

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Coalition: Strikes destroy ISIS camp, hideout

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

Coalition strikes took out three Islamic State camp sites in Iraq's Kirkuk province on Friday, while jets "blasted" an ISIS cave in Nineveh province.

The "summer camp" in rural Kirkuk was located about 16 miles west of the city of Tuz Khurmatu in "densely-vegetated austere terrain," the U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve said in a statement on Saturday. Strike videos described them as ISIS mountain training areas.

Despite losing control of its last territory in Iraq more than two years ago, ISIS continues to wage an insurgency while hiding out in the mountains, deserts and other rural areas of the country.

While Iraqi security forces have "tactical overmatch against ISIS," Army Col. Myles B. Caggins III, a coalition military spokesman, said in the statement that "air-strikes help destroy ISIS targets in terrain difficult to reach by standard vehicles."

An F-15E Eagle fighter jet carried out the strikes, which killed an estimated five ISIS fighters, Caggins told Stars and Stripes via text message. Iraqi forces were still conducting an assessment of the damage, he said Saturday.

Caggins also posted video of the strike in Nineveh province on Twitter, which he

said killed four militants. Recent killing or capture of ISIS leaders has left "their lowly terrorists followers dazed & disillusioned," Caggins tweeted.

Late last month, Syrian forces said that a coalition strike in Syria killed one of the top three leaders of ISIS, Mutaz Numan and Nayif Najm al-Jaburi, about a week after officials in Baghdad said they were holding senior ISIS member Abdul Nasser Qardash.

Friday's strikes capped off a week in which the U.S. and Iraq began discussions about the future of American troops in the country, following Iraqi lawmakers' call for a withdrawal of foreign forces in response to a U.S. drone strike in January that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian military's elite Quds Force, on a visit to Baghdad.

But, in a video conference on Thursday, U.S. Central Command boss Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie said American forces will likely have a continued presence in the country to support its counterterrorism operations.

Meanwhile, a series of rocket attacks fell in areas near where U.S. personnel are based in the country, continuing a trend of such attacks since last summer when the Trump administration began a campaign of maximum pressure on Tehran. The Pentagon has blamed the strikes on Iran-

backed militias operating in Iraq.

The rocket strikes were not fatal last week but in several past incidents similar attacks have killed Iraqi, U.S. and coalition personnel. The increased threat has complicated the U.S. mission, in which some 5,200 troops are in the country to train, advise and assist security forces battling ISIS.

As a result, the coalition sped up a plan to consolidate American forces from several small bases to a few larger ones, officials have said. The improved capabilities of Iraqi forces, plus "certain other factors" led to orders to "massively accelerate these plans," which officials had initially planned to take until 2022, the coalition said in a statement last month.

The U.S.-led coalition continues its support of anti-ISIS operations in the region. Both Iraqi and Syrian partner forces carried out large-scale campaigns in which two dozen operations led to the capture of 64 militants in the past two weeks, the coalition's special operations task force said Friday in a Twitter post.

"The coalition and our partners will ... maintain relentless pressure on the terrorist organization," Inherent Resolve said in Saturday's statement, adding that it was also working to disrupt terrorist propaganda, finance and human trafficking.

Tokyo calls for probe into lost Osprey part

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
AND SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Local authorities in western Tokyo are calling for an investigation into whether a small part may have fallen from a CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft stationed at Yokota.

Part of a searchlight dome was missing during a check of the Osprey at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to a North Kanto Defense Bureau spokesman. The bureau is an arm of Japan's defense ministry.

A spokesman for the 374th Airlift Wing, 1st Lt. Stuart Thrift, in an email Friday confirmed the part was not there when the helicopter-airplane hybrid was inspected after the flight.

U.S. forces notified the bureau Wednesday that the part, which weighs just under a pound, was missing.

On Thursday, the Tokyo prefectural governor and the mayors of a town and five cities surrounding Yokota wrote to the 374th Airlift Wing's vice commander, Col. Jason Mills,

and North Kanto Defense Bureau director Takahisa Matsuda asking for an investigation.

"The fallen part is a serious accident, which could involve human lives, and causes anxiety among the residents," the letter stated.

It's not clear the part fell, the defense bureau spokesman said. No off-base damage has been reported.

"Parts have gone missing from aircraft assigned to or visiting to Yokota Air Base in the past," the local authorities' letter stated. "It is extremely

regrettable that CV-22 Ospreys continue to fly even after 5 p.m. when you noticed the missing part."

All of Yokota's air operations are conducted in accordance with relevant airspace agreements and regulations between the U.S. and Japanese governments, Thrift said.

"We make every effort to minimize our impact on local communities while ensuring we maintain proficiency in our flight operations for the defense of Japan," he added.

Camp Humphreys hosts their first Juneteenth celebration

BY MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Nearly 1,000 people turned out for a celebration here Friday that aimed to raise awareness about the day the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to tell African Americans slaves they had been freed.

Juneteenth is not a federal holiday but is celebrated with gatherings and festivals in Texas and many other states.

Army Maj. Ryan Vandrovec, an intelligence officer for the 2nd Infantry Division, said he had never heard of Juneteenth, even though he gave Black History Month lessons as a high school teacher in Florida.

"I'm from Miami, where it is super multicultural," he said during the event, which featured historical readings, music, food and games. "It was

just never brought up down there."

The celebration is the brainchild of Humphreys Middle School fifth-grade teacher Dominique Marie, who was inspired by civil unrest after the May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill, suffocated while a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

"Juneteenth is important to everybody, not just Black people," Marie told those in attendance. "Juneteenth is a tribute to strength, endurance and the faith of our ancestors, for we are our ancestors' greatest accomplishment. We are their wildest dream."

"For all Americans, it is a reminder that until all of us are free, that no one is really free," she added. "Today we celebrate

glory — we celebrate the breaking of chains."

The festival was attended by garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay and Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon Jr., who recited General Order No. 3 of 1865 to the crowd. The order was originally issued on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, to inform residents about the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all enslaved people in the state.

Friday's celebration also featured a symbolic fitness event in which people walked the Balboni Field track for 1,865 seconds in honor of the year 1865.

Vandrovec said he attended the celebration because he wants to teach his young daughter that "we are all an inclusive society." He also praised military leaders like Tremblay and Lemon for helping make it happen.

USAF pilot honored with name on F-15s

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Air Force maintainers on both sides of the Atlantic have honored the memory of 1st Lt. Kenneth "Kage" Allen, who died last week when his F-15C crashed in the North Sea, by temporarily stenciling his name on two fighter jets.

Maintainers with the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath added Allen's name to the wing's flagship F-15C Eagle, which is the same model that Allen flew for the 493rd Fighter Squadron, Air Force officials at Lakenheath said.

The jet departed Lakenheath for depot maintenance Friday, "signifying Lt. Allen's final departure from the Liberty Wing," said wing spokeswoman Maj. Sybil Taunton.

At Robins Air Force Base, Ga., another team of maintainers also paid tribute to Allen by adding his name to an F-15 Strike Eagle assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing that had just completed maintenance, the Air Force said.

"It was a lovely gesture. We weren't expecting it," Taunton said.

The jet is scheduled to return to Lakenheath this week.

Because Air Force regulations stipulate that the name of the lead pilot assigned to a plane must feature on operational aircraft, the lettering will eventually be removed, Taunton said.

Allen's jet crashed off the coast of northern England on June 15 during a routine training mission. The cause of the crash is under investigation, the Air Force said.

A Gofundme page set up by the family to help with travel and funeral expenses has raised \$39,600 out of a \$50,000 goal.

Kadena calls out robbery reports for putting US troops in 'negative light'

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Air Force on Okinawa has pushed back against local media outlets it says attempted to paint the island's U.S. military community "in a negative light."

The news reports concern a soldier and a civilian, both from the U.S. and who worked at Kadena Air Base, awaiting trial in an Okinawa court for the alleged robbery of a currency exchange store near Camp Foster.

The 18th Wing at Kadena, commanded by Air Force Brig. Gen. Joel Carey, issued a statement Thursday that provided "clarification" on those reports, which were not specified.

A spokesman for Okinawa prefecture said some local media reported that Carey refused to go to the prefectural government offices and apologize for the robbery.

The 18th Wing did not respond to requests Fri-

day from Stars and Stripes to identify those news reports or comment further.

However, the Ryukyu Shimpo, an Okinawa newspaper, reported June 14 that Carey "did not apologize for the incident." It also reported that U.S. officials "turned down" requests to visit the prefectural government offices.

The Okinawa prefecture spokesman dismissed those reports as inaccurate. He said Thursday that prefectural officials had instead agreed to meet Carey at the base because of scheduling conflicts. Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

"We don't recall anything unusual that happened during the meeting with the Kadena commander," the spokesman said Thursday evening. "Brig. Gen. Carey said this incident was regretful to happen. He used the word regretful, not sorry ... I am not sure why the local press released negative reports like the U.S. refused to apologize."

Poll: US protests will have positive impact

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ahead of the Juneteenth holiday weekend's demonstrations against systemic racism and police brutality, more than 4 in 10 Americans said they expect recent protests around the country will bring positive change. A majority said they approve of the protests.

The findings follow weeks of peaceful protests and unrest in response to the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died pleading for air May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer held his knee on Floyd's

neck for nearly nine minutes.

A dramatic change in public opinion on race and policing has followed, with more Americans today than five years ago calling police violence a very serious problem that unequally targets Black Americans.

The new poll finds 54% of Americans say they approve of the protests, while 32% disapprove. Another 14% say they hold neither opinion.

More think the protests will mostly change the country for the better than bring about negative change, 44% to 21%. A third say they won't make

much difference.

Seven percent of Americans say they've participated in a protest in the past few weeks. While Black Americans were significantly more likely to say so than white Americans, the poll found about half of those who said they protested were white. The demonstrations have been noted as remarkably diverse compared with those seen as affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement that emerged nearly seven years ago.

About 8 in 10 Black Americans say they approve of the

protests. About half of white Americans approve, while about a third disapprove.

A majority of Americans, 55%, say law enforcement responded to recent protests appropriately, while fewer, 44%, say they used excessive force. While 7 in 10 Black Americans said law enforcement officers responded to the protests with excessive force, about half as many white Americans said that. Roughly 6 in 10 white Americans said law enforcement officers responded to protests appropriately.

Minnesota special session ends without policing changes

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A special session of the Minnesota Legislature ended Saturday without agreement on remaking policing in the state where George Floyd was killed.

The Democratic-controlled House early Friday passed an extensive package of police accountability measures wrapped into one bill. It included elements of five more modest policing bills that the

Republican-controlled Senate passed earlier in the week but went farther than Republicans were willing to accept.

The Senate adjourned just after 6 a.m. Saturday, prompting criticism from minority Democrats.

"I'm deeply disappointed that Senate Republicans ended the special session before our job was done," Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent tweeted. "We should stay and finish the work of the people of

Minnesota."

GOP Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, of East Gull Lake, repeatedly had said that Friday was his deadline for adjournment, and that lawmakers should focus on proposals both parties can support. "We're not walking away from Minnesota here, but I think we could all benefit from a breather," Gazelka said just before adjournment, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

No changes to policing in Tenn.

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee's Black lawmakers came back to the Capitol earlier this month with a request for their white colleagues: Advance public policy to send modest signals that say, "Yes, Black lives do matter."

"You can't just like Black people," said Rep. Harold Love, a Black pastor from Nashville, speaking in somber tones in front of the House chamber on June 1. "You have to also make policy that helps them and doesn't lower their value."

Nearly three weeks later, the GOP-dominant General Assembly has adjourned after largely ignoring measures proponents said would right some of the wrongs of racial injustice in Tennessee.

Legislation aimed at improving health care for some minority women stalled. Lawmakers chose not to remove the bust of a former Confederate general from the Capitol building, even though similar monuments in many other states are being taken down — either forcibly by protesters or through government action. Efforts to reform policing fizzled.

Woman wanted in burning of Atlanta Wendy's during protests

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Investigators said Saturday they have issued an arrest warrant for a woman in connection with a fire at a Wendy's restaurant in Atlanta during protests over the police shooting of an African American man.

Natalie White, 29, is a suspect in the arson and investigators are asking for help finding her, Atlanta Fire and Rescue said in

a Twitter post.

Several people are suspected of trying to set fires in the restaurant before the blaze finally spread, fire officials said.

Atlanta police officers were called to the Wendy's on June 12 over complaints of a car blocking the drive-thru lane. Officers found Rayshard Brooks asleep in the car.

The officers spoke to Brooks, who was Black, for more than 40 minutes, but things quickly

turned violent when they tried to handcuff him, according to body camera video.

An autopsy found Brooks was shot twice in the back. Garrett Rolfe was fired from the police department immediately after the shooting and was charged Wednesday with felony murder. Rolfe, 27, is white.

Protesters gathered the night after Brooks was killed, breaking the windows in the restaurant before the fire was set.

Trump protesters, supporters clash in OK

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — President Donald Trump's supporters faced off with protesters shouting "Black Lives Matter" Saturday in Tulsa as the president took the stage for his first campaign rally in months amid public health concerns about the coronavirus and fears that the event could lead to violence in the wake of killings of Black people by police.

Hundreds of demonstrators flooded the city's downtown streets and blocked traffic at times, but police reported just a handful of arrests. Many of the marchers chanted, and some occasionally got into shouting matches with Trump supporters, who outnumbered them and yelled, "All lives matter."

Later in the evening, a group of armed men began following the protesters. When the protesters blocked an intersection, a man wearing a Trump shirt

got out of a truck and spattered them with pepper spray.

When demonstrators approached a National Guard bus that got separated from its caravan, Tulsa police officers fired pepper balls to push back the crowd, said Tulsa police spokesperson Capt. Richard Meulenberg. Officers soon left the area as it cleared.

The Trump faithful gathered inside the 19,000-seat BOK Center for what was believed to be the largest indoor event in the country since restrictions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus began in March. Many of the president's supporters weren't wearing masks, despite the recommendation of public health officials. Some had been camped near the venue since early in the week.

Turnout at the rally was lower than the campaign predicted, with a large swath of standing room on the stadium floor and

empty seats in the balconies. Trump had been scheduled to appear at a rally outside of the stadium within a perimeter of tall metal barriers, but that event was abruptly canceled.

While Trump spoke onstage, protesters carried a papier-mache representation of him with a pig snout. Some in the multiracial group wore Black Lives Matter shirts, others sported rainbow-colored armbands, and many covered their mouths and noses with masks. At one point, several people stopped to dance to gospel singer Kirk Franklin's song "Revolution."

The protesters blocked traffic in at least one intersection. Some Black leaders in Tulsa had said they were worried the visit could lead to violence. It came amid protests over racial injustice and policing across the U.S. and in a city that has a long history of racial tension. Officials had said they

expected some 100,000 people downtown.

Several blocks away from the BOK Center was a festival-like atmosphere, with food vendors serving hot dogs and cold drinks and sidewalks lined with people selling various Trump regalia.

There was also an undercurrent of tension near the entrance to the secured area, where Trump supporters and opponents squared off. Several downtown businesses boarded up their windows as well to avoid any potential damage.

Kieran Mullen, 60, a college professor from Norman, Okla., held a sign that read "Black Lives Matter" and "Dump Trump."

"I just thought it was important for people to see there are Oklahomans that have a different point of view," Mullen said of his state, which overwhelmingly supported Trump in 2016.

Spain opens borders; cases rise in South Africa, Brazil

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Spain reopened its borders to European tourists Sunday in a bid to kickstart its economy while Brazil and South Africa struggled with rising coronavirus infections.

Spain on Sunday ended a national state of emergency after three months of lockdown, allowing its 47 million residents to freely travel around the country for the first time since March 14. Spain also dropped a 14-day quarantine for visitors from Britain and countries in Europe's visa-free Schengen travel zone to boost its vital tourism sector.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez urged people to exercise maximum public health precautions, saying that even though Europe is stabilizing, the virus is running rampant on other continents.

The number of confirmed virus cases is still growing rapidly in Brazil, South Africa, the United States and other countries, especially in Latin America. Brazil's Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 in a day.

South Africa reported a one-day high of 4,966 new cases on Saturday and 46 deaths. Despite the increase, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a further loosening of one of the world's strictest lockdowns.

In Europe, one meatpacking plant in northwest Germany alone has 1,029 cases, so the regional government issued a quarantine for all 6,500 workers, managers and family members at the Toenies meat processing facility in Rheda-Wiedenbrueck.

In Asia, China and South Korea reported new coronavirus cases Sunday.

Long-dreaded virus surge hits Iraq as cases rocket

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In Baghdad's vast exhibition grounds, masked workers lugged hospital beds into rows for makeshift coronavirus wards, as doctors and officials sounded the alarm Sunday over a surge in virus cases in the capital.

The long-dreaded scenario is gripping the country amid a severe economic crisis brought on by plummeting oil prices. But with a widening budget deficit, doctors are running low on medical equipment, including key protective gear. A cap on new hires is also expected to strain the already overstretched system.

As hospitals overflowed with patients, the Iraqi government announced temporary field hospitals will open throughout Baghdad, where infections are highest, to cope with the exponentially rising number

of virus patients. Iraq's health system was already battered by years of conflict as well as poor infrastructure and lack of funds.

Virus cases began rising after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when families and friends typically get together to break the daylong fast.

In less than a month, infections spiked seven-fold to over 29,000 as of Saturday, up from less than 4,000 at the end of May. Deaths also spiked, with over 1,013 killed among the confirmed cases, according to Health Ministry figures.

Iraq took drastic measures to stem the virus's spread, including closing schools, restaurants, public gatherings and international borders.

Work to erect the field hospital in the fair grounds began Saturday, and it will eventually provide beds for 400 men and 100 women.

Berman leaves after standoff with Barr

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An extraordinary standoff between the Justice Department and Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman ended Saturday when the prosecutor agreed to leave his job with an assurance that his investigations into allies of President Donald Trump would not be disturbed.

The announcement capped two days of conflicting statements, allegations of political interference in prosecutions, and defiance from Berman. On Saturday, Attorney General William Barr said Berman's refusal to resign under pressure prompted Trump to fire him. Trump tried to distance himself from the dispute, telling reporters the decision "was all up to the attorney general."

This episode deepened tensions between the Justice Department and congressional Democrats, who have accused Barr of politicizing the agency and acting more like Trump's personal lawyer than the country's chief law enforcement officer. It also raised questions about ongoing investigations in the Southern District of New York, most notably a probe into Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney.

Barr set off the whirlwind chain of events on Friday night with a surprise announcement that Berman was resigning, without explanation. But Berman insisted he had not resigned, was not stepping down and his investigations would continue.

On Saturday morning, he showed up to

work, telling reporters, "I'm just here to do my job."

Hours later, Barr announced Berman's firing.

"Unfortunately, with your statement of last night, you have chosen public spectacle over public service," Barr wrote in a letter released by the Justice Department. He said the idea that Berman had to continue on the job to safeguard investigations was "false."

Although Barr said Trump had removed Berman, the president told reporters: "That's all up to the attorney general. Attorney General Barr is working on that. That's his department, not my department." Trump added: "I wasn't involved."

The administration's push to cast aside Berman amounted to a political and constitutional clash between the Justice Department and one of the nation's top districts, which has tried major mob, financial crimes and terrorism cases over the years.

Only days ago, allegations surfaced from former Trump national security adviser John Bolton that the president sought to interfere in an investigation by Berman's office into the state-owned Turkish bank in an effort to cut deals with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Berman initially vowed to stay on the job until a replacement was confirmed. He changed his mind late Saturday after Barr said he would allow Berman's second in command, Deputy U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss, to become acting U.S. attorney.

Berman said Strauss' appointment sig-

naled that Barr had decided "to respect the normal operation of law." He said he was stepping down immediately.

The administration's efforts to replace Berman with a handpicked replacement, however, were already running into roadblocks before Barr agreed to install Strauss.

After announcing Berman's resignation, the White House said it was nominating Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton, a well-connected Wall Street lawyer with virtually no experience as a federal prosecutor, for the job.

But Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a close Trump ally, said he was unlikely to proceed with Clayton's nomination unless New York's senators, Democrats Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, gave their consent to the pick.

Schumer said the bid to oust Berman "reeks of potential corruption of the legal process," and Gillibrand said she would "not be complicit" in helping fire a prosecutor investigating corruption. Both lawmakers called for Clayton to withdraw from consideration.

Schumer also called for the department's inspector general and Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate Berman's ouster. And the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., said Berman has an open invitation to testify before his panel.

UK police say stabbing attack was terrorist act

Associated Press

READING, England — British police said Sunday they are treating a stabbing rampage that killed three people in a park as a terrorist attack.

Dean Haydon, the U.K.'s coordinator of counterterrorism policing, said counterterror detectives were taking over the investigation into the attack in the town of Reading, west of London. Police had earlier said they were keeping an open mind about the motive.

Three people were killed and three others seriously wounded in the stabbing attack in Reading's Forbury Gardens Park on Saturday evening.

The Thames Valley Police

force said officers arrested a 25-year-old local man at the scene and they were not looking for anyone else.

"There is no intelligence to suggest that there is any further danger to the public," said Detective Chief Superintendent Ian Hunter.

The attack came out of the blue on a sunny summer evening in Forbury Gardens Park in Reading, a town of 200,000 residents 40 miles west of London.

The incident came hours after a Black Lives Matter demonstration at Forbury Gardens, but police said there was no connection between the attack and the protest.

Shooting in Minneapolis leaves 1 dead, 11 wounded

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A shooting in a popular Minneapolis nightlife area early Sunday left one man dead and 11 people wounded in a chaotic scene that sent people ducking into restaurants and other businesses for cover.

The shooting broke out shortly after midnight in the city's trendy Uptown neighborhood, a nightlife hub with bars, restaurants and retail including Apple and Fjallraven stores.

Police first said 10 people had been shot with "various severity levels of injuries," but revised their total upward in a tweet posted just after 3 a.m. The man died at the hospital, not at the

scene, they said. None of the other injuries were considered life-threatening.

Police said they believe there was more than one shooter, described only as "individuals on foot." No one was in custody, and police have not said what may have prompted the shooting. All of the injured were adults.

The Uptown area is about 3 miles west of the Minneapolis commercial area and neighborhood hit by rioting in the wake of George Floyd's May 25 death after being arrested by Minneapolis police. Some of the violence from that period reached as far as Uptown, and many storefronts are still protected by plywood.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City requires permit for vendors to sell fireworks

RI PROVIDENCE—Providence officials are trying to crack down on the illegal sale and use of fireworks.

Mayor Jorge Elorza and City Council Majority Leader Jo-Ann Ryan said the city will now require firework vendors to have a fireworks sales permit. It will cost \$50 for a permit that's valid for one year.

City officials said that sellers will have to file separate permit applications for each place that fireworks are sold.

Only ground fireworks and hand-held sparkling devices, or sparklers, are legal in Rhode Island.

Rehabilitated turtle to partake in online race

FL MARATHON—A rare hybrid hawksbill-green sea turtle, rehabilitated at the Florida Keys-based Turtle Hospital, will participate in a long-distance online "race" that follows the migration of sea turtles over three months.

A satellite tracking transmitter was epoxied to "Maisy's" shell before she crawled from Marathon's Sombrero Beach into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Tour de Turtles is an annual educational project organized by the Sea Turtle Conservancy.

The public can monitor the progress online. The "race" is to begin Aug. 1 and concludes Oct. 31.

Man faces gun charges for brandished firearm

VA PARTLOW — A Virginia man is scheduled to appear in court on misdemeanor weapons charges after pointing a rifle at a group of

motorcyclists who stopped in his neighborhood.

The Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office said that deputies were called to a private subdivision and were met by five men who had pulled off into the subdivision to rest. They said they did not see a "Private Road No Trespassing" sign.

Authorities said they were confronted by area resident Dennis Lee Berry, 45, who stood on his property and pointed a semiautomatic rifle at the motorcyclists, accusing them of trespassing.

Dennis was charged with five misdemeanor counts of brandishing a firearm and released on his own recognizance, according to online court records.

Man sentenced to jail for 10K harassing calls

CA LOS ANGELES — A Southern California man who was convicted of making 10,000 harassing and threatening telephone calls to government offices, including those of several congressional members, was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison, authorities said.

Prosecutors alleged that Robert Eric Stahlnecker, 48, of Twentynine Palms in the Mojave Desert made more than 10,000 calls to government agencies and officials since January 2019.

In February, a federal jury convicted him of one count of making threats by interstate commerce and five counts of anonymous telecommunications harassment.

Carjacker sits on driver, leads police on chase

NJ EWING — A man forced his way into a vehicle, sat on the driver and

took off, pinning her on the seat while leading officers on a chase that began in New Jersey and ended in Pennsylvania, police said.

Tomasz Dymek, 31, of the Astoria neighborhood of Queens in New York City, was soliciting money in a drug store parking lot when a woman, 66, gave him \$1, Ewing police said.

"Dymek was not satisfied with the dollar so he forced his way into the victim's vehicle and drove from the lot, sitting on top of her in the driver's seat," a police news release said.

Callers alerted police, who pursued the vehicle into Fairless Hills, Pa, where it became disabled. Police arrested Dymek as he fled on foot.

Wife kills husband on road in front of kids

NE COZAD — An Omaha woman was arrested and accused of fatally shooting her husband in front of their two children while the family was in a pickup along Interstate 80 in south-central Nebraska, state police said.

The shooting happened near Cozad, the Nebraska State Patrol said in a news release. Troopers called to the scene said they found Joshua Jourdan, 35, of Omaha, dead in the driver's seat.

Investigators said Joshua and his wife, Kathleen, 31, had been arguing while traveling on I-80, when Joshua pulled over. Kathleen then pulled a handgun and shot her husband twice, investigators said. The couple's two children were in the backseat of the truck at the time, authorities said. They were not injured.

The patrol said Kathleen Jourdan was the one who called 911 to report the shooting and remained at the scene until police arrived.

Car crashes into police cruiser, keeps going

NH ROCHESTER—A car crashed into a parked state police cruiser that had its emergency lights on and kept going before troopers caught up with the driver and arrested him, police in New Hampshire said.

A state police sergeant was inside the cruiser, which was parked in the breakdown lane of northbound Route 16 in Rochester on a motor vehicle stop. The car struck it on the driver's door, police said in a news release, adding that minutes earlier, the car had been reported "all over the roadway."

Troopers caught up with the driver at the Rochester tolls. They arrested Brian Theriault, 28, of Northwood, who faces a variety of charges including driving while intoxicated and driving with a suspended license.

Brewery to release new stout to fight racism

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An Albuquerque brewery said it wants to fight racism with a new beer.

KOB-TV reported that La Cumbre Brewing Company will soon be offering "Black is Beautiful," an imperial stout, with proceeds going to the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico.

La Cumbre Brewing creative director Cory Campbell described the new beer as dark, rich, malty and roasty.

Campbell said the brewery signed onto a nationwide collaborative project because of the vital message it is spreading.

He also said the company will brew 15 barrels of "Black is Beautiful," which is about 3,000 cans.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

New York-bred Tiz the Law wins Belmont

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eerily empty grandstands. Masked jockeys. Shuttered betting windows.

For Tiz the Law trainer Barclay Tagg, no finer way to round out a career Triple Crown.

"I'm not trying to be a jerk about it," the 82-year-old said. "But I thought the quiet, to me, was very nice."

Everything was strange about this Belmont Stakes, except the winner.

Heavily favored Tiz the Law won an unprecedented Belmont, claiming victory Saturday at the first race of a rejiggered Triple Crown schedule that barred fans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 3-year-old colt from upstate New York charged to the lead turning for home and now can set his sights on the Sept. 5 Kentucky Derby and Oct. 3 Preakness. All three legs of this year's Triple Crown schedule were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Belmont, usually the series caper, was initially scheduled for June 6.

Tiz the Law gave New York a hometown champion in its first major sporting event since the coronavirus pandemic seized the area. He's the first New York-bred horse to win the Belmont since Forester in 1882.

"It's a lot smaller crowd, that's for sure," said owner Jack Knowlton, who watched from a restaurant patio in the familiar surroundings of Saratoga Springs.

The 4-5 favorite won by 3³/₄ lengths, covering the 1¹/₈ miles in 1:46.53. Dr Post finished second and Max Player was third.

The race was shortened from the usual

1¹/₂-mile standard to account for competitors' unusual training schedules. Horses kicked off from a starting gate placed atop the backstretch, rather than in front of the grandstands.

In most every way, this Belmont Stakes was unlike any of the 151 that preceded it. The Long Island track can pack in nearly 100,000, but this race had about 100 on hand, including jockeys, media and park staff.

Masks were mandated for all but the horses — even the jockeys wore face coverings.

Closed to the public since March, Belmont Park hardly resembled the summer soiree New Yorkers are used to. Betting windows and gift shops were closed, not a single boozy Belmont Breeze to sip.

Silence at the 115-year-old venue was broken when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued the traditional "riders, up!" call remotely via video. Longtime bugler Sam Grossman pulled down his facemask to tap out "Call to the Post," and horses strolled onto the track to a recording of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York." A PA announcer introduced them to empty grandstands.

Signs outside the locked down venue instructed gamblers that if they wanted to wager on this Belmont Stakes, their best bet was to download an app and do it on their phones.

Perhaps a welcome harbinger for Tap It to Win, who led out of the gates and seemed poised to give trainer Mark Casse a third straight Triple Crown race victory.

Instead, Tiz the Law powered past him on the outside and cruised to victory.

"Everything just went like clockwork," Tagg said.

Knowlton, from New York's Sackatoga Stable, noted this race was a little different than 17 years ago, when the Sackatoga crew took a school bus to watch their colt Funny Cide try to wrap a Triple Crown at Belmont Park. Funny Cide finished third that day.

It was also a breakthrough win for Tagg, who completed a career Triple Crown after also training Funny Cide.

Tagg said he wasn't sure if Tiz the Law would pull it off until the final 100 yards. The colt paid \$3.50, \$2.90 and \$2.60.

Manny Franco, a 25-year-old jockey from Puerto Rico, entered the winner's circle in his first career Belmont Stakes. He called Tiz the Law a "versatile" horse in the run-up to the race, and what he showed Saturday was typical — stalk the pacemakers early, then pounce on the home stretch.

"It means a lot to me," Franco said. "This is my home track. I've ridden here for about six years already. One leg of the Triple Crown is the dream of any jockey."

Plenty remained on the line. Tiz the Law earned Knowlton the top share of a \$1 million purse, and the top four horses earned Kentucky Derby qualifying points.

Tiz the Law took advantage of a 10-horse field weakened by injuries. Among the casualties were two potential entrants from famed trainer Bob Baffert, who ended up without a horse in this race — one of them, Charlatan, is expected to run the Preakness. Earlier Saturday, Baffert-trained Gamine led all the way in winning the \$300,000 Acorn Stakes for 3-year-old fillies by 18³/₄ lengths. Gamine ran one mile in 1:32.55, fastest in the 90-year history of the race.

Union to NFL players: Stop working out together

The Kansas City Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As coronavirus cases spread throughout sports organizations, the NFL Players Association sent its players a strong advisement Saturday:

Stop working out together.

In a statement authored by Dr. Thom Mayer, the association says "no players should be engaged in practicing together in private workouts."

"Please be advised that it is our consensus medical opinion that in light of the increase of COVID-19 cases in certain states that no players should be engaged in practicing together

in private workouts," Mayer's statement read. "Our goal is to have all players and your families as healthy as possible in the coming months."

"We are working on the best mitigation procedures at team facilities for both training camps and the upcoming season, and believe that it is in the best interest of all players that we advise against any voluntary joint practices before camp commences."

The league's players have seen an increase in coronavirus cases over the past few days, as have sports organizations across multiple leagues.

Earlier Saturday, two Buc-

caneers players tested positive for COVID-19, per an ESPN report. On Friday, NFL Network reported that a 49ers player also tested positive, and he had been working out with teammates in Nashville. Those teammates, which included the team's quarterbacks and skill position players, are awaiting the results of their own tests.

Multiple Texans and Cowboys players have also tested positive for coronavirus, including running back Ezekiel Elliott. Broncos safety Kareem Jackson announced on social media on Thursday that he has coronavirus after "experiencing mild symptoms."

The NFL has released its 2020 schedule, and it remains unaltered, pending the state of affairs with the pandemic.

The NFL has allowed coaches to return to training facilities, but the only players permitted inside the training facilities have been those rehabbing from injury.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious diseases, had expressed doubt that football can be played this fall. The NFL's medical officer, Dr. Allen Sills, responded, "We will be flexible and adaptable in this environment to adjust to the virus as needed."

Blaydes uses wrestling skills, tops Volkov

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — UFC heavy-weight contender Curtis Blaydes dominated Alexander Volkov with wrestling Saturday night, earning his fourth consecutive victory in a suffocating unanimous decision.

Featherweight Josh Emmett won a unanimous decision over Shane Burgos in a thrilling joint performance during the penultimate bout of the latest show from the fan-free UFC Apex gym in the mixed martial arts promotion's hometown.

Blaydes (14-2) showcased his superior wrestling skills from the start against Volkov, taking down the towering Russian within the first 10 seconds and then dominating the first 3½ rounds. Volkov (31-8) landed his own takedown late in the fourth and nailed Blaydes with a few strikes early in the fifth, but Blaydes pushed through and won by bending the fight to his clear strengths on the ground.

"It's always a good experience to know you can go 25 minutes, and there's things you need to work on, but you learn them in a win," Blaydes said. "I need to work on my conditioning after the third round, but I'm happy with the win. Volkov is legit, and I'm one step closer to a title shot."

The 6-foot-7 Volkov flew to the U.S. with no clear idea how he will get home to Russia due to travel restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic. He had won seven of his past eight fights, but hadn't competed since his one-sided victory over Greg Hardy in Moscow last year.

Blaydes won on the judges' scorecards 49-46, 48-47 and 48-46.

Blaydes and Francis Ngannou are the most likely contenders to get the next shot at the UFC heavyweight title after champion Stipe Miocic completes his trilogy with former two-belt champ Daniel

Cormier at UFC 252 on Aug. 15. Ngannou is responsible for the only two losses of Blaydes' career, winning their bouts in 2016 and 2018.

Emmett and Burgos put on the performance of the night with a slugfest, with Emmett winning 29-28, 29-28 and 29-27. The 35-year-old Emmett (16-2) persevered through a knee injury in the first round to land two knockdowns and a dominant third round, but Burgos absorbed tremendous punishment and thought he had earned a decision.

The event was the fourth of five consecutive UFC shows held over five weekends with no fans on its corporate campus.

Veteran Jim Miller finished Roosevelt Roberts with an armbar in the first round of his latest milestone fight. The 36-year-old Miller (32-14) matched Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone's record 35th appearance in a UFC cage, and his 21st UFC victory left him trailing only Cerrone

(23) and Demian Maia (22) in the promotion's history.

Former bantamweight title contender Raquel Pennington (11-8) earned only her second win since 2016 with a clear decision over 42-year-old high school teacher Marion Reneau. Pennington's fiancée, Tecia Torres, snapped her four-fight skid since 2017 with a one-sided decision over Brianna Van Buren on the early undercard.

Justin Jaynes had a storybook UFC debut, stopping Frank Camacho with strikes in just 41 seconds. The 30-year-old Jaynes accepted the fight only three days ago when Matt Frevola was pulled from the Las Vegas card because of a teammate's positive coronavirus test.

In two matchups pitting seasoned veterans, Lauren Murphy won a unanimous decision over fellow veteran flyweight Roxanne Modafferi, and Bobby Green controlled his win over Clay Guida.

LSU official: Football quarantines were anticipated

Associated Press

LSU has begun asking a number of football players to self-quarantine in the past week because of instances in which some players tested positive for COVID-19 after social interactions outside of the Tigers' training facility.

"This is what we anticipated. We planned for this. Our plan is working the way it should," Senior Associate Athletic Director of Health and Wellness Shelly Mullenix said Saturday, adding that none of the players have exhibited "significant" symptoms.

"We haven't seen anything even close to a bad illness, but we're prepared for that," Mullenix said. "What we have right now is quite manageable."

Mullenix declined to specify the number of players who've tested positive for COVID-19 or the precise number of those asked to quarantine, stressing that the number is fluid and can fluctuate considerably in short periods of time. But she emphasized that a single positive test could result in as many as 12 to 15 players being asked to initially quarantine because of LSU's

contact tracing procedures. Several media reports have attributed specific numbers to unnamed sources, but Mullenix called those numbers "inaccurate."

"If our quarantine number is high, it means our players have been communicating not only where they've been and who've they've been with, but also their symptoms, as we instructed them to," Mullenix said.

Some schools have released figures on COVID-19 testing. On Friday, Clemson said 28 athletes or staff members have tested positive since returning to campus June 8. Last weekend, Louisiana Tech said it had one positive test.

Mullenix said LSU has been working closely with state health officials who would be able to suggest that the football program make changes or even halt workouts at its Baton Rouge campus if they saw a need for that.

"We're fortunate in what we're seeing," Mullenix said. "If they were to ask us to close down, that would be evidence that we've crossed some threshold that's too difficult to manage."

LSU players began reporting to the on-campus training facility during the first

week in June for antibody testing and physicals.

Strength training and conditioning began the following week with social distancing rules that limited the number of players in the weight room to 20 at a time at regularly sanitized and spaced-apart racks. Each rack contains all weights needed for the day's workout, so there's no need for players to cross paths or take turns using the same equipment. The racks are sanitized between each use and LSU also has set up machines which circulate air through virus-killing ultraviolet light.

Also, players must answer a series of questions and have their temperature scanned before they may enter the facility.

"We're monitoring it on a daily basis," Mullenix said. "We're catching people (with temperature or symptoms) where we want to catch them, right at the entrance, and we're able to quarantine people before they even get into the facility."

Mullenix said LSU's combination of testing for antibodies and active disease, as well as contact tracing, has enabled the university to virtually rule out transmission at on-campus football facilities.