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Trump, still infectious, back at White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is back at the White House, dramatically returning from the military hospital where he was receiving an unprecedented level of care for COVID-19. He immediately ignited a new controversy by declaring that despite his illness the nation should not fear the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans — and then entering the executive mansion without a protective mask.

Trump's message alarmed infectious disease experts and suggested the president's own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and several White House aides, including new cases revealed Monday.

Landing Monday night at the White House on Marine One, Trump gingerly climbed the South Portico steps, removed his mask and declared, "I feel good." He gave a double thumbs-up to the departing helicopter from the portico terrace, where aides had arranged American flags for the sunset occasion. He entered the White House, where aides were visible milling about the Blue Room, without wearing a face covering.

The president left Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where his doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said earlier Mon-

day that the president remains contagious and would not be fully "out of the woods" for another week but that Trump had met or exceeded standards for discharge from the hospital. Trump is expected to continue his recovery at the White House, where the reach of the outbreak that has infected the highest levels of the U.S. government is still being uncovered.

Still, just a month before the election and anxious to project strength, Trump tweeted Tuesday morning that he is planning to attend next week's debate with Democrat Joe Biden in Miami. "It will be great!" he said.

And in case anyone missed his don't-worry message earlier, he rushed out a new video from the White House.

"Don't be afraid of it," Trump said of the virus. "You're going to beat it. We have the best medical equipment, we have the best medicines." His remarks were strong, although he was taking deeper breaths than usual as he delivered them.

On Tuesday, Trump went a step further, repeating his previous comparisons between COVID-19 and the seasonal flu.

"Many people every year, sometimes over 100,000, and despite the Vaccine, die from the Flu," he tweeted. "Are we going to close down our Country? No, we have learned to live with it, just like we are learning to live with Covid, in most popula-

tions far less lethal!!!"

COVID-19 has already proven to be a more potent killer, particularly among older populations, than the seasonal flu, and has shown indications of having long-term impacts on the health of even younger people it infects.

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.

"We have to be realistic in this: COVID is a complete threat to the American population," Dr. David Nace of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said of Trump's comment.

"Most of the people aren't so lucky as the president," with an in-house medical unit and access to experimental treatments, added Nace, an expert on infections in older adults.

"It's an unconscionable message," agreed Dr. Sadiya Khan of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "I would go so far as to say that it may precipitate or worsen spread."

Navy: Basic safety steps help stem virus aboard ships

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

Isolating sailors before they board, keeping warships at sea for extended periods, canceling port visits and other measures have curbed the rate of coronavirus infection aboard Navy vessels, the service announced Sept. 30 in updated operational guidance.

Since the pandemic began, more than 190 ships have had at least one onboard case of coronavirus, but safety measures prevented most from affecting operations, according to the guidance.

"In the majority of those cases, aggressive early action to isolate, quarantine,

contact trace and continue strict health-protection mitigation measures has contained the incidence rate onboard to well less than 5%, allowing those ships to fight through and remain on mission," the guidance said.

The reduced spread rate is significant when compared to the March coronavirus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, during which more than 1,150 sailors, about 25% of the crew, tested positive. The ship diverted to Guam for a month during its spring patrol as crews were isolated and the ship was sanitized.

The Navy used "fleet lessons from operating in a COVID-19 environment" to

develop the updates, the guidance said, referring to the disease the coronavirus causes.

The updated guidance listed personal protective equipment, aggressive sanitization and cleaning, social distancing and reducing the use of confined spaces such as gyms and smoke pits as key precautions that help reduce the virus' spread.

It also laid out best practices for pre-deployment sequestration of sailors to ensure Navy ships get underway without positive cases aboard. For example, all sailors should be tested when they begin and end a pre-deployment restriction-of-movement period, which should last 14 days and take place off the ship.

Okinawa Marines probe large brawl at tourist hub

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps is investigating how a bloody brawl occurred Saturday night involving about two dozen off-duty U.S. military personnel at American Village, an Okinawa tourist hub in Mihama.

An argument that started in a line to order food at Café and Pizza Bar Oh Yeah! around 10 p.m. escalated into spilled blood and broken glasses, a manager told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. Oh Yeah! is a popular bar and pub-style food chain on the second floor of the Oak Fashion Building.

“I was surprised” there was a fight, said the manager, who asked that his name not be published.

The manager said he ordered the arguing men onto a terrace to maintain social distancing. There, a scuffle ensued, and the men were asked to leave. The fight continued outside the front door of the bar.

Outside, about two dozen men shoved, punched and beat each other, the manager said.

Videos of the fight uploaded to Facebook show a tangle of bodies, punches being thrown and one man assaulting an-

other, apparently unconscious man with a martial arts move. Flip flops and fedoras littered the ground.

The manager said he called police about 10 minutes into the incident. The men ran when they arrived.

The fight had broken up by the time police arrived and no crime was observed, an Okinawa police spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

Two service personnel who returned to the establishment were handed over to Marine security forces, the spokesman said.

“We are conducting an investigation into the public disturbance in American Village on October 3rd,” according to a statement from Marine Corps Installations Pacific on Monday. “Until that investigation is complete we cannot provide any additional information or details of those involved. We expect all Marines to obey Japanese law and uphold our core values of honor, courage, commitment at all times.”

Café & Pizza Bar Oh Yeah! is popular with Americans, the manager said. Most come in to have a good time and leave without incident.

The manager said the bar and restaurant does not plan to file a complaint.

Marines may waive some fitness tests

BY ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps commanders may issue waivers for Marines, or even whole units, for semi-annual combat fitness tests if the testing sites cannot accommodate safety measures to protect against the coronavirus, a spokesman for III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa said Monday.

The Corps is putting mitigating steps in place, such as screening Marines and taking their temperatures before the tests, disinfecting equipment and mandating face masks, 1st Lt. Pawel Puczko said in an email to Stars and Stripes. He said Marines who are at a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus or share quarters with someone who is at a higher risk may apply for waivers.

In April, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger ordered a halt to all fitness testing due to the coronavirus. Last month, the Corps announced it will resume its physical fitness and combat fitness tests despite the ongoing pandemic. Marines will have until the end of December to complete both tests, according to a Sept. 21 memo.

Individual waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, Puczko said.

“The health and safety of our Marines is always a top priority,” he said. “Commands across III MEF have demonstrated their dedication to keeping Marines and families safe from COVID-19 through diligent planning and implementation of safety protocols.”

The allowance for commanders to issue both combat fitness test and physical fitness test waivers will extend across the Marine Corps, according to a Marine administrative order.

Social distancing may prove difficult during the combat fitness test. One event requires Marines to drag and carry each other to simulate maneuver under fire, according to the official Marine Corps website.

The Navy postponed sailors’ physical fitness tests until further notice in an administrative message in July.

“Although the Navy PFA Cycle 2, 2020 has been excused, Sailors are reminded to make good choices for a healthy diet and are to continue a level of fitness to maintain Navy physical fitness standards,” the message said.

Pompeo: China’s assertiveness a threat to Quad nations

Associated Press

TOKYO — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday that China’s increasingly assertive actions across the region make it more critical than ever for the four Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad to cooperate to protect their partners and their people from Chinese “exploitation, corruption and coercion.”

Pompeo made the remark at a meeting in Tokyo with the foreign ministers of Japan,

India and Australia, who together make up the Quad. The talks were the group’s first in-person since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Pompeo accused China of covering up the pandemic and worsening it, while threatening freedom, democracy and diversity in the region with its increasingly assertive actions.

“It is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the Chinese Communist Party’s exploitation, corrup-

tion and coercion,” Pompeo said. “We see in the East and South China Seas. The Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Strait. These are just a few examples.”

The talks come less than a month before the U.S. presidential election and amid tensions between Washington and Beijing over the virus, trade, technology, Hong Kong, Taiwan and human rights. They follow a flare-up in tensions between China and India over their disputed Himalayan border.

Japan, meanwhile, is concerned about China’s claim to the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, called Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea. Japan also considers China’s growing military activity to be a security threat. Japan’s annual defense policy paper in July accused China of unilaterally changing the status quo in the South China Sea, where it has built and militarized manmade islands and is pressing its claim to virtually all of the sea’s key fisheries and waterways.

Former Marine releases new graphic novel

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

Maximilian Uriarte has spent the past 10 years bringing the realities of Marine Corps service to life.

In 2010, he debuted the comic strip “Terminal Lance,” which became a cultural phenomenon, illuminating the humor and daily absurdities of the grunt existence. He became a New York Times bestselling author in 2016 with the release of “The White Donkey: Terminal Lance,” a graphic novel examining the realities of war and its effects on the psyche.

Now, the 33-year-old is back with another graphic novel, “Battle Born: Lapis Lazuli,” and a new archetype that mines the “indomitable” Marine hero.

“Battle Born” follows the exploits of the sensitive-yet-Herculean, African American squad leader Sergeant King, as he deftly attempts to win hearts and minds in the mountains of Afghanistan while combating the Taliban and the conflict mineral trade. This mysteri-

ous new character without a first name also faces issues like racism and sexism within his squad.

Unlike Uriarte’s past works, King’s anguish manifests itself not in jokes, nervous banter between Marines or the outpouring of emotion, but in blank stares, long silences, a clenched jaw and brute violence. King is roughly based on Robert E. Howard’s “Conan the Barbarian,” Uriarte said by phone on Sept. 15 from his home in Santa Monica, Calif.

“I wanted to create a kind of modern mythical hero like Conan in a contemporary realist setting,” he wrote in the book’s afterword. “Sergeant King became that character.”

The novel is a departure from Uriarte’s previous works, which are mostly black and white. Each of its 352 pages pop with rich, vibrant color. There are some sections where mountain landscapes or facial expressions tell the story with no dialogue.

“I really wanted this to be like a purely visual experience,” Uriarte said during the

phone interview. “I didn’t want this to feel like reading a book. I wanted it to feel like you are watching a movie.”

Uriarte came up with the idea for “Battle Born” in 2014 while working on “The White Donkey,” the afterword states. He felt artistically compelled to set the book in the mountains, so he began researching Afghanistan’s tragic history, looking for potential story angles.

He came across a New York Times article about how the Taliban had taken over large swaths of Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province and were funding operations through the sale of the blue, semi-precious gemstone, lapis lazuli, which is found at Sar-i-sang, deep in the mountains.

“People know [the Taliban] make their money from opium, drugs and other illegal activities, but this was kind of a new thing,” Uriarte said. “It was gemstones and they had kind of taken over the whole area ... I got really intrigued by it.”

Uriarte began writing the script fully in 2018, he said.

“Battle Born” sees King and

a diverse platoon dropped into the mountains outside Sar-i-sang, where they build a combat outpost and begin operations to deter Taliban mining and restore order. Their culture and ideals run headlong into that of the remote local population.

King becomes close with the family of a local village elder, who is then punished by the Taliban. He enacts vengeance while ultimately facing a dilemma over doing the right thing or following the rules.

Uriarte once again captures the feel and banter of a Marine unit and addresses true-to-life social issues through characters like the naive 1st Lt. Roberts, a gay female Marine named Chavez and a Confederate-flag-loving racist named Forrest.

“You’re black now,” King tells Chavez after explaining that she’ll have to work twice as hard to earn the men’s respect.

The book was released July 28 and has received positive reviews thus far. Hollywood took notice and “Battle Born” is already in development for a film, Uriarte said.

Milley apologizes for quip about Intelligence chair Schiff

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

Stars and Stripes

Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a tweet Monday apologized for a remark he made Thursday about a ranking congressman during a change in leadership at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

“Today I spoke with the Honorable Representative Adam Schiff and apologized for a comment I made, in jest, during opening remarks at the DIA change of command,” said a tweet on the Joint Staff account, @thejointstaff. “My comments were in no way meant to be offensive.”

Milley presided over a change in directors at the agency headquarters on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. The event, like many other

changes of command throughout the U.S. military during the coronavirus pandemic, was downsized. About 50 people attended, including high-ranking military and Defense Department officials. The ceremony was also livestreamed.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, was apparently invited to witness Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley Jr. relinquish agency command to Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier, but did not attend. Milley made note of Schiff’s absence at the beginning of his remarks.

“I actually thought — I was looking at the invite list — and I saw Adam Schiff, Congressman Adam Schiff was here, he didn’t, I don’t think, show up, but I’m pretty sure CIA has an empty seat so that’s appropriate for covert operations,” Mil-

ley said.

After recognizing representatives from the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe and undersecretary of defense for intelligence Joseph Kernan, Milley continued: “We don’t have ABC, NBC, CBS, but I thought we were going to have a hearing when I saw Schiff. I wasn’t sure it was going to be a hearing or an indictment. I wasn’t sure.”

The audience did not respond. Neither did Schiff respond on Twitter, his official website or on his campaign Facebook page.

Some commenters on Milley’s post on Monday, however, which included a video of the ceremony, took the chairman to task.

“Hey @RepAdamSchiff how about a little oversight on the mouthy General?” wrote Tyson Manker. “500,000+ post-9/11 veterans have been thrown from the military for minor infractions since 2001. When are these generals going to be held responsible?”

Another commenter cited Milley’s previous apology for taking part in a photo op for President Donald Trump on June 1, when law enforcement officers cleared protesters from Lafayette Square, outside the White House, so the president, flanked by Milley, Defense Secretary Mark Esper and others, could walk to the nearby St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Stockrocket owl tweeted: “This makes twice you’ve had to apologize. I think you need to step down. I question your judgment.”

Military leaders under quarantine

The Washington Post

Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are in isolation after the Coast Guard's No. 2 officer tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the Pentagon said Tuesday in a statement.

Adm. Charles Ray, the vice commandant of the Coast Guard, tested positive for the virus on Monday, said Cmdr. Scott McBride, a service spokesman. It is not clear where the admiral was infected, but his travels in recent days include attending a Sept. 27 event at the White House recognizing Gold Star military families and a meeting at the Pentagon on Friday with the military's top generals.

Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement on Tuesday that defense officials are aware of Ray's diagnosis and that he was at the Pentagon last week "for meetings with other senior military leaders."

Hoffman said some of the attendees were service chiefs and now in isolation. They include Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Charles Brown, the Air Force chief of staff, said two defense officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

"We are conducting additional contact tracing and taking appropriate precautions

to protect the force and the mission," Hoffman said. "Out of an abundance of caution, all potential close contacts from these meetings are self-quarantining and have been tested this morning. No Pentagon contacts have exhibited symptoms and we have no additional positive tests to report at this time."

Hoffman said that there is no change to the readiness or capability of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Defense Department has been following public-health guidelines since April, including carrying out body temperature checks and wearing masks when social distancing is not possible.

Epic scale of wildfires in Calif. continues to grow

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The staggering scale of California's wildfires reached another milestone Monday: A single fire surpassed 1 million acres.

The new mark for the August Complex in the Coast Range between San Francisco and the Oregon border came a day after the total area of land burned by California wildfires this year passed 4 million acres, more than double the previous record.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the amount of land scorched by the August Complex is larger than all of the recorded fires in California between 1932 and 1999.

"If that's not proof point, testament, to climate change, then I don't know what is," he said.

The August Complex began as dozens of fires ignited by lightning in the Mendocino National Forest in mid-August and became California's largest fire on record in September. As of Monday, it covered nearly 1,566 square miles.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 8,200 California wildfires have scorched "well over 4 million acres" or 6,250 square miles, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday in a statement. There have

been 31 deaths and nearly 8,700 buildings have been destroyed, the governor said.

Numerous studies have linked bigger wildfires in America to climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists say climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable.

Mike Flannigan, who directs the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science at Canada's University of Alberta, says the escalation of fires in California and the U.S. West is "largely, not solely, due to human-caused climate change."

The August Complex has destroyed 242 structures and damaged a half dozen. One firefighter has died and one has been injured. Containment was estimated at 54% on Monday.

A fire burning in Northern California wine country has burned more than 102 square miles and destroyed more than 1,200 buildings since it started Sept. 27.

California remains largely warm and dry but fierce winds that fanned infernos a week ago were gone. Cooling at the coast was expected to expand into the interior and a Pacific storm system remained in the forecast for Northern California by next weekend.

3 win Nobel physics prize for black hole finds

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Three scientists won this year's Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for advancing our understanding of black holes, the all-consuming monsters that lurk in the darkest parts of the universe.

Briton Roger Penrose received half of this year's prize "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity," the Nobel Committee said.

German Reinhard Genzel and American Andrea Ghez received the second half of the prize "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy."

The prize celebrates "one of the most exotic objects in the universe," black holes, which have become a staple of science fact and science fiction and where time seems to stand still, according to the committee.

Black holes are perhaps the most mysterious and powerful objects in astronomy. They are at the center of every galaxy, and smaller ones are dotted around the universe. Nothing, not even light, can escape their incredible gravity. They are the ultimate cosmic dead end.

"Black holes, because they

are so hard to understand, is what makes them so appealing," Ghez told The Associated Press on Tuesday morning.

Penrose proved with mathematics that the formation of black holes was possible, based heavily on Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity.

"Einstein did not himself believe that black holes really exist, these super-heavyweight monsters that capture everything that enters them," the committee explained.

Penrose detailed his studies in 1965, but it wasn't until the 1990s that Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez, each leading a group of astronomers, trained their sights on the dust-covered center of our Milky Way galaxy, a region called Sagittarius A(asterisk), where something strange was going on.

They both found that there was "an extremely heavy, invisible object that pulls on the jumble of stars, causing them to rush around at dizzying speeds."

It was a black hole. Not just an ordinary black hole, but a supermassive black hole, 4 million times the mass of our sun.

The Nobel Committee said black holes "still pose many questions that beg for answers and motivate future research."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

College town cancels Halloween celebration

NC CHAPEL HILL — A North Carolina college town's popular Halloween celebration will not be permitted this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Chapel Hill officials announced Friday afternoon that all town-sponsored public events and festivals through the end of the year have been canceled, the News & Observer reported. Also canceled was the annual Halloween-related closure of Franklin Street. While not an organized event, thousands of costumed revelers typically pack the street.

The town did not say how it would deal with any potential crowds that still might gather, the newspaper reported. Some years have seen as many as 40,000 people parade along the closed-off street on Halloween.

DNA database leads to conviction in rape cases

VA ALEXANDRIA — A man who was tracked down with the help a public access DNA database and convicted of raping two lifeguards in Northern Virginia has been sentenced to 65 years in prison.

An Alexandria Circuit Court judge handed down Jesse Bjerke's sentence Friday, radio station WTOP reported.

Investigators had been at a dead-end in the case of a woman who was raped at a deserted Alexandria swimming pool in 2016, according to WTOP, when they ran the suspect's DNA through a genealogical site called GEDmatch. That pointed to Bjerke as a suspect.

He pleaded guilty in October 2019 to six felonies, and then earlier this year pleaded no contest and was convicted in the rape of another woman,

who was working as a lifeguard when she was attacked in 2014.

Police charge 1 after parade road rage

OH HILLIARD — Authorities said a man has been charged with shooting at another driver on an Ohio interstate in an apparent road rage incident during a highway parade in support of President Donald Trump.

Hilliard police said a semi-tractor-trailer driver on Interstate 270 North called emergency dispatchers shortly after 10:30 a.m. Saturday to report a driver in a pickup had fired a weapon toward his vehicle.

Police said Todd Crawford, 58, of Homer, was charged with discharge of a firearm on or near premises, a third-degree felony. Investigators alleged that he fired a shot from a 45-caliber pistol into the cab of the semi-truck. No one was injured.

Carriage horses back on job after 6 months

NY NEW YORK — Central Park's carriage horses have returned to work for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic hit New York City last spring.

The New York Post reported that drivers were tested for the virus before the carriages rolled on Saturday for the first time in six months, and hand sanitizer was available.

Though popular with visitors, the industry has long been criticized by animal welfare activists who say it's inhumane to make a horse pull a carriage through present-day Manhattan. Bill de Blasio vowed to ban the carriages when he first ran for mayor in 2013, but had to settle for moving their boarding area when the threatened shut-

down faced fierce opposition.

Foes of the carriages were at the park to protest the restart, while members of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union, which represents drivers, held a counterprotest.

Man who lost cabin in flood looking for pieces

MI SANFORD — A mid-Michigan man who lost his cabin to devastating spring flooding is appealing to the public to let him know if they've spotted any pieces of the building in flood debris.

Michael Marker of Sanford said the cabin was a special place, especially because it was one of the last things he built with his father. He told TV station WNEM that it was washed away when the Edenville and Sanford dams failed in Midland County in May.

Marker's home was damaged in the flood but looks much better now following repairs. But he said he's hoping his cabin could be intact somewhere.

Conservationists: Do not reopen wolf hunt

AK JUNEAU — Alaska conservationists are urging both state and federal officials not to reopen wolf hunting season around Prince of Wales Island.

They are imploring officials to do so in order to allow the population of wolves to recover from last season's record harvest, CoastAlaska reported.

The U.S. Forest Service had postponed the federal subsistence wolf season until Oct. 31. The state's hunting season for wolves is scheduled to open two weeks afterward.

State and federal managers eliminated the harvest limit in 2019, which has resulted in a record 165 wolves hunted or trapped since then, said Patrick

Lavin of Defenders of Wildlife in Anchorage.

State Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang has said if the population falls below 100, hunting and trapping season would close.

Police: 1 dead, 5 hurt after fight in store

GA ATLANTA — One man has died and five others have been hospitalized for gunshot wounds following a fight at a convenience store in Atlanta, authorities said.

The preliminary investigation showed that a person involved in the dispute at Star Discount Food store fired the gunshots, Atlanta police said in a statement.

Officers found four people with gunshot wounds when they arrived at the store shortly after 4 p.m. Two of the other victims were found in other locations, police said.

All of the victims were taken to a hospital for treatment. A 19-year-old man who was wounded during the shooting died later Sunday, police said.

Police: Man used hatchet in attack

NE OMAHA — An Omaha man was jailed after allegedly attacking his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend with a hatchet.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that the incident happened early Saturday. Police said a 50-year-old man shattered the rear sliding glass door to break into an apartment, where he tried to strangle his former girlfriend.

When the new boyfriend tried to intervene, the man allegedly struck him with a hatchet. The wounded man was taken to a hospital, but his injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

MLB roundup

Yankees, Astros roll in ALDS openers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Giancarlo Stanton and the Bronx Bombers made themselves right at home in Petco Park on a warm October evening in Southern California.

Stanton hit a grand slam in the ninth inning for New York's fourth home run of the game, and the Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 9-3 on Monday in the opener of their AL Division Series at Petco Park.

Stanton homered to straight-away center field on a 2-2 pitch from John Curtiss. The slugger took several steps with his bat still in his hands as he watched the ball sail through the pleasant San Diego evening air before beginning his trot.

A few fans chanted "Let's Go Yankees!" from a balcony on an office building just beyond right field of the mostly empty ballpark.

"That SoCal air, man. That SoCal weather. That's what it is," said Stanton, who is from Los Angeles and won the Home Run Derby at Petco Park in 2016. He spent his first eight seasons with the Marlins and

has nine homers in 20 games at Petco Park.

Kyle Higashioka, another SoCal native, and Aaron Judge hit the tying and go-ahead home runs off Blake Snell in the fifth to back winner Gerrit Cole. Clint Frazier hit an impressive shot into the second deck in left in the third.

The Bronx Bombers became the first team in American League history to hit a grand slam in back-to-back playoff games. Gio Urshela connected in Game 2 of the first-round sweep against Cleveland. Two NL teams have done it, the 1977 Dodgers and 2011 Diamondbacks.

Judge said he's comfortable in San Diego, and his parents were at the game.

"This is the first game my parents were able to come to as well. That's huge. My dad for sure doesn't miss more than a month at a time, and we're in October now," he said.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is Tuesday night, with 21-year-old rookie Deivi Garcia set to become the youngest Yankees pitcher to make a post-season start. Tyler Glasnow

goes for the Rays.

Beginning with this round, all postseason series were moved to neutral sites because of the coronavirus.

The Yankees set a franchise record by hitting at least three home runs in three consecutive postseason games. They are the second team to do it in baseball history after the Rays did it in four straight in 2008.

Astros 10, Athletics 5: At Los Angeles, a home run derby broke out during a hot, dry day at Dodger Stadium, and suddenly Houston have its swing and swagger back.

Carlos Correa homered twice and drove in four, Jose Altuve hit a go-ahead, two-run single during Houston's four-run sixth inning and the Astros rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics in the opener of their AL Division Series.

"I love October baseball," Correa said. "The energy is just different. I know there's no fans this year, but the energy to know you win or go home is what drives me."

George Springer, MVP of the 2017 World Series, had four hits for Houston, which trailed 3-0

and 5-3.

"To get down early and not quit and fight hard and come out with a win in the first game is obviously huge," Springer said.

The Astros rallied with two outs in the sixth against Oakland's vaunted bullpen to take control of Major League Baseball's first neutral-site post-season game resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. Houston pounded out 16 hits in all as the A's ran through eight pitchers.

"As the game got deeper," Springer said, "the at-bats got better."

The teams combined for six home runs in daytime conditions that were ripe for the ball to carry at the stadium where the Dodgers hit a major league-leading 118 homers. The temperature was 91 degrees at game time under sunny skies and with little breeze, although tricky shadows crept toward the mound during the final innings. The entire best-of-five series will be played during the day. At night, the air is cooler and often thicker, an environment less favorable to hitters.

Qualifier Podoroska moves into French Open semis

Associated Press

PARIS — After becoming the first qualifier to reach the women's semifinals at Roland Garros in the Open era, Nadia Podoroska threw her racket in the air, tilted her head back and pumped both fists.

Podoroska had just knocked out Elena Svitolina, the French Open's third seed who, on Tuesday, was stopped from reaching a third semifinal in her past four Grand Slam tournaments.

The Argentine, who is ranked 131st and never had won a main draw Grand Slam match before last week, could hardly believe she won 6-2, 6-4 on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Asked afterward whether she is pinching herself to make sure it's not a dream, Podoroska replied: "No. I don't want to wake up."

Podoroska is only the third female qualifier to get to the semifinals at any major tournament in the Open era, which began in 1968, and the first since Alexandra Stevenson at Wimbledon in 1999.

And to think: Podoroska, who is from the same city in Argentina as soccer superstar Lionel Messi, said she considered quitting tennis altogether a couple of years ago after "too many injuries," including to her right wrist.

She was off the tour for eight months; her ranking dropped; she didn't have enough money to travel to tournaments; she split with a coach she'd been working with for a decade.

"I didn't know what to do," Podoroska said.

She stuck with it, though, and now has a new team around her, based in Spain. And, by far, the best results of her career.

Svitolina, though, blamed herself for this outcome.

"Lots of things were not going my way," Svitolina said. "I was not 100% mentally on it today, and that was really disappointing."

Serving at 5-4 down, Svitoli-

na saved two match points, the second with an audacious slice at the net to end a 27-shot rally.

But on the third match point, Podoroska hit a crisp forehand winner and then chucked her racket toward the blue sky.

In the semifinals, she could face another qualifier in Martina Trevisan of Italy, who also had not won a main draw Grand Slam match before this tournament. Trevisan was scheduled to face unseeded 19-year-old Iga Swiatek later Tuesday.

On a day of firsts, Danielle Collins reached the quarterfinals of the French Open for the first time by beating 30th-seeded Ons Jabeur 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Role player on a roll: Heat's Olynyk must stay prepared

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Kelly Olynyk might play no minutes for the Miami Heat on Tuesday, a scenario that popped up twice in the last three games of the Eastern Conference finals. Or he might play meaningless minutes, like what he got in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. Or he might play big minutes, as was the case in Games 2 and 3 of the title series.

He's used to the uncertainty. This is Olynyk's mandate as a Heat player: Be ready, sometimes for nothing, sometimes for everything. He has been a starter at times, a key reserve for the bulk of his three-year tenure in Miami but, on occasion, falls out of the rotation entirely. He was more than ready in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, scoring 17 points, grabbing seven rebounds and making two very big plays that many might not have noticed to help the Heat beat the Los Angeles Lakers 115-104 and get within 2-1 in the series.

Game 4 was Tuesday night. "It's never easy. It's never easy," Olynyk said of his wildly fluctuating role with Miami. "It's a weird feeling and I'm not going to lie, it doesn't get easy. But you just know there is op-

portunity on the next side. The only thing is, you wonder if this is the last time there is that opportunity. So you stay ready because hard work always prevails."

Olynyk has had a bigger role in these finals, especially the last two games, because Bam Adebayo was out with a neck strain. Adebayo is listed as questionable for Game 4.

Miami made that determination Monday, while continuing to list fellow starter Goran Dragic as doubtful with a torn left plantar fascia.

That means the Heat may not need to use Olynyk and Meyers Leonard — who started at center in Games 2 and 3 — so much Tuesday.

Leonard was a starter all season until hurting his ankle in February. He gave Miami 12 very important minutes in Game 3.

"KO and Meyers, they're just great professionals," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We've said it all year long that our depth is one of our best strengths. That's not just coach-speak. You have to have the right kind of pros that are really willing to be all about the team, and that requires sacrifice at times. So the minutes

weren't always there for them this season, but they contributed in a big way at different points."

Including playoffs, Miami is 24-9 this season when Olynyk hits double figures in scoring. His 17 points in Game 3 came on 5-for-9 shooting, 3-for-5 from beyond the three-point line.

But the two biggest moments of his night may have been when he stepped in front of Anthony Davis and took a charge on the Lakers' big man in the second quarter for his third foul — part of a rough night for Davis — then when he chased down LeBron James for a steal with 2:45 left.

Olynyk will have a decision to make when this season is over; he has a player option for next season with the Heat, one that would pay about \$12.2 million.

It's unknown when he'll have to decide, since the league and the National Basketball Players Association have yet to collectively bargain what the new terms for options, free agency and other matters will be — it all was supposed to happen in the summer, of course, but couldn't because of the pandemic. Most players with options may get to wait until November to decide.

Rangers have work to do after No. 1 pick

Associated Press

New York Rangers president John Davidson refuses to get ahead of himself with his team in the unique position of holding the No. 1 pick in the NHL draft while also coming off an appearance in the expanded 24-team playoffs.

Exciting as it is having the opportunity to add someone such as projected top pick, Quebec-born play-making forward Alexis Lafreniere, to a young, retooling roster once the draft opens Tuesday night, Davidson cautioned the Rangers aren't anywhere close to being a contender just yet.

The Rangers only made the playoffs because the NHL expanded the format to 24, rather than 16 teams. And even then, New York's quick exit in being swept in three games by Carolina in the preliminary round wasn't exactly reassuring.

"I think we have work to do, and I'm being bluntly honest," Davidson said last week.

"Our No. 1 pick is going to be a very good hockey player, there's no question, maybe even a great player, hopefully. But even he's going to take some time to get there," he added. "It's a long hard climb, and we're still in the middle of it."

At least they're getting a head start courtesy of a coronavirus pandemic-altered NHL year, in which the draft lottery fell in favor of the Rangers, and against the seven nonplayoff teams with far better odds of landing the top pick. The Los Angeles Kings choose second, followed by the Ottawa Senators, who have three first-round selections, and the Detroit Red Wings, who were bumped to the No. 4 spot despite finishing with the NHL's worst record.

As a result, the Rangers have the No. 1 pick for the first time since the NHL adopted the universal draft in 1969.

Arizona's Sumlin tests positive for virus

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona football coach Kevin Sumlin has tested positive for COVID-19 less than a week before the team begins its pre-season practices.

The school said in a statement that Sumlin, 56, received back-to-back positive tests and has entered self-isolation. The school said Sumlin has not experienced any symptoms and that the positive test result was not related to any team activities.

"My family and I have been aggressive in our efforts to remain safe and healthy throughout the past seven months," Sumlin said in a statement.

"My positive test result, while a shock, is a stark reminder of how we must all remain vigilant in our focus on hand washing, physical distancing and face coverings.

"I am feeling well and will be engaged in our ramp-up activities on a virtual basis until I complete the isolation protocol. I look forward to being back on field in time to begin preparing for the season."

Sumlin is among a handful of FBS coaches who have contracted COVID-19 over the past few months, including Florida State's Mike Norvell.

Arizona begins its six-game schedule on Nov. 7 at Utah. The school still plans to start preseason practice Friday.

Chiefs lean on 'D' to beat Patriots

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's hard enough to slow down Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs under the best of circumstances.

Try doing it with your star quarterback shelved by COVID-19, a 40-year-old journeyman taking his place, your top running back headed to injured reserve and a flight that didn't land in Kansas City until shortly before kickoff.

Yet the New England Patriots still managed to give the Chiefs fits for most of the way Monday night, hanging within a field goal of the Super Bowl champs until late in the third quarter. It wasn't until Tyrann Mathieu took an interception back for a touchdown in the fourth that Kansas City clinched its 26-10 victory at Arrowhead Stadium.

"You've seen it this season. You've seen it last season. Even if you hold us down, we can go out there and make plays when they count," said Mahomes, who threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns. "When your number is called you have to make plays, and I thought enough guys made plays that we were able to get out of there with a win."

Tyreek Hill and Mecole Hardman had the TD grabs for the Chiefs, who have now won 13 straight games.

"We made plays when we had to make

plays," coach Andy Reid said, "and we can learn from this. We have to do better in a lot of areas, but it's tough to win in this league and it's tough to beat the Patriots in any situation."

Perhaps a bit easier in this one.

The marquee matchup was supposed to be Sunday, but it was put on pause when New England confirmed that a player — later revealed to be Cam Newton — tested positive for COVID-19. Later on Saturday, it came out that Kansas City practice squad QB Jordan Ta'amu also had tested positive, forcing the NFL to postpone the game.

More tests, including one taken at 6 a.m. ET on Monday, returned no additional positives from either team.

With their quarterback sidelined, and running back Sony Michel hitting the IR with a quad injury, the Patriots (2-2) were forced to lean on journeyman Brian Hoyer and a cast of running backs that never got into much of a rhythm.

Hoyer, who has now lost 11 straight starts for three different teams, was 15-for-24 for 130 yards and an interception before getting benched in the second half. Jarrett Stidham led the Patriots to a touchdown to close to 13-10, but he also threw two interceptions, including the pick-6 to Mathieu that propelled the Chiefs to their fourth straight 4-0 start.

"We had some opportunities tonight (and) weren't able to take advantage of them. You can't give a team like that those kind of opportunities," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "Turned the ball over four times. Had too many penalties."

Yet much of the way, Belichick's run-heavy, drain-the-clock game plan worked.

Kansas City marched downfield for a field goal on its first drive, added another later in the half, but otherwise had a hard time getting into gear.

Sammy Watkins wasted a scoring chance by fumbling in the red zone, Mahomes was under constant duress and the rest of his wide receivers were blanketed by the New England secondary.

In fact, the Patriots could have been leading had Hoyer not made two monumental mistakes.

The first came in the closing seconds of the first half, when the team had used its timeouts to drive into field-goal range. Hoyer was sacked by Frank Clark on third down, and the 40-year-old journeyman didn't realize he couldn't stop the clock.

Hoyer's second mistake came late in the third quarter, when he again felt the pocket collapse on a third-down play. This time, the Chiefs stripped the ball loose and recovered it, keeping New England from another field-goal attempt.

Rodgers-Tonyan connection lifts Pack

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers needed someone to step forward when injuries left their top two wide receivers unavailable.

That made it the perfect showcase for tight end Robert Tonyan to continue his breakthrough season.

Tonyan caught three of Aaron Rodgers' four touchdown passes, Za'Darius Smith recorded three sacks and the Packers remained unbeaten with a 30-16 victory over the winless Atlanta Falcons on Monday night.

"I just had to continue to do what I've been doing, just keep playing well and stick to the game plan," Tonyan said. "Like I've said before, when plays come to me, I've got to make them. Aaron had a nice little

look in his eye tonight, so I just was trying to roll with that."

The Packers (4-0) have opened a season by scoring at least 30 points in four straight games for the first time in franchise history.

Green Bay star receiver Davante Adams sat out a second straight game with a hamstring injury and Allen Lazard is on injured reserve with a core problem. A knee injury sidelined veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis.

Yet that didn't slow down Rodgers, who capitalized on Atlanta's depleted secondary.

"I like where we're at," Rodgers said. "I really do. I like the diversity in our approach. Again (coach) Matt (LaFleur) was really good kind of mixing it up with the calls. Obviously we had to do some different things

without Davante, without Allen and without Marcedes, but I thought we had a nice plan and we executed really well."

Tonyan had touchdown receptions of 19 and 8 yards to cap the Packers' final two first-half possessions. He added a 21-yard touchdown reception midway through the third quarter. The 2017 undrafted free agent from Indiana State finished the night with six catches for 98 yards along with his three touchdowns to set career highs in all three categories. Tonyan has scored in three straight games and now has five touchdown catches to match Tampa Bay's Mike Evans for the NFL lead.

Rodgers went 27-for-33 for 327 yards. He has thrown 13 touchdown passes without an interception this season.

"He's one of those guys who's

self-motivated," LaFleur said. "It doesn't take anything other than he wants to be the best. He usually is the best every Sunday when we're out there. We're fortunate to have him as our leader. He's the one driving the ship out there."

Todd Gurley's two touchdown runs couldn't stop the Falcons from their first 0-4 start since 1999, when they followed a Super Bowl season by going 5-11. Atlanta coach Dan Quinn remains confident the Falcons can turn around this season.

"In my heart, in my head and everything I believe in, I know that we can," Quinn said. "I know that the second quarter of our season will look a hell of a lot different from our first. That's in fact what I told the team. Nothing's been decided yet."