

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Protester in Texas killed amid civil unrest

Associated Press

Protests took a violent turn in several U.S. cities overnight, with demonstrators squaring off against agents outside a federal courthouse in Portland, Ore., forcing police in Seattle to retreat into a station house and setting fire to vehicles during unrest in California and Virginia.

A protester in Austin, Texas, who was apparently armed with a rifle was shot and killed after witnesses said he approached a car that had driven through a march against police violence. And someone was shot and wounded in Aurora, Colo., after a car drove through a protest there, authorities said.

The unrest Saturday and early Sunday stemmed from the weeks of protests over racial injustice and the police treatment of people of color that flared up after the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd, who was Black and handcuffed, died when a white police officer used his

knee to pin down Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes while he begged for air.

In Seattle, police officers retreated into a precinct station early Sunday, hours after large demonstrations in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Some demonstrators lingered after officers filed into the department's East Precinct around 1 a.m., but most cleared out a short time later, according to video posted online.

At a late-night news conference, Seattle police Chief Carmen Best called for peace. Rocks, bottles, fireworks and mortars were fired at police during the weekend unrest, and police said they arrested at least 45 people for assaults on officers, obstruction and failure to disperse.

In Portland, thousands of people gathered Saturday evening for another night of protests over George Floyd's killing and the presence of federal agents recently sent to the city by President Donald

Trump. Protesters breached a fence surrounding the city's federal courthouse building where the agents have been stationed.

Police declared the situation to be a riot and at around 1:20 a.m., they began ordering people to leave the area surrounding the courthouse or risk arrest, saying on Twitter that the violence had created "a grave risk" to the public. About 20 minutes later, federal officers and local police could be seen attempting to clear the area and deploying tear gas.

In the Texas capital of Austin, a protester was shot and killed Saturday night after witnesses said he approached a car that had driven through a march against police violence. In video streamed live on Facebook, a car can be heard honking before several shots ring out and protesters start screaming and scattering for cover. Police could then be seen tending to someone lying in the street.

Michael Capochiano, who attended the protest, told the Aus-

tin American-Statesman that the slain protester had a rifle and that the car's driver fired several shots at him before speeding away. Police said the driver was detained and was cooperating with investigators.

In Oakland, Calif., protesters set fire to a courthouse, damaged a police station, broke windows, spray-painted graffiti, shot fireworks and pointed lasers at officers after a peaceful demonstration Saturday evening turned to unrest, police said.

In Virginia's capital, Richmond, a dump truck was torched as several hundred protesters and police faced off late Saturday during a demonstration of support for the protesters in Portland.

In the Denver suburb of Aurora, Colo., meanwhile, a protester shot and wounded someone after a car drove through a crowd marching on an interstate highway, police said. The wounded person was taken to a hospital in stable condition.

N. Korea locks down city over suspected virus case

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found there with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, saying "the vicious virus" may have entered the country, state media reported Sunday.

If the person is officially declared a coronavirus patient, he or she would be North Korea's first confirmed case. The North has steadfastly said it has had no cases of the virus, a claim

questioned by outside experts.

The lockdown was declared Friday afternoon. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the suspected virus patient is a runaway who fled to South Korea three years ago before illegally crossing the border into the North early last week.

KCNA said respiratory secretion and blood tests showed the person "is suspected to have been infected" with the coronavirus. It said the person was placed under quarantine. People who had been in contact with the suspected patient and those who had been to Kaesong

in the last five days were also quarantined.

Describing its anti-virus efforts as a "matter of national existence," North Korea earlier this year shut down nearly all cross-border traffic, banned foreign tourists and mobilized health workers to quarantine anyone with symptoms. But the Kaesong lockdown is the first such known measure taken in a North Korean city to stem the pandemic.

During an emergency Politburo meeting Saturday, Kim also declared a state of emergency in the Kaesong area and

"clarified the determination of the Party Central Committee to shift from the state emergency anti-epidemic system to the maximum emergency system and issue a top-class alert," KCNA said.

It quoted Kim as saying there was "a critical situation in which the vicious virus could be said to have entered the country." Kim said he took "the preemptive measure of totally blocking Kaesong City and isolating each district and region from the other" on Friday afternoon after getting the report on it, according to KCNA.

USMC on Okinawa report 72 new virus cases in three days

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps on Okinawa reported 41 new coronavirus cases on Friday and another 31 over the weekend, bringing to 225 the total from two clusters discovered after the Fourth of July weekend.

The 41 infections announced Friday were identified through the Marine Corps' trace-and-test process and involve personnel attached to Marine Corps Installations Pacific and III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa, spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze wrote Friday in an emailed statement to Stars and Stripes.

Twenty-seven of those cases stem from a cluster outbreak at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, while the other 14 are at Camp Hansen, site of the other outbreak.

Some have been in quarantine since July 12, but most have been restricted since July 18, the statement said. All have been moved into isolation.

"All of those individuals were from batch testing that has been pending, one as far back as 12 July," Kunze wrote. "With the high volume of test results that have been pending since last week, this wasn't a surprise."

On Saturday, 23 new infections were announced by Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Twenty-two of those cases, which were identified through the trace-and-test process, are related to the Camp Hansen cluster and one recently arrived from the United States, according to a statement posted on Facebook.

"These 22 individuals have been in quarantine for at least

a week," the statement said.

The new arrival is listed as attached to Camp Courtney because that is where the person's sponsor works or is stationed, Kunze wrote in an email Sunday to Stars and Stripes.

"This individual has been in [restriction of movement] in base housing since July 10, and has had limited contact with any personnel," the Marine statement said.

On Sunday, eight new infections were announced by Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Seven belong to the Camp Hansen cluster and have been in quarantine "for nearly two weeks" due to the Marines' policy to "test all individuals in quarantine" with "close contact" to infected persons before being released, a statement said.

The other individual works at Camp Foster and was a close contact of someone who recently tested positive in the MCAS Futenma cluster, Kunze wrote in his email Sunday.

Since Friday, 82 Marines involved in the cluster outbreak have been released from isolation after recovering, according to the Marine Corps. They join 27 others released earlier last week.

To date, the service has reported 116 cases at Camp Hansen and 109 at MCAS Futenma.

The statement Kunze emailed on Friday implored Marines to "diligently adhere to strict hygiene recommendations," maintain social distance and always wear a mask.

"Our focus remains on stopping the spread as we continue to conduct mission essential training in support of regional security and stability," it said.

Congress close to approval of second round of relief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Saturday that Republicans were set to roll out the next COVID-19 aid package Monday and assured there was backing from the White House after he and President Donald Trump's top aide met to salvage the \$1 trillion proposal that had floundered just days before.

Mnuchin told reporters at the Capitol that extending an expiring unemployment benefit — but reducing it substantially — was a top priority for Trump. The secretary called the \$600 weekly aid "ridiculous" and a disincentive for people to go back to work. He also promised a fresh round of \$1,200 stimulus checks would be coming in August.

"We're prepared to move quickly," Mnuchin said after he and Mark Meadows, the president's acting chief of staff, spent several hours with GOP staff at the Capitol. He said the president would "absolutely" support the emerging Republican package.

Mnuchin's optimistic assessment came before Democrats weighed in publicly on the updated proposal, which remained only a starting point in negotiations with House and Senate leaders in the other party. He said he recently called House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer ahead of shuttle negotiations next week on the broader deal.

The White House and Senate Republicans were racing to regroup after plans to introduce a \$1 trillion virus rescue bill collapsed Thursday amid GOP infighting over its size, scope and details. It was expected to bring \$105 billion to help schools reopen, new money for virus testing and benefits for businesses, including a fresh round of loans, tax breaks and a sweeping liability shield from COVID-related lawsuits.

As Republicans struggled, the White House team down-

played the differences with the GOP senators as overblown and said Trump was focused on providing relief.

"The president has been very clear. He wants to make sure that the American people have what they need during this unprecedented time," Meadows said, "to make sure not only the money is there but the programs."

The expiration of the \$600 weekly jobless benefits boost had been propelling the Republicans to act. Democrats already approved their sweeping \$3 trillion plan from Pelosi two months ago. But with millions of Americans about to be suddenly cut off from the aid starting Saturday, they were bracing to prevent social and economic fallout.

The White House floated plans to cut the additional aid back to \$100 a week, while Senate Republicans preferred \$200, with general agreement about phasing out the flat boost in favor of one that ensures no more than 70% of an employee's previous pay.

Mnuchin also said the \$1,200 direct payments would be based on the same formula from the earlier aid bill. Individuals making \$75,000 or less, for example, received the full amount and those making more than \$75,000 received less than \$1,200 depending on their income. Individuals earning above \$100,000 did not qualify for the payment.

The administration officials said the overall package remained at \$1 trillion, apparently on par with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's original draft.

Democrats had warned time was running out, saying Republicans were in disarray.

The jobless benefit officially expires July 31, but due to the way states process unemployment payments, the cutoff was effectively Saturday. Other aid, including a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units, also expires at month's end.

France moves backward as daily coronavirus rates rise

Associated Press

PARIS — France's coronavirus infection rate crept higher Saturday and Spain cracked down on nightlife but German authorities were confident enough to send a cruise ship out to sea with 1,200 passengers for a weekend test of how the cruise industry can begin to resume.

French health authorities said the closely watched "R" gauge is now up to 1.3, suggesting that infected people are contaminating 1.3 other people on average. That means the virus still has enough victims to keep on going instead of petering out.

France's daily new infections are also rising — up to 1,130 on Friday. Health authorities warned that the country is going backward in its battle against the pandemic, which has already killed at least 30,195 people in the country

and that infection indicators now resemble those seen in May, when France was coming out of its strict two-month lockdown.

In Spain, Catalonia became the latest region to crack down on nightlife, trying to tamp down on new infection clusters. The wealthy northeast region home to Barcelona ordered all nightclubs to close for 15 days and put a midnight curfew on bars in the greater Barcelona area and other towns around Lleida that have become contagion hot zones.

Spain has reported more than 900 new daily infections for the last two days as authorities warn that the country that lost over 28,000 lives before getting its outbreak under control could be facing the start of a second major outbreak.

Swimming pools and gyms in England were back in business as public health officials extolled the benefits of exercise in

fighting COVID-19. Britain announced a fresh attack on obesity as part of the move, hoping that a fitter nation might be able to minimize the impact of future waves of the virus.

A German cruise ship set sail for the first time since the industry was shut down. "Mein Schiff 2" sailed from the port of Hamburg toward Norway on Friday night, and passengers will spend the weekend at sea with no land stops before returning to Germany on Monday.

India, which has the world's third-highest infections behind the United States and Brazil, reported its death toll rose by 740 to 30,601. It saw a surge of more than 49,000 new cases, raising its total to over 1.2 million.

South Africa, Africa's hardest-hit country, reported more than 13,000 new cases, raising its total to over 408,000.

Hawaii gets ready for a approaching hurricane

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii prepared for the onslaught of Hurricane Douglas on Sunday, with predictions of high winds, rain and storm surge.

Douglas weakened Saturday to a Category 1 hurricane as it approached Hawaii, but officials warned people should not be lulled into complacency.

"Douglas is continuing a gradual, slow, weakening trend, which in itself is good news, but the bad news is that this hurricane is going to come very close to the islands even as it's weakening," said Robert Ballard, the science and operations officer at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center. "And we do expect significant impacts as it makes its point of closest approach or possible landfall as it comes through."

Oahu, home to the state's largest city, Honolulu, was placed under a hurricane warning with the storm beginning to impact the island as early as late morning. The Big Island, Maui and Kauai were under tropical storm warnings.

Maximum sustained winds decreased to about 90 mph as of Saturday.

"We know that it is weakening as it approaches, but it still will have significant impact on each island," Hawaii Gov. David Ige said at a news conference.

State health department officials contacted each of the 625 people who were currently in isolation or quarantine as of Friday because they are either COVID-19 positive or have been in contact with someone who is. Every one of those indicated they would shelter-in-place and not seek refuge at a hurricane shelter.

Hawaii has some of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the nation, but COVID-19 numbers have been rising. Since Thursday, Hawaii has reported record highs of newly confirmed cases, including 73 on Saturday.

Tropical Storm Hanna drenches Texas

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A day after roaring ashore as a hurricane, Hanna lashed the Texas Gulf Coast on Sunday with high winds and drenching rains that destroyed boats, flooded streets and knocked out power across a region already reeling from a surge in coronavirus cases.

Downgraded to a tropical storm, Hanna hovered over the U.S.-Mexico border in the morning with winds near 50 mph, the National Hurricane Center said. It was expected to unload as much as 18 inches of rain on parts of South Texas and northeastern Mexico.

Daniel Brown, a senior hurricane specialist, urged people in flooded areas to shelter in place.

Shelters were opened in hotels, schools and gyms. In Hidalgo County, Texas, a community building known as the "Dome" was set aside for evacuees who had tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. The county instructed those who needed shelter to bring masks and hand sanitizer if they could.

Coastal states scrambled this spring to adjust

emergency hurricane plans to account for the virus, and Hanna loomed as the first big test.

Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday that some people in need of shelter would be given hotel rooms to keep them apart from others.

"We cannot allow this hurricane to lead to a more catastrophically deadly event by stoking additional spread of COVID-19 that could lead to fatalities," he said.

The first hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic season blew ashore as a Category 1 storm late Saturday afternoon with winds of 90 mph not far from Port Mansfield, which is about 130 miles south of Corpus Christi.

Parts of South Texas had gotten at least 9 inches of rain, including Cameron County, which includes Brownsville.

More than 180,000 customers were without power Sunday morning throughout South Texas, including Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Brownsville, according to AEP Texas.

The Coast Guard helped rescue a couple without injuries after their sailboat began taking on water Saturday evening in a harbor near Corpus Christi.

NY hospitalizations at new low since March

From wire reports

NEW YORK — Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday that the state's COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU patients were at a new low since mid-March, and urged its residents to continue following the protocols that fueled New York's declining coronavirus numbers.

The latest statewide figures indicated hospitalizations on Friday were down to 646, the lowest figure since March 18, while the number of patients in intensive care units stood at 149 — the least since March 15.

"It's essential that we stay vigilant by social distancing, wearing masks and washing our hands as this pandemic is far from over," said the governor, sounding a cautionary note despite the decline. "I urge everyone to stay New York tough and New York smart."

While the news was heartening, Cuomo said this was no time for New Yorkers to become overconfident in the war against the lethal virus.

The latest New York state death toll stood at 25,103 with the latest 10 victims included in Saturday's numbers.

The figures for New Yorkers testing positive also remained low, with slightly more than 1% of the 71,466 tests returned Friday indicating coronavirus infection.

"New York's numbers continue to show progress in the midst of alarming increased in COVID-19 cases throughout the country and a renewed need to ensure compliance with state guidance here at home," said Cuomo.

California

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County health officials on Saturday reported 3,628 new COVID-19 cases and 53 related deaths, high numbers that in part reflect reporting delays in the state's electronic laboratory system.

The total number of cases in the county now stands at 172,325, with a cumulative 4,351 deaths, officials said in a statement. There have been

446,148 confirmed cases in California, and 8,406 people have died statewide.

The majority of new positive cases in L.A. County are occurring in people under the age of 50, officials said.

As the surge in cases continues, health officials have increased their efforts to persuade people to take steps to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, including wearing masks, avoiding gatherings and adhering to social distancing.

"I know these are frustrating times and that we want life to return to normal. We want to join our friends for dinner inside a restaurant and gather with extended family for a summer barbecue," said L.A. County Director of Public Health Barbara Ferrer. "Unfortunately, we just are not at a point where those activities are safe."

Georgia

ATLANTA — Georgia Democratic Senate candidate Jon Ossoff says he's in isolation with his wife, who contracted COVID-19.

The 33-year-old candidate said his wife, Dr. Alisha Kramer, has mild coronavirus symptoms and that he's showing symptoms, too. He said he was tested Saturday and is awaiting results while self-quarantining.

Ossoff's campaign communications director, Miryam Lipper, said on Twitter that he "has not held or participated in an in-person campaign event in over a month and will remain in isolation until medical professionals clear both him and" his wife.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Just weeks away from the ringing of the schoolhouse bell, scores of people rallied at the state Capitol on Saturday against the state's requirement that schoolchildren must wear face coverings this fall to discourage transmission of the highly contagious and potentially deadly coronavirus.

In a state where the numbers of cases of COVID-19 are rising, if not as quickly as they are surging in several other states, the protestors took aim at Gov. J.B. Pritzker's broadside this week that people who forego face coverings are "the enemy."

"I don't think all this pressure needs to be put on the kids," said Adam Dunn of Decatur, whose kids are out of school. "They need freedom to go play, have a childhood."

The "Million Unmasked March," which took its name from the social-justice march a quarter-century ago, drew about 250 people, including a stalwart group of counter-demonstrators who periodically let loose their own shouted protests from across the street.

It came a day after Pritzker put four of Illinois' 102 counties on "warning level" status for dangerously increased numbers of COVID-19, which officials traced to "risky behavior" such as large gatherings and out-of-state travel.

Saturday, officials announced 1,426 newly confirmed cases of the illness, with 12 new deaths.

Maryland

BALTIMORE — Maryland confirmed 1,288 new coronavirus cases Saturday, the largest single-day increase in new confirmed cases since May 19, when 1,784 cases were reported.

It is Maryland's 12th straight day of adding more than 500 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, and brings the state up to 83,054 total cases.

The state also reported 11 more deaths Saturday. The confirmed death toll from the disease or complications from it since March has reached 3,304.

The number of people currently hospitalized because of COVID-19 in Maryland increased by 12 to 545 people, with 157 in intensive care, according to state data.

North Carolina

CHARLOTTE — Two more male inmates at a North Carolina prison with among the highest number of COVID-19 cases have died after testing positive for the virus, state prison officials said.

One offender at Albemarle Correctional Institution in Stanly County died at an unnamed hospital Friday, the Department of Public Safety said in a news release, while another housed at the prison died at a hospital Thursday.

Eight state prisoners with COVID-19 have died since the pandemic began, according to department data. Three were serving their sentences at Albemarle, which has reported over 100 positive cases to date.

The inmates who most recently died were hospitalized in early July and had tested positive weeks ago. Both died from preexisting conditions complicated by the virus. Citing privacy and confidentiality rules, officials haven't released the names of the prisoners who have died. The offender who died Thursday was in his early 60s, while the inmate who died Friday was in his early 70s.

Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin confirmed 13 new COVID-19 deaths on Saturday, bringing the statewide death toll to 891.

The latest figures from the state Department of Health Services show there were 953 newly reported cases Saturday, bringing the state's total to nearly 48,000.

On Saturday, the seven-day average of new cases was 912. That was three fewer than on Friday, which was the highest seven-day average since the outbreak began.

A total of 856,398 people have been tested for the coronavirus, including 14,201 reported Saturday.

The number of people who have ever been hospitalized in the state was 4,370 on Saturday, up 43 from Friday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Road to be closed while radioactive soil cleared

MO HAZELWOOD — A portion of a St. Louis County road will be closed for a year and a half, in part to remove radioactive soil along a contaminated creek.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the 18-month closure of a stretch of Pershall Road in Hazelwood also will allow for the replacement of a bridge.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been removing soil along the north St. Louis County creek for many years. Radioactive waste was illegally dumped there decades ago, causing environmental damage and creating health concerns for people who lived near the creek.

Last year, a report released by a federal agency confirmed that people who lived near Coldwater Creek could face a higher risk of certain types of cancer.

Lawyers who volunteer at poll to earn credit

OH COLUMBUS — Lawyers who volunteer as poll workers could earn continuing education credit hours in exchange, under a program announced by the Ohio Supreme Court and the state elections chief as the state faces a poll worker shortage because of the coronavirus pandemic.

To earn the four hours of credit under the initiative, participating attorneys must complete training at local election boards and work the entire voting day. Workers typically serve from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., when polls close.

"I can think of no greater opportunity for lawyers in Ohio to give back to our state than

to get involved on election day and help fill the urgent need for poll workers," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said.

Ohio's licensed attorneys must earn 24 continuing education hours every two years.

Coast Guard rescues man from capsized boat

FL ST. PETERSBURG— The U.S. Coast Guard rescued a commercial fisherman who was clinging to a cooler in the Gulf of Mexico after his boat capsized, the day after evacuating a boy and his father from the same vessel.

According to a news release, an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew dispatched from Air Station Clearwater rescued Robert Heart, 48, who was clinging to a cooler in 3- to 4-foot seas. He was still near the 36-foot boat, which was almost entirely under the surface. He was taken to a Tampa hospital for medical evaluation.

Heart had declined help a day earlier, when the Coast Guard Cutter Diamondback responded to the Jenny Lynn to medically evacuate a boy who had fallen ill onboard. Heart told the crew that the boat was no longer working under its own power and that a sister vessel was on its way to help. The Coast Guard is now investigating what went wrong on the boat's ill-fated trip.

Gunshots kill two while neighbors film rap video

LA BATON ROUGE — Two men were killed after gunfire erupted as a group gathered in a Louisiana neighborhood to film a rap music video, according to authorities.

When Baton Rouge police were called to the scene they found D'Andre Mills, 25, and

Landon Johnson, 31, suffering from gunshot wounds, police spokesman Sgt. L'Jean McKneely said. The victims were taken to a hospital where they later died.

Police said a group had been shooting a rap video in a Baton Rouge neighborhood when the shooting happened. Neighbors said more than a dozen people had gathered on their street, but the group dispersed before police arrived, The Advocate reported.

"The sad thing is nobody stayed on the scene," the newspaper quoted McKneely as saying. "Zero witnesses."

Rare leopard frogs found living in new area

AZ FLAGSTAFF— A rare frog was found in central Arizona, beyond its known range in the Southwest.

A U.S. Forest Service volunteer recently photographed a Chirichua leopard frog in an earthen stock tank near the town of Camp Verde in central Arizona, the agency said. Biologists later confirmed that at least 10 of the frogs were living there.

The aquatic frogs were thought to be only in eastern Arizona, western New Mexico and northern Mexico but historically were more widespread. The frogs' numbers have declined because of habitat loss, disease and predators.

Audrey Owns of the Arizona Game and Fish Department said the frogs could have moved into lower elevations in Camp Verde because they were seeking protected habitats or warmer temperatures that guard them from fungal disease.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the frogs as threatened in 2002.

Police arrest man for setting fires in a church

DE GLASGOW — A Delaware man was accused of setting multiple fires inside a church sanctuary.

The Delaware State Fire Marshal's office arrested Thomas Loftis III in connection with the blaze that erupted at Reach Church, news outlets reported.

He was captured just hours after the office released images that showed the suspect and a car they believed he used during the alleged arson, The Delaware News Journal reported.

No one was injured during the blaze, but the fire caused approximately \$250,000 in damages.

Loftis was charged with arson, burglary and criminal mischief.

Officials offer reward for murder of panther

FL TALLAHASSEE — Wildlife officials are offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information about the intentional killing of an endangered Florida panther.

A female panther was found dead east of Immokalee in Collier County on March 8, during the opening weekend of the spring turkey hunting season in south Florida.

A forensic examination of the panther carcass and other evidence indicated that the panther was intentionally killed and partially mutilated a day earlier, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials said.

Florida panthers are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Intentionally killing a Florida panther is punishable by up to one year in federal prison and a fine of up to \$100,000.

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NFL teams see fruits of virtual offseason

Associated Press

Players are reconvening for a training camp unlike any other, and the ramifications of their remote offseason will soon become apparent.

When the NFL scrapped regular offseason training for virtual OTAs and videoconferences because of the coronavirus crisis, some players applauded and others plodded. Coaches had to get creative to replace face-to-face instruction, and many discovered teaching tools they'll continue using even after the pandemic ends.

Training camps won't be normal. No preseason games. No fans at practice. Daily COVID-19 tests for players, coaches, staff, media. And a slow ramp-up to padded practices in a few weeks.

Players have been preparing on their own for months, aside from quarterbacks such as graybeard Tom Brady and greenhorn Drew Lock, who gathered their new receivers to work on their timing, something the players union ultimately discouraged.

Some students thrived on their own when schools turned to online learning in the spring as the coronavirus surged. Others craved a return to the classroom where they could prosper

among their peers.

Same thing with the NFL.

Self-starters could flourish even when the COVID-19 crisis forced them to work remotely, but players also had to navigate through more free time than ever.

These peculiar circumstances placed "a greater accountability on players to prepare, but on the coaches as well," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said.

"There has to be a real streamlined approach to the most important parts of those installs and the finer details are at a premium. I think it's probably making the coaches better coaches and at the same time ... you expect great accountability" from the players, Rodgers said.

"I think that's the beauty of this time," Rodgers added. "It really separates the guys who are the self-motivated self-starters and the guys who maybe need a little more direction. And those guys that need more direction are going to be better in the setting where we're all together. The other guys are going to be more ready to rock and roll once Day 1 comes."

While the players will get extra time to ramp up their football fitness with the league agreeing to scrap the preseason schedule, some coaches don't think they'll be that far behind

compared to other years.

Denver Broncos defensive coordinator Ed Donatell said the virtual offseason led to a burst of creativity among coaches and the discovery of new teaching tools to better connect with players.

"First of all, we're teachers. We're not professors. We want to get everybody to be an A student or at least a B student. What I can tell you is we have everybody where they'll have all the tools they'll need when they hit the field. We can't tell you how it will be physically. We've just created ways to use film and create interaction, have them talking to each other.

"It's a very big plus. This is going to help us when people are away from us in the future," Donatell added. "It's going to help us adapt. It's hard to put somebody ahead of somebody. This is the game of football. Even in a normal year, everything we do to this point, there's one other piece. It's called 'when you put on the pads.' You start running into each other, making tackles, avoiding tackles, breaking tackles. We don't know that piece. There's a lot that remains to be seen."

New Broncos offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur said the downside to Zoom meetings was that you couldn't read a player's body language, but

Donatell said the upside was being able to see so many faces at once.

"You have to be engaged because you can be called on at any time," Donatell said. "Another cool thing is I'm looking at another screen and I can see everyone's faces. It's easier to see 15 or 20 than if you're looking around the room. We can read if they're engaged and if they're learning. You can feel that as a teacher."

Some members of Donatell's defensive staff discovered tools that helped them engage with the players. DBs coach Renaldo Hill used Prezi presentation software that "just makes it more interesting, things are popping in and off the screen and engaging guys more," Donatell said. Defensive assistant Chris Beake brought in Kahoot!, a game-based learning platform that features user-generated multiple choice quizzes.

"We found ways to develop different kinds of quizzes to create the interaction," Donatell said. "These guys are still being compelled to a high level of learning to get them ready and just creating interaction. This also was a time when everybody in our country's healing. Everybody misses their work. ... This was a time we can get on that screen and cut it up a little bit, have some fun."

Disgruntled safety Adams traded by Jets to Seahawks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jamal Adams' wish was finally granted: He's leaving New York in a stunning trade.

The Jets dealt the disgruntled star safety to the Seattle Seahawks on Saturday, splitting with a gifted player whose relationship with the franchise quickly deteriorated because of a contract dispute.

The Jets received a massive haul in the deal Saturday, sending a 2022 fourth-round draft pick along with Adams to the Seahawks for a 2021 first-rounder, a 2022 first-rounder, a

2021 third-rounder and safety Bradley McDougald — pending physicals.

Both teams confirmed the trade details, and the Seahawks welcomed Adams to the team in a Twitter post.

"Let's get it!!!" Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson tweeted.

The deal ended a contentious several months for Adams and the Jets, a situation that increasingly appeared headed for a divorce when the two-time Pro Bowl selection criticized ownership early in the week and then took shots at coach Adam Gase and general

manager Joe Douglas in an interview with the Daily News published Friday.

"To NY & especially the Jets fans, I love you & will always love you." Adams wrote in a Twitter post. "You all will hold a special place in my heart forever. When I came into the league, you embraced me & watched me grow! We went through it all together. Thank you for the Luv & support these 3 years. #Prez Out."

Adams followed that up with a message to the Seahawks and their fans in a Twitter post that included a graphic of the safety in his new team's uniform.

"You have a man on a mission," he wrote, "a man all in on winning a Super Bowl, being the best leader & teammate he can be, & a man who will give everything he has to the city of Seattle and to the 12s all across the world. Thank you for believing in me!"

The 24-year-old former LSU star was drafted sixth overall by the Jets in 2017. He quickly established himself as a fan favorite and one of the best players at his position, being selected for the last two Pro Bowls and making the All-Pro squad last year.

MLB roundup

Bard earns win in first game since '13

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Daniel Bard has a new perspective after more than seven years away from the major leagues, and a win after one outing for the Colorado Rockies.

The hard-throwing Bard, whose control troubles ran him out of baseball, pitched 1¹/₃ scoreless innings in relief while twice getting out of jams as the Rockies beat the Texas Rangers 3-2 on Saturday.

“He said three words — that was fun,” Colorado manager Bud Black said.

Bard’s last big league appearance had been for Boston on April 27, 2013, 11 months after his last win.

“It’s been a long wait. It feels good,” the 35-year-old Bard said. “Just trying to soak it in and enjoy every moment.”

Bard took over for starter Jon Gray with two on and two outs in the fifth. The right-hander, with his fastball in the upper 90s mph, worked around two more runners in the sixth, getting Willie Calhoun on an inning-ending flyout to cap an 11-pitch at-bat.

Bard threw 20 of his 25 pitches for strikes.

“The stuff is there. ... What a great story,” Black said.

Angels 4, Athletics 1: Dylan Bundy pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning in his Angels debut and Justin Upton homered to lead visiting Los Angeles past Oakland.

Bundy (1-0) allowed one run, three hits, no walks and hit one batter in 6²/₃ innings as part of an impressive first start after being acquired from Baltimore in a trade last December.

Astros 7, Mariners 2: Lance McCullers Jr. was solid in his return from Tommy John surgery, Yuli Gurriel and George Springer homered and host Houston beat Seattle for the 15th straight time.

McCullers (1-0) yielded five hits and two runs in six innings in his first game since the 2018 playoffs. He got double plays from his defense to escape jams

in the first two innings before settling in to get the win, striking out six.

Brewers 8, Cubs 3: Christian Yelich and Justin Smoak hit long home runs, umpires intervened before a shouting match between the teams got too serious and visiting Milwaukee powered past Chicago.

Milwaukee’s bats broke loose against Yu Darvish and the Cubs bullpen. Smoak launched a towering solo shot off the right-field scoreboard in the fifth. Yelich drove a two-run blast high into Wrigley’s center-field batter’s eye in the sixth.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 1: Paul Goldschmidt homered, Adam Wainwright pitched six solid innings and host St. Louis cruised past Pittsburgh.

Wainwright (1-0) pitched out of a bases loaded, no-out jam in the second, giving up just one run. He retired 14 of the final 15 batters he faced as the Cardinals beat the Pirates for the 12th time in their last 13 games.

White Sox 10, Twins 3: Leury García homered from both sides of the plate, helping Dallas Keuchel and host Chicago pound Minnesota.

Edwin Encarnación hit a two-run drive as the White Sox bounced back nicely after losing 10-5 to the reigning AL Central champions on Friday night. Eloy Jiménez and James McCann also went deep.

Keuchel allowed two runs in 5¹/₃ innings in his White Sox debut after agreeing to a \$55.5 million, three-year contract in December. The veteran left-hander threw 73 pitches, 47 for strikes.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 2: Anthony Santander and Renato Núñez each drove in two runs and visiting Baltimore held off Boston to even their season-opening series.

Hanser Alberto finished with three hits. Austin Hays and José Iglesias added two apiece.

Alex Cobb (1-0) was steady in his first start since April 2019 after missing most of last

season with a hip injury that required surgery. After Boston pounded out 17 hits in its 13-2 win on Friday, Cobb mostly kept the Red Sox off balance, allowing just four hits and one run while striking out six in 5¹/₃ innings of work.

Royals 3, Indians 2 (10): Greg Holland struck out the top of Cleveland’s batting order to strand the tying run at second base, and Maikel Franco hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning for visiting Kansas City in the third major league game decided by the debated extra-inning runner rule.

With Greg Allen on second, Holland fanned César Hernández and José Ramírez before getting All-Star Francisco Lindor to chase strike three in the dirt for the final out and the most unique save of his career.

Tigers 6, Reds 4: Miguel Cabrera passed two superstars with one home run, and JaCoby Jones hit a two-run shot in the ninth inning off Raisel Iglesias to rally visiting Detroit past Cincinnati.

Cabrera salvaged his four-strikeout day with a two-run homer in the seventh that broke a tie with Adrian Beltre for 30th place on the career list.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1: Brandon Lowe’s two-run triple snapped an eighth-inning tie and sent host Tampa Bay over Toronto.

Lowe, a first-time AL All-Star in 2019, hit a drive into the gap in right-center field off reliever Sam Gaviglio (0-1). The right-hander later balked, allowing Lowe to score the third run of the inning.

Nick Anderson (1-0), the third of four Rays pitchers who followed starter Ryan Yarbrough, retired four of five batters he faced to get the win.

Giants 5, Dodgers 4: Gabe Kapler got his first win as the San Francisco manager as Wilmer Flores homered for a win over host Los Angeles.

After getting outscored 17-2 in the first two games, the Giants took advantage of Dodgers

starter Alex Wood’s struggles to avoid their first 0-3 start since 2012. They scored in each of the first four innings to snap a six-game skid against their NL West rivals.

Phillies 7, Marlins 1: Phil Gosselin homered twice, J.T. Realmuto added a three-run drive and Didi Gregorius went deep again to back Zach Wheeler in host Philadelphia’s victory over Miami.

Wheeler (1-0) tossed five-hit ball and struck out four in seven innings after signing a \$118 million, five-year deal in free agency. The 30-year-old Wheeler, who spent his first seven seasons with the New York Mets, pitched only days after his wife gave birth to their son.

Braves 5, Mets 3 (10): Marcell Ozuna hit a tying homer off shaky closer Edwin Díaz with two outs in the ninth inning, Dansby Swanson scored automatic runner Adam Duvall with a leadoff single in the 10th and visiting Atlanta beat New York.

New York loaded the bases in the bottom of the 10th with no outs against Luke Jackson (1-0). Pinch-hitter Dominic Smith managed a sacrifice fly, but Jackson recovered and retired Wilson Ramos to end it.

Nationals 9, Yankees 2: Victor Robles had three hits and four RBIs, including a homer, helping host Washington beat New York without scratched starter Stephen Strasburg and despite five errors.

Asdrúbal Cabrera and Michael A. Taylor also homered for Washington, which lost 2019 World Series MVP Strasburg to a nerve issue in his pitching hand.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 1: Manny Machado and Wil Myers homered to back Dinelson Lamet, who pitched brilliantly into the sixth inning of host San Diego’s win over Arizona.

Lamet (1-0) held the Diamondbacks to one run and five hits while striking out eight and walking one.

Source: Knicks set to hire Thibodeau

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Thibodeau is coming back to the New York Knicks, who are still seeking the success they enjoyed when he was an assistant two decades ago.

The Knicks are finishing a deal to make Thibodeau their coach, a person with knowledge of the details said Saturday.

No contract has been signed but a deal is expected to be announced next week, the person told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations were ongoing.

ESPN first reported that the Knicks and Thibodeau were completing a five-year contract.

When they do, the 2011 NBA Coach of the Year in Chicago will become the 13th different person to coach the Knicks since Jeff Van Gundy resigned early in the 2001-02 season.

Orlando Magic coach Steve Clifford was told during his team's scrimmage at Walt Disney World against the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday that

Thibodeau, his longtime friend and confidant, was going to get the New York job.

"Look, he's one of my closest friends," Clifford said. "He's one of the best coaches in the league and he understands New York. He was in New York for a long time. New York is a different animal. He understands the fan base. He understands the New York media and he's a great, great coach. So, he'll do great there and it's a great hire on their part."

Thibodeau was an assistant under Van Gundy, who led the Knicks to the 1999 NBA Finals and into the postseason in every season he was there. New York has reached the playoffs just three times since Van Gundy's departure.

The Knicks went 21-45 this season, missing the playoffs for a seventh straight year. Mike Miller finished the season as interim coach after David Fizdale was fired 22 games into the season.

New Knicks President Leon Rose then interviewed a number of candidates before choosing Thibodeau from a field that included Jason Kidd, former

Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson and Miller, who impressed Rose while going 17-27 before the season was suspended in March.

San Antonio assistants Will Hardy and Ime Udoka were also candidates. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said both will get their opportunities but praised the choice of Thibodeau.

"Tommy's a seasoned veteran who it goes without saying understands what wins and what loses. He knows how to put a program together, create a culture and be demanding — and at the same time, make people accountable," Popovich said.

"It's easy to demand things, but to make people accountable and want to play the right way is not something that's easy for everybody to do. But Tom knows it inside and out and he'll be a great choice to organize the situation there, develop a plan, start the culture, stick to it, be persistent and get after it. So it's a great choice."

Thibodeau is regarded as a demanding coach who is one of the top defensive minds in the game. He devised the defense

that carried the Boston Celtics to the 2008 NBA championship as an assistant before becoming Chicago's coach in 2010.

He guided the Bulls to a 62-20 record as a rookie, the first of five straight postseason berths even as the team battled constant injuries to star guard Derrick Rose and others.

Overall, he is 352-246 as a head coach. He led the Minnesota Timberwolves to the postseason in 2018 but was fired the next year during a rocky season that began with star Jimmy Butler asking to be traded.

Players around the league took notice of the pending move as well.

Heat forward Jae Crowder retweeted a clip from a 2018 game Saturday, one where he was playing for Utah and Thibodeau was coaching the Timberwolves. Crowder and Thibodeau got involved in a very heated war of words during the game that night, earning them both technical fouls.

"CONGRATS TIBS ON THE NEW COACHING JOB. CANT WAIT TO HAVE THESE BATTLES WITH YOU AGAIN!" Crowder tweeted Saturday.

Ex-UFC champ Whittaker back on track with decision

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Former UFC middleweight champion Robert Whittaker earned his first victory in two years Sunday, winning a unanimous decision over Darren Till on Fight Island.

Veteran heavyweight Fabricio Werdum finished Alexander Gustafsson by armbar submission midway through the first round, and Maurício "Shogun" Rua got an entertaining split-decision victory over fellow Brazilian veteran Antônio Rogério Nogueira in the last of four UFC shows in two weeks from the mixed martial arts promotion's fan-free bubble in the Middle East.

The main event was a messy, technical fight that turned into an encouraging step forward

for Whittaker (21-5), who ended the victory with a smile and a horrifically bloody cut above his left ear.

Whittaker won his middleweight belt in 2017, but the Australian brawler defended it just once and missed significant time with injuries. He lost the title last October to New Zealand's Israel Adesanya, and Whittaker then withdrew from a scheduled comeback fight because he felt burned out on MMA.

He didn't have an easy return, but the ex-champ still handled his matchup with Till (18-3-1), the touted British prospect.

"That fight was so stressful," Whittaker said. "I hope the fans and everybody can appreciate it. That was one of

the most technical fights I've ever had to fight. We both knew each other's strengths. I had to really adapt on the go."

The 38-year-old Rua (27-11-1) and the 44-year-old Nogueira (23-10) put on an entertaining performance in their third fight in a rivalry that began 15 years ago. Rua won all three of those bouts, but he barely won this lively striking matchup, triumphing 29-28 on two cards.

Nogueira said he probably will retire after this defeat, although his reluctance was visible. The twin brother of fellow UFC veteran Antônio Rodrigo Nogueira has been a pro MMA fighter for 19 years, including the last 11 in the UFC.

"I know I can (still) fight very well, but I think it's time for the new generation to come,"

Nogueira said.

Werdum (24-9-1) earned his first victory since 2017 with an impressive submission of Gustafsson (18-7), the former light heavyweight title contender who briefly retired last year.

Werdum turns 43 next week, but the famed jiu-jitsu practitioner took apart Gustafsson on the ground for an armbar. Gustafsson, who nearly beat Jon Jones for the light heavyweight title in 2013, has lost three straight fights and five of seven.

On the undercard, welterweight Khamzat Chimaev set a UFC record with his second victory in only 10 days, finishing welterweight Rhys McKee with punches just 3:09 into the first round.