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THE ROANOKE TIMES

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MIDDLE EAST | WAR IN IRAN

US to deploy about 1,000 more troops

JON GAMBRELL, DAVID RISING AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The American military will deploy around 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division to the Middle East, a person with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The troops are to be sent in the coming days, the person said.

The unit is considered the Army's emergency response force and can typically be deployed on short notice. The force would include a battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team as well as Maj. Gen. Brandon Tegtmeier, the division's commander, and division staff, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It's the latest addition of American troops after U.S. officials last week said thousands of Marines aboard several Navy ships will head to the region.

While the Marine units are trained in missions that include supporting U.S. embassies, evacuating civilians and disaster relief, the soldiers of 82nd Airborne are trained to parachute into hostile or

contested territory to secure key territory and airfields.

The New York Times earlier reported that the deployment was being considered.

War continues

Meanwhile, airstrikes battered Iran and Iranian missiles and drones targeted sites across the Mideast on Tuesday, even as

Trump claimed the United States was in talks with the Islamic Republic to end the war.

With both sides firing barrages and Iran denying any negotiations are taking place, the war's tempo remained high a day after Trump delayed his self-imposed deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait

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AP PHOTO, RYAN MURPHY

An Air Canada Jet sits on the runway at LaGuardia Airport on Monday after colliding with a Port Authority aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle after landing in New York.

Town takes early steps

Blacksburg currently has no zoning rules governing marijuana retailers

ETHAN HUNT
The Roanoke Times

BLACKSBURG — Town officials Tuesday began preparing for the likely statewide legalization of marijuana, taking initial steps to regulate where retail stores could crop up within town limits.

Blacksburg currently has no zoning rules governing marijuana retailers. The legalization bill sitting on Gov. Abigail Spanberger's desk would bar stores within 1,000 feet of schools or day care centers, but leaves additional restrictions up to local governments.

"Blacksburg won't be the only locality that's doing this — there are probably local governments all around the state that will be having these conversations this year," Mayor Michael Sutphin said.

The bill, set to take effect Jan. 1, 2027, if signed by Spanberger, would allow recreational cannabis sales and replace decriminalization — a limited policy in place since 2021 that allowed possession of small amounts but stopped short of recreational sales.

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Crash underscores pressures on air traffic controllers

RIO YAMAT
AP Airlines and Travel Writer

Just before an Air Canada jet collided with an airport fire truck, air traffic controllers at New York's LaGuardia Airport were juggling a developing late-night emergency on the runway.

A United Airlines flight had twice aborted takeoff and reported an odor coming from the back of the plane. But with no gate immediately available, the pilot and controllers went back and forth over the radio as controllers tried to reach the

airline and find a safe spot to put the plane. Audio recordings captured the chaotic conversation as the cockpit conveyed growing urgency.

"Flight attendants in the back are feeling ill because of the odor," the pilot can be heard

saying. "We will need to go into any available gate at this time."

With no place to park the aircraft, air traffic control dispatched fire trucks to go to the plane instead and offered stairs

Please see **AIR TRAFFIC**, Page A8

ROANOKE

Woman charged in estranged husband's death

LAURENCE HAMMACK
The Roanoke Times

A 30-year-old Roanoke woman has been charged with killing her estranged husband, who was found earlier this month inside his SUV with mortal gunshot wounds.

Alexis Marie Green was arrested Tuesday and charged with second-degree murder, according to the Roanoke Police Department.

At about 9:45 p.m. on March 8, police were called to a reported shooting in the 1000 block of

Norfolk Avenue Southwest. They found 37-year-old Evers Lamar Green in the driver's seat of a Dodge Durango, suffering from numerous gunshot wounds.

Green was rushed to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, where he later died.

Police said a preliminary investigation determined his death was "targeted."

On Feb. 19, Alexis Green sued her husband for divorce, stating in court records that they had

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