

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Minneapolis protesters torch precinct

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Thick smoke hovered over Minneapolis on Friday morning, hours after cheering protesters torched a police station that officers abandoned as a third night of violent protests flared over the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck.

Friday afternoon, state investigators arrested Derek Chauvin, who was one of four officers fired after the fatal encounter, Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington said. He did not provide details.

Late Thursday, police evacuated the 3rd Precinct station, the focus of many of the protests, to protect employees, a spokesman said. Livestream video showed protesters entering the building, where intentionally set fires activated smoke alarms and sprinklers. President Donald Trump threatened action, prompting a warning from Twitter for “glorifying violence.”

Dozens of fires were also set in nearby St. Paul, where nearly 200 businesses were damaged or looted. Protests spread

across the U.S., fueled by outrage over Floyd’s death, and years of violence against African Americans at the hands of police. Demonstrators clashed with officers in New York and blocked traffic in Columbus, Ohio, and Denver.

A visibly tired and frustrated Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey made his first public appearance of the night early Friday at City Hall and took responsibility for evacuating the precinct, saying it had become too dangerous for officers.

He defended the city’s lack of engagement with looters — only a handful of arrests across the first two nights of violence — and said, “We are doing absolutely everything that we can to keep the peace.” He said National Guard members were stationed in locations to help stem looting, including at banks, grocery stores and pharmacies.

Gov. Tim Walz activated the National Guard at the Minneapolis mayor’s request. The Guard tweeted minutes after the precinct burned that it had activated more than 500 soldiers across the metro area. A couple dozen Guard members, armed with assault-style rifles,

blocked a street Friday morning near a Target store that has sustained heavy damage by looters.

The Guard said a “key objective” was to make sure firefighters could respond to calls, and said in a follow-up tweet that soldiers would assist the Minneapolis Fire Department. But no move was made to put out the 3rd Precinct fire. Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Tyner said fire crews could not safely respond to blazes at the precinct station and some surrounding buildings.

Earlier Thursday, dozens of businesses across the Twin Cities boarded up their windows and doors in an effort to prevent looting, with Minneapolis-based Target announcing it was temporarily closing two dozen area stores. Minneapolis shut down nearly its entire light-rail system and all bus service through Sunday out of safety concerns.

Elsewhere in Minneapolis, thousands of peaceful demonstrators marched through the streets calling for justice. Local leaders repeatedly urged demonstrators to avoid violence.

“Please stay home. Please do not come here to protest. Please

keep the focus on George Floyd, on advancing our movement and on preventing this from ever happening again,” tweeted St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, who is black.

After calling in the Guard on Thursday, Walz urged widespread changes in the wake of Floyd’s death.

“It is time to rebuild. Rebuild the city, rebuild our justice system and rebuild the relationship between law enforcement and those they’re charged to protect,” Walz said.

The city on Thursday also released a transcript of the 911 call that brought police to the grocery store where Floyd was arrested. The caller described someone paying with a counterfeit bill, with workers rushing outside to find the man sitting on a van. The caller described the man as “awfully drunk” and said he was “not in control of himself.”

Asked by the 911 operator whether the man was “under the influence of something,” the caller said: “Something like that, yes. He is not acting right.” Police said Floyd matched the caller’s description of the suspect.

Braithwaite sworn in as 77th Navy secretary

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy has a new secretary to lead the service, amid a pandemic and an upcoming budget fight on Capitol Hill.

Kenneth Braithwaite, a Navy veteran, was sworn in as the 77th Navy Secretary on Friday morning, according to the

Navy. The former ambassador to Norway was confirmed by the Senate last Thursday in a voice vote.

Braithwaite on Friday wrote a message to the fleet, reminding sailors and Marines to be guided by the service’s core values “honor, courage, and commitment” as they operate around the world.

Braithwaite is taking on the

top civilian position at a tough time in the Navy’s history. The coronavirus pandemic has sickened almost 2,400 sailors and killed one sailor assigned to the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Congress is also about to begin working on the Defense Department’s budget for fiscal year 2021, in which the Navy has requested less funding for buying ships and more on oper-

ations, while at the same time trying to increase their fleet to more than 355 warships.

The Navy has also had a great deal of turnover in leadership in the past six months, from the firing of Navy Secretary Richard Spencer to the resignation of the acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly.

Warship challenges restrictions near islands in South China Sea

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin conducted a freedom-of-navigation operation in the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea on Thursday to challenge restrictions set by three nearby countries, according to the Navy.

The Mustin was challenging claims by China, Taiwan, and Vietnam that require military vessels to seek permission or provide advanced notification to travel through the territorial sea under “innocent passage,” Cmdr. Reann Mommsen, a spokeswoman for 7th Fleet, said in a statement.

China claims sovereignty over the Paracel Islands and has occupied them since 1974, according to the CIA World Factbook. However, ownership of the islands is also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam. China has set up military facilities on the islands, such as airfields and outposts, which has raised alarms from the United States about the growing militarization of the region.

The Navy said innocent passage is a right under international law and prior notification is not required.

“By engaging in innocent passage without giving prior notification to or asking permission from any of the claimants, the

United States challenged the unlawful restrictions imposed by China, Taiwan, and Vietnam,” Mommsen said in the statement. “The United States demonstrated that innocent passage may not be subject to such restrictions.”

Ships in the 7th Fleet area of operations regularly conduct freedom-of-navigation and presence operations in the South China Sea. The shipping routes in the region are vital to global commerce and an estimated \$3.4 trillion in trade passed through the South China Sea in 2016, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Space Force launches its recruiting campaign

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

Bad weather postponed the launch this week of U.S. astronauts into space, but a recruiting campaign for the U.S. Space Force continued on schedule Thursday.

The nation’s newest military service released the second video in the month aimed at bolstering its public profile, a 30-second production titled, “Make History.”

“I see giant leaps making a comeback,” a woman’s voice intones over a video of a rocket bursting through clouds and uniformed Space Force personnel doing Space Force tasks.

The Space Force is on the hunt for personnel to fill its ranks as it finds its legs over the next 1½ years, according to the Air Force. It turned first to the airmen of Air Force Space Command, who, while still in the Air Force, were also designated as Space Force personnel.

Next, it invited airmen in space-related career fields to apply for outright transfers to Space Force, according to a Space Force online news release accompanying the recruiting video. That application window closes Sunday.

Space Force is also looking for new recruits, hence the up-tempo video that promises opportunity and high technology with a hint of adventure.

“Our job at the Air Force Recruiting Service is to establish the Space Force brand and identity,” said Leslie Brown, a spokeswoman for the recruiting service, in the news release. “The ad is intended to educate the general public about the Space Force mission and its people. It’s also designed to inspire people to serve in the Space Force.”

Coalition strike kills senior ISIS leader wanted by US with a \$5 million bounty

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A senior Islamic State leader the U.S. had put a \$5 million bounty on was killed this week in a coalition airstrike aided by Syrian partner forces, officials said.

Mutaz Numan Abd Nayif Najm al-Jaburi, believed to be one of the top three leaders of the terrorist group, was killed Tuesday in Syria’s Deir al-Zour province, the Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement.

Before the strike, SDF counterterrorism forces had tracked his movements in Syria and elsewhere, the statement released Thursday said.

Also known as Hajji Taysir, ISIS considered al-Jaburi its governor of Iraq. He was responsible for planning and coordinating external terrorist operations, the Kurdish-led partner forces said.

The elite Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service had announced the killing Tuesday, saying on social media it had provided intelligence to support the operation.

The U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve declined to offer details in response to a query about the strike that killed al-Jaburi.

The State Department in August offered a \$5 million reward for information that would lead to al-Jaburi and two other high-level ISIS lead-

ers, including the man who would become the group’s top leader after founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed two months later.

The Treasury Department also sanctioned the three men as specially designated global terrorists.

With ties to ISIS’s predecessor, al-Qaida in Iraq, al-Jaburi was one of the group’s most important leaders and oversaw bomb-making and insurgent activities, the State Department said.

As of mid-2017, he helped lead ISIS manufacturing operations in Syria, including research into chemical and biological weapons, the U.S. said in a poster announcing the bounty on him, Sami Jasim Muhammad al-Jaburi and Amir Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Mawli al-Salbi, Baghdadi’s eventual successor.

“This reward is an important moment in our fight against ISIS,” the State Department’s Rewards for Justice website said. “As ISIS is defeated on the battlefield, we are determined to identify and find the group’s leaders so that the global coalition of nations fighting to defeat ISIS can continue to destroy ISIS remnants and thwart its global ambitions.”

The Iraqi CTS pledged to pursue ISIS remnants “wherever they are,” according to an online translation of its post announcing Jaburi’s death.

Trump tweets tagged for ‘glorifying violence’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to take action to bring the city of Minneapolis “under control,” calling violent protesters outraged by the death of a black man in police custody “thugs” and saying that “when the looting starts, the shooting starts.”

Trump’s tweet — which was flagged by Twitter as violating rules about “glorifying violence” — came after protesters torched a Minneapolis police station, capping three days of violence over the death of George Floyd, who was captured on video pleading for air

as a white police officer knelt on his neck.

Trump said he’d spoken to the state’s Democratic governor, Tim Walz, and “told him that the Military is with him all the way.”

“Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts,” he wrote in the tweet.

That language was also used by Miami Police Chief Walter Headley in a 1967 speech outlining his department’s efforts to “combat young hoodlums who have taken advantage of the civil rights campaign.”

“We don’t mind being accused of police brutality,” he

said in the same speech, according to news reports from the time.

Trump didn’t clarify what he meant — Walz has already activated the National Guard — but the tweet drew another flag from Twitter, which did not remove the message but added a warning label that prevents it from being shared or liked.

Slapping back, the White House reposted the message on its official Twitter account Friday morning. Twitter quickly flagged that tweet as well, accusing the White House of promoting violence.

“The President did not glorify violence. He clearly con-

demned it,” the White House responded.

It all came a day after Trump signed an executive order challenging the site’s liability protections as he accuses it of stifling conservative voices.

Trump, who has a long history of defending police, has been uncharacteristically vocal in criticism this week, saying earlier Thursday that he felt “very, very badly” about Floyd’s death, and calling video capturing his struggle “a very shocking sight.”

But his language grew more aggressive as violence boiled over in Minneapolis on Thursday night.

7 people wounded at protest over Louisville shooting

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — At least seven people were shot in Louisville as hundreds of protesters converged on City Hall demanding justice for Breonna Taylor, a black woman who was fatally shot in March by police who broke down her door.

Louisville Metro Police said early Friday that at least one person was in critical condition.

“No officers discharged their service weapons,” and all seven shot were civilians, police spokesman Sgt. Lamont Washington wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

“I feel the community’s frustration,

the anger, the fear, but tonight’s violence and destruction is not the way to solve it,” Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said in a video posted to Twitter. He said two of the wounded underwent surgery, and five were in good condition.

Thursday night’s demonstration came as protesters across the country, in cities including Los Angeles, Denver, New York and Memphis, turned out in alliance with demonstrators in Minneapolis, where George Floyd became the latest black man to die in police custody.

It also came hours after the release of a 911 call Taylor’s boyfriend made on March 13, moments after the 26-year-old emer-

gency medical technician was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her front door. No drugs were found in the home.

“I don’t know what is happening,” Kenneth Walker told a dispatcher during the two-minute call. “Somebody kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend.”

Federal and state officials are reviewing the police department’s internal investigation, the police chief announced his retirement and the mayor changed policies on no-knock search warrants. The officers have been placed on leave while the shooting is investigated but have not been disciplined.

US-China tensions increase amid Hong Kong turmoil

The Washington Post

China vowed Friday to take “countermeasures” against the United States if the Trump administration attempts to punish Beijing for tightening its grip on Hong Kong, ratcheting up tensions between the world’s two biggest economies.

Illustrating the potential for this clash to become more than rhetorical, China separately threatened military action to “resolutely smash” any move by Taiwan toward declaring independence. The threat raised the prospect of a regional conflict that could draw in the United States.

Analysts on both sides are increasingly worried about the rapid deterioration in relations, already at their worst in decades.

“China is fed up with being the nice guy. Now any negative comments and actions from the U.S. are bound to trigger diplomatic reactions or other countermeasures in China,” said Xi Junyang, a professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. “The question is how far China is willing to go and what cards we have.”

President Donald Trump is set to make an announcement about China on Friday. He has been considering revoking visas for thousands of Chinese students in the United States and imposing financial sanctions against Chinese officials as punishment for a contentious new security law that would dismantle much of Hong Kong’s autonomy.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian warned Trump against such “wanton restrictions” and threatened retaliation.

“The U.S. should see things clearly and stop interfering in Hong Kong’s affairs. If the U.S. insists on intervening, China will take all necessary countermeasures,” he said.

China’s National People’s Congress on Thursday approved a plan to draft a new law that would essentially criminalize protests and other political behavior that Beijing disdains, effectively ending the “one country, two systems” framework that has allowed Hong Kong to operate relatively independently of the mainland.

Army probes reports of beach ban violations

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army is investigating allegations that some service members recently attended parties on two Oahu beaches in violation of a statewide ban on such gatherings due to the coronavirus.

“The 25th Infantry Division & U.S. Army Hawaii officials are coordinating with local law enforcement and conducting an inquiry into allegations of military members involved in two separate, illegal beach

parties over the Memorial Day weekend,” the division said in a statement Thursday.

The parties took place at Waimea Bay Beach Park in Haleiwa and Mokuleia Beach at Kaena Point State Park, the statement said. Both beaches are on Oahu’s North Shore.

Hawaii News Now reported Tuesday that Honolulu police found about 200 people partying at the Kaena Point Park beach after responding to a complaint at about 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

Unidentified police sources

told the television station that “the majority of people who showed up were members of the military,” the report said. No citations were issued by the police.

A Honolulu Police Department spokesperson told Stars and Stripes on Thursday that the agency is “in contact with the Army regarding the Kaena/Mokuleia gathering” and that it “routinely gathers information from multiple sources, including social media.”

The city and county of Honolulu banned gatherings of

any kind in parks until the end of June in an effort to slow the coronavirus’ spread.

An order by Hawaii Gov. David Ige prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people in public spaces. The order states that “no person shall sit, stand, lie down, lounge, sunbathe or loiter on any beach or sand bar.”

Gen. Paul LaCamera, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, issued a general order on May 7 requiring all soldiers and civilians employed by the Army in Hawaii to follow the governor’s order.

Europe’s social welfare net showing signs of strain

Associated Press

PARIS — Europe’s extensive social welfare net was showing signs of fraying under economic strain from the coronavirus, as protests erupted Friday for a second day in Spain against layoffs by French carmaker Renault, while Italy’s chief central banker warned that “uncertainty is rife.”

Elsewhere, New Zealand has all but eradicated the coronavirus with just one person in the nation of 5 million known to be infected. But developments were grim in other nations,

with India reporting a record increase in cases, and Pakistan and Russia a record number of deaths.

As cases steadily rose across Africa, officials who are losing the global race for equipment and drugs scrambled for home-grown solutions.

In the first major increase since it started gradually reopening on May 11, France reported more than 3,000 new daily virus infections. It was not immediately clear if the spike was due to a greater availability of testing.

Strong safety-net programs

in many European countries have been underwriting the wages of millions of workers and keeping them on the payroll instead of adding them to the ranks of the unemployed. But the limits were starting to show.

In Britain, Treasury chief Rishi Sunak was expected to tell employers that starting in August, they’ll have to share the costs of a program that has effectively placed furloughed workers on the government payroll.

Sunak said the government can’t pay indefinitely for a pro-

gram that has cost \$18.4 billion to cover 80% of wages of some 8.5 million people. It is in place until October, although the final months will require employer input.

Even as it sought a government loan from France, struggling carmaker Renault announced 15,000 job cuts worldwide as part of a 2 billion-euro cost-cutting plan over three years, as demand for cars plunged around the globe.

Renault said nearly 4,600 jobs will be cut in France and more than 10,000 in the rest of the world.

National Guard commander backs deployment extension

BY ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump’s decision to extend the federal deployment of the National Guard to fight the coronavirus was the right thing to do, the general in charge of the National Guard said Thursday.

The missions are ongoing and the crisis created by the pandemic still exists, Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during an event with the Atlantic Council, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

“They are on duty because of this national issue and they are exposed in a hazardous environment,” he said.

Though Trump has not signed an order

to extend authorization through mid-August of a federal status known as Title 32, he posted on Twitter that he intends to do so soon. In mid-May, he set the initial end date as June 24 for the deployment of troops in relief efforts for the coronavirus pandemic.

About 46,000 National Guard members are activated across the United States in response to the pandemic that has resulted in the death of more than 100,000 Americans. The National Guard Bureau said Thursday about 40,400 Guard members deployed are working under Title 32, which keeps them under the control of the state’s governor but pays for them with federal funds. Missions under this status must be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“There is widespread recognition that the requirement to keep the National Guard on duty to fight this virus exists well beyond the 24th of June,” Lengyel said. “It’s good for the states, for the governors and for the people in the states who need the National Guard to continue what they’re doing to fight the virus.”

The extension is also good for service members, Lengyel said, because the status provides federal benefits such as Tricare health insurance, death gratuity and a housing allowance. For troops serving in a federal status for at least 90 days in a fiscal year, service members are also eligible to receive their retirement compensation three months sooner and receive greater support through the post 9/11 GI Bill.

Calif. county stalls reopening amid new cases

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The first California county to backpedal on its reopening plan wasn't one of the urban areas that agitated to reopen or a coastal area where beaches draw crowds but a remote outpost that didn't have a single known coronavirus case until last week.

All it took was a single infection that spread to four other people before Lassen County, home to 30,000 people living in pine-covered mountains and the high desert of Northern California, temporarily rescinded reopening orders. Dining at restaurants, in-store shopping, haircuts and religious services are now barred for at least seven days.

The county on the Nevada border had not reported a coronavirus case until May 22, when a resident who had traveled outside the county and became ill and tested positive, said Barbara Longo, the county health and social services director.

A small team of 11 nurses and other health department employees went to work over the holiday weekend to try to track down everyone who had been in contact with the infected person and get them tested, leading to all the additional cases, including the spouse of the initial patient.

Alabama

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Department of Corrections reported Thursday that two more inmates and several more employees have tested positive for COVID-19.

The prison system said in a news release that a total of 57 staff members, including contract staff, and 11 inmates have so far tested positive for the virus. Twelve of the staff members have returned to work after recovering. Two inmate cases remain active.

The latest two inmates to test positive had been housed for an extended period in the infirmary at Kilby Correctional Facility for treatment of preex-

isting medical conditions. The inmates have been transferred to a hospital.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Youth sports and summer day camps can resume, and schools will reopen in the fall following closures because of the coronavirus outbreak, Gov. Doug Ducey announced Thursday.

Schools chief Kathy Hoffman next week will outline how schools will operate, Ducey said, but it won't be a complete return to normal.

"It will look different. It will feel different. But the idea is that kids will have a more traditional, routine school day where possible and safe," Ducey said.

Superintendents are making plans to reduce class sizes, create disinfectant protocols and be flexible with parents and employees who have health problems that put them at higher risk for severe complications from COVID-19, said Dr. Cara Christ, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Idaho

BOISE — Gov. Brad Little said Thursday that Idaho can move to the third of his four-stage plan to return to regular activity as it seeks to recover from the economic damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican governor said restrictions will be lifted Saturday that will allow bars to reopen and gatherings of up to 50 people as long as precautions are taken. Little also moved up the opening of movie theaters two weeks to Saturday.

Little said the moving to stage 3 and opening movie theaters ahead of schedule is due to the good job people have done in wearing masks and taking other actions to prevent the spread of the virus.

One of the precautions that remains is that businesses if possible should still have employees work remotely. Also, visits to senior living facilities are still prohibited to protect

workers and vulnerable residents. The wearing of face coverings should continue when people go out in public.

Michigan

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Thursday that protecting K-12 funding is her priority as Michigan seeks a federal bailout to avoid steep spending cuts during the pandemic, and her budget director signaled the next state budget won't be complete by a July 1 deadline.

The state is facing a nearly \$6.3 billion revenue hole over this fiscal year and the next. The governor previously said "hard decisions" would need to be made if Congress and President Donald Trump did not act by the end of May. Whitmer now hopes for movement in Washington in the coming weeks.

"We need flexibility and financial support from the federal government to support essential services like health care, education, public safety and transportation during this crisis," she said at a news conference.

New Mexico

SANTA FE — New Mexico will allow restaurants, shopping malls and salons to reopen at limited capacity starting on Monday, as state health regulators relax restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the changes under a new 30-day public health order, speaking Thursday at an online news conference from the Statehouse.

Restaurants can open at 50% of maximum capacity, while a 25% limit will be applied to shopping malls, hair salons, barbershops, tattoo parlors, massage services and nail salons as they return to business for the first time since March. Loitering is prohibited, and food courts will remain closed.

Gyms and hotels also will be allowed to operate at 50% of maximum occupancy. The

reopening comes with other industry-specific restrictions to limit transmission of COVID-19.

New York

NEW YORK — Business owners in New York will be able to deny entry to people not wearing masks or face coverings, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Thursday.

The promised executive order from Cuomo comes as restrictions on shops are beginning to loosen around the state, though not yet in New York City.

"We're giving the store owners the right to say, 'If you're not wearing a mask, you can't come in.'" Cuomo said at his daily briefing. "That store owner has a right to protect themselves. That store owner has a right to protect the other patrons in that store."

The immediate effect of the order is unclear. Many stores already require patrons to wear masks.

Face coverings are already required in New York when people are out in public and near others.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — North Carolina legislators voted on Thursday to essentially overturn Gov. Roy Cooper's order keeping bars closed due to COVID-19, deciding that serving customers outside for an economic punch was worth any additional risk of congregating.

The legislation, approved by the Republican-controlled Senate and House, would allow bars to reopen outdoors only and allow additional seating outdoors for restaurants that the Democratic governor partially reopened for on-premise dining last week.

In between the chambers' votes, Cooper publicly urged legislators to reconsider the measure. He said his decision to keep bars shuttered through at least June 26 was based on case data and health experts, leading him to a more limited reopening schedule.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

53-year-old tortoise adopted by new family

MA BOSTON — A 53-year-old tortoise left homeless when its owner died of COVID-19 has been adopted by a loving new family.

The tortoise, known as Ms. Jennifer, was put up for adoption last week by MSPCA-Angell, a Boston animal welfare organization.

After widespread media coverage of her plight, the organization received more than 3,000 calls and emails from people interested in adopting the tortoise, making her one of the most popular animals the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has ever taken care of.

The new owner wishes to remain anonymous.

Ms. Jennifer weighs four pounds and is about the size of a dinner plate. She loves fruit salad and dandelions, and like many tortoises, could live to be about 100.

Doughnuts lure roaming bear into humane trap

FL FORT MYERS — Glazed or jelly? A black bear roaming around a Florida city proved no match for the doughnuts that lured the animal into a humane trap.

The Fort Myers News-Press reports that the juvenile 250-pound bear spent a good chunk of Tuesday morning meandering around the Gulf Coast city.

In such a congested area, tranquilizing the bear wasn't an option, said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Officer Adam Brown. He said the drugs don't always work immediately on large animals such as bears. So instead, officers turned to doughnuts from Krispy Kreme and some blueberry pie-scented spray in a trap. That did the trick.

Officials studying French Quarter car ban

LA NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans officials are studying plans to ban cars in the city's French Quarter and transform the area into a pedestrian-only zone, the city's mayor said.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell made the announcement Wednesday during a town hall with The Times Picayune / The New Orleans Advocate. Cantrell, who calls her idea "no cars in the quarter," said the coronavirus outbreak has allowed officials to rethink ways public spaces can be used to promote social distancing.

"More parks and rec space grew out of pandemics," she said. "I've told my team, let's turn the map around and be so creative and innovative."

Stolen car recovered with 1-year-old inside

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police were searching for a suspect Thursday after recovering a car that was stolen with a 1-year-old in the back seat.

The child's mother had put her son in a child seat with the vehicle running when she ran back into the house to get an item that she had forgotten. The car was driven off down Cobbs Creek Parkway.

"We believe that since the vehicle's engine was running, someone saw an opportunity to steal the car, didn't realize that there was a 1-year-old child in the back seat," said Chief Inspector Scott Small.

Officers recovered the vehicle about 40 minutes later about three blocks away in a secluded area. The child was still in his car seat.

"We're lucky that 1-year-old child is OK and reunited with the mother, so it's actually a

happy ending," Small said. "The lesson learned here is don't leave your engine running especially if you have your child in the back seat."

Police were investigating the case as a kidnapping because the child was taken.

Police issue warrants in 'paintball battles'

TN CHATTANOOGA — Arrest warrants have been issued for more than 60 people accused of involvement in a string of "paintball battles" taking place across a Tennessee city, according to authorities.

Chattanooga police received more than 70 calls reporting people shooting paintball guns between May 1 and May 18, The Times Free Press quoted police spokesman Sgt. Jeremy Eames as saying.

Eames said Tuesday that the battles appeared to have started as a game among groups of friends, but some suspects since targeted victims that were not involved.

Vehicle crashes into room, traps 9-year-old

KS KANSAS CITY — A 9-year-old Kansas boy was trapped for more than an hour under a vehicle that crashed through his bedroom wall this week, police said.

The crash happened around 2 a.m. Tuesday in Kansas City, Kan., television station WDAF reported. The boy, Jamison Langley, told the station he was awake and watching online videos when he suddenly found himself under the crashed Jeep, unable to move and having trouble breathing.

After about an hour, rescue crews were able to free Jamison, who suffered only cuts and bruises. But almost everything in his room — and even his bike that had been parked outside

the house — was destroyed or damaged in the crash.

Police said the driver of the Jeep — a man in his 40s — was drunk and speeding at the time of the crash.

Canadian expelled after stealing boat

ME STEUBEN — The U.S. Border Patrol and Coast Guard have arrested a Canadian man who stole a commercial fishing boat and motored toward Maine, officials said Tuesday.

U.S. law enforcement officials were alerted that the boat was stolen from Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick and was headed toward the Maine coast. The boat was intercepted by the Coast Guard and the sole occupant, a Canadian citizen, was taken into custody by the Border Patrol.

Under special rules because of the pandemic, the man was immediately expelled to Canada instead of being prosecuted for illegally entering the U.S.

Oh baby! Woman gives birth alone in jail cell

TX DALLAS — A woman in a Texas jail surprised corrections officers this month by giving birth to a child in her cell without their knowledge, officials said.

The woman was alone in a Fort Worth jail cell on May 17 when she delivered the baby, according to Tarrant County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Lt. Jennifer Gabbert.

The woman "did not immediately disclose the birth, but the baby was soon discovered by a corrections officer" and both were taken to a hospital, Gabbert said. She could not immediately provide information about the health of the mother and child.

From wire reports

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Elliott earns overdue Cup series victory

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Chase Elliott's streak of bitter defeats in NASCAR's frantic first push of rescheduled races finally ended with his first Cup victory of the season.

Elliott won Thursday night in the rain-delayed event at Charlotte Motor Speedway to close a brutal 12 days for NASCAR. The event, postponed Wednesday night, was the fourth Cup race since the series resumed racing May 17.

Elliott had two frustrating losses in that span, including defeat Sunday night in the Coca-Cola 600 when a caution flew two laps from the finish with Elliott leading.

"Man, it's been a tough week for sure," Elliott said. "We've had some tough losses but that deal on Sunday night was a heart-breaker."

Elliott's frustration began last week — three Cup races ago — when he was trying to race for the lead at Darlington Raceway and was wrecked by Kyle Busch.

Then he had the 600 checked flag in site until a caution caused by his own teammate. Elliott pitted from the lead, took four tires and couldn't get back to the front in the two-lap overtime sprint.

There was little suspense in this one. Elliott reeled in Kevin Harvick with 27 laps remaining and closed out the victory. Elliott also won the Truck Series race Tuesday night at Charlotte to give him a pair of victories in a four-race stretch at the track a few minutes away from Hendrick Motorsports headquarters.

"It's not the Coke 600, but any win in the Cup series is really hard to get," Elliott said. "I just really appreciate everybody at Hendrick Motorsports across the street here. Everybody's been working really hard."

Elliott was charging hard on Harvick with about 35 laps remaining when he asked if he had enough fuel to make it to the finish. Crew chief Alan Gustafson replied, "Yup. Go hard."

Elliott did just that. But after

passing Harvick, with nothing but clear track in front of him, Elliott couldn't help but feel haunted by Sunday night.

"I was just waiting for the caution to come out," he said. "If the caution didn't come out, I was thinking I was probably going to break something or I was going to crash. After the last last couple weeks, surely it was going to go green until the end."

"Hopefully we're back on the right path."

Denny Hamlin finished second in a Toyota with three crew members sitting at home under suspension for an infraction Sunday night. His crew chief, car chief and engineer earned automatic four-race suspensions when a piece of tungsten fell off Hamlin's car on a pace lap.

Because NASCAR is holding all its events as one-day shows without qualifying or practice, Hamlin said his Joe Gibbs Racing team was able to push through the upheaval.

"The one-day format makes it easier for us," Hamlin said.

"If we had qualifying it would definitely hurt. But under these circumstances that we are in it doesn't hurt that bad."

Ryan Blaney was third in a Ford for Team Penske, followed by Ricky Stenhouse Jr. for JTG-Daugherty Racing, a tremendous boost after a bad resumption of the season. Stenhouse wrecked on the first lap of the first race and finished last, then was 25th and 24th before Thursday.

Elliott's victory was the first for a Chevrolet driver in NASCAR's return to Cup racing. Harvick won the first race back in a Ford, Hamlin won the second race in a Toyota and Brad Keselowski won the 600 in a Ford.

The rescheduled Thursday event was disrupted by lightning and rain for nearly 75 minutes after 30 laps had been completed.

NASCAR next goes to Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee on Sunday for a fifth Cup race in 15 days.

Coaches could return to team facilities next week

Associated Press

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is hopeful that coaches will be able to return to their team facilities by next week.

Goodell said Thursday following an owners conference call that the virtual offseason is being extended for two more weeks. In a memo sent to the 32 teams and obtained by The Associated Press, he outlined the next phase of reopening of club facilities, which can begin Monday.

"We expect that next week clubs will be permitted to include members of their coaching staffs among the employees permitted to resume work in the club facility," Goodell wrote. "We are actively working with governors and other state and local authorities in those states that have not yet announced definitive plans and will confirm the precise date on which coaches can return to the facility as soon as possible."

Ticket offices, retail shops and other "customer-facing facilities" that comply with state and local regulation can open, with employees counting in the current maximum number of employees (no more than 50 percent of staff not to exceed 75

persons) allowed.

As for allowing players to return other than those undergoing rehab who currently are allowed at team complexes, Goodell added: "We are also continuing to work with the NFLPA on developing protocols that will allow at least some players to return to your facilities on a limited basis prior to the conclusion of the offseason program."

NFL owners tabled a proposal that would have offered a fourth-and-15 play as an alternative to the onside kick. They approved testing expanded use of video replay in the preseason to aid in officiating.

The 32 owners also increased the number of players who may be designated for return from the injured list during a season from two to three.

Also passed was making permanent the expansion of automatic replay reviews to include scoring plays and turnovers negated by a foul, and any successful or unsuccessful extra points.

The competition committee's recommendation to expand defenseless player protection to a kickoff or punt returner

who is in possession of the ball but has not had time to avoid or ward off contact of an opponent also was approved.

Another approved recommendation stops teams from manipulating the game clock by committing multiple dead-ball fouls while the clock is running — an issue that came up several times in 2019, including during the postseason.

Using video replay for pass interference calls was dropped after a one-year experiment that led to more uncertainty than clarity. Many people in the league cited the presence of too much subjectivity in the reviews.

Tabled was a proposal to have a booth judge serve as an eighth official on each crew and call for reviews on certain plays. The league will experiment with additional review options during the preseason as requested by the referee to the replay assistant.

The preseason is scheduled to begin on Aug. 6 with the Pro Football Hall of Fame game between Pittsburgh and Dallas.

NHL gives out regular-season awards

Associated Press

Since the NHL is planning to go straight to the playoffs, it's handing out a handful of trophies for the regular season cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.

Not long after unveiling a 24-team, right-to-the-playoffs format, the league on Thursday announced the winners of its regular-season awards. Play was halted March 12 with 189 regular-season games remaining.

Washington's Alex Ovechkin and Boston's David Pastrnak share the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the top-goal scorers after tying with 48. Although Ovechkin was stopped short of a ninth 50-goal season, his ninth goal-scoring title extends his NHL record.

Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl won his first Art Ross Trophy for leading the league with 110 points, which he accomplished in 71 games. Oilers general manager Ken Holland praised Draisaitl for producing at that

clip playing with and apart from captain Connor McDavid.

"It's a credit to his commitment, his passion, the hard work he's put in, the determination over the last three, four, five seasons," Holland said. "He's the player that has the most points in the league, and he's a 24-year-old player. He continues to take steps forward in his career. A tremendous accomplishment."

Along with Pastrnak's individual award, the Boston Bruins get the Presidents' Trophy for leading the league standings with 100 points, and goaltenders Tuukka Rask and Jaroslav Halak earn the William M. Jennings Trophy for allowing the fewest goals.

The Bruins, who got to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final last year before losing to the St. Louis Blues, won't get any of the usual benefits of being the Presidents' Trophy winner if the NHL resumes this summer in two host cities without fans.

They're not even guaranteed the top seed in the Eastern

Conference under this playoff format, which will make them play a three-game round-robin tournament against Tampa Bay, Washington and Philadelphia to determine the order of the top four.

"It's never a perfect scenario," captain Zdeno Chara said. "It's not going to be as set in stone as you would have after an 82-game regular season."

Through 70 games, the Bruins had leads of eight points over the Lightning, 10 over the Capitals and 11 over the Flyers. Team president Cam Neely expressed his feelings about the format during calls with the NHL in recent weeks but acknowledged this is "uncharted times for everybody."

"A little disappointed with what the team was able to accomplish the first 70 games and kind of the point spread we had between not only the teams in the league but the teams in our division or conference," Neely said Wednesday. "To kind of have three games dictate where we fall in the conference stand-

ings is a little disappointing."

Neely said in a statement Thursday, "Although the regular season did not end the way anyone hoped, we are honored to win this award for the second time in seven years."

Even though they're playing each other for seeding, the top four teams in each conference get a bye into the round of 16 while the other teams play best-of-five series to qualify.

"By getting a bye, they're going to be facing a team that just came out of a competitive series, and the concern was they needed to have some competition that might not put them at risk in terms of the playoffs but would give them an opportunity to play some real games," Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "They needed some games that mattered to some extent in order to not be coming in against a team that just played a competitive series. The benefit and the curse of a bye, I suppose."

Boston Marathon canceled for first time in history

Associated Press

BOSTON — Organizers canceled the Boston Marathon on Thursday for the first time in its history, bowing to the social distancing requirements of the coronavirus outbreak and ending a 124-year run that had persisted through two World Wars, a volcanic eruption and even another pandemic.

The race, which draws a field of 30,000 and already had been postponed from April 20 to Sept. 14, will be replaced by a virtual event in which participants who verify that they ran 26.2 miles on their own will receive their finisher's medal.

"It became clear as this crisis developed that Sept. 14 was less and less plausible," Mayor Marty Walsh said at a news conference outside City Hall, where runners traditionally gather for a pre-race pasta

dinner.

"This is a challenge, but meeting tough challenges is what the Boston Marathon is all about," Walsh said, invoking the response to the finish line bombings seven years ago. "It's a symbol of our city's and our commonwealth's resilience. So it's incumbent upon all of us to dig deep, like a marathon runner, like we did in 2013, and keep that spirit alive."

Although the title of Boston Marathon champion is contested by a few dozen elite athletes, the field includes more than 30,000 recreational and charity runners, with as many as 1 million people lined up along the course route from Hopkinton to Boston's Back Bay. That presented organizers with a social distancing problem that won't be solved by the fall.

"There's no way to hold this usual race format without

bringing large numbers of people into close proximity," Walsh said. "While our goal and our hope was to make progress in containing the virus and recovering our economy, this kind of event would not be responsible or realistic on Sept. 14 or any time this year."

The longest-running annual marathon in the world, the Boston Marathon began in 1897 when 15 men drew a starting line in the dirt in Ashland and headed for the city to commemorate the first modern Olympic Games the previous year. In 1918, the format was modified to a relay due to World War I; the 2013 race was stopped when two bombs exploded at the finish line, several hours after the winners had finished but while many recreational runners were still on the course.

Boston Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk said the race

also had to adjust when temperatures along the course approached 90 degrees in 2012; 10 years ago, ash from a volcanic eruption in Iceland grounded air travel and prevented many European runners from coming to Boston.

"There is a pretty rich history of accommodation and addressing reality. This is this year's reality," Grilk said.

"The spirit of Boston and the spirit of the Boston Marathon is to be strong and to be smart. When necessity drives you in a direction you might not have liked, you need to have the strength, the wisdom and the guidance from public officials to do what's right."

The race was scheduled in April on the state holiday to commemorate the battles in Lexington and Concord that marked the start of the Revolutionary War.