

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

House passes NDAA; Trump threatens to veto

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers easily passed their \$740.5 billion version of the yearly defense authorization bill Tuesday, drawing a White House veto threat primarily over a provision to strip Army installations of Confederate-linked names.

The fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act passed 295 to 125 with support from Democrats and Republicans. The passage sends the measure to the Senate, where lawmakers are expected later this week to finalize their version of the bill, which sets annual spending and policy priorities for the Pentagon.

The House version of the NDAA includes a 3% pay raise for U.S. troops, a more than 5,000-troop boost in the active-duty force, a \$3.58 billion effort to begin a new initiative to curb Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, and new measures aimed at identifying

and curbing groundwater contamination at military sites.

“I am incredibly proud of the work that the House Armed Services Committee was able to accomplish this year, despite the challenges posed by the [coronavirus] pandemic, and strongly believe the [fiscal year 2021] NDAA is an excellent piece of legislation that delivers for our service members and their families,” said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. “Thanks to the work of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the bill we passed today supports our troops, reflects our values, and provides for a strong national defense.”

The vote showed the bipartisan nature of the bill, he said. Democrats supported it 187-43 and Republicans voted 108-81 to adopt the legislation. With more than two-thirds of the chamber supporting the bill, a Trump veto would be overridden if there is also two-thirds support for its passage in the Senate.

Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., said the bill was not perfect but he supported it because it would strengthen the military.

“Our country still faces enumerable threats from adversaries like Russia and China, whose technology and military capabilities are advancing rapidly,” Waltz, a former Green Beret and Afghanistan War veteran, said in a statement. “This year’s defense bill will ensure America can face these challenges and any others while safeguarding our national strategic interests at home and abroad — all thanks to the incredible bravery and skill of the men and women of our armed services.”

But in a 13-page statement issued Tuesday hours before the NDAA was passed, the White House expressed strong opposition to several measures included in the House’s legislation vowing that senior advisers would recommend President Donald Trump veto it “in its current form.”

The White House’s main ob-

jection, echoing veto threats raised by Trump in recent weeks, was to the requirement the Defense Department rename 10 southern Army posts within one year named during the Jim Crow era of the early 1900s for Confederate generals from the Civil War. The Trump administration also objected to other measures in the bill that the White House accused of attempting to “micromanage aspects of the executive branch’s authority.”

Those measures included one that would limit the president’s ability to withdraw troops from places including Germany and South Korea unless top Pentagon leaders could certify six months in advance that the moves would not hinder national security. Another measure would stop the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan unless military leaders certify their removal would not undermine security conditions in the country and was consistent with a peace accord reached with the Taliban in February.

Opposition grows to US agents in cities during protests

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Trump administration is facing growing pushback — in the courts and on the streets — to sending federal agents to Portland, Ore., where protests have spiraled into violence, and vowing to do the same in other Democratic-led cities.

Far from tamping down the unrest that followed George Floyd’s death at the hands of Minneapolis police, the presence of federal agents on the streets of progressive Portland — and particularly allegations they have whisked people away in unmarked cars without prob-

able cause — has energized two months of nightly protests that had begun to devolve into smaller, chaotic crowds.

President Donald Trump’s administration also faces multiple lawsuits questioning its authority to use broad policing powers in cities. One filed Tuesday says federal agents are violating protesters’ 10th Amendment rights by engaging in police activities designated to local and state governments. The legal action was filed by the Portland-based Western States Center, which helps organize and promote the rights of communities of color and low-income people.

Oregon’s attorney general sued last week, asking a judge to block federal agents’ actions. The state argued that masked agents have arrested people far from the U.S. courthouse that’s become a target of vandalism, and with no probable cause.

Federal authorities said state and local officials had been unwilling to work with them to stop the vandalism and violence against federal officers and the U.S. courthouse in Portland.

“We need to find a peaceful outcome,” acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said at a news conference Tuesday in Washington. “At the end of the day,

we have to protect the federal property and the law enforcement officers.”

The use of federal agents against the will of local officials also has set up the potential for a constitutional crisis, legal experts say.

Federal agents again used force to scatter protesters early Tuesday and deployed tear gas and rubber bullets as some in the crowd tried to pull plywood off the shuttered entryway of the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse. Portland police said some protesters lit fires in the street and tried several times to set them at the courthouse doors.

Reagan group trains at sea with Japan, Australia

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Fresh from two-carrier exercises in the same vicinity, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group teamed up with naval forces from Japan and Australia for further maneuvers in the Philippine Sea, according to a Navy news release Tuesday.

The Reagan, with its embarked air wing and two accompanying warships, joined with five vessels of the Australian Defense Force and one from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force to train “in maritime operations” to strengthen allied relations and support “a free and open Indo-Pacific region,” the statement said.

The demonstration of allied sea power occurred as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking in London at a meeting of members of Parliament, said Australia should play a leading role in a new coalition to counter Chinese expansion in its regional neighborhood, according to a Wednesday report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

“We’re going to need the one billion-plus people in India, we’re going to need the Australians,” the Morning Herald quoted Pompeo as saying. “It’s going to take all of these democracies together.”

Pompeo on July 13 put the U.S. on record as rejecting sweeping claims to territory in the South China Sea, as well as China’s claims to control access to the region. Such claims are “completely unlawful,” he said.

The trilateral exercise that began this week is another in a series of naval demonstrations across the Indo-Pacific in the past two months involving U.S. forces alone or alongside its allies. On Monday, the aircraft USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group took part in exercises with ships of the Indian Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Over the Fourth of July weekend, the Nimitz and Reagan groups rendezvoused in the South China Sea for a series of drills. The pair reunited in mid-July for more training in the same area and were joined Friday by a pair of Air Force B1-B Lancer bombers making overflights from Guam.

On Sunday, the Reagan and Carrier Air Wing 5, the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam and the guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin joined up with the Japanese destroyer JS Teruzuki and the Australian navy’s HMA Canberra, a helicopter landing dock, the frigates HMA Arunta and Stuart, fleet replenisher HMA Sirius and the guided-missile destroyer HMA Hobart.

Lawmakers urge change after slaying of Fort Hood soldier

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers and advocates — all women — called for change Tuesday to the military’s handling of sexual harassment and assaults and described the recent slaying of a female soldier as a “watershed moment” and a “reckoning” against a scourge of sexual violence in the armed forces.

A dozen or so women gathered in front of the Capitol on Tuesday morning, many holding signs showing Spc. Vanessa Guillen against the backdrop of a Mexican flag. The signs read, “Ni una mas” and “Justicia for Vanessa.” The hashtag #NiUnaMas, meaning “not one more woman dead,” became a rallying cry in Mexico against the murder of women.

Guillen, a 20-year-old small-arms repairer stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, was killed by another soldier April 22. She was reported missing in late April, and her remains were found more than two months later about 20 miles from the base. Guillen’s family has said that she faced sexual harassment on base but was too afraid to report it.

“She felt so unsafe going to her command to make any kind of report ... she knew she may receive harassment or retaliation,” said Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas. “It’s time we put a stop to this. This can never happen again.”

Spc. Aaron Robinson, a fellow soldier,

is believed to have killed Guillen with a hammer in an arms room, and then moved her body to a site along the Leon River. When confronted June 30 by local law enforcement in Killeen, Texas, Robinson shot himself in the head and died. A civilian suspect, Cecily Aguilar, 22, was being held without bail on three federal charges related to helping Robinson, her boyfriend, mutilate and hide Guillen’s body.

Guillen’s family criticized the Army Criminal Investigation Command for not responding fast enough to find Guillen. They’ve demanded a congressional investigation.

The gathering near the Capitol on Tuesday was the launch to what advocates called a “Justicia for Vanessa Day of Action.” They encouraged female service members and veterans to use the hashtag #IamVanessaGuillen to continue sharing their own stories of sexual harassment and assault while serving in the military.

Specifically, lawmakers and advocates want to change the chain of commands’ involvement in investigating and prosecuting sex crimes in the military.

An amendment to the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which is being debated in Congress, would require the commandants of U.S. service academies to follow the recommendations of independent prosecutors in cases of sexual harassment and assault — removing those decisions from the chain of command.

USAF unveils new strategy for Arctic

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force and Space Force leaders said Tuesday that the United States must invest in upgrading its aging but critical Arctic-based homeland defense infrastructure and increase training in the world’s northernmost region as other global powers challenge for military influence within the Arctic Circle.

The United States can no longer simply look at the Arctic region as a conflict-free buffer zone as it has for decades because other world powers, including Russia and China, have turned their attention to the region for military purposes and to exploit plentiful natural resources, said Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, who

spoke alongside the top generals for the Air Force and Space Force in an Atlantic Council video event to unveil the Air Force Department’s first-ever Arctic Strategy.

“The Arctic is among the most strategically significant regions of the world today — the keystone from which the U.S. Air Force and Space Force exercise vigilance,” she said. “This Arctic strategy recognizes the immense geo-strategic consequence of the region and its critical role for protecting the homeland and projecting global power.”

Barrett said the United States does not seek conflict in the Arctic and she hopes to see rules implemented in the region that keep most of it uncontested and peaceful. But, she and the generals said, the Air Force cannot just retain the status quo.

Esper worried agents in Ore. look like troops

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper is worried federal agents dressed in camouflage uniforms on the streets of Portland, Ore., could be mistaken for U.S. troops, the Pentagon's top spokesman said Tuesday.

"There are some law enforcement that wear uniforms that make them appear military in appearance. The secretary has expressed a concern of this within the administration that we want a system where people can tell the difference," Jonathan Hoffman told reporters at the Pentagon.

The concern first surfaced in June dur-

ing the racial injustice protests in cities throughout the country when law enforcement agencies responded to control crowds. Some of those agencies dressed in gear that made them look like military. The issue has resurfaced with the recent unrest in Portland, where federal law enforcement officers from agencies under the Department of Homeland Security are wearing camouflage uniforms and equipped with body armor and helmets that are almost identical to those worn by American troops.

Oregon Public Broadcasting on Thursday reported eyewitness accounts of federal agents wearing camouflage uniforms and using unmarked vehicles to drive throughout downtown Portland to detain

protesters. There have been nightly protests outside of the federal courthouse for weeks and agents were brought in to protect federal property.

Hoffman emphasized there are no Defense Department personnel deployed to Portland or planning to be deployed to the city. He also said Esper could at some point discuss the uniform issue with Attorney General William Barr and Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

"I don't have a timeline on that and I don't have any guideline from the secretary on what that would look like, but he has expressed an interest in the topic," he said.

House panel OKs funding for Stars and Stripes in 2021

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The 2021 defense spending bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee provides Stars and Stripes about \$15.5 million in federal funding in the new fiscal year, which the Pentagon proposed cutting from its budget.

The draft of the fiscal year 2021 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which must be passed annually to authorize funding for the Pentagon, would provide the same amount of funding for the news organization as it received in fiscal year 2020. The \$694.6 billion bill was approved by the Democrat-controlled appropriations committee on July 14 by a 30-22 vote, largely along party lines.

It marked the second version approved in recent weeks by a key House committee to restore funding for Stars and Stripes after the Pentagon in February moved to end the annual stipend for the newspaper. The House Armed Services Committee on July 2 unanimously passed its version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the about \$15.5 million for Stripes.

Like the appropriations version, the NDAA must be passed yearly and authorizes the Pentagon's use of its funding and sets policy priorities for the Defense Department.

The version of the 2021 NDAA under consideration by the full Senate does not include any funding for Stars and Stripes in fiscal year 2021, which begins Oct. 1. The

upper chamber Tuesday continued floor debate on that bill, and it was expected to vote on the key legislation before breaking for its August recess.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to consider its version of the 2021 defense spending bill, and it has not scheduled hearings to do so.

Stars and Stripes produces daily newspapers and the news website [stripes.com](https://www.stripes.com) free of editorial oversight from the Pentagon. It uses its annual stipend largely to print and distribute newspapers to troops across the globe and fund reporting efforts in conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Those funds account for about half of the newspaper's annual spending. The remainder of its funding comes from sales, subscriptions and advertising.

Taiwan: China sending planes near island almost daily

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — China is sending military planes near Taiwan with increasing frequency in what appears to be a stepping up of its threat to use force to take control of the island, Taiwan's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Such flights are more frequent than reported in the media and have become "virtually a daily occurrence," Joseph Wu told reporters.

Along with Chinese military exercises simulating an attack on Taiwan, the flights by China are causing major concern for Taiwan's government, Wu said.

"What it is doing now is unceasingly pre-

paring to use force to resolve the Taiwan problem," Wu said.

China claims the self-ruling island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use the People's Liberation Army to bring it under its control. The sides split in a civil war in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the former Japanese colony as the Communist Party took control in mainland China.

Beijing has cut ties with the island's government since Taiwan elected independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016 and has sought to isolate it diplomatically while raising the military threat. Despite that, Tsai was reelected this year by a wide margin.

Wu said China appeared to have grown in confidence following its crackdown on opposition voices in the former British colony of Hong Kong, facilitated by the national legislature's passage of a sweeping security law.

"If international society does not give China a sufficiently clear signal, I believe China will take it that international society will not impede it in doing other things," Wu said. "This is what we are extremely worried about."

Wu stressed the need for coordination with allies such as Japan and the U.S., neither of which has official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but which maintain close relations.

Okinawa Marines have one new virus case

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps on Okinawa reported one new case of the coronavirus Wednesday, bringing the total from two clusters discovered after the Fourth of July weekend to 142, Marine and Okinawa prefectural officials said.

The latest case involves a Camp Hansen Marine, bringing the total in that cluster to 60, Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze wrote Wednesday in an email to Stars and Stripes.

The case was first announced on the command's Facebook

page, one day after five new infections were reported at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the site of the other cluster.

The most recent case was discovered through the Marine Corps' trace-and-test process, according to the Marine statement on Facebook. The affected Marine has been in quarantine since July 12.

"We continue to test large groups of individuals and have been re-testing many already placed in [restriction of movement] before they return to work," the statement said. "We are also working to implement a new policy of testing all inbound individuals before they depart from [restriction of

movement]. Inbound individuals will be contacted directly when this policy is implemented and do not need to request a test."

The Marines said they are releasing contact tracing information via the "COVID Trace Tracking map" on the Marine Corps Installations Pacific website, according to a Facebook post Tuesday. The map shows which buildings positive service members visited and when.

The service on Wednesday reported that 16 Marines who tested positive during the outbreak have recovered and were released from isolation, according to a Facebook post. Five other individuals who re-

covered were released earlier.

MCAS Futenma now has 82 positive cases, Marine and Okinawa prefectural officials said as of Wednesday. Other active cases on Okinawa include two at Kadena Air Base, one at Camp Kinser and one involving a Marine family member at Camp McTureous.

Kadena also had two airmen and a visiting family member test positive in March, but they have recovered, Air Force officials on Okinawa said.

As of Wednesday, Okinawa prefecture had reported 157 coronavirus cases. Fourteen were announced after July 8, and the majority of those have been traced to mainland Japan.

GOP splits as aid package could go beyond \$1 trillion

BY LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The price tag for the next COVID-19 aid package could quickly swell above \$1 trillion as White House officials negotiate with Congress over money to reopen schools, prop up small businesses, boost virus testing and keep cash flowing to Americans while the virus crisis deepens.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday promised a new round of direct payments to earners below a certain income level, similar to the \$1,200 checks sent in the spring. President Donald Trump insists on a payroll tax holiday for workers, and Democrats want billions to outfit schools and shore up local governments.

"Regretfully, this is not over," McConnell said after a raucous private GOP lunch, urging Americans to learn to live with the virus by wearing masks and practicing social distancing until a vaccine is found.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and acting chief of staff Mark Meadows spent the day on Capitol Hill, meeting separately with McConnell,

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others trying to broker a compromise between the GOP's emerging \$1 trillion proposal with the House's more sweeping \$3 trillion bill.

The lunch session grew heated as key GOP senators complained about big spending, vowing to stall the relief bill's passage.

Supporters of the package "should be ashamed of themselves," Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said as he emerged.

Paul compared GOP backers of the spending to "Bernie bros" — referring to the young supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. "This is insane ... There's no difference now between the two parties."

As senators rose to speak about aspects of the bill, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz asked his colleagues, "What in the hell are we doing?"

Cruz warned if the economy is still shut down come November, Joe Biden will win the White House, Democrats will control the Senate and "we'll be meeting in a much smaller lunch room," according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the closed-door session.

Trump says US situation will get worse before it gets better

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump warned on Tuesday that the "nasty, horrible" coronavirus will get worse in the United States before it gets better, but he also tried to paint a rosy picture of efforts to conquer the disease that has claimed more than 140,000 American lives in just five months.

He also professed a newfound respect for the protective face masks he has seldom worn. He pulled one from his pocket in the White House briefing room but didn't put it on.

After a three-month hiatus from his freewheeling daily virus briefings, Trump returned to the podium, keeping the stage to himself without the public health experts who were staples of his previous events but keeping close to scripted remarks prepared by aides.

Besides declaring support for masks as a way to fight the pandemic, he admonished young people against crowding bars and spreading the disease.

It all marked a delayed recognition by Trump that the economic reopening he's been championing since April

— and, more importantly, his reelection — were imperiled by spiking cases nationwide.

There were no guarantees how long Trump's more measured tone, delivered with an eye to halting a campaign-season erosion of support, would last. Along the way Tuesday, the president still worked in jabs at the news media and Democrats for focusing on disease-fighting shortcomings in the U.S. as the rest of world also struggles with the virus. He also belatedly addressed bipartisan criticism of virus-testing delays that have hampered reopening plans.

"It will probably unfortunately get worse before it gets better," Trump said from the White House. But he also touted a reduction in deaths and progress on vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, which he referred to repeatedly as the "China virus." He continued his recent encouragement of Americans to wear masks when social distancing is impossible.

"Whether you like the mask or not, they have an impact," he said. "I'm getting used to the mask," he added, pulling one out after months of suggesting that mask-wearing was a political statement against him.

US orders China to close consulate office in Houston

Associated Press

BEIJING — The United States said Wednesday that it has ordered China to close its consulate in Houston “to protect American intellectual property” and the private information of Americans.

China strongly condemned the move, the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration as it ratchets up pressure on the world’s second-largest economy over trade, technology, human rights and security.

In Houston, firefighters responded to reports of papers being burned on the consulate grounds Tuesday night but were barred entry, according to news media reports.

The U.S., in a brief statement, did not provide any details on why the consulate in Texas was targeted.

“The United States will not tolerate (China’s) violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated (its) unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs and other egregious behavior,” said the statement, which was attributed to State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Trump administration is taking action to halt long-running intellectual property theft, noting indictments announced Tuesday against two Chinese individuals accused of hacking.

“President (Donald) Trump has said ‘Enough, we’re not going to allow this to continue to happen,’” he said while on an official visit to Copenhagen.

The U.S. has also decided not to reopen its consulate in the city of Wuhan, which was closed in late January at the height of the coronavirus outbreak in China, a Trump administration official said. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the closure of the Wuhan consulate might mitigate China’s response to the shutdown of the Houston consulate.

China was informed of the decision Tuesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, calling it “an outrageous and unjustified move that will sabotage relations between the two countries.”

He warned of firm countermeasures if the U.S. does not reverse itself. Besides Wuhan, the U.S. has four other consulates in China — in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Shenyang — along with its embassy in Beijing, according to its website.

In a reflection of China’s economic importance, a Houston business group expressed regret at the announcement, saying the consulate has been important in building trade, investment and cultural ties.

15 hurt in shooting in Chicago

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Fifteen people were shot, one person was being questioned and multiple suspects were being sought after gunfire erupted outside a funeral home on Chicago’s South Side as the federal government moved forward on plans to deploy more agents to the city where violence is spiking.

First Deputy Superintendent Eric Carter said mourners outside a funeral home in the Gresham neighborhood were fired upon Tuesday from a passing vehicle. Carter said several targets of the shooting returned fire. The car later crashed and the occupants fled in several directions.

A person of interest was being questioned Tuesday night but no arrests were made, police said.

Most victims were taken by the Chicago Fire Department to nearby hospitals in serious condition, said spokesman Larry Langford. They include 10 women from the ages of 21 to 65, including one of whom was shot in the chest, police said.

Other victims included a man who was shot in the chest, arm and forearm, and two men, 32 and 22, who were shot in a hand, police said. An update on the shooting posted online by police early Wednesday showed that six people were in serious condition and that the nine others were in good condition.

More gun violence struck early Wednesday. A few miles away in the city’s South Shore neighborhood, a 3-year-old girl was hospitalized in serious condition after being shot in the head while riding in a vehicle with her parents, police said. Her parents told police two people fired at them from a corner. No one was immediately arrested.

Police said Tuesday’s shooting outside the funeral home happened at or near the site of a funeral or post-funeral event for a man fatally shot last week in the Englewood neighborhood.

Powerful quake jolts Alaska towns

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A powerful earthquake off Alaska’s southern coast jolted coastal communities late Tuesday, and some residents briefly scrambled for higher ground over fears of a tsunami.

There were no immediate reports of damage in the sparsely populated area of the state, and the tsunami warning was canceled after the magnitude 7.8 quake off the Alaska Peninsula led to a wave of a less than a foot.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the earthquake struck Tuesday at 10:12 p.m. local time and was centered in waters 65 miles south-southeast of the tiny community of Periville, at a depth of 17 miles.

Because of the temblor’s lo-

cation, nearby communities along the Alaska Peninsula did not experience shaking that would normally be associated with that magnitude of a quake, said Michael West, Alaska State Seismologist.

That doesn’t mean they slept through it, West said, as residents in small towns within a hundred miles of the quake reported very strong shaking. Some shaking was also felt over 500 miles away in the Anchorage area, West said.

“No reports of any damage,” Kodiak Police Sgt. Mike Sorter said early Wednesday morning. “No injuries were reported. Everything is nominal.”

Kodiak is about 200 miles northeast of where the earthquake was centered.

The tsunami warning

prompted coastal residents to evacuate to higher ground, with social media posts showing long lines of people fleeing towns like Homer and Kodiak as tsunami sirens wailed in the background.

On Kodiak Island, the local high school and Catholic school opened their doors for evacuees, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

“We’ve got a high school full of people,” said Larry LeDoux, superintendent of the Kodiak School District. “I’ve been passing out masks since the first siren sounded,” he told the Daily News.

“Everything’s as calm as can be. We’ve got probably 300, 400 people all wearing masks,” he said before the warning was canceled.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Satanic Temple offers scholarships to grads

MA SALEM — The Satanic Temple is launching a college scholarship for high school students.

The Salem-based group, which advocates for stricter separation of church and state, among other civil rights issues, said that the \$500 “Devil’s Advocate Scholarship” is open to any 2020 graduate.

To apply, students must answer one of two questions. One asks applicants to describe what they’ve done to promote the organization’s tenets and mission. The other asks them to describe a teacher who “crushed your spirit, undermined your self-confidence, and made you hate every minute you were forced to be in school.”

Winners will be announced in September and their works will be displayed on the Satanic Temple’s website.

Couple arrested in ax, crowbar attack over TV

SD SIOUX FALLS — A Sioux Falls couple faces criminal charges after police said they broke into an apartment armed with an ax and crowbar in a dispute over a TV.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens said the 23-year-old woman and 21-year-old man face charges of aggravated assault, burglary and cruelty to a minor.

Clemens said the two went to an apartment building, climbed over a fence and the woman used the ax to break the patio door glass. There were two children and three adults in the apartment.

Police say the woman struck a man in the hand while her partner continued to swing the

crowbar.

The pair left after the residents started throwing things at them. They were arrested a short time later. Clemens said the confrontation involved a dispute over who owned a TV.

Woman calls 911 over broken refrigerator

FL JENSEN BEACH — When a distraught senior citizen called 911 because her refrigerator broke, sheriff’s deputies went to her home to explain that the phone number is reserved only for emergencies.

Cheryl Nanarntonis told the Martin County Sheriff’s deputies that she thought all of her food was going to spoil, so she called for help, according to the agency’s Facebook post.

The deputies realized that she only made the call because she “believed she was in crisis,” so they decided not to leave without finding a solution.

They called the Jensen Beach Goodwill and arranged for a gently used refrigerator to be delivered to her.

Zoo selling paintings by animals to raise money

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A closed zoo in New Mexico is trying to raise money by selling paintings — by the zoo’s animals.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported the New Mexico BioPark Society is offering artwork by the zoo’s elephants holding paint brushes in their trunks, snow leopards using their paws and other animals to buy zookeeper equipment.

Art collectors can check out the paintings at the Art Gone Wild online gallery. The prices range from \$25 to nearly \$600.

New Mexico BioPark Society development director Allyson

Zahm said money raised from the art will be used to buy zookeepers the things needed for animal enrichment.

Man seriously injured after being gored by bull

NH BRENTWOOD — A man was seriously injured after being gored by a bull in New Hampshire.

Josh Jennings, owner of Meadows Mirth Farm, told WMUR-TV that neighbors alerted him to two bulls on his property. He said the owner and police arrived, with police helping to block traffic. Another person got involved and did not listen to instructions to stay back, police said.

He took hold of the bull’s horns and then was gored, the television station reported. Police said they had to shoot the bulls.

“I think it’s very tragic,” said Sgt. Daniel Wicks of the Brentwood Police Department. “It was probably avoidable if the person had avoided the bull and did what he had been told to do.”

New flag warns of jellyfish, stingrays

NC KILL DEVIL HILLS — Lifeguards on a beach in North Carolina’s Outer Banks have posted a new purple flag that is adorned with images of a jelly fish and a stingray.

The Virginian-Pilot reported that the flag serves as a warning when the sea creatures are nearby. Swimmers fled the surf recently after a group of stinging jellyfish passed through.

The purple flag expands warnings to swimmers beyond the red banner that’s flown when rip currents are present. A yellow flag also warns of heavy shore break or danger-

ous currents.

Purple flags are a common maritime warning. But David Elder, supervisor of Kill Devil Hills Ocean Rescue, said he asked the business Islander Flags in Kitty Hawk to add images of the creatures to be more specific.

Officials: Fire at zoo kills 6 animals

MD RISING SUN — Six animals died in a fire caused by an electrical issue at a Maryland zoo.

The blaze that erupted in Plumpton Park Zoo’s Reptile Building killed four birds and two snakes, the Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office said in a notice. The zoo said in a Facebook post that they lost some of their favorite animals during the fire.

Rising Sun Fire personnel and zoo staff rescued eight other animals, including some snakes and an alligator, during the blaze, the zoo said in another post. The wood-frame building where the animals were housed suffered about \$150,000 in damage, according to the fire marshal’s office.

4 hospitalized after lightning strike

MO ST. LOUIS — Four people were rushed to hospitals in St. Louis after being struck by lightning in a park, officials said.

Andrea Ford, who lives near Marquette Park where the people were injured, told television station KMOV she had seen several people playing at the park as the storm came in. She heard loud claps of thunder, and when she looked out the window again, she saw two people on the ground.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Teams unsure what pitchers will have

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Months ago, before going into quarantine back home in the Dominican Republic, Johnny Cueto took pride in being picked to start for the San Francisco Giants on opening day.

Cueto is still lined up for the first game, on Thursday night at Dodger Stadium, when the coronavirus-delayed season begins.

After that, no telling when he'll get the ball next. The animated right-hander knows that in an atypical year almost anything could happen — shortened rotations, openers, a creative mix.

"Of course I'm open to it," Cueto said. "This season's going to be short, and we're getting ready for that."

Even if managers and pitchers think they have a pretty good idea how ready they are, it probably won't be clear until pitches get thrown considering the pandemic interrupted spring training in March, right when arms were getting built up for the long haul.

"The pitching at the start of this is going to be a puzzle that none of us have ever faced," Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I can't tell you what's going to happen necessarily. I know we're going to need all hands on deck and that's going to make it look a little different. Even just the concept of thinking there are five starters and they do this and then the relievers do that."

Counsell has taken an imaginative approach to using his

pitching staff in the past. This, however, is all new.

"We're doing something we've never done as far as a three-week ramp-up into a shortened season. That alone tells you that we have to do things differently and we shouldn't look at things in a traditional way," Counsell said. "If we do, I think we're making a mistake."

Oakland manager Bob Melvin remains hopeful of getting 65 pitches from starters in their first outings, about an inning less than usual.

"We'll see a lot of starters other places cut short early on," he said. "We're trying to look at all the angles at this point."

Teams have no certainty about how stretched out their starters really might be with only a few weeks of preparation

following the long layoff. That's why many clubs will be experimenting with pitching rotations and bullpen makeups.

Relievers might be relied upon to work longer. In the condensed, 60-game season there are different patterns of thought on how rotations may shape up, how pitching staffs could be constructed.

Teams are allowed a 30-man roster for the first two weeks, up from the usual 25, and are loading up with pitchers.

"You'll need more (pitchers) than they'll allow on the roster," Astros manager Dusty Baker said.

Might some starters essentially be openers, going an inning or two? It's not out of the question, and most clubs realize they must be open in their thinking.

College football teams scrambling to find games

Associated Press

Arkansas State's opener at Memphis on Sept. 5. was still on the schedule as of Tuesday. That much athletic director Terry Mohajir knows.

Mohajir has no idea who the Red Wolves will play the following week or the week after that.

"I wish I could tell you something concrete," he said, echoing his counterparts at schools across the country.

The coronavirus pandemic has led to the cancellation or postponement of more than 300 Division I games so far, and how much, if any, college football is played hinges on whether the surging number of virus cases can be tamped down.

Canceled games — even if it's just one or two — could be crushing financially for athletic programs, especially those at the lower end of the Football Bowl Subdivision and in the Football Championship Subdivision. A team can play a Power Five conference foe on the road and earn as much as \$2 million, often enough to keep other pro-

grams afloat or fund the training table or academic center.

The scramble to find someone to play began July 9 when the Big Ten announced it would play only conference games this fall. The Pac-12 followed suit. Decisions by five FCS conferences to not play this fall emptied even more Saturday schedules.

More openings could loom if the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12 or Southeastern Conference decide to scrap nonconference games — if football is played at all.

Former ESPN executive Dave Brown, who developed software used by 90% of Division I programs to identify possible matchups for nonconference games, said most scheduling right now is being done on a contingency basis because of all the uncertainty.

Brown said he is seeing mostly verbal agreements rather than written contracts, and cancellation clauses in written contracts are taking into account the pandemic and waiving penalties. Perhaps tellingly, there have been no official an-

nouncements about replacement games.

Some teams are more willing to go on the road and earn some money rather than absorbing the costs associated with staging a home game in front of a limited number of fans, Brown said. Of course, visiting teams won't be receiving as much as they would in a normal season.

Perhaps no school faces a bigger challenge than BYU, which had five games fall off its schedule: Utah, Michigan State, Arizona State and Minnesota to start the season and a Nov. 28 game against Stanford. BYU is an independent, with no conference schedule.

Arkansas State, Bowling Green and Portland State of the FCS are among the schools feeling the financial pinch. About 50 FCS-FBS "buy" games have been scrapped.

The Red Wolves will miss out on a \$1.8 million check for a game at Michigan, and they are also looking to replace a home game against Howard. Mohajir said he has a Plan A, Plan B and Plan C — all depending on what the ACC, Big 12 and SEC

decide. Ideally, he said, he will find a game at a Power Five opponent and a home game against an FCS opponent.

With no way to recover the full amount of money lost from the Michigan game, Mohajir said there will be belt tightening. There is no plan to cut sports, he said.

Bowling Green athletic director Bob Moosbrugger already had to cut \$2 million from his budget this spring, and he is faced with losing more than that this fall because games at Ohio State and Illinois have been canceled.

Before the pandemic, Bowling Green was projected to net \$1.75 million from nonconference games after paying a total of \$500,000 for home dates against Robert Morris and Liberty. Those two games are still on. That means the Falcons stand to lose \$2.7 million.

Portland State could get dinged the most of any FCS program. The Pac-12's decision to play conference games took Arizona (\$550,000) and Oregon State (\$400,000) off the Vikings' schedule.

Indians players, owner talk name change

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Cleveland's players met Tuesday with owner Paul Dolan to discuss a potential name change for the team, which has been called the Indians for the past 105 years.

Manager Terry Francona said he came away proud of how it was handled by all involved.

"The way the players expressed themselves in a mature manner and in a respectful manner, and the way Paul listened and spoke back to the players," said Francona, who attended the meeting along with team president Chris Antonetti and general manager Mike Chernoff. "I was really, really happy and content to just sit there and let them talk back and forth."

Francona stressed that nothing has been resolved over the controversial topic.

The franchise recently announced it was in the early stages of meeting with the community and appropriate stakeholders "to determine the best path forward with regard to our team name."

The Indians' move coincided with the recent decision by Washington's NFL team to drop the name Redskins, which had been decried as being racist.

Cleveland removed its contentious Chief Wahoo logo from its game jerseys and caps last season. Fans, however, can still buy merchandise bearing the red-faced, toothy mascot.

"I don't know that anything was actually resolved and I don't know if it needed to be," Francona said. "I just thought it was really good for the players to share their opinions, and let Paul be in the room and hear them and also to share his opinions as an owner."

"I think sometimes perspectives can be different and it's good for everybody to hear that. But I think everybody was so genuinely honest and also respectful in the way they gave their opinions," he said.

Indians pitcher Carlos Carrasco said he and his teammates welcomed the chance to speak directly to Dolan.

"It was great," said Carrasco, who has been with the club since 2009. "It was great

to see him in there and to share everything. For him to come in there and meet us was great."

Francona, who has been Cleveland's manager since 2013, was outspoken on the possible name change several weeks ago, saying it was "time to move forward." He said he didn't want his stance to have any influence on his players.

"I don't feel like it's my business to sway our players to feel one way or another about that," he said. "I just don't feel right about that."

Francona credited Dolan for his willingness to engage with the players.

"These things don't happen everywhere," he said. "It's not going to mean that everybody is going to exactly agree or be on the same page. I don't know that you're supposed to be all the time. That's the way our world is. But when everybody listens with respect and talks with respect, I think we have a chance of moving forward with respect."

"That's what we're trying to do."

Players taking a visible stance on social justice

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Major League Baseball hasn't always been at the forefront of the social justice movement in recent years, with leagues like the NBA and NFL usually taking center stage.

But in the aftermath of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis — and because of the quirks of a coronavirus-altered sports schedule — baseball is in the position of having the American sports world largely to itself for the next week.

Even before Thursday's opening day, players and coaches in the sport are taking a more active approach to supporting racial justice.

Among the examples: San Francisco manager Gabe Kapler and several players kneeling during the national anthem before an exhibition game and several Dodgers — including NL MVP Cody Bellinger and three-time Cy Young Award winner Clay-

ton Kershaw — speaking out about racial injustice in a video message.

"I wanted to demonstrate my dissatisfaction with our clear systemic racism in our country and I wanted them (players) to know that they got to make their own decisions and we would respect and support those decisions," Kapler said after Monday's game. "I wanted them to feel safe in speaking up."

The Milwaukee Brewers posted a picture on social media Tuesday of nearly 20 players and coaches wearing shirts that read "Justice, Equality, Now." The Brewers wore the shirts during their intrasquad game.

It's a marked change for baseball, which has dealt with a slow decline in the number of Black players for several decades. In recent seasons, the percentage of Black players has hovered around 8%.

Source: NFLPA gives its approval to league's plan to scrap preseason games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL Players Association has agreed to the league's plan to drop all preseason games for the 2020 season, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the offer had not been made public. The union also agreed to an 80-player roster limit for training camp, instead of the usual 90.

According to reports, union leadership told players about the preseason agreement during a conference call on Tuesday. The agreement between the union and the league came a day after the league proposed scrapping the preseason because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The players' association originally had sought no preseason games and the league had reduced the exhibition schedule

to two games.

But on Monday evening, the NFL said it would eliminate those preseason contests and also would offer players 18 days for acclimation, up from seven days.

Also on Monday, the league said players will be tested daily for the coronavirus for at least the first two weeks of training camp, per the league's new testing protocols.

Rookies started reporting this week and all players are expected to report next week.

The league and the NFLPA already finalized protocols regarding team travel, media, and treatment response, and updated the facilities protocol to specifically address training camp based on recommendations from a joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the league and players' union.