

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## A muted return home to Va. for USNS Comfort

*The Virginian-Pilot*

Most homecomings see a tightly packed throng of families crowding the gate at the end of the pier, waving signs and waiting for a loved one to finally step off the ship.

Instead, the USNS Comfort sidled up to Pier 12 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to no fanfare at all. Any spouses or kids there to pick up Mom or Dad were relegated to their cars to maintain social distancing.

The hulking white hospital ship emblazoned with red crosses spent the last month in New York City, serving as an overflow hospital as the city battles an expansive coronavirus outbreak that has left more than 13,000 there dead.

The Comfort arrived home to Norfolk early Saturday morning after spending late Friday moored just outside Hampton Roads Harbor while the ship was disinfected and the crew tested for the virus.

The ship treated 182 patients while in New York, commanding officers said Saturday, about 70% of which were highly acute coronavirus patients.

"We saw everything that (New York hospitals) saw," Capt. Patrick Amersbach, who commands the Comfort's medical personnel, said Saturday. "We were the busiest ICU in the Department of Defense over the past month."

They had 25 patients on ventilators and cases with multiple organ failure, necessitating a lot of one-on-one attention from the ship's medical staff, Amersbach said.

Many of the nearly 1,200 sailors returning on the Comfort may not even be going directly home.

Capt. Joseph O'Brien, the mission commander of Task Force New York City, said Saturday that every sailor leaving the ship will spend the next 14 days under quarantine based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including having their own room in which to sleep and maintain appropriate social distancing.

Some can abide by those guidelines at home, while those who can't will be put up in a hotel or barracks by the Navy for 14 days, at the end of which they will be tested again, O'Brien said.

Instead of eager husbands and wives waiting with toddlers and new babies, a caravan of white buses were lined up at the end of the pier to take crew members to their quarantine quarters.

"It's different, yeah, but everything's different," O'Brien said of the muted homecoming.

## Navy enters Barents Sea; first time since Cold War

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

Four U.S. Navy warships were operating Monday in the Barents Sea, marking the first time naval surface ships have maneuvered in the Arctic waterway north of Finland and Russia since the Cold War, the service said.

"In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we maintain our steady drumbeat of operations across the European theater, while taking prudent measures to protect the health of our force," U.S. 6th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti said in a statement. "We remain committed to promoting regional security and stability, while building trust and reinforcing a foundation of Arctic readiness."

The push above the Arctic Circle is part of a Navy effort to muscle up in a region where Russia has invested heavily in recent years and where China also has declared itself a power with economic interests.

"U.S. Navy surface ships have not operated in the Barents since the mid-1980s," U.S. Naval Forces Europe said in a statement Monday. "Allied and partner navies must remain proficient in all operating environments to ensure the continued security and access to the seas."

Three destroyers — USS Donald Cook, USS Porter and USS Roosevelt — were joined by the combat support ship USNS Supply. The United Kingdom's HMS Kent also took part in maritime security operations, NAVEUR said.

In recent weeks, the U.S. military in Europe has sought to emphasize that operations are continuing, even as the services grapple with the coronavirus pandemic. While the virus has curtailed numerous exercises, the Navy in Europe has been busy in recent weeks in the "high north," the service said.

USS Porter, USS Donald Cook and HMS Kent last week completed an anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Norwegian Sea. A U.S. submarine,

**'We remain committed to promoting regional security and stability, while building trust and reinforcing a foundation of Arctic readiness.'**

**Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti**  
U.S. 6th Fleet commander

as well as a

P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft, also took part in the drills, the Navy said.

Countering Russia's submarines has become a focus for U.S. European Command. Over the years, Russia has modernized its undersea fleet and increased activity in the Arctic, drawing the attention of top U.S. commanders.

NAVEUR boss Adm. James Foggo, speaking Thursday at the U.S. Naval Institute's 147th annual meeting, highlighted how 10 Russian submarines were simultaneously underway in the Arctic and North Atlantic last fall.

"That number would have grabbed the attention of Lieutenant Foggo at the height of the Cold War," he said.

Russia has "taken an aggressive approach in the Arctic" and elsewhere, he added.

For example, Russia's new icebreaker, the Ivan Papanin, was constructed to carry Kalibr cruise missiles.

"Who puts missiles on icebreakers?" Foggo said. "We are seeing Russian navy surface ships and new hybrid Kilo-class submarines operating more often and more widely, particularly in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean."

It was unclear how long the Navy's destroyers would be operating in the Barents. The Navy said that it had notified the Russian Defense Ministry of the specific maneuvers to "avoid misperceptions, reduce risk and prevent inadvertent escalation."

# UNC investigates if DMZ shooting violated armistice

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Was it an accident? Or did North Korean soldiers fire at a South Korean guard post on purpose?

The United States-led United Nations Command sent a team to the tense Korean border area Monday to investigate whether the exchange of fire the day before violated the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

The UNC, which administers the Demilitarized Zone, said that no further comment would be issued “until the investigation is complete and the report has been provided to the appropriate authorities.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and South Korean military officials have already said that they believe the shooting was not intentional.

But some analysts suggested that it may have been a low-level provocation aimed at boosting the North’s leverage in talks with the U.S. and South Korea.

North Korea, meanwhile, has not responded to a message sent via an inter-military communication line asking for an expla-

nation, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry.

“It seems to be accidental, but South and North Korea need to be careful with each other because such an accident has the prospect to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula,” said Yang Moo-Jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul.

The incident began Sunday morning when South Korean soldiers at a guard post in a central part of the Demilitarized Zone heard gunfire, then found four bullet holes on the wall of the guard post.

The South Koreans responded with 20 rounds of warning shots and broadcast warnings, military officials said.

The UNC, which is led by Army Gen. Robert Abrams, dispatched a multinational special investigation team to the site on Monday.

The team was accompanied by Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission who were acting as observers.

“The investigative team will assess the events that took place and produce a report based on their findings to determine if

a violation of #Armistice occurred,” the UNC said in a tweet.

The new mystery began two days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared at the ribbon-cutting for a new fertilizer factory, tamping down speculation about his health after a nearly three-week absence.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said that North Korea had not responded to the South’s message.

Jean Lee, director of the Korea program at the Washington, D.C.-based Wilson Center, said that the breakdown in communications was troubling.

“What we would not want to see is gunfire sparking an exchange that could escalate into deadly violence,” she said. “While troops on the southern side responded with restraint this time, the ambiguity most certainly will have everyone in the DMZ on edge.”

The DMZ, about 155 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, has often been a flashpoint in tensions between the two Koreas, and past violence has pushed the two countries to the brink of conflict.

## US troops use drones to remotely train Iraqis

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. special operations troops with the anti-Islamic State coalition have been using drones to train security forces in Iraq while physically distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Advisers with Special Operations Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve use the remotely piloted aircraft to record the training exercises, then review the footage and provide feedback on the Iraqi troops’ tactics, a coalition official said Friday.

“This allows safe distance observation ... while still improving capabilities to continue the fight against terrorism,” a special operations partner-force adviser in northern Iraq said in an email.

The tactical drones are similar to those found on civilian shelves, but specific details of the type and their capabilities could not be discussed, said the officer, whose name and tactical unit were withheld per military policy for security reasons.

## FBI: Airman who fled Texas base threatened command

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

An airman who police say scuffled with officials at a Texas air base before arming himself and fleeing over the perimeter fence had threatened his chain of command and refused to hand over his firearms, a criminal complaint said.

A security forces patrolman and two other Dyess Air Force Base officials visited the on-base home of Erland Injerd on April 22 to ask him to surrender the weapons after he sent his command a threatening email, FBI agent Sean E. Means said in the complaint filed with the U.S. District of

Northern Texas, days after the incident.

Injerd, 37, has been charged with assaulting a federal agent after refusing to comply with the order, the complaint said. He is a senior airman and weather forecaster at the base, the military’s universal email address list showed.

Injerd was still at large Monday, said Senior Airman Kylee Gardner, a base spokesperson. The FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are working on the case, she said via email.

After refusing the order from security forces officer John Breed to surrender his weapons, Injerd began cursing at him and

two other officials, Senior Master Sgt. Klexton Jett and Master Sgt. Derek L. Krahn, the complaint said. He then resisted when Breed told him to turn around and put his hands behind his back, striking the patrolman in the face. Jett and Krahn tried to detain him, but all four men “ended up on the ground,” the court document stated.

The airman’s wife then opened the front door and Injerd fled inside.

The 7th Security Forces Squadron and Abilene police responded when Breed called for backup, but Injerd escaped through a basement window, scaled the base fence and fled into the woods.

# High and tights back at Ramstein base

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — For the first time in six weeks, airmen were able to do something they once took for granted: get a haircut.

On Monday, the barbershop at the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center welcomed its first customers since closing in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Air Force leaders at Ramstein authorized the base barbershops and beauty salon to open after Germany said its hairdressers and barbers could reopen Monday, as part of a plan to gradually lift the country's lockdown.

U.S. military bases in Germany are also reopening services and facilities in phases, but what base personnel can expect to see available varies by location and even by military service.

While Air Force personnel at Ramstein can get a haircut with an appointment at the base mall, soldiers largely remain restricted.

"In general, no, Soldiers should not travel to Ramstein to use the barber shop," U.S. Army Europe said in a statement Monday, following a Stars and Stripes query.

USAREUR said senior officers and garrison commanders "will determine when and

under what conditions or mitigating measures barber shops will reopen on Army installations," noting that personnel should expect "we will lag behind the host nation for up to two weeks to gauge the impact on infection rate as we reopen services."

Hairdressers in Germany were ordered to close March 23 and U.S. military bases in Germany shut down their barbershops and other nonessential facilities around the same time.

Spangdahlem plans to open its barbershops May 18, a base official said Monday.

Strict protective measures are in place at the KMCC bar-

bershop, where every other barber chair must be empty, and both customer and stylist have to wear face masks. A shampoo prior to a haircut is now mandatory and customers must be covered in disposable plastic gowns.

Airmen on Monday said they didn't mind the extra rules. They said were just happy to have a professional working the clippers.

"It is super nice to lose about a pound of hair," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Knupp of the 721st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein. "It makes it feel like you're in the military again."

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report.

## Italy eases its 2-month lockdown

*Associated Press*

ROME — Millions of people were allowed to return to work in Italy on Monday as Europe's longest coronavirus lockdown started to ease, while the U.S. took halting steps to lift some of its own restrictions even as tens of thousands of new cases were reported every day.

In Washington, the Senate was convening for the first time since March, while dozens of people in Florida were waiting before sunrise for the 7 a.m. opening of Clearwater Beach. In South Dakota, a pork processing plant took its first steps toward reopening after being shuttered after more than 800 employees were infected with coronavirus.

Louisiana lawmakers were also restarting their legislature — even as they feuded over whether they should return at all.

Political battles have become increasingly embedded in coronavirus policy in the U.S.

With pressure growing in many countries for more measures to restart the economy, politicians also were trying to boost funding for research into a vaccine for COVID-19. There are hopes that one could be available in months, but many scientists warn it could take much longer.

Italy, the first European country hit by the pandemic and a nation with one of the world's highest death tolls, started stirring after its two-month shutdown. In all, 4.4 million Italians were able to return to work, and restrictions on movement eased.

Traffic in downtown Rome picked up, construction sites and manufacturing operations resumed, parks reopened and flower vendors returned to the Campo dei Fiori market for the first time since March 11.

"It's something that brings happiness and joy, and people have been missing that these days," vendor Stefano Fulvi said. He doesn't expect to break even anytime soon, "but you have to take the risk at some point."

But Europeans' new-found freedoms are limited as officials are wary of setting off a second wave of infections.

In Greece, after 42 days of lockdown, people were no longer required to send an SMS or carry a self-written permit justifying why they were outdoors.

People in hard-hit Spain ventured out for the first time for haircuts or food take-outs, but many small shops were still closed as owners worked on meeting strict health and hygiene guidelines. Neighboring Portugal also eased its confinement measures and allowed small stores to open.

In the Middle East, Lebanon was allowing restaurants to open at 30% capacity during the day starting Monday. But many business owners said they won't reopen because they would be losing more money if they operate under such restrictions in a faltering economy.

On Monday, an alliance of world leaders was holding a virtual summit hoping to drum up around 4 billion euros for vaccine research.

## Countries in Asia slowly reopening

*Associated Press*

BANGKOK — Students across Vietnam started returning to their classrooms Monday that had been closed to curb the coronavirus.

"I am so excited to go back to school, to be with my teachers and my classmates after three months," said Chu Quang Anh, a sixth-grade student at Dinh Cong secondary school in Hanoi.

Students are required to wear masks, among other measures to minimize the spread of the virus.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, for the first time since mid-March, New Zealand reported no new cases of the coronavirus. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said a decision would be made next Monday on whether to ease the rules further.

Meanwhile, many business sectors reopened in parts of Malaysia as Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's government sought to balance curbing the virus and reviving the hard-hit economy.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Monday that he will extend Japan's coronavirus state of emergency by about a month. Abe said the number of new cases has not declined enough and hospitals remain overburdened.

South Korea, however, says it will start allowing students to return to their classrooms next week amid signs that its coronavirus outbreak is waning.

# Report: China hid virus severity for supplies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials believe that China covered up the extent of the coronavirus outbreak — and how contagious the disease is — to stock up on medical supplies needed to respond to it, intelligence documents show.

Chinese leaders “intentionally concealed the severity” of the pandemic from the world in early January, according to a four-page Department of Homeland Security intelligence report dated May 1 and obtained by The Associated Press. The revelation comes as the Trump administration has intensified its criticism of China, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying Sunday that the country was respon-

sible for the spread of disease and must be held accountable.

The sharper rhetoric coincides with administration critics saying that the government’s response to the virus was slow and inadequate. President Donald Trump’s political opponents have accused him of lashing out at China, a geopolitical foe but critical U.S. trade partner, in an attempt to deflect criticism at home.

Not classified but marked “for official use only,” the DHS analysis states that, while downplaying the severity of the coronavirus, China increased imports and decreased exports of medical supplies. It attempted to cover up doing so by “denying there were export restrictions and obfuscating and

delaying provision of its trade data,” the analysis states.

The report also said China held off informing the World Health Organization that the coronavirus “was a contagion” for much of January so it could order medical supplies from abroad — and that its imports of face masks and surgical gowns and gloves increased sharply.

Those conclusions are based on the 95% probability that China’s changes in imports and exports were not within normal range, according to the report.

Chinese officials muffled doctors who warned about the virus early on and repeatedly downplayed the threat of the outbreak. Many of the Chinese government’s missteps, however, appear to have been due

to bureaucratic hurdles, tight controls on information and officials hesitant to report bad news. There is no public evidence to suggest that it was an intentional plot to buy up the world’s medical supplies.

Beijing has repeatedly pushed back on U.S. accusations that the outbreak was China’s fault, pointing to many missteps made by American officials in their own fight against the outbreak. China’s public announcement on Jan. 20 that the virus was transmissible from person to person left the U.S. nearly two months to prepare for the pandemic, during which the U.S. government failed to bolster medical supplies and deployed flawed testing kits.

## US to rein in blood tests after lack of oversight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators Monday pulled back a decision that allowed scores of coronavirus blood tests to hit the market without first providing proof that they worked.

The Food and Drug Administration said that it took the action because some sellers have made false claims about the tests and their accuracy. Companies will now have to show that their tests work or risk having them pulled from the market.

Under pressure to increase testing options, the FDA in March essentially let companies begin selling tests as long as they told the agency their plans and provided disclaimers, including that they were not FDA-approved. The policy was meant to allow “flexibility” needed to quickly ramp up production, officials said.

“However, flexibility never meant we would allow fraud,” Dr. Anand Shah, an FDA deputy commissioner, said in a statement. “We unfortunately

see unscrupulous actors marketing fraudulent test kits and using the pandemic as an opportunity to take advantage of Americans.”

Blood tests are different from the nasal swab tests currently used to diagnose active COVID-19 infections. Instead, the tests look for blood proteins called antibodies, which the body produces days or weeks after fighting an infection. Most use a finger-prick of blood on a test strip.

The agency acknowledged Monday that there have been problems with deceptive, false marketing among the 160 tests that have been launched in the U.S. Some companies have claimed that their tests can be used at home, although the FDA has not allowed that use. Others have made unsubstantiated claims about their accuracy. Some U.S. hospitals and local governments have reported buying tests that turned out to be inaccurate or frauds.

## Trump ups death projection, pushes economic reopening

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anxious to spur an economic recovery without risking lives, President Donald Trump insisted that “you can satisfy both” — see states gradually lift lockdowns while also protecting people from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 67,000 Americans.

The president, fielding questions from Americans Sunday night in a virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial, acknowledged valid fears on both sides of the issue. Some people are worried about getting sick, while others are reeling from lost jobs and livelihoods.

Trump increased his projection for the total U.S. death toll to as many as 100,000 — up by as much as 40,000 from what he had suggested just a few weeks ago.

“Look, we’re going to lose anywhere from 75,000, 80,000 to 100,000 people,” Trump said. “That’s a horrible thing. We shouldn’t lose one person out of this. This should have been stopped in China.”

But he struck a note of ur-

gency to restart the nation’s economy, declaring, “We have to get it back open safely, but as quickly as possible.”

After more than a month of being cooped up at the White House, Trump returned from a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the virtual town hall hosted by Fox News Channel.

As concerns mount about his reelection bid, Trump stuck to his relentlessly optimistic view of the nation’s ability to rebound soon.

Though the administration’s handling of the pandemic, particularly its ability to conduct widespread testing, has come under fierce scrutiny, the president tried to shift the blame to China and said that the U.S. was ready to begin reopening.

“I’ll tell you one thing. We did the right thing and I really believe we saved a million-and-a-half lives,” the president said. But he also broke with the assessment of his senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, saying that it was “too soon to say” the federal government had overseen a “success story.”

# Nebraska set to open voting sites despite concerns

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska is forging ahead with plans to hold the nation's first in-person election in more than a month, despite health concerns about the coronavirus pandemic and allegations that political motivations are fueling opposition to an all-mail approach.

Barring an unexpected change, Nebraska's primary will take place on May 12 — five weeks after Wisconsin held the last in-person balloting when courts sided with Republican legislators who pushed for that election to go forward.

Republicans who hold all statewide offices and control the Legislature have encouraged people to cast early, absentee ballots. However, they argue state law requires polling sites to be open and that it's important for voters to have a choice for how they vote, even amid health concerns.

As Secretary of State Bob Evnen put it last month, "I don't think Nebraskans are going to stay away from the polls or not vote because of a microbe."

Gov. Pete Ricketts agreed, arguing that to do otherwise

would "disenfranchise voters who want to go to the polls," and noting that elections were previously held despite wars and pandemics.

Others, however, questioned the motives behind the decision to hold the first statewide election since Wisconsin's much-criticized April 7 primary and expressed doubt voting could safely take place. Wisconsin health officials say more than 50 people who voted in person or worked the polls during the election have tested positive for COVID-19.

The primary will decide a Democratic contest to pick a nominee to face Republican Rep. Don Bacon in the Omaha area's 2nd Congressional District, traditionally the only U.S. House seat in Nebraska where Democrats are competitive. Voters will also pick candidates in dozens of ostensibly nonpartisan legislative races, which could help determine whether Republicans gain a super-majority in the Legislature.

Nebraska Democrats have asserted for weeks that Republican leaders don't want to hold an all-mail election because of concern it would help Demo-

## Biden wins Kan. primary using all mail-in balloting

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Joe Biden overwhelmingly won a Democratic presidential primary in Kansas that the state party conducted exclusively by mail because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The former vice president had been expected to prevail in Saturday's vote and capture a majority of the state's delegates to the Democrats' national nominating commission. Biden took 77% of the vote.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was still in the race when the Kansas party began mailing ballots at the end of March, but he sus-

pending his campaign and endorsed Biden.

Biden won 29 delegates and Sanders got 10, inching Biden closer to the number of delegates he needs to clinch the Democratic nomination.

Democratic leaders originally had planned to set up polling places across the state in addition to allowing mail balloting. But they scrapped plans for in-person voting at the end of March after Gov. Laura Kelly issued a statewide stay-at-home order, and the change nearly tripled participation over four years ago, with 34.7% of registered Democrats casting ballots.

crats, especially in the urban areas of Omaha and Lincoln. Republicans have dismissed such claims, but Democrats point to statements by President Donald Trump who has said "you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again" if all states switched to vote-by-mail.

Jane Kleeb, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said Ricketts and the state GOP are concerned about any change that might boost Democratic turnout.

"The only reason I can see the governor not doing it is for political reasons," she said. "The Republican playbook is always to suppress the vote. They

know that when fewer people vote, they win elections."

Sen. Steve Lathrop, an Omaha Democrat, also criticized the decision to hold a polling place election but said that with the primary only a couple of weeks away, it's too late to change course now.

"Given the seriousness of the pandemic, we should have turned this into a vote-by-mail election," Lathrop said.

Officials plan to provide all poll workers with gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and wipes, and the state has purchased 50 additional ballot drop-off boxes for counties.

## Venezuela says US backed attack on port that failed

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan officials said that they foiled an early morning attempt by a group of armed "mercenaries" to invade the country in a beach landing using speedboats Sunday, killing eight attackers and arresting two more.

Socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello said that two of the attackers were interrogated by

authorities. Cabello said the attack was carried out on a beach in La Guaira, 20 miles from Caracas, by neighboring Colombia with the U.S. backing the plot to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro — a claim dismissed by U.S. and Colombian officials.

"Those who assume they can attack the institutional framework in Venezuela will have to assume the consequences of their action," said Cabello.

Authorities said that they found Peruvian documents, high-caliber weapons, satellite phones, uniforms and helmets adorned with the U.S. flag. Both Colombia and the U.S. have repeatedly denied previous Venezuelan allegations of backing military plots against the socialist government.

"We have little reason to believe anything that comes out of the former regime," said a

spokesperson with the State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity, referring to Maduro's government. "The Maduro regime has been consistent in its use of misinformation in order to shift focus from its mismanagement of Venezuela."

Colombia's Foreign Affairs Ministry also rejected the claims.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man arrested, tried to live on Disney island

**FL** ORLANDO — Florida deputies arrested a man who had been living out his quarantine on a shuttered Disney World island, telling authorities it felt like a “tropical paradise.”

Orange County Sheriff’s deputies found Richard McGuire on Disney’s Discovery Island on Thursday. He said he’d been there since Monday or Tuesday and had planned to camp there for a week, according to an arrest report.

The 42-year-old said he didn’t hear numerous deputies searching the private island for him on foot, by boat and by air because he was asleep in a building. He told the deputy he didn’t know it was a restricted area, despite there being numerous “no trespassing” signs.

## Construction of Vietnam vet memorial underway

**MA** FALL RIVER — The construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Fall River’s Bicentennial Park is scheduled to start in mid-May and will likely be ready before a targeted Veterans Day deadline.

Construction is scheduled to begin the second week in May and just in time for state funding before the 2020 fiscal year ends June 3, Memorial Wall Committee chairman Joseph Marshall told The Herald News.

“I would say it could be completed by the end of summer,” Marshall said.

The official groundbreaking last July drew state officials and Gold Star families of soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The \$1.4 million project will be the region’s only permanent replica of the Vietnam War Me-

morial in Washington, D.C.

## Counterfeit money, guns and drugs found in home

**MI** CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP — Authorities have found suspected counterfeit currency and equipment used to make it in a southwestern Michigan home.

Suspected methamphetamine and firearms also were found in the home in Charleston Township, about 128 miles west of Detroit.

Deputies had the home under surveillance after receiving information on possible drug sales and stolen property inside, the Kalamazoo County sheriff’s office said.

When a vehicle matching one reported stolen from Kalamazoo Township was seen leaving the location, deputies tried to stop it.

The driver went off the road and surrendered after the vehicle became stuck in a cornfield.

Deputies then obtained a search warrant for the home.

## Police charge man in backhoe incident

**NJ** BRIDGETON — A vandal who authorities said used a backhoe to damage numerous items at a southern New Jersey construction site, including the backhoe, is now facing charges.

Damien Long, 29, of Pittsgrove Township, was recently charged with burglary and criminal mischief, Bridgeton police said.

Long went to the construction site and used a backhoe to ride around and smash an electric utility pole, breaker box, an office trailer and the backhoe itself, authorities said. Police responded when someone called 911, but Long had already left the area by the time

officers arrived.

The vandalism caused more than \$12,000 worth of damage and was captured on video, authorities said.

## Man charged with hate intimidation in attack

**SC** CHARLESTON — Police charged a white South Carolina man with hate intimidation, saying he punched and yelled racial slurs at a black man in an unprovoked attack.

Witnesses reported the victim was walking down a Charleston street when James Alden Vige, 39, began yelling racial slurs at him, according to a statement from city officials.

Vige continued to yell at the victim before punching him and shoving him to the ground, the statement said. The victim was not seriously injured and declined medical treatment, according to police.

Authorities said the men did not know each other.

## Officer, deputy injured during chase for theft

**GA** PORT WENTWORTH — A police officer and a sheriff’s deputy were injured in a car chase after three men stole from a Walmart and fled, authorities said.

Rincon police said they pulled over the three suspects and began to question them, but the suspects fled and threw a gun from the car.

Rincon police decided not to pursue because of the busy time of day.

Port Wentworth police said an officer later saw the suspects’ vehicle going 85 mph in a 50 mph zone. The officer attempted to pull the car over but they continued to flee.

An Effingham County Sheriff’s Office deputy attempted to

help the officer during the chase but the two crashed into each other and were hospitalized.

Port Wentworth police arrested Jermaine Kareem Evans and identified the other two suspects as Jamari Pai’Shaw Chisholm and Javonta Hakeem Coney.

## Waves from lake wash away pavement in town

**IN** BEVERLY SHORES — Waves from Lake Michigan have washed away a section of pavement in a northwest Indiana town, threatening utility lines and nearby homes.

Rangers with the Indiana Dunes National Park stood guard at a sharp cliff overlooking Lake Michigan that was once parking for Lakeview Beach in the town of Beverly Shores, about 40 miles east of Chicago.

Bruce Rowe, the park’s supervisory ranger, said rangers were still assessing the damage caused by the storm but acknowledged a “significant piece of pavement was lost.”

## Woman killed in attack by alligator at pond

**SC** KIAWAH ISLAND — Deputies in South Carolina shot and killed an alligator that fatally attacked a woman, authorities said.

The officers were called to a pond on Kiawah Island and saw the animal attack, the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office said.

The woman was dead. Her name has not been released. Deputies retrieved the alligator’s carcass to help with the investigation, deputies said on Twitter.

Authorities did not say if they knew what the woman or the alligator were doing before the attack.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Shula, winningest coach in pro football, dies at 90

Hall of Fame coach won one NFL championship, two Super Bowls

Associated Press

MIAMI — Don Shula, who won the most games of any NFL coach and led the Miami Dolphins to the only perfect season in league history, died Monday at his home, the team said. He was 90.

Shula surpassed George Halas' league-record 324 victories in 1993. He retired following the 1995 season with 347 wins, 173 losses and six ties, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997.

"Don Shula was the patriarch of the Miami Dolphins for 50 years," the Dolphins said in a statement. "He brought the winning edge to our franchise and put the Dolphins and the city of Miami in the national sports scene."

Shula became the only coach to guide an NFL team through a perfect season when the 1972 Dolphins went 17-0. They won the Super Bowl again the following season, finishing 15-2.

The 2007 Patriots came close to matching the achievement by the '72 Dolphins, winning their first 18 games before losing in the Super Bowl to the New York Giants.

Shula appeared in six Super Bowls and reached the playoffs in four decades. He coached three Hall of Fame quarterbacks: Johnny Unitas, Bob Griese and Dan Marino.

During his 26 seasons in Miami, Shula became an institution and looked the part, with a jutting jaw and glare that intimidated 150-pound sports writers and 300-pound linemen alike. His

name adorns an expressway, an athletic club and a steakhouse chain.

Shula's only losing seasons came in 1976 and 1988, but he drew increasing criticism from fans and the media in his final years and retired in January 1996, with Jimmy Johnson replacing him.

Before his 1970s triumphs with Miami, Shula had a reputation as a coach who thrived during the regular season but couldn't win the big games.

Shula became the youngest head coach in NFL history when the Baltimore Colts hired him in 1963 at age 33. The Colts finished 12-2 the following season and were widely seen as the league's dominant team.

But they lost 27-0 to Cleveland in the title game, and for the next few years they continued to come up short.

The humiliation was greatest in the Super Bowl to end the 1968 season. The Colts steamrolled through the NFL, finishing 13-1. After crushing the Browns 34-0 in the title game, they lost 16-7 to the upstart New York Jets, the AFL champion, in the Super Bowl. The result is still regarded by many as the biggest upset in pro football history, and it contributed to Shula's departure from Baltimore after the 1969 season.

## Seahawks look to fix pass rush

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Darrell Taylor may not realize it yet, but his arrival in Seattle comes with a certain level of expectations.

In previous drafts, whenever general manager John Schneider made an aggressive move to trade up in the second or third rounds, it's turned out to be a smart move. Tyler Lockett, Jarran Reed, DK Metcalf were the three previous picks Seattle made after trading up on the second day.

Taylor became the latest to fall into that category when Seattle jumped last week to select the Tennessee pass rusher in the second round. He was one of two defensive ends taken by Seattle, along with fifth-round pick Alton Robinson out of Syracuse.

Coupled with the free agent signings of Bruce Irvin and Benson Mayowa, the four edge rushers represent Seattle's efforts this offseason to solve its biggest issue from a year ago when getting pressure on the quarterback was a major problem.

But are the four new additions enough to help the Seahawks or are there more moves still needed in order to adequately bolster the position?

"We really did look at the issue of we weren't happy with the production of our pressure that we put on last year and so we went after it," coach Pete Carroll said. "Every move that we've made has addressed that and I think that we have the depth that can really help us keep guys fast and fresh and get a really good rotation going."

There's good reason Carroll and his staff were displeased with the pass rush a year ago.

Seattle was next-to-last in the NFL last season with 28 sacks.

Their overall QB pressure rate of 19.3% was 28th in the league, according to Pro Football Reference.

## NFL moves international games back to US

Associated Press

The NFL is moving its five games scheduled for London and Mexico City this season back to U.S. stadiums because of the coronavirus pandemic. All five regular-season games will be played at the stadiums of the host teams.

Scheduled were two home games for the Jacksonville Jaguars at Wembley Stadium in London and two at Tottenham's new facility, with the Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins as hosts. The Arizona Cardinals were to be the home team for the game at Azteca Stadium

in Mexico City.

The NFL said in a statement Monday that "in order for the entire season to be played in NFL teams' stadia under consistent protocols focused on the well-being of players, personnel and fans ... Commissioner Roger Goodell made this decision after consultation with our clubs, national and local governments, the NFL Players Association, medical authorities and international stadium partners."

The NFL has staged regular-season games in London every year since 2007.

"While the NFL's many fans in London, the U.K. and Europe will obviously be disappointed by this news, it is absolutely the right decision to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the sport," London Mayor Sadiq Khan said.

Mexico City had regular-season games in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

"The decision to play all our games domestically this season is the right one for our players, our clubs, and all our fans in the U.S., Mexico and U.K.," said Christopher Halpin, an NFL executive vice president.

## Sports briefs

# Byron scores 3rd NASCAR iRacing victory

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — William Byron showed he's the sharpest gamer in NASCAR's iRacing Series with his third victory in four events.

Byron passed Timmy Hill with seven laps remaining at virtual Dover International Speedway, where NASCAR was scheduled to actually race Sunday, to win yet again on the iRacing platform. The Hendrick Motorsports driver has consistently been the best of the NASCAR professionals in simulated racing.

Alex Bowman won last week at virtual Talladega Superspeedway, so Hendrick drivers have won four consecutive iRacing events.

"I've enjoyed this iRacing Series, but I'm definitely ready to get going in my real car," Byron said. "Racing anything, whether it's a box car or anything with an engine, is going to give you confidence if you are winning."

He said that in all his years iRacing, he's never been in such competitive events since NASCAR launched the invitational esports series after the stock car series was suspended March 13.

Hill finished second and was shown at times racing with his cat on his steering wheel.

NASCAR will complete its iRacing Series next Saturday at North Carolina's deserted North Wilkesboro Speedway, a track last raced by the national series in 1996. Overgrown with weeds and clearly neglected, Dale Earnhardt Jr. last year led a group of volunteers in cleaning the speedway so it could be mapped for use in iRacing.

Although the simulated version of North Wilkesboro is not yet available to the public on the iRacing platform, it will be the virtual host for NASCAR's finale. Then it's back to the real thing for the stock car series, which plans to resume competition without spectators starting May 17 at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina.

## McLaughlin scores 2nd virtual Indy win

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Scott McLaughlin was supposed to leave Australia for Indianapolis this month to make his IndyCar debut on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

With sports on hold because of the virus pandemic, the two-time V8 SuperCars champion saw his IndyCar plans postponed.

McLaughlin instead settled for a virtual victory Saturday on the oval at Indianapolis Motor Speedway — his second win of IndyCar's iRacing six-race series — after a wild finish in which most of the leaders crashed as they rushed toward the checkered flag.

"Unbelievable," McLaughlin said. "I was literally just hoping there was going to be a wreck at the end. I thought we were going to be third, and then the three wrecked and we won."

## AP: 65 players earn at least \$100K per game

NEW YORK — Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole aren't the only major leaguers with a big financial incentive to get back on the field.

While they head a starry quartet that would take in more than \$200,000 per game, 65 players would earn at least \$100,000 each time their team wins or loses if the pandemic-delayed major league season get under way, according to an analysis of their contracts by The Associated Press.

Most rookies and those making the minimum would get nearly \$3,500 each. Every game added to the big league schedule earns players about \$24 million in aggregate.

Clubs would benefit, too, with huge revenue streams flowing from regional sports networks and national broadcast contracts. A contentious negotiation is likely if Major League Baseball asks the players' association to accept salary cuts

to compensate for competing in empty ballparks.

Opening day was scheduled for March 26, but has been delayed indefinitely due to the new coronavirus pandemic. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he is confident the 2020 season will start at some point, and MLB and the union have discussed possibilities that include playing in empty ballparks and neutral sites.

As part of a March deal between MLB and the union, players gained a key objective in bargaining: If no games are played, each player would get the same amount of service time this year as he earned in 2019. As part of the deal, teams are advancing \$170 million in salary but players give up claims to any more if the season is scrapped. That leaves each player to earn a maximum \$260,000, \$60,000, \$30,000 or \$16,500, depending on his contract, if there is a missed season.

Players agreed to prorate their salaries based on actual games played.

## Duplantis, Lavillenie split pole vaulting gold

French pole vaulter Renaud Lavillenie hardly treated this like a garden-variety competition.

It was for backyard bragging rights. So he raised his intensity.

Lavillenie and Mondo Duplantis of Sweden shared the gold medal Sunday during a men's pole vault competition held in their own yards. Advertised as the "Ultimate Garden Clash," it was a rare sporting event contested during the coronavirus pandemic.

Duplantis, a world record-holder, and Lavillenie, the 2012 Olympic champion, each cleared a height of 16 feet 36 times over a span of 30 minutes that was broadcast by World Athletics on its social media channels. Both had one miss.

Sam Kendricks of the United States got the bronze by clearing the bar 26 times in a competition featuring three of the event's biggest names.

It just might have been a preview of the Tokyo Games, which have been postponed to 2021. Lavillenie certainly took his concentration to another level.

"It's crazy, but even doing this in my garden, I get the same feeling I'd get at a major championships," Lavillenie said. "It was very exciting and I'm very happy to be a part of it."

## McIlroy, Johnson to play in charity match

Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson headline a \$3 million charity match for COVID-19 relief that will mark the first live golf on television since the pandemic shut down sports worldwide.

The May 17 match will be played at Seminole Golf Club in South Florida, a fabled course along the ocean where Ben Hogan once prepared for the Masters. It is to be televised by NBC networks, including Golf Channel, Sky Sports and the PGA Tour's global TV partners.

McIlroy and Johnson, major champions who have reached No. 1 in the world, will be partners in a Skins match against Oklahoma State alumni Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff.

McIlroy and Johnson are playing for the American Nurses Foundation, while Fowler and Wolff are playing for the CDC Foundation. The match is titled, "TaylorMade Driving Relief." All four players have endorsement deals with TaylorMade.

McIlroy, currently No. 1 and the reigning PGA Tour player of the year, announced the match on the "Today" show with Carson Daly, with whom McIlroy has a podcast.

He described it as a chance to "do a small part to raise some money and raise some awareness."