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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Captain with ties to Guam set to head Task Force 75

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A grandson of two veterans who helped liberate Guam in World War II took command of Task Force 75 on the island during another in a series of downsized, coronavirus pandemic changes of command.

Capt. Gareth Healy took over as commodore of the task force on Friday from outgoing Capt. Eric Correll. The ceremony was “attended virtually by most” in keeping with coronavirus prevention measures, according to a Navy statement Sunday.

Headquartered at Naval Base Guam, Task Force 75 is the 7th Fleet’s primary expeditionary forces command, “responsible for the planning and execution of maritime security operations, explosive ordnance disposal, diving, engineering and construction, and underwater construction,” according to the statement.

The Navy tradition of change-of-command ceremonies has morphed this year from the all-hands events of pre-pandemic times. Last week, the USS Ronald Reagan turned over its commanders over the ship’s public address system.

Calling in via webcam aboard the command vessel USS Blue Ridge at Yokosuka, 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Bill Merz presided over the Task Force 75 ceremony. He told Healy it was a “great time to come to the region” because “there’s so much energy going on with our warfighting concepts,” according to the statement.

“This is the most complex region in the world for a lot of reasons,” Merz said, according to the statement. “There are 35 maritime nations out here that depend on everything we do.”

The task force, established in

2014, is made up of more than 1,000 sailors in Seabee units, riverine squadrons, expeditionary intelligence forces and explosive ordnance technician teams across the Pacific, the Navy said in 2015.

During World War II, about 59,000 Marines and Army infantry landed on Guam to retake the island from Japanese occupiers in July and August 1944. The Coast Guard and Navy were there, too, along with Healy’s grandfathers, he said during the ceremony.

“I take command on Guam under the heavenly eyes of two grandfathers involved in the liberation of the island in 1944,” Healy said, according to the statement. “One of whom brought a very similar capability to what we use here today as part of 41st Special Construction Battalion.”

Under Correll’s leadership, the task force’s expeditionary forces conducted operations in more than 25 countries, responded to typhoons Mangkut and Yutu, expanded expeditionary mine countermeasure capabilities and re-postured Seabees—the Navy’s construction battalions—opening multiple new locations and closing less-effective sites throughout the 7th Fleet, according to the Navy.

The task force also supported operations on Guam when the USS Theodore Roosevelt in March diverted there to disembark, test and isolate its 5,000 crew members after a coronavirus outbreak on the ship, according to the statement.

Healy comes to the task force from U.S. Special Operations Command in Washington, D.C., where he served in the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. A native of New Orleans, his career specialty is explosive ordnance disposal, according to the task force.

Esper low-profile on Mediterranean tour amid Trump friction

The Washington Post

RABAT, Morocco — Defense Secretary Mark Esper concluded a tour of countries around the Mediterranean over the weekend, maintaining a low profile as he attempted to steer the Pentagon clear of divisive election politics and advance Defense Department priorities despite friction with President Donald Trump.

Esper, whose differences with the president fueled speculation this summer that he might become the latest senior official to be forced out or resign, met with leaders in Malta, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, calling for a unified response to Russia’s and China’s expansion across the region.

During the five-day trip, Esper made few public remarks and fielded no on-the-record questions from reporters. Officials asked journalists traveling with him to refrain from publicizing news of three out of four stops until the Pentagon chief had moved on to the next destination, an unusual step when a defense secretary is not traveling to a war zone.

It was sharp contrast to a simultaneous trip across the Mediterranean by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who sat down for several TV interviews during visits to Greece, Italy and Croatia, his aides tweeting out his activities in near-real time. The top diplomat has taken an unusual role in publicly campaigning for the president.

In one striking juxtaposition, Pompeo, who at times has ruf-

fled feathers at the Pentagon by appearing to veer into military matters, broke the news about a Navy ship that is being shifted to a U.S. base he visited in Souda Bay, Greece.

Esper’s low visibility appears to form part of his sometimes unsuccessful attempt to shield the military in a hyperpartisan election season and prevent further damaging his own ties with the commander in chief.

Tension between the men burst into view in June, when the defense chief publicly broke with Trump’s desire to employ military troops to quell nationwide protests over racism and police brutality.

Esper, while aligned with Trump on most major policy issues, has made several recent decisions defying White House preferences, from instating an effective ban on Confederate symbols to backing the promotion of an Army officer tied to Trump’s impeachment.

The White House has made little secret of Trump’s disenchantment with Esper, whom the president has publicly derided as “Yesper.” Officials last month said the president had considered firing him since at least June but decided to leave him in place for now.

Since early summer, Esper has taken questions from the media on only a handful of occasions. During one of these sessions, an aide attempted to stop an Associated Press reporter from asking a politically sensitive question, which Esper then declined to answer. Another was an interview with Fox News’ Jeanine Pirro.

F-35s deploy to UK carrier for first time

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A squadron of Marine Corps F-35Bs has deployed for the first time on a British ship, boosting NATO's collective sea power, senior military officials said.

Top U.S. military brass were aboard the U.K.'s new Queen Elizabeth carrier last week to observe the joint deployment in the North Sea, where Marine Corps F-35s are operating alongside British fighters.

The U.S.-British deployment showcases the combined power

of allied forces, Marine Corps commandant Gen. David Berger said from aboard the British carrier, where he and U.S. European Command's Gen. Tod Wolters were among those observing the operations.

"In today's operating environment, success will require unity of effort, operational flexibility and the integrated application of Navy and Marine capabilities in the maritime domain," Berger said in a statement.

A U.S. Navy destroyer and aviation ordnance sailors from the aircraft carrier USS John

C. Stennis will join the Queen Elizabeth at some point in the future, the Marine Corps said.

Commodore Steve Moorhouse, who commands the U.K. strike group, said Royal Navy aviators learned how to carry out "big deck carrier operations" by training over the past decade with the Navy and Marines.

"Now we are in a position to offer some serious hard power in return," Moorhouse said in a statement.

The multimonth deployment of F-35Bs out of Yuma, Ariz., began in late September and

has involved various training exercises with allies. The effort comes ahead of the Queen Elizabeth's first global deployment in the spring, which also will involve Marine F-35Bs.

The deployment is the latest example of the close ties between the two countries and their militaries, U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Robert Johnson said.

"What America and Britain have together is a level of trust and collaboration that goes beyond any other partnership in the world," Johnson said in a statement.

Marine based in Japan arrested after break-in

By JAMES BOLINGER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Japanese police arrested a Marine lance corporal on suspicion of breaking into a home in Hiroshima city on Saturday night, according to the Marines and Hiroshima prefectural police.

Lance Cpl. Steven Frank Altamirano, 22, stationed at MCAS Iwakuni, was taken into custody around 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the Koinaka area of the city's Nishi ward, a police spokesman said Monday.

Altamirano is accused of breaking a window and entering the home of a 78-year-old Japanese man, who called police around 9:20 p.m., the spokesman said.

The spokesman said Altamirano was intoxicated at the time and told officers he doesn't remember what happened.

It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

An MCAS Iwakuni spokesman, Maj. Joshua Diddams, confirmed the arrest.

"Our command is already fully cooperating with Japanese authorities as they investigate this incident, and we treat all allegations of misconduct seriously," he told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday. "No further information is available at this time due to the ongoing police investigation."

From Navy air station to launch site, Wallops Island jumps into space race

The Washington Post

WALLOPS ISLAND, Va. — Over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, down past Chincoteague toward the southern tip of the Eastern Shore, sits an isolated spit of shoreline, near a wildlife refuge, that is home to one of the most unusual, and little known, rocket launch sites in the country.

Born as a Navy air station during World War II, it has launched more than 16,000 rockets, most of them small sounding vehicles used for scientific research. But the Wallops Flight Facility, which at the dawn of the Space Age played a role as a test site for the Mercury program, is about to reinvent itself at a time when the commercial space industry is booming and spreading beyond the confines of Florida's Cape Canaveral.

After the Federal Aviation Administration last month granted Rocket Lab, a commercial launch company, a license to fly its small Electron rocket from the facility, Wallops could soon see a significant increase in launches as the company joins Northrop Grumman in launching from this remote site. While Rocket Lab is largely focused on national security missions, Northrop Grumman launches its Antares rocket to send a spacecraft to the International Space Station on cargo resupply missions at a rate of about two a year, including a picture-perfect launch from the Virginia coast Friday at 9:16 p.m. Northrop also launches its Minotaur rocket from Wallops.

Rocket Lab wants to launch to orbit as frequently as once a month from Wallops, which would make the facility the second busiest launch site in the country, behind Cape Canaveral, which is on track to fly 39 rockets to orbit this year.

Hoping to give birth to another rocket hub on the Eastern Seaboard, the state of Virginia has over the last 25 years pumped some \$250 million into what it calls the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, most of that coming in the last decade, said Dale Nash, the agency's CEO and executive director of Virginia Space. NASA has also made some significant upgrades to the site, including a \$15.7 million mission operations control center, which opened in 2018.

The state also contributed to the \$15 million it took to repair a launchpad after an Antares rocket exploded in 2014.

The efforts paid off when Rocket Lab, perhaps the most successful space upstart since Elon Musk's SpaceX, announced last year it would launch its Electron rocket from here. Once NASA signs off on the company's autonomous flight abort system, it should be cleared to launch, with a mission coming potentially before the end of the year.

"The whole facility is designed for rapid launch," Beck said. "And that's a real requirement out there right now from our national security and national defense forces, to have an ability to respond to threats quickly."

Trump says he'll leave hospital on Monday

Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — President Donald Trump said Monday he's leaving the military hospital where he has been treated for COVID-19 and will continue his recovery at the White House. He said he's feeling good and the nation should not be afraid of the virus that has killed more than 209,000 Americans.

Trump's expected return comes as the scale of the outbreak within the White House itself is still being uncovered. Press secretary Kayleigh McEnany announced she had tested positive for the virus Monday morning and was entering quarantine.

"I will be leaving the great Walter Reed Medical Center today at 6:30 P.M.," Trump tweeted. "Feeling really good! Don't be afraid of Covid. ... I feel better than I did 20 years

ago!"

Trump is expected to make the journey aboard the presidential helicopter, Marine One.

Trump's nonchalant message about not fearing the virus comes as his own administration has encouraged Americans to be very careful and take precautions to avoid contracting and spreading the disease as cases continue to spike across the country. For more than eight months, Trump's efforts to play down the threat of the virus in hopes of propping up the economy ahead of the election have drawn bipartisan criticism.

Only a day earlier, Trump suggested he had finally grasped the true nature of the virus, saying in a video, "I get it."

It was unclear how long Trump would remain in isolation at the White House. According to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, those with mild to moderate symptoms can be contagious for as many — and should isolate for at least — 10 days.

On Sunday afternoon, Trump briefly ventured out of the hospital while contagious to salute cheering supporters by motorcade — an outing that disregarded precautions meant to contain the virus.

White House officials said Trump was anxious to be released after three nights at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where doctors revealed on Sunday that his blood oxygen level had dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recommended for the very sick.

Trump "is ready to get back to a normal work schedule," White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told Fox News.

Trump's experience with the

disease has been dramatically different from most Americans, who do not have access to the same kind of monitoring and care. While most must cope with their symptoms — and fear of whether they'll take a turn for the worse — at home and alone, Trump has been staying in the presidential suite of one of the nation's best hospitals. He has a team of doctors at the White House, 24-hour monitoring, and has been given experimental drugs not readily available to the public.

Less than one month before Election Day, Trump was eager to project strength despite his illness. The still-infectious president surprised supporters who had gathered outside the hospital, riding by Sunday in a black SUV with the windows rolled up. Secret Service agents inside the vehicle could be seen in masks and other protective gear.

3 win Nobel Prize for hepatitis C discovery

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the Nobel Prize for medicine Monday for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.

Announcing the prize in Stockholm, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped save millions of lives, the committee said.

"Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the

committee said.

"Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

The World Health Organization estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis C worldwide and 400,000 deaths from it each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants.

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

Will Irving, a virologist at the University of Nottingham, said identifying hepatitis C had been the "holy grail" in medicine.

WHO: 10% of world might have been infected by virus

Associated Press

GENEVA — The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said Monday that the agency's "best estimates" indicate roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus — more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases — and warned of a difficult period ahead.

Dr. Michael Ryan, speaking to a special session of the WHO's 34-member executive board focusing on COVID-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural areas, and between different groups, but that ultimately it means "the vast majority of the world remains at risk." He said the pandemic would continue to evolve, but that tools exist to suppress transmission and save lives.

"Many deaths have been averted and many more lives can be protected," Ryan said. He was flanked by his boss,

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who minutes earlier led a moment of silence to honor victims, as well as a round of applause for the health workers who have strived to save them.

Ryan said southeast Asia faced a surge in cases, Europe and the eastern Mediterranean were seeing an increase, while the situations in Africa and the Western Pacific were "rather more positive." Overall, though, he said the world was "heading into a difficult period."

Ryan did not elaborate on the estimate. Dr. Margaret Harris, a WHO spokeswoman, said it was based on an average of antibody studies conducted around the world. She said the estimated 90% of people remaining without infection means the virus has "opportunity" to spread further "if we don't take action to stop it" such as by contact-tracing and tracking of cases by health officials.

Fla. moves to lift curbs amid virus concerns

From wire reports

MIAMI — As the summer coronavirus spike in Sunbelt states subsides, Florida has gone the furthest in lifting restrictions, especially on restaurants where the burden of ensuring safety has shifted to business owners and residents — raising concerns of a resurgence.

In his drive to return the state to normalcy, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis lifted limits on indoor seating at restaurants, saying they can operate at 100% in cities and counties with no restrictions and that other local governments with some restrictions can't limit indoor seating by more than 50%.

In some of Florida's touristy neighborhoods, patrons have since been flocking to bars and restaurants, filling terraces, defying mask orders — drawing mixed reactions from business owners and other customers.

"We're generally concerned that we're going to find ourselves on the other side of an inverted curve and erasing all the progress we've made," said Albert Garcia, chairman of the Wynwood Business improvement district, which represents 50 blocks of eateries and bars in Miami's arts district.

Colorado

ASPEN — A Colorado man pleaded guilty to violating a county coronavirus health order for coughing in a woman's face.

Tom Patierno was given a six-month deferred sentence and is expected to serve six months of supervised probation, The Aspen Times reported.

Pitkin County Public Health Director Karen Koenemann charged Patierno with a misdemeanor violation of a March 23 public health order for not social distancing. Patierno told police he "got in the woman's face" March 29 and made at least a "coughing gesture" after she asked him to move over as they approached each other on the Rio Grande Trail in Aspen.

Idaho

EMMETT — An Idaho high school football game was canceled after anti-government activist Ammon Bundy refused to wear a mask or leave school grounds.

A school principal and athletic director repeatedly asked the 44-year-old to wear a mask and then requested that police arrest Bundy for trespassing, authorities said.

Officers told school officials they would not arrest or remove Bundy because he "wasn't out of control and didn't appear to be a threat to anybody."

School officials canceled the game between the Emmett Huskies and Caldwell Cougars at halftime after Bundy refused school and police requests to leave the property.

Bundy led a 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon as a show of support for states' rights, planning to dissolve the federally-managed refuge. He and others were ultimately arrested, ending the 41-day occupation. Bundy was acquitted of all federal charges by an Oregon jury.

Montana

BOZEMAN — Yellowstone National Park officials say 16 employees tested positive for COVID-19 in September, marking a significant uptick in cases.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported that the number of positive cases in September quadrupled from the number reported between May 18 and Aug. 30. During that time, four park employees and one contractor tested positive for the virus and have since recovered.

Seven of the employees who tested positive in September work for the National Park Service, and nine work for concessions. Eight of the 16 employees have recovered. Park officials say all employees who have tested positive have been isolated according to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

New Hampshire

Cloth face coverings in lodges, lifts and other public spaces is part of the state guidance released for New Hampshire ski areas during the pandemic.

Guests and staff won't be required to wear a face covering if they are skiing on a trail, physically distanced, eating or drinking. This includes waiting in lines and on chair lifts.

Guests and visitors will be screened for COVID-19 when they access their daily lift ticket or trail pass and before checking in for overnight stays. Putting strangers together on lifts is discouraged.

New Jersey

State health officials in New Jersey have contacted more than 200 people who attended a campaign fundraiser at the Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster on Thursday, hours before President Donald Trump announced he had COVID-19, as they try to contain the spread of the deadly virus.

Somerset County officials were meanwhile contacting employees who worked the event, most of whom live in the county. In a joint statement issued Sunday, the officials asked guests and employees to monitor their symptoms and, if they were close to Trump or his staff, to quarantine for 14 days.

The officials said Sunday that the White House had sent them a list of 206 guests.

New York

NEW YORK — New York City's mayor said Sunday that he has asked the state for permission to close schools and reinstate restrictions on non-essential businesses in several neighborhoods because of a resurgence of the coronavirus.

If approved, shutdowns would happen starting Wednesday in nine ZIP codes in the city, Mayor Bill de Blasio said. About 100 public schools and 200 private schools would have to close. Indoor dining, which just resumed a few days ago, would be suspended. Outdoor restaurant

dining would shut down in the affected neighborhoods as well, and gyms would close.

The mayor said he was taking the action in an attempt to stop the virus from spreading deeper into the city and becoming a "second wave," like the one that killed more than 24,000 New Yorkers in the spring.

Utah

Thousands of minks at Utah fur farms have died because of the coronavirus in the past 10 days, forcing nine sites in three counties to quarantine, but the state veterinarian said people don't appear to be at risk from the outbreak.

The COVID-19 infections likely were spread from workers at the mink ranches to the animals, with no sign that the animals are spreading it to humans, said Dr. Dean Taylor, the state veterinarian, who is investigating the outbreak.

Between 7,000 and 8,000 minks have died since the disease swept through the ranches that produce the animals.

Fur from the dead infected animals will be processed to remove any traces of the virus and then used for garments, according to Fur Commission USA, a trade group.

West Virginia

CHARLESTON — West Virginia's largest public school system is opening its classrooms for the first time this fall during the pandemic.

Teachers welcomed students back Monday in Kanawha County, where school doors had been shut to instruction since Gov. Jim Justice ordered them closed in March.

Under West Virginia's color-coded education map released Saturday, Kanawha County can reopen schools to in-person learning for the first time since school began Sept. 8. Kanawha parents were given the option to have their children attend schools this fall either in-person or virtually, but the rate of virus cases in the county prohibited in-person attendance until this week.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

3 blow up ATM in eatery, flee without cash

PA PHILADELPHIA — Three men blew up an ATM in a Chinese takeout restaurant in Philadelphia while the establishment was still open, but were unable to get any cash, police said.

The men entered the Golden Chinese/American takeout restaurant in northwest Philadelphia and ordered food, police said. They then placed some kind of explosive device that damaged the ATM and the window and knocked items off shelves behind the counter, police said.

The three went back into the establishment but were unable to remove the cash box that was still inside the damaged ATM, police said. The three then fled, one on a bicycle and the other two on foot.

Man returns ring lost 20 years ago to owner

MO LEE'S SUMMIT — Two decades after a Lee's Summit High School graduate lost his class ring, he has it back thanks to the eagle eyes of Les Postlewait.

KCTV-TV reported that Postlewait likes to look for stuff. He walks trails or at a skate park with an eye to the ground — not looking for anything particular, just whatever he finds.

"Every once in a while, you get lucky," Postlewait said.

He admits he hadn't found a lot until he recently discovered a class ring with the inscription "JR" on its side.

He contacted Lee's Summit High School in the Kansas City suburb, where the name J.R. Forasteros showed up in the class of 1999.

It turned out that Forasteros and some friends were playing sand volleyball three months

after he got his ring, and he lost it. He figured it was gone for good.

Police recover 6 stolen vintage vehicles

MN ST. PAUL — St. Paul police said they have recovered six collector cars stolen from a body shop and are searching for suspects.

The vintage vehicles were found abandoned in a wooded area of Woodbury, St. Paul police spokesman Steve Linders said. They belong to a 77-year-old man who is a lifelong car enthusiast, Linders said.

Thieves kicked in the door of a garage behind the Highland Collision Center where the six cars were being stored and drove them away, the Star Tribune reported. They took a 1967 Chevy Impala, a 1965 Pontiac LeMans, a 1965 GTO convertible, a 2000 Pontiac Firebird, a 2000 GMC pickup and a 1960 Cadillac Coupe de Ville.

The cars were valued at more than \$300,000, according to police estimates.

Man gets probation after 84 dogs found in home

IL URBANA — A central Illinois man was sentenced to probation and ordered not to possess any animals one year after officials seized more than 80 dogs living in deplorable conditions inside his home.

A Champaign County judge sentenced Mark Richards, 61, to one year of probation — the same sentence the judge imposed in August on Richards' wife, Wendy Richards, 55.

Both had pleaded guilty to failure to provide humane care and treatment of animals, a Class B misdemeanor.

A dozen of those canines had

to be euthanized but homes have been found for the others, said Stephanie Joos, Champaign County's animal-control director.

Man with \$1M in truck admits to drug charges

KS TOPEKA — An Ohio man pleaded guilty to federal drug trafficking charges after more than \$1 million in plastic-wrapped bundles were found in his pickup during a traffic stop in Kansas.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Topeka announced the guilty plea by Joseph Michael Martin, 41, of Euclid, Ohio. He faces sentencing in January.

A Kansas Highway Patrol trooper stopped Martin for speeding on Interstate 70 in Ellsworth County on Sept. 20, 2018. A search of Martin's 2016 GM pickup found \$1.1 million in bundles wrapped in red plastic. Federal prosecutors said the bundles were hidden in metal pipes with welded caps that were in the bed of the truck.

Police kill coyote after it attacks 3 people

MD ROCKVILLE — Police said they shot and killed a coyote after it bit two women and a child in the Maryland city of Rockville.

The Washington Post reported that a woman and a small dog were attacked in one of the incidents.

The woman was taken to a hospital with injuries that are not life-threatening. The dog was quarantined.

Marylou Berg, a spokeswoman for Rockville police, said there were two other attacks.

One was on a woman and another was on a child. The woman and the child were also hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening.

Shot fired in casino during struggle for gun

NV LAS VEGAS — A gunshot briefly interrupted casino activity at a Las Vegas Strip resort, but authorities said no one was injured and two people involved in an argument that preceded it fled before police arrived.

Police reported the shooting happened on the casino floor at the MGM Grand resort.

Lt. Frank Humel told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that two men argued, one displayed a weapon, a witness acted to take the gun away and a shot was fired into the floor.

Humel said the witness turned the gun over to security.

State accidentally puts virus tests on auction

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee officials accidentally listed 13 pallets of coronavirus testing materials and other supplies on an auction site, officials said.

The state listed the items on GovDeals.com, a government liquidation website, but promptly removed them after The Tennessean asked about the auction. Officials told the newspaper the listing was accidental.

The auction listing was the "result of an internal processing mistake," said Dean Fleener, spokesman for the state's COVID-19 Unified Command Team. He said the supplies should have been stored but were inadvertently labeled as surplus and so were listed for auction.

The auction had received one bid for \$150 before the items were removed, the newspaper reported.

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Butler's triple-double lifts Heat over Lakers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Biggest moment of his career. Best game of his life.

Jimmy Butler is clearly not ready to go home quite yet. With a triple-double, he joined NBA Finals lore — and the short-handed Miami Heat might have made this title matchup a series after all.

Butler finished with 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists, and the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 115-104 on Sunday night to get within 2-1 — doing so with starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic still unable to play because of injury.

“I tell Coach all the time, ‘I’m ready for this,’” Butler said. “The biggest stage, whatever you ask me to do, I can do.”

His coach, Erik Spoelstra, has clearly listened.

“This is what he wanted, this is what we wanted,” Spoelstra said. “It’s really hard to analyze or describe Jimmy until you actually feel him between the four lines. He’s a supreme, elite competitor and we needed it.”

It was the third 40-point triple-double in finals history. Butler was 14-for-20 from the field and, after the Heat surrendered a double-digit lead early in the fourth, he made sure this one wouldn’t get away.

“He’s one of the best competitors we have in our game,” the Lakers’ LeBron James said. “Love that opportunity. For me, personally, I don’t know how many more opportunities I’m going to have so to be able

to go against a fierce competitor like that is something I’ll look back on when I’m done playing. I’ll miss those moments.”

James had 25 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for Los Angeles, while Kyle Kuzma and Markieff Morris each had 19 points off the bench. Anthony Davis managed 15 for the Lakers.

Game 4 is Tuesday night. Tyler Herro and Kelly Olynyk each had 17 points for Miami, which got 13 from Duncan Robinson and 12 from Jae Crowder.

“We had players step up this whole playoffs, and it’s no different now for us,” Crowder said.

Whenever the Heat looked ready to pull away and grab control of Game 3, the Lakers always found a way to find their best gear.

A 13-point Heat lead in the early going? The Lakers had the lead back in less than five minutes.

A 14-point Heat lead after a 10-0 run to start the second half? The Lakers scored the next eight.

A 12-point Heat lead late in the third? It took the Lakers less than five minutes to put together a 20-6 run, taking the lead back at 91-89 with 8:55 left on a layup by Rajon Rondo.

“We were almost fighting back the entire game,” Morris said.

The last punch went to Miami, Butler simply unwilling to let his team go down 3-0. The only other time Miami was down 2-0 in a finals was 2006, when Dwyane Wade

took over and led the Heat all the way back to the franchise’s first title.

This time, it was Butler — another Marquette guy, like Wade — in that role, at least for Sunday night.

“We know how Jimmy is in these moments, and the world has seen what Jimmy Butler is capable of,” Herro said.

Miami’s starters outscored the Lakers’ starting five 89-51, and the Heat held the Lakers to a 14-for-42 night from three-point land.

James, who won two titles with the Heat, wasn’t in the least bit surprised that Miami showed up to fight.

“I know how resilient that bunch is and how resilient that coaching staff is and their franchise,” James said. “Also, I don’t feel like we’re concerned. We’re not concerned. We know we can play a lot better. We have another opportunity to take a commanding lead on Tuesday.”

It didn’t take Butler and the Heat long to forget Sunday and start looking to Game 4 as well.

“It’s going to be a tough game, Game 4,” Herro said. “But we’ll be ready.”

James’ assists: James had eight assists Sunday and now has 843, which is 222 more than anyone else this season; Denver’s Nikola Jokic is second with 621. That will be the biggest margin between first and second in the NBA since 2004-05, when Steve Nash (1,031) had 363 more than Stephon Marbury (668).

Kvitova back in French Open quarterfinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Petra Kvitova stood wide-eyed and perfectly still, scarcely believing she was through to her first French Open quarterfinal in eight years after winning 6-2, 6-4 against Zhang Shuai of China Monday.

When the chair umpire climbed down and pointed to the mark confirming her two-handed backhand had landed just in, she released her emotions. The seventh-seeded Czech player looked up in the air, then blew kisses and waved to the small crowd gathered on Court Philippe Chatrier, the tournament’s main stadium.

“Yeah, I got a bit emotional last two points of my match,”

she said. “My memories, happy memories. When I made my comeback here in 2017, when I step on the Philippe Chatrier, I couldn’t really imagine me to be in the quarterfinal of this slam. Everything just came back to me.”

Three years ago, the left-handed Kvitova made her comeback at Roland Garros after sustaining serious injuries to her left hand following a knife attack by a robber at her home in the Czech Republic.

Kvitova’s two Grand Slam titles were won on the green grass of Wimbledon in 2011 and ’14.

Success has so far eluded the former second-ranked player on Roland Garros’ red clay.

Her only semifinal in western Paris was in 2012, and since then she’d reached the fourth round just once prior to this tournament, and that was five years ago.

“I think it’s been a miracle for me to make the semifinal here,” she said. “After eight years to be in the quarterfinal again, it’s great.”

Her next opponent, Laura Siegemund, meanwhile, endured substandard snacks in a 7-5, 6-2 win against Paula Badosa.

As she was gathering her things before leaving, a court-side microphone captured an exchange with an official. Siegemund explained, in crude

terms, how unimpressed with what she’d been given to eat by her physio.

“I have to have a word with my physio,” Siegemund said, emphasizing her disappointment with an expletive.

In remaining men’s fourth-round play, top-ranked Novak Djokovic was facing 15th-seeded Karen Khachanov.

Earlier, No. 5-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas and No. 13-seeded Andrey Rublev reached the last eight at Roland Garros for the first time.

Tsitsipas won 6-3, 7-6 (9), 6-2 against No. 18-seeded Grigor Dimitrov and Rublev beat unseeded Marton Fucsovics 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

No series off days may stress pitchers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Postseason games come at an unprecedented pace starting Monday in this year of the pandemic.

Teams could play the Division Series over five straight days, take a single day off and then contest the League Championship Series on seven consecutive days. That could stress closers such as Aroldis Chapman, Liam Hendriks and Kenley Jansen, and starters like Gerrit Cole and Walker Buehler.

“I’m old school, I guess, but it’s all about winning. And if they needed me, I wanted them to put me in there,” said Darold Knowles, who helped Oakland win the 1973 title by becoming the first to pitch in all seven World Series games. “I think that’s the way everybody feels now, but they’re so afraid they’re going to hurt somebody. And I understand that. I think it’s a little bit overdone.”

No one has pitched in games for five straight days since Shawn Tolleson for Texas from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, 2015, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The last to pitch for seven straight days was San Francisco’s Steve Kline from July 31 to Aug. 6, 2007.

“The five days in a row would be interesting, right? You would have to be really efficient the first four days for that to happen,” New York Yankees reliever Zack Britton said. “But if it’s a winner-take-all game, you’re going to do it because that’s what you need to do to win.”

The Division Series has had a 2-2-1 format since 1998, with a day off scheduled between Games 2 and 3, then another between Games 4 and 5 as the teams shift to each other’s ballpark. The League Championship Series has had a 2-3-2 format since 1985, with days off between Games 2 and 3, then another between Games 5 and 6.

Travel days were eliminated as Major League Baseball switched to a bubble environment in an attempt to avoid October interruptions caused by COVID-19.

To start twice in the Division Series, Game 1 pitchers would have to come back on three days’ rest.

“The change was purely a product the timing we needed to institute the bubble and avoid extending the end date of the postseason,” baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. “We always are concerned about player health, but the number of days in a row is not all that different from stretches in the regular season and we have expanded rosters.”

Union head Tony Clark said the schedule was set at MLB’s discretion.

“The original draft of the postseason schedule we received on 7/31 had fewer off days but didn’t eliminate them,” he wrote in an email. “We didn’t see the revised schedule until right before it went out publicly.”

Winners advance to the ALCS in Arlington, Texas, starting Sunday and the NLCS in San Diego beginning Oct. 12. The World Series opening Oct. 20 will keep the days off in the 2-3-2 format used since 1924,

even though it will be played entirely in Arlington.

Reaching the World Series will test an entire pitching staff more than usual. Washington used five pitchers for 31 of 36 innings of its sweep of St. Louis in last year’s NL Championship and three pitchers — Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin — for 89²/₃ innings among 153 in the postseason, or 59%.

“You can’t just send your closer out there for two innings and think those guys are going to continue to be able to do that. They’d probably be willing to do it, but it’s probably not going to be the most successful way forward,” Marlins manager Don Mattingly said.

Mike Marshall pitched in relief on eight straight days for the Los Angeles Dodgers from May 17-24, 1974, during his Cy Young Award-winning season, allowing one run and 13 hits in 14²/₃ innings with 11 strikeouts and two walks.

Kent Tekulve set a record when he pitched on nine straight days for Philadelphia from Aug. 5-13, 1987, giving up one run and seven hits in 10 innings with five walks and eight strikeouts.

“I’m willing to pitch every single game. I think everyone else is, too,” Marlins reliever Richard Bleier said. “I’ve worked my whole life to get to this situation and be able to contribute in a playoff team. This is why we all play. And I would love nothing more than to contribute to every game possible.”

Hamlin pounces late, prevails in 3OTs at Talladega

Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Denny Hamlin put himself in position to finally win in the playoffs by hanging at the back to avoid the carnage of the messiest and longest race in Talladega Superspeedway history.

His sweeping three-wide pass in triple overtime Sunday brought an end to the sloppiest race of the season. The Daytona 500 winner surged to the win coming out of the final turn — it was the 58th lead change of a race that went nearly 32 miles, or 12 laps, longer than scheduled.

Talladega was poked with 13 cautions, two more than the record, and nearly every

title contender had some sort of damage. Only six of the 12 made it to the finish.

Hamlin insisted lagging the No. 11 Toyota at the back of the field all day, waiting to pounce at the end, was his strategy all along. Either that, or he was simply the last driver standing when given the chance to snap a skid that started with the playoffs one month ago.

“I hate to say it, but you have to play the game. You have to get to the next round,” Hamlin said. “To win the championship, you have to win the last race and you have to get to the last race. For us, we played the strategy to play the numbers to make sure we got locked in.”

Fitting for this particular wreckfest was that Hamlin’s win needed official review. He had gone below the yellow out-of-bounds line during the third overtime, but NASCAR ruled the move was legal.

“They were crashing in front of us,” Hamlin shrugged. “Obviously, I got forced down there.”

The crowd of 15,000 — the most allowed to attend the Alabama superspeedway — booed Hamlin as he was declared the winner. He dismissed any notion of a controversy over the yellow line rule, noting it had been called by NASCAR the same way the entire race.

The race went more than four

hours, so long that it was moved from NBC to NBC Sports Network because local news and then NFL football needed the big network.

The brutality of the day was punctuated by Kyle Busch, who was at last given a merciful exit when he was collected in an accident during the second overtime.

The Cup champion is still winless this season and on the verge of playoff elimination. He was involved in a dizzying number of incidents at Talladega, including a 13-car accident in which older brother Kurt went airborne over Cole Custer. That accident brought out the first of two red-flag stoppages.

NFL roundup

Browns' OBJ, Mayfield hold off Cowboys

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Baker Mayfield threw for two touchdowns, one of which was set up when Myles Garrett had a strip sack for the third straight game, and the Cleveland Browns held on for a 49-38 victory over the Dallas Cowboys to improve to 3-1 for the first time since 2001.

Jarvis Landry had his first career touchdown pass in the receiver's 100th career game, a 37-yard toss to Odell Beckham Jr. in Beckham's first multitouchdown game with the Browns.

Beckham finished with his first three-score game in nearly five years, capped by a 50-yard run on a reverse after the Cowboys had cut a 41-14 deficit to three points with less than four minutes remaining.

"It's funny, Kareem (Hunt) before the play was like, 'We just need 5 yards,'" said Beckham, who had 81 yards receiving and two scores with 73 yards rushing on two reverses in his first three-score game in nearly five years.

"And Harrison Bryant, the rookie, is giving me advice and coaching me up and telling me to stay inbounds. I said, 'Thanks, rook.' And I turned the corner and everybody was blocking and I just turned the jets on and found the end zone."

Cleveland ran for 307 yards and three touchdowns despite losing lead back Nick Chubb to a knee injury in the first quarter.

Hunt, who has been battling a groin injury, had 71 yards and two touchdowns, and D'Ernest Johnson doubled his career yardage of 26 yards in the first half alone, finishing with a team-high 95 yards. Beckham had 73 on two carries.

Dak Prescott had his first 500-yard game, finishing with 502 yards passing, and became the first NFL player to throw for at least 450 yards in three consecutive games.

"We keep hurting ourselves on offense, putting our defense in bad spot," said Prescott, whose interception on his career-high 58th and final attempt ended any comeback hopes in the final two minutes. "And not starting fast enough, that's what's been killing us over the past few games."

Buccaneers 38, Chargers 31: Tom Brady threw for 369 yards and five touchdowns, all to different receivers, helping Tampa Bay rally from a 17-point deficit to beat visiting Los Angeles.

Brady shrugged off throwing an early interception returned for a touchdown and the Bucs (3-1) won their third straight to stay in first place in the NFC South.

Mike Evans, Scotty Miller, O.J. How-

ard, Cameron Brate and rookie Ke'Shawn Vaughn caught scoring passes from Brady, who threw four of them after falling behind 24-7 in the second quarter.

Rookie Justin Herbert completed 20 of 25 passes for 290 yards and three touchdowns for the Chargers (1-3), who've lost three straight with the sixth overall pick in this year's draft playing earlier than expected because of injuries to Tyrod Taylor.

Colts 19, Bears 11: Philip Rivers threw a touchdown pass on Indianapolis' first possession and the Colts shut down Nick Foles to win at Chicago.

After Rivers connected with Mo Alie-Cox on a 13-yard score, the NFL's top-ranked defense took over.

Indianapolis (3-1) kept the Bears (3-1) out of the end zone until Allen Robinson caught a 16-yard pass with 1:35 remaining. The Colts recovered the onside kick and came away with their third straight win, their best streak since beating Kansas City, Houston and Denver last October.

Rams 17, Giants 9: Jared Goff hit Cooper Kupp for a 55-yard touchdown with 6:56 to play, and Los Angeles beat visiting New York in a game marred by a postgame fight between Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey and Giants receiver Golden Tate.

Ramsey and Tate scuffled at midfield after the final whistle after a game filled with trash-talking between the two Nashville-area natives. Ramsey has two young children with Tate's sister, and Tate was publicly upset last year when the couple went through a nasty public breakup.

Bills 30, Raiders 23: Josh Allen threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another, leading Buffalo to a win at Las Vegas.

The Bills are 4-0 for the first time in 12 years. They were 3-1 in 2019, when they made the playoffs, and they lead the AFC East now.

Buffalo has scored 30 points in three consecutive games, and is averaging 30.75 points per game, third highest in the NFL.

The Raiders (2-2) lost their second straight game, including a loss at New England last week.

Ravens 31, Washington 17: Lamar Jackson ran for a 50-yard touchdown and threw for two scores in a bounce-back performance by the reigning NFL MVP and Baltimore, which took control early and won at Washington.

Coming off a humbling loss to Kansas City on Monday night, the Ravens (3-1) built a 21-10 halftime lead before opening the third quarter with a drive that ended with Mark Andrews' second touchdown

catch. That was enough to hand Washington (1-3) its third straight defeat.

Saints 35, Lions 29: Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Tre'Quan Smith 2:19 apart in the second quarter, helping short-handed New Orleans overcome a 14-point deficit to win at Detroit.

The Saints (2-2) started the game without six injured starters after a short night of rest. New Orleans had a player test falsely positive for the coronavirus Saturday, according to a person familiar with the situation, leading to another round of tests for players and staff overnight in the Motor City.

Bengals 33, Jaguars 25: Joe Mixon ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns and caught Joe Burrow's pass for another score as Cincinnati rolled up 505 yards to beat visiting Jacksonville.

The Bengals (1-2-1) worked around their recent offensive line problems and Mixon broke through with his first big game of the season, which opened up the field for Burrow to hit some big passes. The Heisman Trophy-winning rookie was sharp again, throwing for 300 yards and the touchdown to Mixon.

Seahawks 31, Dolphins 23: Russell Wilson threw for 360 yards and two touchdowns as Seattle won at Miami.

The Seahawks (4-0) have scored 30 or more points in four consecutive games for the first time since 2015.

Vikings 31, Texans 23: Dalvin Cook ran for 130 yards and two touchdowns and Minnesota withstood a late rally to win at Houston.

The winless Texans cut the lead to 8 when Deshaun Watson connected with Kenny Stills on a 24-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-10 with about six minutes remaining.

Panthers 31, Cardinals 21: Teddy Bridgewater threw for 276 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score, and Carolina beat visiting Arizona.

The Panthers (2-2) scored touchdowns on their first four trips inside the Cardinals' 20-yard line to build a 28-7 lead one week after settling for five short field goals in a 21-16 victory over the Chargers.

Eagles 25, 49ers 20: Carson Wentz hit Travis Fulgham on a 42-yard touchdown pass with 5:50 remaining to lift Philadelphia to a win at San Francisco, the Eagles' first victory of the season.

With Philadelphia (1-2-1) missing its top three receivers and No. 2 tight end, the little-known Fulgham delivered the play of the game for the Eagles.