work with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, among others, Coronel said.

Protesters burn, loot Kenosha buildings

The Washington Post

Demonstrations in Kenosha, Wis., continued Monday night and into early Tuesday after the police shooting of Jacob Blake, which has given way to protests and some chaotic scenes, including property damage, fires and tear gas across the city's streets.

Officers shot the 29-year-old Black man in the back Sunday as he entered a car that held his children, a shooting captured on video that led to intense protests in the lakefront city and to a national outcry. The Associated Press reported Tuesday that Blake's father said his son had been left paralyzed.

Kenosha police used tear gas Monday and fired small beanbags at a crowd that threw firecrackers, tore down street signs, smashed storefronts and set fires around the city. By early Tuesday, the National

Guard — which had been called in after the previous night's turmoil — rolled through the streets as buildings burned to the ground and looters ransacked stores.

The fires not only destroyed local businesses — a cellphone store, a tattoo parlor, a furniture store, a Mexican grocery — but they also forced out residents who lived on the second floors of the nearly century-old brick buildings.

"We're a poor neighborhood," said Debbie, 69, who worked at the grocery and spoke on the condition that her last name not be shared. "Some of us don't make enough money, so now we're trapped."

Protesters expressed rage at the police over Blake's shooting, demanding accountability and change.

"I don't think people should destroy anything, but the cops need to work for their money," said Brandel Gordon, 26, a Black resident of Kenosha who said he was once

a victim of police brutality. "There needs to be social reform in this city."

After the Sunday shooting in Kenosha — the latest instance of police violence to gain national attention in a year marked by protests over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis police custody — the officers involved were placed on leave and the Wisconsin Department of Justice stepped in to investigate.

Other cities also saw protests and, in some places, damage.

Hundreds of Black Lives Matter protesters gathered in downtown Los Angeles. In New York City, protesters gathered in Times Square and marched downtown, some extending the demonstration across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Authorities also reported dozens of arrests in three places — Minneapolis, Portland, Ore., and Seattle — that have been flash points throughout the summer.

Portland police declare riot following fiery protests

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland police have declared a riot after fires were started amid protests against racial injustice.

Police said Monday night that people had to leave the area near the Portland Police Association building. Two fires were set, one behind the building, police said.

Someone climbed onto the association's

roof to unfurl a banner and the walls were spray-painted, reported the Oregonian/OregonLive. Police made arrests and used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Early Monday police used tear gas to scatter demonstrators who hurled rocks, bottles and commercial-grade fireworks at officers and set fires in the streets as they marched on a precinct station in another

night of violence. Twenty-three people were arrested.

Similar protests have racked Oregon's largest city nightly for nearly three months after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Some protesters Sunday night and early Monday morning threw objects at officers. One officer was left with a wrist injury.

Crews make progress in containing Calif. wildfires

Associated Press

SCOTTS VALLEY, Calif. — Aided by weather and reinforcements, firefighters were cautiously optimistic Tuesday about their progress to pen in California wildfires that have killed at least seven people and burned more than 1,200 homes and other buildings.

A warning about dry lightning and strong winds that could spark more fires was lifted for the San Francisco Bay Area on Monday morning, a huge relief to commanders battling three enormous blazes in the area and in California's wine country north of San Francisco.

The deadliest and most destructive of the three in the wine country had containment lines around 25 percent of it that serve to prevent fires from burning more land.

Officials said progress was also made against a fire in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties with the help of rain Sunday evening and calmer weather Monday. The 123-

square-mile fire was 17% surrounded after destroying 330 structures. Some 25,000 structures remained threatened.

"The past couple days we've seen significant progress in our firefight on this incident," said Mark Brunton, operations chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which is known as Cal Fire. "The weather's really cooperating with us."

Helicopters dropped 200,000 gallons of water on the blaze, he said, calling it "the best day yet."

In addition to better weather, fire crews along with bulldozers and other equipment were arriving from other states.

But officials warned the danger was far from over and admonished residents to stay out of evacuated areas. Six people who returned to a restricted area south of San Francisco to check on their properties were surprised by fire and had to be rescued, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Of-

fice said.

Looters have been warned they'll be arrested, and some people have been taken into custody, including a man found with \$5,000 in his car, authorities said. Detectives were also investigating seven reports of missing people.

An estimated 170,000 people are under evacuation orders and tens of thousands of homes remain under threat from fires.

The fires are blamed for at least seven deaths, among them 70-year-old Mary Hintemeyer, her boyfriend Leo McDermott, and his son, Tom, said Hintemeyer's son, Robert McNeal.

McNeal told KPIX-TV that he lost contact with his mother Tuesday night as the fires sped up. He said his mother had tried to go into town earlier that day but turned back at a roadblock where authorities said if she went through she wouldn't be allowed back. She returned home to get her boyfriend, who was in a wheelchair.

NM: Fewer abuse reports with kids home

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — A sharp decline in reports of child abuse and neglect in New Mexico at the outset of the coronavirus pandemic is prompting concerns that problems are going unnoticed while children stay home from school.

The accountability office of the Legislature said Monday that hotline reports of suspected child abuse and neglect declined by 42% in April and 33% in May compared with the same months in 2019.

Analysts say school closures mean that nurses and social workers have less contact with children that may provide clues about abuse and neglect. Across the U.S., about one-fifth of suspected child abuse complaints originate from school staff.

"The loss of a key source of reporting, coupled with additional strains on families facing the financial and emotional hardships of the pandemic, has raised concerns that child abuse is surging unseen," the Legislative Finance Committee staff said in newsletter.

Legislators will be briefed on the report Wednesday.

California

SACRAMENTO — While California faces multiple crises, there are encouraging signs in the coronavirus fight, with infection rates falling enough that Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that soon he will announce plans for reopening businesses that closed nearly two months ago when cases spiked.

More than 100,000 people are tested for COVID-19 every day, though the wildfires have made it more difficult in some places, the Democratic governor said. Over the past week, the infection rate for those tested fell to 5.6%, a significant drop from a few weeks ago and well below the state's target of 8%. Hospitalizations are down 20% over a two-week period, Newsom said.

Newsom said he'll release guidelines by the end of the week on how and when certain businesses can reopen.

Connecticut

Many Connecticut school districts preparing for in-person classes are unable to comply with social distancing recommendations and unwilling to allow teachers with compromised immune systems to work remotely during the continuing coronavirus pandemic, teacher union officials said Monday.

Representatives from both the Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers of Connecticut said there are classrooms without windows or proper ventilation in some districts while others don't have enough room for students and teachers to remain 6 feet apart.

"Almost half of the districts that we are getting reports from are saying, 'We're not even going to try to do that,'" said Jeff Leake, president of CEA, referring to a question about 6-foot social distancing on a survey his union conducted. "And then the ones that are, 76% are saying, 'if we can.' So those are huge, huge pieces of getting back safely."

Illinois

JOLIET — New mitigation efforts were announced Monday by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and public health officials for Will and Kankakee counties in an effort to tamp down an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in those areas.

The move comes as the Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting 1,612 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and eight additional deaths. Monday's numbers bring the state's total of COVID-19 cases to 221,790 and the number of fatalities to 7,888. Health officials say 36,155 tests were conducted, bringing the seven-day testing positivity rate for the entire state to 4.2%.

Beginning Wednesday, bars and restaurants in Region 7, which makes up Will and Kankakee counties, will no longer be allowed to offer indoor service. In addition, meetings, social events and gatherings will be limited to 25 guests or 25% of room capacity.

Georgia

ATLANTA — Some Georgians are in line for more unemployment assistance as the state has given up the dubious title of being the state where COVID-19 is spreading the fastest.

Georgia has been overtaken by Mississippi as the No. 1 state with the highest number of new cases per 100,000 people, according to a 14-day average kept by The Associated Press. The coronavirus is still spreading rapidly in the Peach State compared to other places, though, with 355 new infections per 100,000 people over the 14 days ended Sunday.

Total confirmed infections rose above 256,000 on Monday, according to the state Department of Public Health. Deaths from the summer spike continue to be reported at a high rate, with confirmed fatalities now totaling 5,156.

Iowa

IOWA CITY — University of Iowa students and several bars in Iowa City are facing criticism after throngs of young adults were seen crowded together outside and within the venues — most without masks — just hours before in-person classes were to start Monday at the university and many Iowa K-12 schools.

Iowa City police took a complaint just after 1 a.m. Sunday that several bars were all over capacity and not enforcing a mask mandate, The Gazette reported.

On Monday, the university reported 107 students and four employees have tested positive for COVID-19. That total counts only students and employees who have self-reported positive tests since Aug. 18 because university officials said they can't release individuals reports because of health privacy laws.

Kansas

TOPEKA — Kansas no longer has any counties free of reported coronavirus cases, with the last two, sparsely populated ones confirming their first as

local schools were preparing to reopen.

The state Department of Health and Environment on Monday marked the milestone while reporting 1,545 new cases since Friday, an increase of 4.2%, to put the pandemic total at 38,401. The state reported an additional seven COVID-19-related deaths, for 426 in all.

The last two of 105 counties to report cases were in northwest Kansas. Rawlins County is on the Nebraska border and has about 2,500 residents, while Wallace County has about 1,500 residents and is on the Colorado border.

The pandemic reached Kansas in March, with the first cases in the Kansas City area, and the virus spread to half of the state's counties in 30 days.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky will draw on federal money to create an eviction relief fund to keep people in their homes by reimbursing landlords for missed rent payments, Gov. Andy Beshear said Monday.

Beshear said he signed an executive order setting up the system aimed at protecting people in jeopardy of eviction while keeping money flowing to landlords. The fund will draw on \$15 million sent to Kentucky as part of federal coronavirus relief assistance, the Democratic governor said.

Under the executive order, landlords have to give tenants 30 days' notice of their intent to evict due to nonpayment of rent, Beshear said. The landlord's notice must request a meeting with the tenant to give them a chance to work something out.

Texas

DALLAS — Texas reported 2,754 new cases of COVID-19 Monday and another 25 deaths from the disease caused by the coronavirus.

State health officials issued the counts after saying earlier that testing data would not be updated Monday because of "a network outage affecting multiple state agencies."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Tortoise on the run 74 days, made it 1/8 mile

TN ASHLAND CITY — A 150-pound tortoise who escaped from a Tennessee home has been returned after 74 days, managing to make it less than a mile during his slow and steady journey.

Though the African Sulcata Tortoise named Solomon crawled away from his Ashland City enclosure more than two months ago, he was discovered just an eighth of a mile away from home last week, his owner, Lynn Cole, told WKRN-TV on Friday.

Cole said a man and his son spotted Solomon grazing in a valley at a construction site and returned him within minutes.

Woman punched after giving reading at church

PA PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia's archbishop called it a "senseless act of aggression" after a woman who had finished a reading at a Roman Catholic church was punched as she left the altar.

The attack took place Sunday during the 11 a.m. Mass, which was streamed on Facebook Live from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. Video showed the lector leaving the altar when a woman punched her.

"The lector who was assaulted received immediate attention and assistance from cathedral staff members off camera," Archbishop Nelson Perez wrote on Facebook. The attacker was not detained.

Man allegedly planned to burn down store

NM TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES — A man who drove his car through the front of a Walmart Super-

center in Truth or Consequences allegedly planned to burn it down, authorities said.

Police told Albuquerque TV station KRQR that after Devon Schinagel, 35, of Elephant Butte, was in custody early Sunday, they learned he had poured lighter fluid around the store and was allegedly planning to set the store on fire.

Schinagel is facing several felony charges, according to police.

Wild weather injures 6 at tent revival event

NH IPSWICH — A week-end of wild weather in New Hampshire included a tornado that touched down in Ossipee and powerful gusts that caused injuries at a tent revival in Ipswich.

At least six people were hurt when strong winds brought down a tent at the religious gathering Sunday in Ipswich.

One person was treated for a broken arm, while others suffered cuts, bumps and bruises. The group was part of an evangelist group that has been hosting a tent revival in town, WMUR-TV reported.

A day earlier, a tornado caused minor damage in Ossipee.

First phase of museum enhancements done

MI DETROIT — The first phase of a \$4.9 million outdoor enhancement project at Belle Isle's Dossin Great Lakes Museum has been completed.

The museum's outdoor maritime artifacts, including the famous bow anchor from the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, have been re-displayed and upgraded as part of the project. The freighter sank in 1975 and was immortalized by Gordon Lightfoot's song.

Several new gardens have

been planted with a focus on controlling erosion along the waterfront. A new cove also stabilizes the shoreline adjacent to the museum and provides a new launch point for Belle Isle's water sport enthusiasts.

Park honoring fallen officers vandalized

MA SPRINGFIELD — A Massachusetts park named in honor of two police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty has been vandalized with anti-police graffiti.

Retired Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told Masslive.com that he cried Sunday when he saw that someone spray-painted anti-police acronyms on the memorial at Beauregard & Schiavina Memorial Park in Springfield. Officers Michael Schiavina and Alain Beauregard were shot by an 18-year-old man during a traffic stop in 1985. Schiavina, 28, died shortly after surgery, and Beauregard, 29, died several days later. Their assailant killed himself several days later.

Police arrest 2 women in MAGA hat theft

DE WILMINGTON — Delaware police have arrested two women who confronted supporters of President Donald Trump last week in Wilmington and allegedly took signs and a "Make America Great Again" baseball cap.

On Saturday, police arrested Camryn Amy, 21, and charged her with robbery, conspiracy, endangering the welfare of a child and two counts of offensive touching. Police arrested Olivia Winslow, 21, on Friday on charges of robbery, conspiracy and endangering the welfare of a child.

The incident started Thursday evening when Amy and Winslow left a business and

began to taunt a woman and her son over their political signs and what they were wearing, according to court documents reported by news outlets.

Video shows a man attempting to get the hat back. Court documents say Amy struck the man with a closed fist and caused a laceration to his lips.

Court records also say Amy then hit the woman filming the incident.

Mayor charged in a road rage incident

AL TALLASSEE — The mayor of an Alabama city has been charged with harassment in a road rage incident in which he was accused of cursing at and threatening young women who were in a car.

Tallassee Mayor Johnny Hammock and the other driver, Keazanni Spencer, 20, were charged with misdemeanors following a July 5 encounter, the chief assistant district attorney confirmed to the Montgomery Advertiser on Sunday.

During a hearing Friday, the mayor's wife told a judge that the incident began after Spencer's blue sedan, driving erratically, passed her, then later pulled in front of her and an occupant got out and cursed at her. Spencer testified that no one cursed at the mayor's wife, but she thought the woman was pulling over to use a phone, so she went around her.

Hammock and his wife drove through the area later and noticed the same blue sedan, according to court testimony.

Spencer said Hammock blocked her with his pickup truck, then approached her car and asked if she had tried to run his wife off the road earlier. Spencer said Hammock was armed, though he never threatened them with it.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Clemson, Ohio St. top AP football poll

Associated Press

Clemson is the preseason No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25, a poll featuring nine Big Ten and Pac-12 teams that gives a glimpse at what has already been taken by the pandemic from an uncertain college football season.

Ohio State (1,504 points) was a close No. 2 behind Trevor Lawrence and Clemson (1,520), which starts atop the rankings for the second straight season. The Tigers beat the Buckeyes in a thrilling College Football Playoff semifinal last season.

Alabama is No. 3, Southeastern Conference rival Georgia is No. 4 and defending Big 12 champion Oklahoma is No. 5. Defending national champion LSU is No. 6.

The 85th edition of the AP rankings will be like none before.

When the season starts — if the season starts — the Buckeyes and 53 other Bowl Subdi-

vision teams will no longer be eligible for inclusion in the Top 25 because they have postponed their seasons to the spring.

The Big Ten, where Ohio State and No. 7 Penn State play, and the Pac-12, home to No. 9 Oregon, canceled their fall sports seasons because of concerns about the coronavirus. The Mid-American and Mountain West conferences have also said they will try to play spring football.

The SEC, Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12, American Athletic, Conference USA and Sun Belt are forging ahead with fall sports, with changes: The three remaining Power Five conferences, the SEC, ACC and Big 12, have eliminated all or most nonconference games and delayed the start of their seasons from one to three weeks.

Erased from the college football schedule this year were a host of tantalizing nonconference matchups: Ohio State

at No. 9 Oregon; No. 10 Notre Dame vs. No. 12 Wisconsin at Lambeau field in Green Bay; No. 14 Texas at LSU; No. 17 Southern California vs. Alabama in Arlington, Texas; No. 11 Auburn vs. No. 18 North Carolina in Atlanta.

For now, big conference games such as Ohio State-Michigan and Washington-Washington State could still be made up in the spring.

All Division I teams were eligible for the preseason AP Top 25, but after the season starts, only teams scheduled to play in the fall are eligible. That leaves 76 FBS teams from which to choose.

If a spring season is played, the AP will consider doing rankings for those teams, too.

Back-to-back

Clemson had never been preseason No. 1 until last season, and now starts there again. It's the eighth time since the

preseason poll started in 1950 that a team has been preseason No. 1 two straight seasons. Alabama had been preseason No. 1 from 2016-18, a three-year run.

The Tigers finished last season No. 2 after losing the championship game to LSU, snapping a remarkable run of nine seasons in which Clemson has finished with the same or better ranking than it started. That included the last five seasons in which Clemson outperformed its preseason ranking, twice finishing No. 1 after starting No. 2.

The ACC's Tigers, who also welcome back star running back Travis Etienne, stand-out offensive tackle Jackson Carman and sturdy defensive tackle Tyler Davis, will try to become the 12th preseason No. 1 to finish No. 1. Only two teams have gone wire-to-wire as No. 1: Florida State in 1999 and USC in 2004.

Briefly

Brown fired after 76ers swept in playoffs by Celtics

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Patient and positive, Brett Brown was the perfect coach for the Philadelphia 76ers when they set up a long-term home in the NBA basement.

They'll be looking for someone else now that they want to be on top.

The 76ers fired coach Brown on Monday, a day after his seventh season ended in a first-round postseason sweep.

The 76ers were 43-30 this season and had woefully underachieved in a year when they were expected to be serious contenders in the Eastern Conference.

After the sixth-seeded Sixers were swept by the Boston Celtics, the move was expected.

"I have a tremendous level of respect for Brett both personally and professionally and

appreciate all he's done for the 76ers organization and the city of Philadelphia," general manager Elton Brand said in a statement. "He did many positive things during his time here, developing young talent and helping position our team for three straight postseason appearances. Unfortunately, we fell well short of our goals this year and I believe it is best to go in a new direction."

Brown was tasked with leading the Sixers through a rebuild dubbed "The Process," where management stripped the roster of serious NBA talent to lose games and increase their odds at better draft picks.

Jamaican official: Bolt tests positive for COVID

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica's Minister of Health says

legendary sprinter Usain Bolt has tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Minister Christopher Tufton said Bolt was aware of the results and his recent contacts were being traced.

"It is now public knowledge that Mr. Bolt has tested positive. He has been formally notified, I'm told by the authorities," Tufton told reporters Monday evening.

The retired sprinter, 34, who won gold in the 100 and 200 meters at the last three Olympics posted a video on social media to explain the situation.

"Good morning everybody. Just waking up. Like everybody, checked social media and saw that social media says I'm confirmed of COVID-19," he said. "I did a test Saturday, because I work. I'm trying to be responsible, so I'm going to stay in and stay here for my

friends."

Browns' Delpit ruptures Achilles, done for 2020

BEREA, Ohio — Grant Delpit's 2020 season ended with the Browns before it began.

The rookie safety ruptured his right Achilles tendon while going through individual drills on Monday, a freak injury and another dose of bad luck for Cleveland and first-year coach Kevin Stefanski, who has lost three likely defensive starters in a week to injury.

In other NFL news:

■ Two-time Pro Bowl safety Budda Baker has agreed to terms on a \$59 million, four-year contract extension with Arizona. The Cardinals announced the deal Tuesday. Baker's agent David Mulugheta confirmed the terms.

MLB roundup

Baez homers twice as Cubs top Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Javier Baez hit two home runs and the Chicago Cubs became the second franchise in major league history to post 11,000 wins, beating the Detroit Tigers 9-3 on Monday night.

Only the Giants have won more, with 11,179 victories after starting in New York in 1883 and later moving to San Francisco.

The Cubs, who earned their first victory in 1876, improved to 11,000-10,414. The Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers are close behind with 10,996 wins.

David Bote homered and drove in four runs for the NL Central-leading Cubs.

"We hit a lot of balls the other way tonight and you love to see that," Bote said. "That means you are on it longer and you are seeing it a little deeper."

Baez had three RBIs.

"This felt really, really good," said Baez, who came into the game hitting .122 in his past 12 games. "I've been struggling, but I never stopped working. Today, I finally got the results and so did the team."

Cubs starter Alec Mills (3-2) got the win, giving up three runs on seven hits and a walk while striking out seven.

"I wasn't throwing a lot of strikes early on," he said. "After the third inning, I started throwing a lot more fastballs. It helps when the offense is scoring runs — I just didn't want to start walking guys and let them back into the game."

Tigers prospect Casey Mize (0-1) made his first home start, allowing four runs — three earned — on five hits and two walks in 3.1 innings. He struck out two.

"It was a pretty poor performance — I hate that I couldn't go more than 3¹/₃ and

put our team in a position to win," he said. "I think the biggest learning point from this was that when I was throwing stressful pitches, I was gripping the ball and tensing up."

Blue Jays 6, Rays 4: Randal Grichuk hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Toronto won at Tampa Bay.

Reliever Aaron Loup (3-2) replaced Edgar Garcia with one on and one out. After Cavan Biggio reached on catcher's interference, Grichuk gave the Blue Jays a 5-3 lead with his seventh home run.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. also homered for Toronto, and Thomas Hatch (2-1) worked two scoreless innings for the win. Jordan Romano worked the ninth for his second save.

Marlins 11, Nationals 8: Jesus Aguilar drove in three runs and Miami won at Washington, taking three of the five games in the series.

Aguilar's two-run double was part of a huge third inning for the Marlins off Nationals starter Austin Voth (0-3). Miami scored five runs with two-outs and six total, turning a one-run lead into a 7-0 advantage.

Pablo Lopez (3-1) allowed six hits and three runs — none earned — in five solid innings.

Twins 3, Indians 2: Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer and Nelson Cruz connected for a solo shot to lead injury-riddled Minnesota to a win at Cleveland.

Sano homered in the sixth inning off Aaron Civale (3-3).

The Twins, who have several regulars and two starting pitchers on the injured list, lead the Indians by 2¹/₂ games.

Rangers 3, Athletics 2: Lance Lynn

struck out eight in another workhorse start, Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a go-ahead homer and host Texas ended its eight-game losing streak with a win over American League-leading Oakland.

Kiner-Falefa hit a solo shot in the second inning off Jesus Luzardo (2-1), snapping a 2-2 tie to put the Rangers ahead to stay.

Texas had led for only one of the 74 innings they played during their losing streak that was the longest active in the majors.

Brewers 4, Reds 2: Justin Smoak homered and drove in three runs as host Milwaukee cooled off Trevor Bauer and snapped a four-game skid with a victory over Cincinnati.

Omar Narvaez added a solo shot to help the Brewers win their opener of a 10-game homestand.

Cardinals 9, Royals 3: Paul DeJong drove in three runs in his second game back from battling COVID-19 and Jack Flaherty tossed five shutout innings to help host St. Louis beat Kansas City.

Paul Goldschmidt homered and also drove in three for the Cardinals, who have won four of five.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2: Rookie Ryan Castellani threw six strong innings for his first career win, Trevor Story hit his ninth homer of the season and Colorado snapped a seven-game losing streak by winning at Arizona.

Rockies leadoff hitter Raimel Tapia had three hits and knocked in the go-ahead run with his single in the fifth. He also made a crucial catch against the outfield wall on Kole Calhoun's long fly ball that ended the seventh.

Valdez strikes out 11 in Astros' defeat of Angels

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Framber Valdez struck out a career-high 11 in seven strong innings and Carlos Correa drove in three runs as the Houston Astros snapped a three-game skid with an 11-4 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night.

Angels star Albert Pujols passed Alex Rodriguez on the career RBIs list with a single for his 2,087th run batted in.

Hank Aaron is the record holder at 2,297 — Babe Ruth is listed next on some charts with 2,214, even though 224 occurred before the RBI became an official statistic in 1920.

Houston led by one with two outs and the bases loaded in the sixth inning when Correa laced a double to the left-field corner to send everyone home and make it 8-4. Kyle Tucker, who hit a solo homer in the second inning, followed with a double

that scored Correa to pad the lead.

Valdez (3-2) yielded six hits and four runs to get his third straight win. He got better as the game went on and retired the last seven batters he faced with five strikeouts, ending his night by fanning Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout.

The Astros got back on track after being swept in a three-game series this weekend in San Diego that came after they

won a season-high eight games in a row.

Justin Upton homered and David Fletcher had three hits for the Angels, who have lost six of seven.

Patrick Sandoval (0-4) took the loss after the Astros jumped on him for seven hits and five runs in 2.2 innings.

Tucker gave Houston an early 1-0 lead with no outs in the second inning when he homered for the second straight game.

NBA playoffs roundup

Lakers one victory from ousting Blazers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The Los Angeles Lakers jumped out to an apt 24-8 lead on Kobe Bryant Day and dominated the Portland Trail Blazers the rest of the way, taking a 3-1 advantage in their playoff series with a 135-115 victory Monday night.

LeBron James had 30 points and 10 assists in 28 minutes before heading to the bench late in the third quarter. The Lakers led by as many as 38 points for their third straight win in the opening-round series, the team's first playoff appearance since 2013.

The Trail Blazers won the opener but have appeared gassed in the past two games. Damian Lillard, the MVP of the seeding games in the NBA bubble, had 11 points before leaving with a right knee injury in the third. Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Anthony Davis added 18 points in 18 minutes for the Lakers before leaving the game

midway through the third with back spasms.

The Lakers, the top seed in the Western Conference, can close out the series on Wednesday.

It was considered "Kobe Day" because Monday was 8/24, the two numbers Kobe Bryant wore during his 20-year career.

Bucks 121, Magic 106: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, Khris Middleton finally came alive with a huge fourth quarter and Milwaukee beat Orlando to take a 3-1 lead in their first-round series.

Middleton scored 18 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 10 rebounds after being held to one field goal in the first three quarters on 1-for-9 shooting.

Wesley Matthews added 12 points for the Bucks, who can close out the Magic on Wednesday.

Nikola Vucevic continued his strong play for the Magic, finishing with 31 points, 11 re-

bounds and seven assists. Terrence Ross had 19 points and seven rebounds off the bench.

Milwaukee has now won three straight after losing the series opener to the eighth-seeded Magic.

The top-seeded Bucks led by three entering the fourth quarter before Middleton came alive.

Thunder 117, Rockets 114: Dennis Schroder scored a career playoff-high 30 points, and Oklahoma City rallied to beat Houston and even the first-round Western Conference playoff series at two wins apiece.

The Thunder trailed by 15 points in the third quarter and were down a point heading into the fourth.

Chris Paul scored 26 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 18 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won despite allowing 23 three-pointers.

James Harden had 32 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds for the Rockets.

Eric Gordon scored 23 points and Danuel House Jr. added 21 for the Rockets.

Former Thunder star Russell Westbrook sat out for Houston again with a strained right quad.

Heat 99, Pacers 87: Goran Dragic scored 23 points and fifth-seeded Miami completed a first-round sweep of Indiana.

Tyler Herro had 16 points and Bam Adebayo added 14 points and 19 rebounds for the Heat, who made it out of the first round for the first time since 2016.

Victor Oladipo had 25 points and Myles Turner added 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Pacers, who have dropped four straight postseason series to the Heat since 2012.

Miami's bench outscored Indiana's depleted reserves 38-3.

Heat guard Jimmy Butler left the game in the first quarter with a left shoulder strain. He returned after halftime and finished with six points in 23 minutes.

NHL playoffs roundup

Stars get some bounces, take 2-0 series lead over Avs

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — From a goal off the chest to another that may have just crossed the line — depending who's asked — the Dallas Stars were getting the big bounces and breaks.

That's what it takes this time of year.

Alexander Radulov scored on a deflection off his upper chest as part of a four-goal second period and the Dallas Stars beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-2 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in the second-round series.

Trailing 2-0 in the second period, Joe Pavelski and Radek Faksa revitalized the Stars by

scoring in a 43-second span during a 5-on-3 advantage.

Dallas was just getting started. Radulov knocked in the go-ahead goal when a shot bounced off a stick, into his chest and over Colorado goaltender Pavel Francouz. Esa Lindell then added another with 46 seconds remaining in the second when he knocked in a rebound to make it 4-2.

Now that one the Avalanche wouldn't mind a little more explanation. The officials took a look to make sure the puck wasn't frozen by Francouz before Lindell poked it in — or if it even went in at all. The call on the ice was confirmed.

"I don't know how he sees the

puck is across the line," Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "I don't know how he points at the net. I think he realized pretty quickly he messed up. Once he starts watching the video replay, I think he realizes he went off Esa Lindell's reaction and pointed to the net. ... Excited to see what the explanation will be."

This is how it went from Lindell's vantage point: "Shot it there and went for the rebound," he explained.

Bottom line, the Avalanche couldn't recover from the second-period meltdown.

Islanders 4, Flyers 0: At Toronto, Semyon Varlamov stopped 29 shots, Andy Greene

scored his first playoff goal in a decade and New York opened its second-round series by blanking Philadelphia.

The Islanders clicked early in their first playoff meeting with the rival Flyers since 1987, withstood a second-period flurry and closed it out with three goals in the third.

Greene scored in the first period and Varlamov was sharp all night in his second shutout of the 2020 playoffs and fourth of his postseason career.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau, Anders Lee and Devon Toews scored in the third period.

Carter Hart stopped 26 shots for the top-seeded Flyers.