

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy will quarantine sailors with signs of flu

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Navy officials Monday described some of the measures they're taking on board deployed ships at sea in response to the coronavirus, including a plan to quarantine sailors with flu-like symptoms.

The Navy does not have COVID-19 test kits on its ships — instead, samples from sailors will be sent to onshore laboratories for testing, Cmdr. Myers Vasquez, a Navy spokesman, said.

"All testing for COVID-19 will be conducted in accordance with CDC guidelines," Vasquez said in an email. "Any member who shows influenza-like symptoms will be

restricted to their quarters for evaluation over a 14-day period or until test results come back negative."

Those quarters, for the majority of a ship's crew, are compact berthing racks in stacks of two or three with shared restrooms and showers.

The San Diego-based aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt pulled into Da Nang, Vietnam, on March 5 for a visit to commemorate the 25th anniversary of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic relations, the Navy said in a release Thursday. On Sunday, Vietnamese media reported nine new cases of COVID-19 in the country, including two in Da Nang.

Lt. Cmdr. Julie Holland, a

Navy spokeswoman assigned to the Roosevelt, said in an email that the health and well-being of the ship's sailors is the Navy's "top priority."

"We are taking every measure to ensure our sailors' safety while accomplishing our mission in the Indo-Pacific," Holland said. "Safeguards have been put in place on board to monitor the health of all Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group Sailors to include ongoing evaluation and observation, and the continued reinforcement of established hygiene protocols."

Navy aircraft carriers, such as the Roosevelt, deploy with more than 5,000 sailors on board, including the ship's company, its embarked air

wing and command administrative staffs. As evidenced by the virus's recent spread on cruise ships, vessels at sea are vulnerable to outbreaks due to the close quarters of those on board as they live, work and eat.

According to Vasquez, the Roosevelt is following "all CDC guidance" to reduce the risk of respiratory viruses, but declined to say whether the vessel had extended its daily cleaning routine, saying only that the ship "continues to conduct daily cleaning stations using appropriate cleaning techniques and products."

Vasquez added that no one on the Roosevelt has contracted COVID-19.

Naples-based admiral urges calm as Italy shuts down

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Navy officials urged service members and their families in southern Italy to keep calm and carry on as usual Tuesday, even as the Italian government restricted movement throughout the entire country of 60 million people in the latest effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Permanent changes of station would continue normally, at least for the time being. Commissaries were open for business, and although schools at Naval Support Activity Naples closed for the first time Tuesday, Sigonella schools remained open, the Navy officials said at a virtual town hall meeting.

Italy, in contrast, has banned weddings, funerals, sports, street fairs and other activities in an effort to contain the virus, which had killed 631 people and been diagnosed in 10,149 as of

Tuesday. Even mass has been canceled, and schools and universities were ordered to close on March 5, not to reopen until next month at the earliest.

Only people with a valid work or family reason that cannot be postponed will be allowed to travel, the government said. Police will be checking that travelers have official documents authorizing travel, and anyone found to have falsified an authorization or without one could face up to three months in jail or a fine of \$225.

But for the Navy, it was a different picture. "We don't have any directive to stop PCSing," said Rear Adm. Matthew Zirkle, chief of staff for U.S. Naval Forces Europe, U.S. Navy Forces Africa and the 6th Fleet.

NSA Naples commander Capt. Todd Abrahamson said that service members and their families should "keep shopping at your normal levels" in the

commissary, which was open for business. But he reminded people to maintain "social distancing" — keeping around 6 feet away from others — where possible.

Navy policies have diverged from the Army's, which closed on-base schools and child care centers at Vicenza, in line with an Italian government directive, and canceled permanent moves and most temporary duty travel for 60 days.

U.S. Army Garrison Italy and Aviano Air Base are both in northern Italy, which has been the epicenter of the Italian outbreak since a state of emergency was declared in the country in late January.

But the first and so far only U.S. service member in Europe to test positive for the virus was a sailor based at Capodichino, near Naples International Airport. Navy officials announced Saturday that the sailor had contracted the virus and was

confined to his home.

He was "doing quite well and because of an abundance of caution remains in the residence," said public health officer Lt. Cmdr. Eric Vaught on Tuesday during the town hall. All of the sailor's close contacts were in quarantine and being checked daily, Vaught said, without indicating how many people were affected.

Zirkle insisted that one of the indispensable life lessons from "a great book I read as a teenager, 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,'" was the main message he wanted to convey to town hall viewers.

"Don't panic," he said, sharing one of the most memorable quotes from the 1979 novel.

"That's what we want to make sure we get across to you today. We have a good handle of what's going on here," Zirkle said.

US commander paints grim picture of Taliban peace deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. commander for the Middle East painted a grim picture Tuesday of the peace process with the Taliban in Afghanistan, saying the current level of attacks is higher than allowed in the plan and he has no confidence the group will honor its commitments.

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie told the House Armed Services Committee that he has plans to cut the number of troops to 8,600 by the summer, but so far the U.S. “has not developed military plans” for the full withdrawal in 14 months that is called for in the peace plan signed Feb. 29.

“To date, Taliban attacks are higher than we believe are consistent with an idea to actually carry out this plan,” McKenzie said. “If they’re unable to draw down the current level of attacks, then the political leadership will be able to make decisions based on that.”

He added that his optimism or pessimism about the future doesn’t matter because any decisions will be based on facts and what happens on the

ground.

Both McKenzie and Kathryn Wheelbarger, a top Pentagon policy adviser on international affairs, said America’s complete troop withdrawal is contingent on whether the level of violence is reduced and the Taliban adheres to its commitments.

McKenzie said he would recommend against that full pullout if attacks continue and the Afghan forces can’t protect their own country without direct U.S. support.

Wheelbarger called the full pullout “aspirational” and said Defense Secretary Mark Esper would reassess the matter if the Taliban doesn’t abide by the agreement.

The U.S.-Taliban deal was touted as Washington’s effort to end 18 years of war in Afghanistan. The next crucial step was to be intra-Afghan talks in which all factions including the Taliban would negotiate a road map for their country’s future.

That plan has been thrown into chaos because both Ghani and his main political rival, Abdullah Abdullah were each sworn in as president in separate ceremonies Monday.

GIs start to leave Afghanistan as peace process hits a snag

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. met a deadline set out in its peace deal with the Taliban when it began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan this week, but the peace process hit a snag as the insurgents and Afghan government failed to start negotiations Tuesday to chart the country’s future.

The launch of intra-Afghan talks is a key precondition for the full withdrawal of U.S. forces, which could happen in as little as 14 months if all sides fulfill their commitments under the deal signed Feb. 29.

The initial drawdown, which under the terms of the deal

will reduce the number of U.S. troops from about 13,000 to 8,600 by the summer, has begun, the U.S. military in Afghanistan said in a statement Monday. The Taliban, for their part, agreed to sit down with the Afghan government and other local stakeholders to chart a way forward, and take steps to prevent their members and “other individuals or groups,” including al-Qaida, from threatening the security of the U.S. and its allies, the deal said. President Ashraf Ghani expressed full support for the U.S.-initiated peace process and said an Afghan delegation for the talks with the Taliban would be finalized by Tuesday.

2 killed in Iraq raid were Marine Raiders

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A Marine special operations captain and gunnery sergeant were killed Sunday during a joint U.S.-Iraq raid to destroy an Islamic State hideout in a mountainous area in northern Iraq, the military said Tuesday.

Gunnery Sgt. Diego D. Pongo, of Simi Valley, Calif., and Capt. Moises A. Navas, of Germantown, Md., both 34 and both with 2nd Marine Raider Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., were identified in a Pentagon statement as the two Americans killed by enemy forces.

The pair were supporting Iraqi security forces during the operation, the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve said earlier this week.

Pongo, who joined the Marines in 2004 as a rifleman and served eight years with the elite Marine Raiders, is survived by his daughter and his mother, Marine Forces Special Operations Command said in a statement.

A 2008 graduate of the Scout Sniper Basic Course, Pongo served as a sniper team leader in Helmand, Afghanistan, before training to become a critical skills operator and deploying to both Iraq and Afghanistan as a Raider. He earned a Bronze Star with combat “C” device in 2013 “for heroic actions against the enemy,” said Maj. Kristin Tortorici in a MARSOC statement. His other decorations include a Purple Heart and two Combat Action Ribbons.

Navas, who also joined in 2004, earned his commission through an enlisted-to-officer program in 2010 and served as an infantry officer before becoming a Raider in 2016. He is survived by his wife, daughter and three sons.

In four years with 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, he served as a team commander and company executive officer

on previous Iraq deployments. His decorations include a Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon.

“They were intelligent, courageous, and loyal,” said Col. John Lynch, head of Marine Raider Regiment. “They were dedicated leaders, true professionals in their craft, and willing to go above and beyond for the mission and their team. They were also family men, adoring husbands and fathers.”

U.S. officials have released few details about the operation in which the two were killed, but the Iraqi government said Monday that Iraqi commandos had discovered a well-defended cave complex in a mountainous region near the Iraqi town of Makhmour, about 40 miles southwest of the Kurdish region’s capital city of Irbil.

About two dozen ISIS fighters were killed and nine caves were destroyed in an air assault on the caves, the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service said on Twitter on Monday, sharing photos of Iraqi troops on the rocky slopes. Inherent Resolve officials did not respond to Stars and Stripes’ inquiries on the matter, but unnamed military officials told The New York Times the Raiders were part of an assault that matched that description.

The Marines’ deaths are the first combat fatalities in Iraq since August, when 35-year-old Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer was killed during operations against ISIS in Nineveh province.

Recovering the dead this week took about six hours and required additional coalition troops, who “trekked through mountainous terrain and eliminated four hostile ISIS fighters who were barricaded in the caves,” Col. Myles B. Caggins III told the Times in a statement. The operation involved elite Delta Force operators and required hoisting the Marines out of a crevasse, the newspaper cited officials as saying.

Missile defense system being sent to Iraq

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is moving air and missile defense capabilities into Iraq, two months after Iran launched a missile attack at an Iraqi base hosting nearly 1,000 American troops, the top general for U.S. Central Command said Tuesday.

“We are in the process of bringing air defense systems, ballistic missile defense systems into Iraq — particularly to protect ourselves against another potential Iranian attack,” Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie told members of the House

Armed Services Committee.

Since shortly after the Jan. 8 missile attack on al Assad Air Base in western Iraq, the United States has been negotiating with the Iraqi government to bring air and missile defense systems such as the Patriot missile system into the country. Pentagon officials have said turmoil within the Iraqi government and logistical challenges had delayed the movement of missile defense capabilities into Iraq.

McKenzie did not provide specific information Tuesday about the movement of air and missile defense capabilities into Iraq, and none of the lawmakers asked him to expand on his

announcement. It was not clear precisely when such defensive systems would arrive in Iraq or where in the country they would be placed.

The Army’s Patriot missiles are designed to shoot down enemy missiles or aircraft that threaten U.S. or allied forces. While the United States has Patriot units deployed across much of the Middle East, the Pentagon had not deployed such a system into Iraq as commanders believed U.S. troops in other countries in the region were more likely to be targeted for attack by Iran, officials said in January.

The movement of Patriots

or other missile defense capabilities such as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system that can also shoot down ballistic missiles would require the approval of the Iraqi government.

Even if such missile defense weapons had been present Jan. 8 in Iraq, Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said it would not have guaranteed that they would have protected al Assad from the 16 missiles that hit the base. More than 100 U.S. troops at the base reported traumatic brain injuries after the attack.

The U.S. has more than 5,000 troops deployed to Iraq.

VA plans to suspend some GI Bill enrollments

By STEVE BEYNON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Monday that it plans to terminate some GI Bill enrollments and withhold more than \$200 million in payouts to certain universities for deceptive recruiting practices that target veterans and service members.

VA officials notified the University of Phoenix, Colorado Technical University, American InterContinental University, Bellevue University and Temple University that the agency intends to suspend approvals of new enrollments. The move comes after officials found “sufficient evidence” that each

school used “erroneous, deceptive or misleading” enrollment and advertising practices to recruit veteran students, according to a letter that the department sent out to veteran advocacy groups and congressional lawmakers.

“Our aim in taking this action is to protect veterans and their dependents’ GI Bill benefits and comply with the law,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement. “The department is committed to helping beneficiaries avoid any negative consequences that may result.”

The VA would not comment on the specifics for stripping each school of their GI Bill eligibility.

In December, the Federal Trade Com-

mission slapped a \$50 million fine on the University of Phoenix and ordered it to forgo \$141 million in student debt collection. Investigators said that the school ran an advertising campaign targeting veterans featuring Microsoft, Twitter and Adobe, falsely implying the university worked with those companies to give students opportunities to work with them.

The VA said that suspending the GI Bill benefits will not impact current students who maintain continuous enrollment at these schools. The VA said that the universities have 60 days to take “corrective action” or all new students will be denied benefits, which would be a significant financial blow to most of the schools.

Iwo Jima hero sees ship commissioned in his honor

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A 96-year-old war hero looked on as military officials commissioned a U.S. Navy warship in honor of the veteran, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The USS Hershel “Woody” Williams was commissioned Saturday in Norfolk, Va., with the World War II veteran present.

The USS Williams is an Expeditionary Sea Base ship that was built and launched in 2017. With its commissioning, the vessel’s designation changed from a support ship to a warship, and command transferred from the Military Sealift Command to Naval Sur-

face Force Atlantic.

Williams said the commissioning was “a moment in history that is beyond my comprehension.

“May all those who serve aboard this ship that bears my name be safe and proud. May she have God’s blessings for a long life of service to America, the greatest country on Earth,” he said.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., delivered the principal address at Saturday’s ceremony, praising his fellow West Virginian as “West Virginia strong through and through.”

Other speakers included Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy James Geurts, Rep.

Elaine Luria and Rear Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

The ship will primarily support aviation mine countermeasure and special operations missions, freeing up amphibious warships and surface combatant ships for more demanding operational missions.

Williams received his medal for actions as a demolition sergeant with the 3rd Marine Division in February 1945. As U.S. tanks tried to open a lane for infantry amid pillboxes and buried mines, he went forward alone seeking to reduce enemy machine-gun fire.

Italy begins sweeping lockdown over virus

Associated Press

BEIJING — Starkly illustrating the global east-to-west spread of the new coronavirus, Italy began an extraordinary, sweeping lockdown Tuesday while in China, the diminishing threat prompted the president to visit the epicenter and declare: “We will certainly defeat this epidemic.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s trip to the central city of Wuhan — his first since the start of the outbreak — was the latest sign that China is edging back toward normal after weeks of extreme quarantine measures. China reported just 19 new infections Tuesday, down from thousands each day last month.

“Things are slowly returning to normal,” said Yang Tianxiao, a finance worker in Beijing, where the city government is gradually easing restrictions that kept many office workers at home.

Yet in Italy, life was upended as travel restrictions previously limited to the country’s north were extended everywhere. Teams of Italian police patrolled cafes to make sure owners were keeping customers 3 feet apart. The streets of the Italian capital were as quiet as they are during the annual mid-August vacation shutdown.

“It’s bad. People are terrified,” said Massimo Leonardo,

Trump plans payroll tax relief in response

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says his administration will ask Congress to pass payroll tax relief and other quick measures as a public health and economic maelstrom brought on by the coronavirus drew closer to him personally.

Intending to calm the fears of financial markets over the impact of the epidemic, Trump told reporters Monday he is seeking “very substantial relief” to the payroll tax. Trump also said he was seeking help for hourly-wage workers to

ensure they’re “not going to miss a paycheck” and “don’t get penalized for something that’s not their fault.”

He stepped forward with the contours of an initiative after markets dropped sharply and as the outbreak spread. Several Trump confidants in Congress disclosed they were isolating themselves after potential exposure to the virus; one traveled with the president from Florida on Air Force One on Monday; another is his just-tapped new chief of staff.

Trump said he would hold a press conference Tuesday to outline the proposals.

who runs a market stall. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Internationally, Italy was increasingly becoming sealed off. Malta and Spain announced a ban on air traffic from Italy. Malta turned away another cruise ship and British Airways canceled flights to the whole country. Austria barred travelers from crossing the border without a medical certificate. Britain, Ireland, Hong

Kong and Germany strengthened travel advisories or flat-out urged their citizens to leave. Even the Vatican erected a new barricade at the edge of St. Peter’s Square.

Italy now has more coronavirus cases than anywhere but China, registering 10,149 infections with 631 deaths. Officials braced for more.

“Get out of northern Italy if you’re there. We don’t know

how long the Italian authorities will keep the window open,” said Erik Broegger Rasmussen, head of consular services for Denmark’s foreign ministry.

Outbreaks flared elsewhere, too, with virus-related disruptions increasingly becoming the new normal in growing swaths of the globe.

France’s government advised voters to bring their own pens to cast ballots in local elections Sunday, so they won’t have to share. Morocco reported its first death of a virus-infected person — only the second confirmed fatality in Africa. In Spain and France, soccer’s biggest stars prepared to play in empty stadiums. Bans on public gatherings silenced entertainers. Sony Pictures delayed the launch of “Peter Rabbit 2” to August.

The virus reached into the corridors of power. In the United States, several senior politicians were self-quarantined. The chief commander of Poland’s armed forces, Gen. Jaroslaw Mika, was among those newly infected.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illnesses, including pneumonia. More than 115,800 people have been infected worldwide and over 4,000 have died.

Speedy spread of edited Biden video raises questions

Associated Press

CHICAGO — As former Vice President Joe Biden’s drive for the White House gains momentum, the 77-year-old’s political opponents on both the right and left have launched an internet campaign suggesting he’s not mentally or physically equipped to serve — sometimes using altered content and other disinformation.

The effort prompted Twitter on Monday to mark a video of Biden shared by President Donald Trump as “manipulated media” — but only after it had been viewed millions of times. Facebook added warning labels to the video and reduced its distri-

bution on its platform after news organizations fact checked the video on its site. The Associated Press works with Facebook as a third-party fact checker.

The episode highlights the challenges social media companies face in containing the rapid spread of misleading information and raises questions about how prepared the companies are for a likely onslaught of disinformation during the 2020 campaign. It also underscores that trafficking in misinformation is not limited to one political party: Both Sen. Bernie Sanders’ and Trump’s backers aggressively promoted the unsubstantiated notion that Biden is in

cognitive decline.

“This is the worst kind of misinformation — it can impact a presidential election, and it’s being shared by the president with millions of followers,” said Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor who studies disinformation and social media. “We’re going to see a lot more of it, and we need the platforms to get this right.”

All in their 70s, Biden, Sanders and Trump have faced questions about their stamina or mental acumen, though each has produced letters from physicians attesting to his fitness for office.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hockey ref punched by coach during game

MA KINGSTON — A youth hockey coach from New Hampshire was suspended after he was caught on video punching a referee during a game in Massachusetts.

The referee, Aldo Binda, told WBZ-TV that the coach for the New Hampshire Junior Monarchs was using abusive language and slamming the door to the bench repeatedly at the game involving 12-year-old players, so he assessed the coach a penalty. The coach then spat at the referee and came on to the ice and threw 10 to 12 punches at him, Binda said.

The coach was escorted from the arena and Binda completed the game.

New mountaineer mascot living his dream

WV MORGANTOWN — West Virginia University's got a new mountaineer.

The college named sophomore Colson Glover as its 67th mountaineer mascot at the school's game against Baylor.

Glover, a neuroscience major, will officially don the mountaineer's coonskin cap, buckskins and rifle at the Gold-Blue Spring Game on April 18. The Lewisburg native said it's been a lifelong dream to be the mascot.

The mountaineer mascot first appeared at the college's sporting events in the 1934-35 school year, according to WVU.

Sheriff's lawyer makes false COVID-19 claim

AL ATHENS — Lawyers for a longtime Alabama sheriff seeking a delay in his theft trial wrongly claimed the officer was being tested for the illness caused by a new

coronavirus.

With Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely set to go on trial on felony charges, his attorneys told a judge in a court document he was hospitalized and being tested for COVID-19. But testimony showed Blakely, 69, wasn't being tested for the illness, and Circuit Judge Pride Tompkins criticized the defense for making claims that could cause a public panic, The News Courier of Athens reported.

Blind horse, 'king' of the Outer Banks, dies

NC GRANDY — A blind wild horse that had roamed North Carolina's Outer Banks has died.

The Virginian-Pilot reported that Amadeo passed away last week. The horse was once considered a king of the undeveloped beaches north of Corolla.

Before he lost his sight, he was well known as a stallion who fought for his harem of mares. He already was blind in one eye when a stallion damaged his other eye.

Amadeo retired to a farm in Grandy for aging wild horses and became a visitor favorite.

In recent weeks, Amadeo became increasingly stiff and unable to move freely. The Corolla Wild Horse Fund said he couldn't get up after a fall and died quickly and peacefully.

Coroner: Woman killed helping injured deer

SC ANDERSON — A woman who authorities said stopped to help an injured deer on a South Carolina road was struck and killed by a vehicle.

Andrea Leigh Owens, 39, was with her husband in Anderson County when they stopped to help the deer that had been hit and hurt, news outlets reported, citing a coroner's office

news release. A vehicle struck Owens while she was rendering aid, Anderson County Deputy Coroner Brent Simpson said. Owens was taken to a hospital where she died in surgery.

Lawmakers may lift yoga ban in schools

AL MONTGOMERY — Alabama lawmakers might lift a decades-old ban on yoga in public schools, but the bill would keep the greeting "namaste" on the forbidden list.

The bill by Rep. Jeremy Gray, a Democratic legislator from Opelika, was on the proposed debate agenda in the Alabama House of Representatives.

The bill says that local school systems can decide if they want to teach yoga, poses and stretches. However, the moves and exercises taught to students must have exclusively English names, according to the legislation. It would also prohibit the use of chanting, mantras and teaching the greeting "namaste."

The Alabama Board of Education in 1993 voted to prohibit yoga, hypnosis and meditation in public school classrooms.

Judge fines 2nd falconer in raptor poaching case

WI MADISON — A federal judge fined a Wisconsin falconer and ordered him to forfeit his truck for poaching a raptor.

According to prosecutors and court documents, James Kitzman, 69, of Oak Creek, took a female northern goshawk from its nest in the wild in Vilas County in 2017. He traded the bird for a Finnish goshawk supplied by Michigan falconer Edward Taylor. Selling or bartering northern goshawks is illegal because they're migratory birds protected by federal law.

Both men filled out false reports with Wisconsin and Michigan wildlife officials to cover up the swap, prosecutors said. Kitzman pleaded guilty in December. U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker fined Kitzman \$15,000, ordered him to forfeit to the government the Toyota pick-up truck he used to illegally transport the bird and barred him from participating in falconry for three years.

Crocker fined Taylor \$10,000 last month.

Resort to name trail after snowboard pioneer

VT STOWE — A trail at Vermont's Stowe Mountain Resort will be named after snowboard pioneer Jake Burton Carpenter, the founder of Burton Snowboards, who died in November at 65.

Stowe will rename one of its trails "Jake's Ride." Mynbc5.com reported that the trail was a personal favorite of Carpenter's. The trail sign will be replaced during a ceremony Friday. The event can only be accessed by snowboarders and skiers riding the lift.

Exhibit marks century of female activism

VA RICHMOND — The Virginia Museum of History & Culture has opened an exhibit that celebrates a century of female activism in the state.

"Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today" opened Sunday.

The exhibit features artifacts from the museum's collections, new acquisitions made through a major collecting initiative and rarely seen loans from private individuals.

It will run through Sept. 27.

From wire reports

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MLB tells teams not to alter baseballs

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Gaylord Perry threw a spitball. Joe Niekro had an emery board and a piece of sandpaper. Whitey Ford used his wedding ring.

Pitchers have been tinkering with the ball for years in search of an advantage, skirting and — occasionally — breaking major league rules in the process. But they might have to work a little harder on their deception this season.

In response to inquiries from clubs on the topic, Major League Baseball recently issued a reminder to teams about what is allowed and what violates sections 3.01 and 6.02 of the Official Playing Rules. The commissioner's office went over possible discipline for violations and the duties of the umpires in those situations.

It also has been following up with teams on the topic during spring training.

Rule 3.01 says no player shall intentionally discolor or damage the ball by rubbing it with

soil, rosin, paraffin, licorice, sand paper, emery paper or other foreign substance. Rule 6.02 prohibits the application of a foreign substance to the ball or even possessing a foreign substance on the mound. It also says defacing the ball “in any manner” is against the rules.

The running conversation on the pair of rules has captured the attention of players and coaches alike this spring training.

“I have heard and I mean a lot of the coaches have come up and said, ‘Hey, like we can’t even carry anything, I mean nonsubstance related, we’re going to get in trouble for it, we get fired,’” White Sox pitcher Dallas Keuchel said. “I mean I know the rule now, but I mean I don’t know exactly the use of it. Who uses it? Who doesn’t use it?”

Keuchel said White Sox manager Rick Renteria covered the situation in a team meeting.

“It’s been going on for decades, since I’ve known baseball, but, hey, if they want to

enforce it, then they’re going to enforce it,” Keuchel said. “That’s just the way it’s going to be.”

No one knows exactly how many pitchers use a foreign substance to gain an advantage, or what might result of any increased diligence in the area.

Cincinnati Reds pitcher Trevor Bauer told HBO’s “Real Sports” for a segment shown last month that he believes 70% of major league pitchers use an unallowed sticky substance on the ball. Bauer also suggested in 2018 that pitchers with the Houston Astros were manipulating balls to increase spin rates.

“All that I’ve heard and understand is that they’re just going to crack down a little bit more on foreign substance,” Chicago Cubs pitching coach Tommy Hottovy said Thursday.

“To the extent of what that is and what guys can (or) can’t use, I mean there’s rosin on the field. Guys put sunscreen on during day games. So it’s going to be hard to say, ‘OK, we can

do this and not that,’ or what they’re actually cracking down on yet.”

Speaking in Florida, players’ association head Tony Clark said the union has discussed the foreign substance rule and its enforcement with MLB.

“We’ll have to see how that manifests itself moving forward,” Clark said.

If MLB enforces a more strict interpretation of the two rules, a safety issue could develop if more batters are hit by pitches in tough weather conditions.

Hottovy said he thinks time will tell about how it is going to go.

“I think we’ll get a better sense of it once we start talking to umpires of what they’re going to be looking for and what are going to trigger some of those things they’re going to ask,” he said, “and again, just understanding whether or not it’s going to be means for ejection or they’re just going to say, ‘Hey, you’re using something, change the glove’ or whatever that might be.”

Four leagues agree to limit access to locker rooms

Associated Press

MIAMI — The NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer are closing access to locker rooms and clubhouses to all nonessential personnel in response to the coronavirus crisis, the leagues announced in a joint statement Monday night.

The leagues said they made the decision “after consultation with infectious disease and public health experts.” The NBA, in a call with teams earlier Monday, stressed that the move is not to ban reporters but to ensure the safety of players and staff in those areas.

The statement, in part, read: “Given the issues that can be associated with close contact in pre- and post-game settings, all team locker rooms and clubhouses will be open only to players and essential employees of teams and team facili-

ties until further notice. Media access will be maintained in designated locations outside of the locker room and clubhouse setting.”

The changes, which the leagues say are temporary, will begin Tuesday — though some NHL teams began putting them into use this past weekend. The NBA said interviews with players would continue in different settings, stressing a gap of 6-to-8 feet between reporters and interview subjects.

It is unclear how long the new policies will last.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

“Roses are red, Violets are blue, Wash your hands! WASH YOUR HANDS!” Enes Kanter of the Boston Celtics wrote on Twitter.

Meanwhile, there is already a clear sense of the new normal in the U.S.

The Miami Heat held their annual gala at a theater in Miami Beach on Monday night, albeit a bit differently than usual. The team’s three NBA championship trophies were near the entrance — with someone standing by with a bottle

of hand sanitizer. And guests, when they arrived, were offered champagne by some attendants, more hand sanitizer by others.

MLB officials, like the NBA, held a conference call with all 30 of its franchises on Monday to discuss the new policies. All four leagues — and the NFL, which has been involved in the talks but isn’t part of this policy since no teams are currently holding practices — are collecting information from the CDC and Canadian health officials, even as the situation changes almost on an hour-by-hour basis.

“We are regularly conveying the guidance from these experts to clubs, players, and staff regarding prevention, good hygiene practices and the latest recommendations related to travel,” MLB said in a statement.

Ivy League cancels conference tourneys

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Ivy League on Tuesday canceled its men's and women's basketball tournaments because of concerns about the spread of coronavirus.

The four-team tournaments were scheduled to be played Friday through Sunday at Lavietes Pavilion in Cambridge. The Ivy League instead will award its automatic NCAA Tournament bids to the regular-season champions, the Princeton women and Yale men.

The tournaments are the first at the Division I basketball level

to be canceled by the coronavirus outbreak.

Conference tournaments have been going on all over the country since last week at venues big and small. Most of the biggest conferences such as the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference begin their men's tournaments this week at large arenas in major cities.

The NCAA men's and women's Division I tournaments begin next week. The NCAA has said it plans to play its games at the planned sites as scheduled with no adjustments to fan access but is monitoring the situation.

The Ivy League also announced Tuesday it will limit spectators at all other sporting events for the rest of the spring season.

The Providence, R.I.-based league said the decision was made in "accordance with the guidance of public health and medical professionals to discourage and limit large gatherings on campuses in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, es-

pecially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus.

Ivy League Executive Director Robin Harris said in a statement the league shares the disappointment of players and coaches.

"Regrettably, the information and recommendations presented to us from public health authorities and medical professionals have convinced us that this is the most prudent decision," she said.

Roundup

East Tennessee State prevails in Southern tournament

Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Isaiah Tisdale said he had a dream that East Tennessee State was going to win the Southern Conference Tournament.

That dream was realized Monday night.

Tisdale scored 24 points and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player as top-seeded ETSU defeated upset-minded Wofford 72-58 to win the SoCon Tournament and earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"You have to dream it to believe it," Tisdale said with a wide smile.

Tray Boyd III added 11 points for the Bucs, who become only the fourth team in conference history to win 30 games. It will be ETSU's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 2017.

"Thirty wins, I'm not sure where we stand in East Tennessee State history, but if there is a Mount Rushmore, this team is on it," said Bucs coach Steve Forbes.

The seventh-seeded Terriers (19-16) were looking to become the first SoCon team since Clemson in 1939 to win four games to capture the con-

ference tournament title after beating The Citadel, Furman and Chattanooga to reach the finals. Wofford entered the tournament having lost its final seven regular season games, but found some magic in Asheville with an impressive tournament run.

But the Terriers seemed to wear down in the second half, falling behind by 15 when Jeremy Rodriguez scored an a spinning drive with four minutes remaining.

"We ran out of gas late," said Wofford coach Jay McAuley. "Our legs started to look a little tired and you could see it in our shots."

Said Terriers point guard Storm Murphy: "The shots weren't falling in the second half, but I think ETSU had something to do with that."

Chevez Goodwin had 18 points on 8-of-8 shooting from the field to lead Wofford. He said "a lot of people painted us as Cinderellas," but that the Terriers expected to come in and win the tournament and defend their title.

ETSU shot 9-for-21 from three-point range; Wofford was just six-for-25.

Tisdale came in averaging just 8.8 points per game but

had 16 points at halftime, helping the Bucs build a 36-31 lead. Tisdale did most of his damage with strong drives to the hole that got him to the free throw line, where he made 10 of 11 foul shots.

"It's a different guy every night with this group," Forbes said. "Isaiah was phenomenal. He willed us to win."

Leading 40-38 early in the second half, the Bucs went on a 16-4 tear to break the game open. Patrick Good and Joe Hugley hit back-to-back 3s for ETSU to provide a huge spark while Wofford hit a dry spell.

The Terriers hung in early behind the scrappy play of point guard Storm Murphy, who hit big shots and found teammates for open looks. Murphy finished with nine points and five assists, but his hustle set the tone for the Terriers.

WCC

St. Mary's 51, BYU 50: At Las Vegas, Jordan Ford knew he was getting the ball. Everyone in the Gaels' huddle told him to attack the basket with the game on the line.

He chose a jumper instead, and it turned out to be the right choice.

Ford hit a pull-up with 1.4 seconds to go, giving lifts St. Mary's over No. 14 BYU in the West Coast Conference Tournament semifinals.

Saint Mary's will face No. 2 Gonzaga, a 81-77 winner over San Francisco, for the championship on Tuesday. The Gaels upset Gonzaga in last year's title game to earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The conference's leading scorer, Ford had 12 of his 18 points in the second half for third-seeded Saint Mary's (25-7), which is looking to win its fifth WCC title and fourth under coach Randy Bennett.

Gonzaga needed Joel Ayayi and he delivered.

Ayayi scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and the second-ranked Bulldogs withstood a scare in the other West Coast Conference Tournament semifinal.

"I don't think I flipped the switch," Ayayi said. "Just trying to make the plays when the team needs me. Whenever I have the ball and need to make a play on the clock, I have to make a play and I'm just trying to do my best."

NBA roundup

Murray, Nuggets top slumping Bucks

Associated Press

DENVER — Jamal Murray led the Nuggets with 21 points but it was a basket of his that didn't count that really ignited Denver's 109-95 win over the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks on Monday.

Murray soared for a thunderous slam dunk over D.J. Wilson with 9.8 seconds left in the third quarter and the Nuggets clinging to a 74-71 lead. Wilson jumped in an attempt to prevent the jam and was pulverized on the play, staggering out of bounds.

"It was crazy," Denver teammate Jerami Grant said. "I didn't think he had it in him. Obviously, he does. We've seen it."

Tweet! came the whistle.

But instead of and-one, it was

no way!

The biggest of baskets was waved off and a charge called on Murray instead of a foul on Wilson. The crowd was incredulous, the Nuggets furious, but coach Michael Malone didn't challenge the call. (He mistakenly said after the game he had already used his challenge).

"It definitely wasn't a foul," Murray said. "But yeah, I wanted to just drive, and I felt like I had a step, so I just took off."

Although the whistle went the other way, the play sparked Denver to a season sweep of the NBA-leading Bucks (53-12), who were without their top six scorers — including reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo (knee).

Hawks 148, Hornets 138 (2OT): De'Andre Hunter broke a tie by sinking three free throws

with 13.3 seconds remaining in the second overtime, and host Atlanta beat Charlotte.

Trae Young had 31 points and 16 assists for Atlanta, and Hunter finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

"I wanted to give the fans a little extra," Young said, adding he felt he owed the fans more in the extra periods after making only one of two free throws at the end of regulation.

Terry Rozier led Charlotte with a career-high 40 points.

After Hunter's clutch trip to the line, Rozier missed a three-pointer. Two free throws by Cam Reddish, who had 22 points, iced the win.

Young's pass set up a jam by Reddish for a 138-135 lead. Rozier answered with a tying three-pointer.

Two reviews by the officials

at the end of the first overtime produced different results. Following the first review, officials said Rozier was fouled by the Hawks' Treveon Graham with 0.8 seconds remaining.

Before Rozier had a chance to attempt two free throws with the score tied, Atlanta's Lloyd Pierce registered a coach's challenge. This time, the officials ruled Rozier was not fouled.

Raptors 101, Jazz 92: Serge Ibaka and Pascal Siakam each scored 27 points, and Toronto won at Utah for its fourth straight victory.

Kyle Lowry added 21 points and seven assists as the Raptors used a 53-34 advantage on the glass to improve to 21-4 since Jan. 15. Ibaka grabbed 13 rebounds and Siakam finished with 11 boards.

NHL roundup

Golden Knights edge Oilers in overtime

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Shea Theodore scored 2:13 into overtime and the Vegas Golden Knights increased their slim Pacific Division lead by beating the second-place Edmonton Oilers 3-2 on Monday night.

Theodore picked the top corner off a feed from Jonathan Marchessault, who scored the tying goal with eight minutes left in the third period.

"It was a gutsy effort, three in four nights, playing last night and then back-to-back," Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said. "I thought our guys showed up and really did a good job, every guy out there that dressed, goalie on out."

"It was a big win for us, especially a big team win."

Nicolas Roy also scored for the Golden Knights (39-24-8), who improved to 11-2-0 in their past 13 games. They are three

points up on Edmonton for the division lead.

Jets 4, Coyotes 2: Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists to lead the Winnipeg over the Arizona in a matchup critical to the crowded Western Conference playoff race.

"We've been able to create some good chemistry," said Ehlers, who has been skating with center Cody Eakin and winger Patrik Laine. "We still have some things we need to clean up. But it's nice to see that it's going the right way and we're making plays. It feels good."

Eakin broke a 2-all tie for the Jets at 11:33 of the third period when he picked up the puck and backhanded a shot past Coyotes netminder Darcy Kuemper. It was Eakin's first goal since being acquired from the Vegas Golden Knights on Feb. 21. Ehlers and Laine assisted.

Mark Scheifele added an

empty-netter, and defenseman Tucker Poolman had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg. Connor Hellebuyck made 36 saves as the Jets moved into the top wild-card spot in the West with 78 points, four more than Arizona.

Sabres 3, Capitals 2 (SO): Dominik Kahun scored the decisive goal in the seventh round of a shootout, and host Buffalo stopped a six-game slide.

Sabres goaltender Linus Ullmark blocked 33 shots through overtime and six of seven shootout attempts in his first game in six weeks. He had been sidelined by a right leg injury.

Jack Eichel snapped a career-worst seven-game point drought and rookie Victor Olofsson also scored for Buffalo.

Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist, and Dmitry Orlov also scored as Washington erased a 2-0 deficit in the third period. It was Ovechkin's 48th goal of the

season, tying him with Boston's David Pastrnak for the NHL lead.

Kings 3, Avalanche 1: Mikey Anderson scored his first career goal, Jonathan Quick made 21 saves and host Los Angeles earned its sixth straight win.

Austin Wagner and Alex Iafallo also scored for the Kings, who are on their longest winning streak of the season. Los Angeles is 7-1-1 in its past nine home games, including five straight wins.

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare scored and Pavel Francouz made 32 saves for Colorado, which could have moved into first place in the Central Division with a win. The Avalanche lost for just the second time in their past 12 road games.

Panthers 2, Blues 1: Brett Connolly scored early in the third period and Chris Driedger stopped 26 shots, leading Florida to the win at St. Louis.