

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Leaders say world can't wait for vaccine

Associated Press

SOAVE, Italy — In separate, stark warnings, two major European leaders have bluntly told their citizens that the world needs to adapt to living with the coronavirus and cannot wait to be saved by the development of a vaccine.

The comments by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came as nations around the world and U.S. states are struggling with restarting economies blindsided by the pandemic. With 36 million newly unemployed in the U.S. alone, economic pressures are building even as authorities acknowledge that reopening risks new waves of infections and deaths.

Pushed hard by Italy's regional leaders and weeks in advance of an earlier timetable, Conte is allowing restaurants, bars and beach facilities to open Monday, the same day that church services can resume and shops reopen.

"We are facing a calculated risk, in the awareness ... that the epidemiological curve could go back up," Conte said late

Saturday. "We are confronting this risk, and we need to accept it, otherwise we would never be able to relaunch."

Conte added that Italy could "not afford" to wait until a vaccine was developed. Health experts have said that the world could be months, if not years, away from having a vaccine available to everyone despite the scientific gold rush now on to create such a vaccine.

Italy's economy is forecast to contract 9% this year due to the coronavirus amid a long, strict lockdown.

For his part, Britain's Johnson, who was hospitalized last month with a serious bout of COVID-19, speculated Sunday that a vaccine may not be developed at all, despite the huge global effort to produce one.

"I said we would throw everything we could at finding a vaccine," Johnson wrote in the Mail on Sunday newspaper. "There remains a very long way to go, and I must be frank that a vaccine might not come to fruition."

Johnson said that Britain was taking "baby steps" toward reopening, "trying to do something that has never had

to be done before — moving the country out of a full lockdown.

"Despite these efforts, we have to acknowledge we may need to live with this virus for some time to come," Johnson wrote.

The Conservative leader said that the U.K. needs to find new ways of controlling the virus, including more testing for people who have symptoms and tracing the contacts of infected people. One minister said Sunday that 17,200 people had been recruited to be contact tracers.

The coronavirus has infected over 4.6 million people and killed more than 312,000 worldwide, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts have said undercounts the true toll of the pandemic. The U.S. has reported over 88,000 dead in the pandemic, and Europe has seen at least 160,000 deaths.

Churches throughout Greece opened their doors to the faithful after two months Sunday, while limiting the number of congregants and dispensing disinfectants. Turkey allowed people over 65 to leave their homes only for a second time — up to six hours — but kept them

under a general lockdown.

Small shops were opening in most of Spain, which on Sunday reported only 87 new deaths, the lowest daily death count since March 16. Restrictions, however, remained tighter in Madrid and Barcelona, the hardest-hit areas.

In Asia, China's commercial hub of Shanghai announced a June 2 restart of classes for younger students amid falling virus cases. People in Thailand streamed Sunday into shopping malls, which have been closed since March.

China's airline regulator reported that flights had returned to 60% of pre-outbreak levels, exceeding 10,000 per day for the first time since Feb. 1. No new deaths have been reported in a month in the world's second-largest economy, where the coronavirus was first detected late last year.

China reported just five new cases on Sunday, while South Korea recorded 13, raising hopes that a new outbreak linked to nightclubs in Seoul may be waning, even though 168 patients have been infected so far.

8 more Roosevelt sailors test positive a second time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eight more sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt have tested positive again for the coronavirus, raising to 13 the number who appear to have become infected a second time while serving aboard the sidelined aircraft carrier.

All the sailors had previously tested positive for the virus and had gone through at least two weeks of isolation. Before they were allowed to go back to the ship, all had to test negative twice in a row, with the

tests separated by at least a day or two.

On Saturday, a Navy official confirmed that eight additional sailors had tested positive again. A day earlier, the Navy had said in a statement that five had tested positive a second time. The Navy official was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

That some crew were testing positive again has puzzled officials and raised questions about reintegrating troops into the military if a second infection were possible.

Also questioned was the accuracy of the

testing itself. In some cases, infection can be at such a low level that it is not detected by the test, which could mean that there were no relapses. People could also be cleared though their virus levels were too low for detection.

The outbreak aboard the Roosevelt was discovered in March. In port in Guam since then, the ship sent more than 4,000 of its 4,800 crew members ashore for quarantine or isolation. Earlier this month, hundreds of sailors began returning to the ship, in coordinated waves, to prepare to set sail again.

Two more US troops recover in South Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — What's the first thing you do after recovering from the coronavirus?

Pfc. Victoria Tolley, stationed at Camp Humphreys, said she had a victory drink at a restaurant on base after she was released Thursday from nearly two months in isolation.

"I went to the bar at Texas Roadhouse, and I enjoyed a Corona in celebration of defeating it," she said Saturday in a telephone interview.

Tolley, who tested positive on March 26, was one of two U.S. Forces Korea service members declared free of the virus last week by military medical doctors.

The other was a sailor who had tested positive on May 8 after arriving from Japan on a U.S. government-chartered flight known as the Patriot Express, according to USFK.

The sailor will remain on Camp Humphreys to complete in-processing before moving on to his new assignment in the southern city of Busan, the command said Saturday in a statement.

The patients were cleared after showing no symptoms for more than seven days, being fever-free without medication and receiving negative results from two consecutive coronavirus tests at least 24 hours apart, USFK said.

USFK doesn't usually identify patients due to privacy concerns, but Tolley agreed to be interviewed by Stars and Stripes. The 23-year-old Sitka, Alaska, native plans to return to work at the computer help desk at Eighth Army headquarters Tuesday.

"I'm extremely grateful to be healed and to be out back into the world," she said.

Surge of new South Korea arrivals set for quarantine

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — With the coronavirus pandemic still going strong, the U.S. military is gearing up to quarantine a surge of troops and other personnel expected to arrive for new assignments this summer.

The Pentagon has banned most military moves through at least June 30 to curtail the spread of the virus, although high-priority troops and other personnel have been allowed to travel under an exception to policy.

So far, the need for quarantine space has been limited to those arrivals, people who may have had contact with infected patients and anybody showing

symptoms and waiting for test results.

However, U.S. Forces Korea is preparing for a summertime influx to the peninsula after the ban is lifted, opening the floodgates for regularly scheduled arrivals and a backlog of people who have been in a holding pattern.

Officials have had a lot of practice since South Korea for weeks suffered the largest outbreak outside of China before the virus spread globally.

All travelers to South Korea, including those affiliated with USFK, must be tested and quarantined for 14 days upon arrival.

The Army quarantine system has evolved since the end of January when a few dozen troops who had been to main-

land China holed up in a barracks with heating problems to the current iteration equipped with Wi-Fi.

"It's a team-based effort," said Lt. Col. Martyn Crighton, a spokesman for the 2nd Infantry Division. "At the beginning of this we had bumps and lumps and bruises, but it took us a few weeks and everything was sorted out and it was pretty streamlined."

The Army has the capacity to quarantine 900 people at a time on Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. military base south of Seoul; Camp Casey to the north of the capital; and Army Garrison Daegu in the south, officials said.

The Air Force also runs quarantine facilities at Osan Air Base.

Some senators seek Trump's take on his national emergency powers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The day he declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency, President Donald Trump made a cryptic off-hand remark.

"I have the right to do a lot of things that people don't even know about," he said at the White House.

Trump wasn't just crowing. Dozens of statutory authorities become available to any president when national emergencies are declared. They are rarely used, but Trump last month stunned legal experts and others when he claimed — mistakenly — that he has "total" authority over governors in easing COVID-19 guidelines.

That prompted 10 senators to look into how sweeping Trump believes his emergency powers are.

They have asked to see this administration's Presidential Emergency Action Documents, or PEADs. The little-known, classified documents are essentially planning papers.

The documents don't give a president authority

beyond what's in the Constitution. But they outline what powers a president believes the Constitution gives him to deal with national emergencies. The senators think the documents would provide them a window into how this White House interprets presidential emergency powers.

"Somebody needs to look at these things," Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said in a telephone interview. "This is a case where the president can declare an emergency and then say, 'Because there's an emergency, I can do this, this and this.'"

King, seven Democrats and one Republican sent a letter late last month to acting national intelligence director Richard Grenell asking to be briefed on any existing PEADs. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., wrote a similar letter to Attorney General William Barr and White House counsel Pat Cipollone.

"The concern is that there could be actions taken that would violate individual rights under the Constitution," such as limiting due process, unreasonable search and seizure and holding individuals without cause, King said.

Military mystery plane blasts off again

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The U.S. military's mystery space plane rocketed into orbit again Sunday, this time with an extra load of science experiments.

It's the sixth flight of an X-37B, a solar-powered plane that's flown by remote control without a crew. Officials aren't saying how long the spacecraft will remain in orbit this time or the purpose of the mission.

The previous mission lasted a

record two years, with a touchdown shrouded in darkness at NASA's Kennedy Space Center last year.

The winged spacecraft resembles NASA's old shuttles, but is considerably smaller at 29 feet long. The one just launched features an extra compartment for experiments, including several for NASA. The Air Force has two of these reusable space planes.

Since the first flight in 2010, the space planes had logged a

combined 2,865 days in orbit as of Sunday. That's approximately seven years and 10 months.

Delayed a day by bad weather, this marks just the second rocket launch for the newly established Space Force. In March, it hoisted a national security satellite.

United Launch Alliance, which provided the Atlas V rocket, dedicated Sunday's launch to the health care workers and others who are working on the front lines of the corona-

virus pandemic.

The company said that it followed health advice for the launch. Many of the flight controllers wore masks and were spread out.

The Cape Canaveral Air Force Station has an exceptionally fast turnaround for its next launch.

Before dawn Monday, SpaceX attempted to launch another batch of its Starlink satellites for global internet service.

Skin doctors see more cases of 'COVID toes'

Associated Press

Skin doctors are suddenly looking at a lot of toes — whether by emailed picture or video visit — as concern grows that for some people, a sign of COVID-19 may pop up in an unusual spot.

Boston dermatologist Esther Freeman expected to see skin complaints as the pandemic unfolded — various kinds of rashes occur when people get very ill from other viruses.

"But I was not anticipating those would be toes," said Freeman of Massachusetts General Hospital, who has viewed via telemedicine more toes in the last several weeks than in her

entire career.

They're being called "COVID toes," red, sore and sometimes itchy swellings on toes that look like chilblains, something doctors normally see on the feet and hands of people who've spent a long time outdoors in the cold.

Don't race to the emergency room if toes are the only worry, however, said the American Academy of Dermatology.

Earlier this month, it issued advice that a telemedicine check is the first step for people wondering if they have "COVID toes" and who have no other reason for urgent care. Doctors should then decide if the patient should stay in home

isolation or get tested.

The most common coronavirus symptoms are fever, a dry cough and shortness of breath — and some people are contagious despite never experiencing symptoms. But as this bewildering virus continues to spread, less common symptoms are being reported, including loss of smell, vomiting and diarrhea, and increasingly, a variety of skin problems.

In one report, dermatologists evaluated 88 COVID-19 patients in an Italian hospital and found that 1 in 5 had some sort of skin symptom, mostly red rashes over the trunk. In another, Spanish doctors reported a series of 375 confirmed

virus patients with a range of skin complaints, from hives to chickenpox-like lesions to the toe swellings.

Pictures of reddened toes and rashes all over social media and doctor chat groups have "already enabled the rapid recognition of skin signs by dermatologists. It is now time for rigorous science" to understand the link, Dr. Kanade Shinkai of the University of California, San Francisco wrote in a recent JAMA Dermatology editorial.

"The public health message is not to panic," Freeman said, noting that most toe patients she's seen haven't become severely ill.

Relief, worry mark reopening of Bavarian brewery

Associated Press

ALTOETTING, Germany — The Graminger Weissbraeu brewery, which has been in the same family for a century, is finally preparing to welcome guests back into its restaurant for the first time in two months — with new rules and fears for the future.

Bavaria, one of the last German states to start reopening the hospitality sector as the country gradually eases its coronavirus restrictions, is let-

ting restaurants serve guests outside starting Monday and inside a week later.

Birgit Detter is one of three sisters who run the business just outside of Altoetting, a popular tourist and Catholic pilgrimage site east of Munich, together with their parents as well.

During the coronavirus lockdown, the Weisses Braeuhaus restaurant started offering takeout food and the brewery was able to sell some beer to shops, but "overall it's nowhere

near enough," Detter said. The brewery produces 52,800 gallons of beer per year, but is suffering from the restaurant closure and the cancellation of a local festival in June.

It's a relief to reopen the beer garden and then the restaurant for guests, but the new social distancing conditions are "very difficult," she said.

"I am afraid that in the long term it won't work, because the revenue just isn't there — I think the guests will come, but significantly fewer than be-

fore," she said.

Among the conditions imposed by state authorities, tables have to be 5 feet apart — reducing the number of guests — and servers have to wear face masks, a difficult requirement for hours on end in warm weather.

"The danger will be that we have significantly less revenue but need more employees to fulfil all the conditions, and of course it would be difficult then to keep it up for long," Detter said.

Fighter pilot nominated to lead PAC

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The deputy commander of U.S. forces in South Korea and a seasoned fighter-jet pilot has been tapped to lead Pacific Air Forces and its roughly 46,000 airmen.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach has been nominated by President Donald Trump for a fourth star and leadership of Pacific Air Forces, which is headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, the Air Force said in a statement Thursday.

The nomination requires confirmation by the Senate.

If confirmed, Wilsbach would oversee a vast geographical area with airmen stationed primarily in Japan, South Korea, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

He would take command at a time when U.S. strategy is shifting away from a focus on counterinsurgency and toward “great power” competition, primarily with China.

Wilsbach has been commander of 7th Air Force and deputy commander of U.S. Forces Korea since August 2018.

Prior to that, he headed Alaskan Command and the 11th Air Force.

Wilsbach is a highly experienced aviator who has logged more than 5,000 hours of flying time in a host of aircraft, primarily F-15C, F-22A, and F-16C fighter jets and the MC-12 twin-engine turboprop, the Air Force said.

He has flown 71 combat missions in operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch, which enforced no-fly zones in Iraq during Saddam Hussein’s regime, and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

He has commanded a fighter squadron, an operations group and two wings and has held staff assignments in Japan, Hawaii and Florida. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

Power-sharing deal between Afghan political rivals signed

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani signed a power-sharing deal Sunday with his chief rival Abdullah Abdullah following months of disagreement over who won September’s presidential election.

The ongoing feud is seen as one of several reasons for the delay in the country’s peace process and some experts worried it risked sparking an all-out civil war.

Ghani will remain president under the agreement, the text of which was released by state media, while Abdullah will head the government’s National Reconciliation Council and lead peace talks with the Taliban.

The start of those talks is a key condition for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan by mid-2021, as outlined in February’s U.S.-Taliban deal. Several other factors have delayed the talks,

originally slated to begin March 10.

News of Sunday’s agreement, which also says Ghani and Abdullah will be allowed to appoint an equal number of cabinet members, was welcomed by the U.S. officials, including special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

“The U.S. is prepared to partner with the new govt in a peace process that ends the war,” Khalilzad wrote on Twitter.

On Friday, Khalilzad said a new start date for the intra-Afghan negotiations was being discussed, despite lingering disagreements over a prisoner release and mounting violence across the country.

In March, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Washington was withholding \$1 billion in aid to Afghanistan this year and potentially another \$1 billion next year if Ghani and Abdullah could not work out their problems. That had followed a visit by Pompeo to Kabul during which he was unable to broker a deal between

the two men.

Afghanistan’s election commission in February declared Ghani the winner of the presidential poll, nearly five months after it was held. However, Abdullah rejected the results — citing fraud and other irregularities — held his own inauguration ceremony the same day as Ghani’s and vowed to form a parallel government.

The deepening political crisis led to concerns that the government would be divided and weak going into negotiations with the Taliban over the country’s future.

Abdullah also contested the results of the 2009 and 2014 elections. After the 2014 vote, then-U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry helped broker a deal that created the position of chief executive for Abdullah and named Ghani president. The discord highlights the difficulty of the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan to foster a stable democracy in the country despite nearly two decades of reconstruction efforts.

US soldier, civilian suspected in armed robbery

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Two people who live and work at Kadena Air Base are suspected of making off with nearly \$65,000 in the armed robbery of a currency exchange shop on Okinawa.

The business, which isn’t far from Camp Foster’s front gate, was robbed by two mask-wearing perpetrators at approximately 4 p.m. Tuesday, according to an Okinawa Police spokesman who spoke on a customary condition of anonymity.

One or both of the suspects went behind the shop’s counter while brandishing a knife-like object, threatened an employee and demanded money, the spokesman said. They ran out with \$64,700 in Japanese and U.S. currency. No one was injured.

Kadena’s 18th Wing said in a statement Friday

evening that “a civilian and an Army soldier” are being looked at in the “ongoing investigation, which is being led by Okinawa Police Station.”

On Friday afternoon, local media photographed a uniformed U.S. soldier being escorted into the police station by U.S. military police.

Okinawa Police later said no arrests had been made in the case but declined to comment further.

“The U.S. military on Okinawa works closely with local police on a daily basis and will continue to cooperate in this matter,” the 18th Wing statement said. “We take these matters very seriously and will ensure members are held accountable if they are found to be involved in criminal activities.”

Those convicted of robbery with threat or assault face between five years and 20 years imprisonment under Japanese criminal law, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

LA explosion injures 11 firefighters

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An explosion Saturday at a hash oil manufacturer in downtown Los Angeles injured 11 firefighters who had gone inside and on the roof to try to knock down a fire and then had to run for their lives when a ball of flames shot out the building and scorched a fire truck across the street.

Los Angeles Fire Department Capt. Erik Scott said “one significant explosion” shook the neighborhood around 6:30 p.m. Firefighters inside had to run through a wall of flames he estimated as 30 feet high and wide, and those on the roof scrambled down a ladder engulfed in fire.

Scott said people at the scene described the explosion as sounding like a freight train or jet engine. Some of the fleeing firefighters were on fire and tore off their protective equipment and left it on the sidewalk, along with melted helmets, Scott said.

“That was one of the worst scenes I’ve seen,” he said.

All 11 firefighters suffered burns ranging from minor to serious. Three were listed in critical condition, and two of them were on ventilators. All were expected to survive.

“The good news is everybody’s going to make it,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news

conference outside the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center where all the injured were treated.

Firefighters were called to 327 East Boyd St. in the city’s Toy District for a report of a fire at a one-story commercial building. There was light to moderate smoke when firefighters entered the building and went on the roof, normal procedures to try to quickly knock down any flames.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said one of the firefighters inside the building thought things didn’t seem right — the pressure from the

smoke and heat coming from the rear of the building was increasing. He directed everyone to get out, and as they quickly started exiting the building as it was rocked by the explosion.

Firefighters on the roof scrambled down ladders with their protective coats on fire. The wall of flames shot out the building and burned seats inside a fire truck across the street.

The injured firefighters were rushed to the hospital. Those who remained at the scene, unaware of the seriousness of their colleagues’ injuries, were traumatized by what had transpired, Terrazas said.

Netanyahu swears in new government

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — After three deadlocked and divisive elections, a year and a half of political paralysis and another three-day delay because of political infighting in his Likud party, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finally swore in his new government Sunday.

The Knesset, Israel’s parliament, passed a vote of confidence in Netanyahu’s new administration to end over 500 days of upheaval.

Over the weekend, both Netanyahu and his rival-turned-partner Benny Gantz announced their appointments for the new government — the most bloated in Israeli history with an expected 36 Cabinet ministers and 16 deputies.

Netanyahu and Gantz, a former military chief, announced last month they would be putting their differences aside to join forces to steer the country through the coronavirus crisis and its severe economic fallout.

Their controversial power-sharing deal calls for Netanyahu to serve as prime minister for the government’s first 18 months before being replaced by Gantz for the next 18 months. Their blocs will also have a similar number of ministers and mutual veto power over most major decisions.

Critics have already accused the government of being out of touch by creating so many Cabinet posts at a time when unemployment has soared to 25% as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. But because Netanyahu’s bloc includes several smaller parties, he still only has a limited number

of Cabinet ministries to hand out to the Likud rank and file.

In his speech to parliament, Netanyahu acknowledged that compromises had to be made but that another election would have been far more devastating.

“The public wants a unity government and this is what the public is getting today,” he said. “We chose to serve the country together.”

The post, initially held by Gantz, could allow Netanyahu to remain in office even after the swap and throughout his corruption trial and a potential appeals process. There are also deep suspicions about whether Netanyahu will keep his part of the bargain and ultimately cede the premiership to Gantz.

First named tropical storm forms off coast of Florida

Associated Press

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Arthur formed off the coast of Florida on Saturday, making it the sixth straight year for a named storm to develop before the official June 1 start of the Atlantic hurricane season.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami issued a tropical storm warning for North Carolina’s Outer Banks in its 5 a.m. Sunday advisory. At that time, the storm’s center was located about 380 miles south-

southwest of Cape Hatteras, N.C. Arthur had top sustained winds of 40 mph and was moving to the north-northeast at 9 mph, slowing slightly from 13 mph.

Forecasts say Arthur will stay well offshore of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina on Sunday and then approach the North Carolina coast on Monday, where it will drop 1-3 inches of rain Sunday night and Monday.

The tropical storm warning was issued for parts of North Carolina’s coast, from Surf City to Duck, including Pamlico and

Albemarle Sounds.

Dangerous coastal surf conditions and rip currents are expected to spread northward from Florida to the mid-Atlantic states during the next few days.

While there may be a component of warming waters and climate change in other pre-June storms, Arthur is more of a subtropical storm system than a traditional named storm and its water is cooler than what’s usually needed for storm formation, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police use helicopter to rescue man bit by snake

AZ PHOENIX — Authorities used a Phoenix Police Department helicopter to rescue a man bitten by a rattlesnake while hiking on South Mountain in the city's mountain preserve.

Fire Capt. Rob McDade said the helicopter was used because the man was near the top of the mountain and because it was imperative to get him to a hospital for treatment as soon as possible.

The man called 911 after being bitten and reported he felt dizzy and light-headed, said McDade, who is also a Fire Department spokesman.

McDade said the Phoenix area is now in a time of year when rattlesnakes are very active and that hikers and others should use caution while on trails and other park areas.

Mannequins aid social distancing at restaurant

VA WASHINGTON — One of the country's most renowned restaurants said mannequins will add a touch of whimsy and help with social distancing when customers return to its dining room this month.

Mannequins dressed in 1940's-style attire were theatrically staged at The Inn at Little Washington, about 90 minutes west of Washington, D.C.

For now, restaurants in Virginia can only serve dine-in customers in an outdoor space. The three-Michelin-star restaurant has opted to wait until May 29 to resume dining service indoors.

"When we needed to solve the problem of social distancing and reducing our restaurant's occupancy by half, the

solution seemed obvious — fill it with interestingly dressed dummies," chef and proprietor Patrick O'Connell said. "This would allow plenty of space between real guests and elicit a few smiles and provide some fun photo ops."

Man attacks neighbor with trimmer over grass

IN EVANSVILLE — A southwestern Indiana man allegedly attacked a neighbor with a weed eater, leaving him with cuts on his back, as the two men feuded over grass clippings left along a roadway, police said.

Vanderburgh County Sheriff's deputies, who were called to the scene in Evansville, arrested Gail Kammerer III, 48, on a preliminary charge of battery with a deadly weapon.

Police said Kammerer was using his weed eater to trim along a ditch when a neighbor complained that he was blowing those grass clippings into the street.

Deputies said Kammerer told them he attacked his 57-year-old neighbor with the weed eater after the man intentionally blew clippings onto him with his own riding lawn mower. The neighbor, who was cited for provocation, sustained several lacerations to his back but refused medical treatment.

Senior picks Columbia over 8 Ivy League schools

MA SPRINGFIELD — A Massachusetts high school senior who was accepted to all eight Ivy League colleges has decided to attend Columbia University in New York City.

Roberta Hannah of Springfield told WWLP-TV that she plans to major in biochemistry and African American studies.

Hannah chose Columbia be-

cause she was so impressed by the professors in the topics she plans to study. She said she also enjoyed the "vibe" of the campus, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Hannah is a senior at Springfield High School of Science and Technology.

Police chief charged with domestic battery

WV RICHWOOD — A West Virginia police chief was charged with domestic battery and suspended from his job, officials said.

A criminal complaint said Richwood Police Chief Charles Burkhamer Jr. grabbed and scratched his wife's arm while trying to remove her from a home. He was charged with a misdemeanor, arraigned and released on a \$2,500 bond the same day, according to court documents.

Richwood Mayor Chris Drennen said Burkhamer was suspended immediately after he was arrested.

Thief drops phone, ID while stealing ATM bag

MO ST. LOUIS — A Missouri man accused of snatching an ATM bag full of cash dropped his cellphone and a wallet containing his identification while fleeing the scene, authorities said.

Courtney McNeal, 38, of St. Louis was being held without bail after being charged with stealing more than \$25,000, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Prosecutors allege McNeal grabbed a satchel containing \$64,100 from two guards who were filling an ATM on April 10. As one of the guards was distracted, McNeal allegedly grabbed the bag as it sat next to the ATM inside The Crown

Food Mart, according to charging documents.

A store employee chased him into an alley where they struggled over the bag. McNeal tossed fistfuls of cash into a car waiting for him and left with \$15,980.

Fire at mosque found to be accidental

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Officials say the cause of a fire at a mosque in Minneapolis is accidental in nature.

Investigators found the cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction, police spokesman John Elder said. A neighbor saw the fire at Tawfiq Islamic Center and called for help. Firefighters kept the fire contained to the entryway with minor damage.

Landlord arrested for assaulting tenants

RI WARWICK — A Rhode Island landlord was arrested for assault and disorderly conduct after his tenants accused him of attacking them over past due rent.

The tenants captured the landlord, Frank Marr, on video yelling about evicting them despite Gov. Gina Raimondo's executive order temporarily barring evictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic, WPRI-TV reported.

Tenant Larry Adekeye said Marr entered the home, broke dishes, spat on him and threatened him.

Marr said the video does not capture the whole story and that Adekeye pushed him over and dislocated his shoulder.

From wire reports

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MLB proposes big changes for return

Associated Press

Major League Baseball will look somewhat like high school ball this year under protocols to deal with the new coronavirus, with showers at ballparks discouraged and players possibly arriving in uniform, like they did when they were teenagers.

Team personnel will be banned from eating at restaurants on road trips.

Even the Phillie Phanatic and Mr. Met will be missing, banned from the field along with all other team mascots.

The traditional exchange of lineup cards would be eliminated, along with high-fives, fist bumps, and bat boys and girls, according to a 67-page draft of Major League Baseball's proposed 2020 Operations Manual. A copy was sent to teams Friday and obtained by The Associated Press. The guidelines, first reported by The Athletic, are subject to negotiation with

the players' association.

Teams will be allowed to have 50 players each under the plan, with the number active for each game still to be negotiated.

Spitting is prohibited along with water jugs and the use of saunas, steam rooms, pools and cryotherapy chambers. Hitting in indoor cages is discouraged, batting gloves encouraged.

Batting practice pitchers are to wear masks, dugout telephones disinfected after each use. Players may not touch their face to give signs, and they're not allowed to lick their fingers. Teams are encouraged to hold meetings outdoors, players spread apart.

Teams were asked to respond with their suggested input by May 22. The protocols were written by MLB senior vice presidents Patrick Houlihan, Bryan Seeley and Chris Young, and vice president Jon Coyle. Young is a former pitcher who retired after the 2017 season.

Protocols include details on testing for team staff, who are divided into three tiers. All others may not enter clubhouses, dugouts and the field.

Seats in the empty stands near the dugout should be used to maintain distance, according to diagrams in the manual, and the next day's starting pitcher can't sit in the dugout. Everyone must keep their distance during "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America,"

Fielders are "encouraged to retreat several steps away from the baserunner" between pitches. First and third base coaches are not to approach baserunners or umpires, and players should not socialize with opponents.

Managers and coaches must wear masks while in the dugouts. The entire traveling party — including players — must wear personal protective equipment while on buses and flights.

Restaurants are off limits on the road, including the ones

in hotels, as are hotel fitness centers.

"We emphasize that this is a first draft, and will undergo several rounds of changes as we collect comments and suggestions from the clubs, the players' association, players, and government officials," deputy commissioner Dan Halem wrote in an email to owners, team presidents and CEOs, and general managers that accompanied the protocols.

Scoreboard video is prohibited but music allowed. While there won't be fans, at least not at the start, it will provide a familiar background audio for the telecasts critical to MLB's bottom line.

A ball will be thrown away after it is touched by multiple players, and throwing the ball around the infield will be discouraged. Personnel who rub baseballs with mud for the umpires must use gloves.

MLB says \$640K per game loss with no fans

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball told players their prorated salaries would contribute to an average loss of \$640,000 for each game over an 82-game season in empty ballparks, according to a presentation from the commissioner's office to the union that was obtained by Associated Press.

Painting a picture of a \$10 billion industry shuttered by the contagion, the 12-page document titled "Economics of Playing Without Fans in Attendance" and dated May 12 was an initial step in negotiations aimed at starting the delayed season around the Fourth of July.

Teams say the proposed method of salvaging a season delayed by the coronavirus pandemic would still cause a \$4 billion loss and would give major league players 89% of revenue.

They contend they lose more money with each additional game played. The players' union, however, believes clubs would lose less money with more games. In addition, many teams and/or their owners have stakes in their regional sports network that would benefit from additional games.

Owners voted Monday to propose salaries be based on a 50-50 split of revenue, a

framework players say is tantamount to the kind of salary cap they will never accept. Teams gave the players' association their virus-testing plan Friday and have waited to make their economic proposal.

The New York Yankees alone would have \$312 million in local losses when calculating their earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. New York's figure includes about \$100 million toward the bonds that financed new Yankee Stadium, money that already has been paid for 2020.

The Los Angeles Dodgers were at \$232 million in local losses, followed by the New York Mets at \$214 million.

Detroit would have the lowest negative EBIDTA — an accounting measure used to assess profitability — at \$84 million, with Baltimore at \$90 million, and Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay at \$91 million each. Figures exclude distributions from the central office, which projects to collect \$1.34 billion in media revenue.

The figures were calculated by MLB and its clubs, and the frequently skeptical union already has requested a slew of documents from MLB.

MLB said 2019 revenue was 39% local gate and other in-park sources, followed by

25% central revenue, 22% local media, 11% sponsorship and 4% other.

Teams fear a second wave of the coronavirus would devastate finances if renewed government restrictions cause cancellation of the postseason, which brings in \$787 million in media money.

MLB and the union agreed to a March 26 deal in which players would get a prorated share of their salaries during a shortened season. As part of the agreement, \$170 million in salaries are being advanced through May 24. If the season is scrapped, players are guaranteed service time equal to what they accrued in 2019, a key to gaining eligibility for salary arbitration and free agency.

Now that plans have been formulated to possibly start the season in early July in disinfected stadiums with no gate revenue, at least at the start, MLB says the current economics are not feasible. Players have said they already made a deal and see no need for change.

But that deal is contingent on playing in front of fans at regular-season ballparks. The agreement committed both sides to "discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate neutral sites."

Harris stopped in emotional return

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Walt Harris pointed to the sky and proudly showed off a “Fighting for Aniah” T-shirt as he entered the arena. He left a few minutes later with tears in his eyes, hardly the result he wanted in his first UFC fight since the death of his stepdaughter.

Alistair Overeem stopped Harris in the second round of UFC’s Fight Night main event Saturday, ending what was an emotional return for the heavy-weight fighter known as The Big Ticket.

Harris was a slight favorite and the sentimental choice as he stepped into the octagon for the first time since his 19-year-old daughter, Aniah Blanchard, was killed in Alabama.

Harris (13-8) looked as though he would notch his 14th career knockout when he dropped Overeem in the opening round. But the veteran regrouped on the eve of his 40th birthday and dominated the rest of the way. Overeem (46-18) sent Harris to the mat for the final time with an unblocked combination early in the second.

Harris never recovered, and the referee called it after a bevy of unanswered shots to the head. Overeem shared a moment with Harris on the

mat.

Harris thanked the UFC, his team and his community while fighting back tears.

“I’m sorry I didn’t get the W for you tonight,” Harris said. “You’ve been like my family through everything, and I’m so grateful. ... Y’all at home watching, I’m sorry. I’ll be back better, I promise you. You haven’t seen the last of The Big Ticket. I’m going to go home, recover. I’m going to heal emotionally and physically, and I promise you I’ll be better.”

Overeem said he offered to train with Harris down the road, hoping it could make both of them better in a stacked division.

“Of course, Walt has been through personal tragedy, which is awful,” Overeem said. “But I see it as a sport. It’s a game, right? It’s a way of making a living. ... I just see it as professional, nothing personal.”

Harris’ wife encouraged him to return to the octagon after more than six months of grieving.

Blanchard, a student at Alabama, was last seen on October 23 in Auburn, Ala. Her SUV was found abandoned days later in Montgomery. Police said her blood was found in the car. Her remains were discovered in a wooded area in late November.

Ibraheem Yazeed, 29, was

charged with capital murder. The medical examiner determined Blanchard died from a gunshot wound. Prosecutors have indicated they will seek the death penalty if Yazeed is convicted.

The UFC will take the next two weeks off before fighting May 30. It hopes to return to Las Vegas, but needs clearance from the Nevada Athletic Commission. If not, White said it will be in Arizona.

Other fights on the main card:

■ Claudia Gadelha (18-4) held off Angela Hill (12-8) in the strawweight division and won a split decision. Hill controlled the pace, making it more of a sparring bout than a grappling game, but Gadelha got the nod on two of the three scorecards.

■ Dan Ige (14-2) edged Edson Barboza (20-9) in another split decision. Ige’s sixth straight victory came in the featherweight division. Barboza cut 10 pounds to move down a weight class.

■ Krzysztof Jotko (22-4) beat former Alabama line-backer Eryk Anders (13-5) in a middleweight bout. Jotko did a breakdance in the middle of the octagon after his third consecutive victory.

■ Song Yadong withstood Marlon Vera’s last push in the

opening fight of the main card and won a unanimous decision in the featherweight division. Vera (17-6-1) refused to shake hands with Song (5-0-1) after the result.

On the undercard:

■ Miquel Baeza (9-0) notched his seventh knockout in nine fights to remain unbeaten in the welterweight division. He took down 39-year-old Matt Brown (22-17) early in the second round.

■ Kevin Holland (17-5) secured a 39-second knockout against Anthony Hernandez (7-2) in the middleweight division.

■ Giga Chikadze made the most of his size advantage to beat Irwin Rivera in a unanimous flyweight decision.

■ Nate Landwehr bloodied Darren Elkins in the opening round and dominated the rest of the way, winning a bloody unanimous flyweight decision.

■ Courtney Casey finished Mara Borrello with an armbar in the first round, Casey’s first submission since 2016 and her first fight in 15 months.

■ Rodrigo Nascimento (8-0) won his UFC debut and remained undefeated in his MMA career with his sixth submission, this one against fellow heavyweight Don’Tale Mayes.

Tokyo Olympic CEO: Games may be different

Associated Press

TOKYO — Almost two months after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed, organizing committee CEO Toshio Muto said Friday he still could not give an estimate of how much the one-year delay will cost.

Figures in the Japanese media have ranged between \$2 billion and \$6 billion, with most mounting expenses likely to be covered by government entities.

Although he was vague about the costs and who will pay, Muto was very clear about one thing in the online news conference.

“The actual games we will have one year from now may not be the same conventional Olympic and Paralympic Games that

we have come to know,” he said, speaking in Japanese and translated through in interpreter.

Muto floated ideas about cuts everywhere, though the only specific target he mentioned was the torch relay.

“We are looking into every possible area,” he said. “It’s time for all of us to review what are the essential things for the games. What are the must-have items? ... I think we might come up with a new Olympic and Paralympic Games, something that is unique to Tokyo.”

Tokyo’s future still has more questions than answers.

Muto spoke a day after the Switzerland-

based International Olympic Committee acknowledged it would have added costs of \$800 million because of the postponement. The IOC said \$150 million would be made available for loans to national Olympic committees and sports federations, some of which have few sources of revenue outside the games.

But the IOC gave no details of where the other \$650 million would go.

“As to the breakdown of how this money will be used, the IOC has said it’s too early to tell,” Muto said. “So we at the organizing committee have no idea of all the details about how this money will be spent.”