

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Navy confirms virus cases on USS Kidd

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — At least 18 sailors aboard the USS Kidd have tested positive for the coronavirus, Pentagon officials said Friday in announcing the Navy's second outbreak aboard a deployed warship.

One sailor aboard the guided-missile destroyer was evacuated from the ship Thursday after developing symptoms consistent with the coronavirus and later tested positive at a medical treatment facility in San Antonio, said Jonathan Hoffman, the chief spokesman for the Pentagon. That sailor was stable Friday and receiving medical attention, the Navy said in a statement.

The Navy on Friday rushed a medical evaluation team to the destroyer, which is part of a counternarcotics mission in waters under U.S. Southern Command's responsibility, the Navy said. The ship will be sent to an undisclosed port where its crew will be offloaded and isolated, and the ship would be cleaned.

"We are taking every precaution to ensure we identify, isolate, and prevent any further spread onboard the ship," said Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson, commander

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet. "Our medical team continues coordinating with the ship and our focus is the safety and well-being of every sailor."

Hoffman said Friday that the Navy had learned a great deal from the military's largest coronavirus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, where 840 sailors had contracted the illness in the roughly one month since the first cases of the virus on the ship were reported. The outbreak forced the Navy to dock the Roosevelt off Guam's coast and offload more than 4,000 sailors who remain isolated in Navy facilities and hotels on the island.

The Navy has launched two investigations into that ship's outbreak. The first, which Hoffman said Defense Secretary Mark Esper will be briefed about Friday afternoon, studied the service's controversial handling of the outbreak, which cost the ship's commander his job and later led to the ouster of the acting Navy secretary who removed him. The second study by Navy health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is meant to scientifically evaluate the virus' spread

aboard the ship, where more than half of the crew members who contracted the illness never displayed any symptoms.

The lessons learned from that outbreak were already being implemented on the Kidd, where medical teams were working on contact tracing and other efforts to thwart a massive spread on the ship, Hoffman said Friday. Guided-missile destroyers crews are typically about 330 sailors, while the Roosevelt's crew includes almost 5,000.

"The good news is that because of the fact we've seen outbreaks on some of the naval vessels in the past ... I think there is a high level of attention to the issue from the Navy," Hoffman said at a news briefing from the Pentagon. "I think they have procedures in place and they have activated them" on the Kidd.

Another 26 Navy ships that are in port currently reported cases of coronavirus among their crews, a Navy official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Wednesday.

The official would not say which ships had cases of the virus or how many sailors were infected, only that it was small numbers.

## Guard leader warns of Iran's intent to counter US Navy

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — The leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guard warned on Thursday that he has ordered his forces to potentially target the U.S. Navy after President Donald Trump's tweet the previous day threatening to sink Iranian vessels.

Iran also summoned the Swiss ambassador, who looks out for America's interests in the country, to complain about Trump's threat coming amid months of escalating tensions between the two countries.

While the coronavirus pandemic temporarily paused those tensions, Iran has since begun pushing back against the Trump administration's maximum pressure policy both militarily and diplomatically. The Guard on Wednesday launched Iran's first military satellite, unveiling a previously secret space program.

Speaking to state television Thursday, Guard Gen. Hossein Salami warned that his forces "will answer any action by a decisive, effective and quick counteraction."

"We have ordered our naval units at sea that if any warships or military units from the naval force of America's terrorist army wants to jeopardize our commercial vessels or our combat vessels, they must target those (American) warships or naval units," Salami said.

The latest dispute comes after the U.S. Navy said last week that 11 Guard naval gunboats had carried out "dangerous and harassing approaches" to American Navy and Coast Guard vessels in the Persian Gulf. The Americans said they used a variety of nonlethal means to warn off the Iranian boats, which eventually left. Iran, meanwhile, accused the U.S. of sparking the incident, without offering evidence for

the claim.

Iran has had tense encounters at sea for years with the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all oil passes. The U.S. has patrolled the area to protect global shipping for decades, something Iran describes as akin to it patrolling the Gulf of Mexico.

Trump on Wednesday, facing a collapsing global energy market and the coronavirus pandemic amid his reelection campaign, tweeted out a warning to Iran, saying that he ordered the Navy to "shoot down and destroy any and all Iranian gunboats if they harass our ships at sea."

"We don't want their gunboats surrounding our boats, and traveling around our boats and having a good time," Trump told reporters Wednesday evening at the White House. "We're not going to stand for it ... They'll shoot them out of the water."

# Amid rise in cases, Ga. opens businesses

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Barber shops, nail salons, gyms and a few other businesses reopened in Georgia on Friday as the Republican governor eased a monthlong shutdown despite warnings from health experts of a potential new surge of coronavirus infections.

As some customers ventured back to these venues, the confirmed number of COVID-19 deaths in the United States surpassed 50,000, according to a tally compiled by John Hopkins University from government figures. The actual death toll is believed to be far higher.

Even though limited in scope, the reopenings in Georgia and at least two other states marked a symbolic milestone in the debate raging in the United States — and the world — as to how quickly political leaders should lift economically damaging lockdown orders.

With deaths and infections still rising in Georgia, many business owners planned to remain closed in spite of Gov. Brian Kemp's assurance that hospital visits and

new cases have leveled off enough for barbers, tattoo artists, massage therapists and personal trainers to return to work with restrictions.

Kemp's timeline to restart the economy proved too ambitious even for President Donald Trump, who said Wednesday he "disagreed strongly" with the fellow Republican's plan.

On Friday, Trump was to hold a signing ceremony for a bill providing a nearly \$500 billion infusion of coronavirus spending, rushing new relief to employers and hospitals.

Without a tried-and-tested action plan for how to pull countries out of coronavirus lockdown, the world is seeing a patchwork of approaches. Schools reopen in one country, stay closed in others; face masks are an obligation here, a simple recommendation there.

Kids still attend soccer practice in Sweden while they are not even allowed outside in Spain. As governments and scientists fumble around, still struggling with so many unknowns, individuals are being left to take potentially life-affecting decisions.

In Georgia, David Huynh had 60 clients booked for appointments at his nail salon in Savannah, but a clothing store, jewelry shop and chocolatier that share a street corner with his downtown business, Envy Nail Bar, remained closed as he opened.

"The phone's been staying ringing off the hook," Huynh said. "We've probably gotten hundreds of calls in the last hour."

Four women clutching face masks were waiting outside when the nail salon opened for the first time since March 26.

"Yes, I am ready to get my nails fixed," said Alina Davis, a police officer for the local school system, who kept working throughout the crisis.

Meanwhile, Nikki Thomas is overdue for a visit to her hair stylist, but she's barely ventured outside her house in the six weeks since her employer, an Atlanta advertising company, mandated working from home on March 12, and she had no plans to change that now just because of Kemp's decision.

"It's obviously extremely stupid and I'm simultaneously exhausted and so angry I can barely see straight," Thomas, 40, said in a phone interview.

# Trump OKs \$484B in aid for hospitals, employers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a \$484 billion bill Friday to aid employers and hospitals under stress from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 50,000 Americans and devastated broad swaths of the economy.

The bill is the latest effort by the federal government to help keep afloat businesses that have had to close or dramatically alter their operations as states try to slow the spread of the virus. Over the past five weeks, roughly 26 million people have filed for jobless aid, or about 1 in 6 U.S. workers.

Trump thanked Congress for "answering my call" to provide the critical assistance and said it was "a tremendous victory." But easy passage of this aid installment belies a potentially bumpier path ahead for future legislation to address the crisis.

The measure passed Congress almost unanimously Thursday as lawmakers gathered in Washington as a group for the first time since March 27. They followed stricter social distancing rules while seeking to prove they can do their work despite the COVID-19 crisis.

Lawmakers' face masks and bandannas added a somber tone to their effort to aid a nation staggered by the health crisis and devastating economic costs of the pandemic.

"Millions of people out of work," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. "This is really a very, very, very sad day. We come to the floor with nearly 50,000 deaths, a huge number of people impacted, and the uncertainty of it all."

Anchoring the bill is the Trump administration's \$250 billion request to replenish a fund to help small- and medium-size businesses with payroll, rent and other expenses.

This program provides forgivable loans so businesses can continue paying workers while forced to stay closed for social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

The legislation contains \$100 billion demanded by Democrats for hospitals and a nationwide testing program, along with \$60 billion for small banks and an alternative network of community development banks that focus on development in urban neighborhoods and rural areas ignored by many lenders. There's also \$60 billion for small-business loans and grants delivered through the Small Business Administration's existing disaster aid program.

Passage of more coronavirus relief is likely in the weeks ahead. Supporters are already warning that the business-backed Payroll Protection Program will exhaust the new \$250 billion almost immediately. Launched just weeks ago, the

program quickly reached its lending limit after approving nearly 1.7 million loans. That left thousands of small businesses in limbo as they sought help.

Pelosi and allies said the next measure will distribute more relief to individuals, extend more generous jobless benefits into the fall, provide another round of direct payments to most people and help those who are laid off afford health insurance through COBRA.

Democrats tried to win another round of funding for state and local governments in Thursday's bill but were rebuffed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. McConnell says he doesn't want to bail out Democratic-governed states for fiscal problems that predated the pandemic, but there's plenty of demand for state fiscal relief among Republicans, too.



# Much of hospital ship's crew moved ashore

*The Orange County Register  
(Anaheim, Calif.)*

When Capt. John Rotruck, commanding officer of the USNS Mercy, saw the first cases of the coronavirus spreading among some of his Navy medical personnel, he took action to contain it.

The 1,000-bed hospital ship is currently docked at the Port of Los Angeles taking patients who need care for illnesses other than COVID-19 so area hospitals have the room to focus on the pandemic.

But despite precautions, the ship's first sailor with a confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported April 8. Since then, eight others from the medical team have tested positive.

To stop any further advance, Rotruck has moved almost all of the hospital personnel off the ship to create more social distancing among his crew. Only he, other senior leaders and

personnel required for maintenance remain living on the ship.

"Most are treating the ship like a 'brick and mortar' hospital," he said. They are staying at nearby hotels and report to work each day for their 12-hour shifts.

In a recent outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt — a Navy aircraft carrier operating near Guam — 840 sailors living in similarly close quarters as the Mercy have now tested positive for COVID-19. One Roosevelt sailor, Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 from the virus.

Navy personnel who leave the ship wear masks while they are in transit to the nearby hotels where they stay in separate rooms, he said. All of the buses used to transport the crew are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each trip.

If crew members leave their hotel to pick up food, they are required to wear N95 masks.

"There is not just a bubble around the ship," Rotruck said. "We are maintaining our bubble as much as we can."

The crew members who tested positive were removed from the ship and are in isolation at a medical facility. Others who were within six feet of them for at least 10 minutes were also taken to land and into 14 days of quarantine.

In all, 130 members of the medical team were removed from the ship at one point for possible exposure. Almost 100 have finished quarantine and returned to the Mercy.

Rotruck said he and his crew are doing their best to keep the ship operating coronavirus-free.

In addition to practicing Centers for Disease Control guidelines, the crew is also

using a bleach solution to wipe down surfaces multiple times throughout the day, and they are wearing face coverings and are spreading out during meal times.

"We've opened a section on our flight decks," he said. "We've also closed our gyms and barbershops."

So far, 65 patients from the community ranging in age from 20 to 90 have been treated aboard the ship. The medical crew has dealt with traumas, removed inflamed gallbladders, done amputation revisions, cared for bone infections and performed some plastic surgery.

For Rotruck, the mission thus far has been successful.

"The team has been executing flawlessly and we've been able to move patients," he said.

# Officials warn against Trump musing

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's comment that disinfectants perhaps could be injected or ingested to fight COVID-19 received heavy pushback from health and other officials Friday and even prompted the maker of Lysol to warn its product should never be used internally.

"As a global leader in health and hygiene products, we must be clear that under no circumstance should our disinfectant products be administered into the human body (through injection, ingestion or any other route)," said the statement from Reckitt Benckiser, parent company of the maker of Lysol and Dettol.

The White House claimed

Trump's comment was misrepresented, but the government also cautioned the nation.

The Surgeon General's office tweeted Friday: "A reminder to all Americans—PLEASE always talk to your health provider first before administering any treatment/ medication to yourself or a loved one. Your safety is paramount, and doctors and nurses have years of train-

ing to recommend what's safe and effective."

Trump noted Thursday that researchers were looking at the effects of disinfectants on the virus and wondered aloud if they could be injected into people, saying the virus "does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it would be interesting to check that."

# Biden calls on Congress to fund mail vote

*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is calling on Congress to provide enough money for every state to allow voters to cast a ballot by mail this November amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In making that pitch during an online fundraiser Thursday

night, Biden blasted President Donald Trump for working to block emergency funding for the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service, which would handle tens of millions of ballots this fall. Biden said it's evidence that Trump already is trying to "undermine" the election and make it more difficult for Americans to vote.

"We have to make it easier

for everybody to be able to vote, particularly if we are still basically in the kind of lockdown circumstances we are in now," Biden told about 650 donors. "But that takes a lot of money, and it's going to require us to provide money for states and insist they provide mail-in ballots."

It's perhaps Biden's most explicit call for a national

mail election since COVID-19 upended the 2020 campaign and every aspect of American life. The former vice president doesn't propose eliminating in-person voting. But he said state and local officials must do more to make polling locations conform to public health protocols, while steering voters toward other options.

# Neb. governor keeping meatpacking plants open

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Gov. Pete Ricketts said Thursday that he doesn't plan to close any of Nebraska's meatpacking plants despite a surge in coronavirus cases in their surrounding communities that have turned them into the state's biggest COVID-19 hot spots.

Ricketts said he was concerned that shuttering the plants could hurt the state's food supply and lead to "civil unrest" if residents were to suddenly lose access to meat.

"You want to talk about some of these protests going on right now?" he said during a news conference. "Think about how mad people were when they couldn't get paper products. Think about if they couldn't get food. This is why it's vitally important that we keep our food processors open and do everything we can to ensure the supply chain because we would have civil unrest if that was not the case."

His comments came as Dakota County, home to a Tyson plant, reported 133 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 246. Tyson has acknowledged that some of its workers are among the infected, but it wouldn't give the exact number. At least one employee died last Saturday.

Ricketts said employees who worked close together at the plants may be responsible for some of the spread, but he argued that the local outbreaks may also be driven by large groups living together in shared homes, as is common in many meatpacking towns.

Coronavirus hot spots have surfaced in Hall, Dawson and Dakota counties, all areas of Nebraska with meatpacking plants and large concentrations of workers who often stand side by side to carve meat. The number of cases in Hall County has even surpassed the Omaha area, which has more than nine times as many people.

## California

SACRAMENTO — California's 482 cities say they will

collectively lose \$6.7 billion over the next two years because of the coronavirus pandemic, prompting layoffs and furloughs for public workers and potential cuts to basic services such as sanitation, public safety and housing.

But that estimate, compiled by the League of California Cities, assumes the stay-at-home order lifts by June 1 — an unlikely scenario in a state where Gov. Gavin Newsom and public health officials have said bans on large gatherings and unnecessary travel will likely extend well into summer.

"Obviously, the longer the stay-at-home orders are in place, the longer businesses are closed, the greater the revenue shortfalls will be," said Carolyn Coleman, the league's executive director.

## Colorado

DENVER — A major meatpacking plant in Colorado that was closed because of the coronavirus is set to reopen Friday after disinfecting the facility over the last two weeks, even as some question how workers will be able to maintain social distancing to curb the spread of the disease.

The JBS USA plant in Greeley was closed April 11 after health officials in Weld County cited the close proximity of workers to each other and employees working while they were sick as factors in the outbreak. At least four workers have died and at least 102 have tested positive, according to state health officials.

"We feel that we are there," Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director of Colorado's health department, said at a news conference.

Weld County health officials and JBS have developed a testing and containment strategy that requires employees who show symptoms during a daily entry screening process to be tested.

Some say because of the way meatpacking plants are designed, it will be difficult to make sure workers don't spread the virus.

## Connecticut

NEW LONDON — The owner of a 7-Eleven convenience store in Connecticut has been arrested for selling invalid COVID-19 test kits, police said.

Authorities received a tip on Monday that a 7-Eleven store in New London was selling COVID-19 home self-testing kits for \$39.99 each. It was determined the kits were not valid or were not approved by health officials, according to police.

Store owner Hussenin Alyelsherif, of Waterford, was arrested Wednesday with a criminal summons for larceny in the fifth- and sixth-degree.

Alyelsherif told WVIT-TV that he purchased a pack of 20 kits for \$400 from a man who said they were authorized for use in other countries. Police took the tests before any were sold, he said.

## Illinois

LOUISVILLE — A southern Illinois state lawmaker filed a lawsuit Thursday against Gov. J.B. Pritzker for extending the state's stay-at-home order in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Republican State Rep. Darren Bailey of Xenia claims in the lawsuit filed in Clay County Circuit Court that Pritzker has exceeded his authority and is violating the civil rights of the state's residents. Pritzker on Thursday extended his stay-at-home order through May 30 as the highly contagious COVID-19 continued to infect thousands in the state.

"Enough is enough!" Bailey said in a statement. "I filed this lawsuit on behalf of myself and my constituents who are ready to go back to work and resume a normal life."

In the latest order, Pritzker relaxed the decree to allow for some outdoor activities and many previously barred surgeries and medical treatments. It allows some retailers to reopen to fill online or pickup orders. The governor is requiring face coverings in public for anyone older than 2, both indoors and outside if the recommended

6-foot social distance can't be maintained.

## Michigan

LANSING — Republicans who control the Michigan Legislature said they will meet Friday to pass bills to rein in the emergency powers of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and create a committee to oversee the state's response to the coronavirus outbreak, a dramatic strike against the Democrat amid the health crisis.

A spokeswoman for Whitmer promised a veto and said Republicans were "playing dangerous partisan games" while the governor is focused on saving lives and controlling the spread of the virus.

Republicans are unhappy with the breadth of Whitmer's stay-at-home order, though polling shows the public believes she made the right calls. She is expected to extend it past April 30 but with modifications.

"Lives have unfortunately been lost in our state. Many people are suffering. Livelihoods have been destroyed, and many freedoms are gone. Frankly, we deserve better," House Speaker Lee Chatfield of Levering said.

## Nevada

LAS VEGAS — A major hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip said Thursday it was making plans to reopen in three weeks and has started accepting reservations for arrivals beginning May 15 — if the governor lifts his closure order involving the coronavirus outbreak.

Treasure Island's announcement came as a record wave of Nevada residents filed new claims for jobless benefits for a fifth straight week, bringing to more than 343,000 the total since casinos and other businesses were closed in mid-March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The resort with nearly 3,000 rooms posted a notice on its website announcing plans to reopen all gambling and hotel operations after May 14 "subject to change."



# Pregnant Marines now expected to maintain fitness

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Marine mothers are now expected to continue physical fitness during their pregnancy as directed in a new policy focused on parenthood and pregnancy.

The new order updates the 2004 pregnancy and parenthood policy with the inclusion of updated standards and procedures in one place. The policy focuses on how best to prepare commanders, Marines and their families for this important part of their life.

“The intent really is to emphasize support from their commands to help Marines have the tools available to execute a successful, particularly entry into parenthood because anyone that’s been a parent knows that the first child is the scariest occurrence,” Col. Douglas Mayer, the chief of staff for the Manpower Plans and Policy Division of the service’s Manpower and Reserve Affairs, said Thursday. Mayer helped with updating the policy document released recently.

The new 44-page Marine document lays out specific guidance on the whole spectrum of parenthood topics from pregnancy, post-natal care, as well as adoption and loss of a child.

Marines are now expected to continue with a physical fitness program during pregnancy as well as starting six months after giving birth for their health and that of their child. Mayer said this is based on updated science on individual fitness during pregnancy. A Marine is excluded from having to participate in unit fitness programs, tests, or fitness standards during their pregnancy and for nine months after the child’s birth.

“Pregnant Marines are encouraged to consult their health care providers to modify personal fitness programs for their unique situations. For some Marines, this means continuing an advanced [physical training] program, while for others with more complicated pregnancies, it may mean reducing training intensity,” Mayer said.

# Air Force prepares to study cancer in pilots

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has finalized the terms of a groundbreaking study sought by former fighter pilots to determine whether military aviators are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer.

For more than a year, retired Air Force fighter pilots have pressed the service to look at the number of aviators who have either died from, or are fighting various types of cancers, and to look for potential causes.

The Air Force late last year announced it would conduct a first-of-its-kind study of all cancers among its former pilots, a review that may be replicated by the Navy for its aviators depending on what the results reveal.

McClatchy obtained details on how this study would differ from earlier, more limited reviews of military aviator cancers that former fighter pilots have said missed the mark, because those studies did not include veterans.

“It’s important to all of us that we get the ground truth on just what’s going on,” Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said about the status of the study at a Pentagon briefing this week.

Goldfein said the coronavirus pandemic had not changed

the deadline for completing the study, which is expected to be released next year.

In the newly released details, the Air Force said it had finalized the design for the study and was committed to reviewing all of its pilots dating back to 1970, which would capture medical histories of pilots who flew earlier versions of military jets that carried more powerful radars in the cockpits.

Some of the pilots have suspected that cockpit radiation generated by those radars may be linked to their cancers.

The study will also compare former pilots’ cancer rates to cancer rates among the general population. Previous military cancer studies had focused on internal comparisons between active duty personnel, such as comparing active duty ground crew to active duty pilots, and had not found higher rates.

Former fighter pilots have told McClatchy that focusing on active duty pilots has missed the mark, and did not capture cancers that surfaced after they left the military.

An investigation by McClatchy last year found that since fiscal year 2000, the rate of treatment for Air Force prostate cancers at Veterans Affairs health care facilities had increased 44% and urinary cancer treatment rates had increased 80%.

# Marine commandant defends banning Confederate flag

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Confederate battle flag might raise feelings of southern pride for some people, but it can be hurtful for others, the top Marine tweeted Thursday, defending his order to banish the symbol from Marine Corps bases.

“This symbol has shown it has the power to inflame feelings of division,” Gen. David Berger wrote in a letter to Marines dated Monday and included in his tweet. “I cannot have that division inside our Corps.”

Berger wrote Marines from all backgrounds must trust each other in order

to fight successfully together as a Corps, which is more valuable than any individuals who make up that team. The symbols that Marines should focus on are ones that unite them — the Corps’ eagle, globe and anchor; the American flag and the Marines’ exclusive MarPat camouflage uniforms, he wrote.

“In every facet of every significant endeavor involving Marines, the team has been the primary component,” the commandant wrote about his order banning all Confederate symbols. “We are a war-fighting organization, an elite institution of warriors who depend on each other to win the tough battles. Anything that divides

us, anything that threatens team cohesion must be addressed head-on.”

Berger, in his letter this week, acknowledged those differences in views of the Confederate flag, including among Marines, and he said he had no intention of judging the real meaning behind the symbol. But the potential for it to “degrade the cohesion that combat demands of us” overrides any argument that Marines should be allowed to display the symbol, he wrote.

“Leaders must always act thoughtfully when enforcing these provisions because they directly impact a precious constitutional right — the right to free speech,” Berger wrote.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Hunter kills bobcat that attacked his head

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — A Missouri hunter is recovering from a wound to the back of his head after being attacked by a bobcat.

The Springfield News-Leader reports that the hunter, from Clever, Mo., was turkey hunting on Monday, the first day of the turkey season. According to a Missouri Department of Conservation report obtained by the newspaper, the hunter was using a turkey call to lure birds in.

Instead, the noise got the attention of a large male bobcat, which pounced on the hunter, forcing him to kill the bobcat.

## Man admits to selling fake movie rights

**NH** CONCORD — A man admitted to stealing over \$100,000 from people by selling them fake ownership interests in several films and then using the money for himself, the U.S. attorney's office in New Hampshire said.

Shiva Chandan Reddy Thudi, 26, of Irving Texas, recently pleaded guilty in federal court to wire fraud.

Court documents say Thudi, who attended college in New Hampshire from 2015-2017, told people he was seeking investors to share in the profits of business ventures that involved his producing and distributing films. In reality, he wasn't a movie producer or distributor.

## Police: Driver swerves to avoid birds, hits man

**NJ** PENNSVILLE — A driver who swerved his car to avoid hitting two turkey buzzards on a southern New Jersey roadway struck and

killed a man who was securing a backhoe onto a flatbed trailer, authorities said.

The driver, identified only as a 72-year-old Pennsville man, struck Dustin Schmidt, 33, also of Pennsville, police said. The car also hit the trailer before overturning, but the driver wasn't injured.

Schmidt suffered head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

## Man run over after argument over \$85

**NM** HOBBS — A New Mexico woman is facing charges after police say she ran over a man with a car following an argument over \$85.

The Hobbs News-Sun reported Shilo Cassidi-Mae Howell was arrested following a deputy finding a man lying on the ground in front of a Hobbs home.

The victim told police Howell had hit him with her van after they got into an argument while drinking alcohol together.

The police report says the victim loaned Howell \$85 and requested she pay him back while they were in the home before an argument started.

A deputy says Howell is accused of getting into her van, backing up and then accelerating forward, striking the victim with the front end of the vehicle and hitting the front door of the home.

## Rock thrower breaks windows at cathedral

**AZ** TUCSON — A man has been arrested on accusations that he threw rocks that broke stained-glass windows at a 123-year-old cathedral in Tucson, police said Tuesday.

They said Steven Henry Trejo, 57, also is accused of

vandalizing windows of parked cars and at a Tucson apartment complex.

Although protected on the exterior by plexiglass, the thrown rocks still were able to smash holes into the historic windows ranging about 8 to 12 inches in circumference along with smaller holes.

## Driver chased after running over dog

**NC** NEWTON — A mother and son accused of trying to attack a North Carolina delivery driver who ran over a dog have been charged with assault-related offenses, a sheriff's office said.

Catawba County deputies arrived outside of a North Carolina Highway Patrol station where they found Maxwell Dixon, 23, and his mother, Sandy Dixon, 51, engaging with a delivery employee, the office said in a statement.

The driver told deputies he accidentally hit a dog on his route, and the Dixons began to chase him in a car after he drove down the road to call his supervisor. Investigators determined Maxwell Dixon fired three shots toward the delivery vehicle as the driver attempted to escape and get help, the sheriff's office said.

## Authorities: Feral cat found to have rabies

**PA** EAST PITTSBURGH — A feral cat found in the Pittsburgh area has tested positive for rabies, authorities said.

The Allegheny County health department said the cat was recently brought to the department's laboratory after it was picked up in the borough of East Pittsburgh.

Four animals have tested positive for rabies in the county

so far this year: a bat, a cat, a groundhog and a raccoon the department said.

## Man arrested after explosion at home

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A man has been arrested in connection with an explosion in south Albuquerque involving homemade darts, Bernalillo County authorities said Tuesday.

Jess Paul, 63, was taken into custody on suspicion of possession of an explosive device or incendiary device.

Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a home about a noise disturbance caused by a possible explosion.

Authorities say it was discovered that Paul had built several incendiary devices that could be fired through a blow dart gun.

During a search of Paul's residence, Albuquerque police reported finding 22 explosive darts.

## GBI: Files accessed for personal use

**GA** CARTERSVILLE — A supervisor at a North Georgia 911 center was arrested and accused of accessing criminal files for personal use, authorities said.

Stormie Watkins, 52, of Cartersville, was arrested by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and charged with three counts of computer invasion of privacy, news outlets reported.

The GBI said Watkins was a supervisor at a 911 call center in Bartow County.

Her position allowed her to access Georgia Crime Information Center files only for legitimate purposes, GBI spokesman Brian Johnston said.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®



# Burrow goes No. 1 in unique NFL Draft

Associated Press

For all the uniqueness of this NFL Draft, including the angst over a potential communications fiasco, things looked and sounded pretty normal Thursday night.

Quarterbacks were in demand. Ohio State (the top three picks played there) and the Southeastern Conference (a record 15 picks) dominated. The Patriots traded out of the first round.

And Commissioner Roger Goodell even got booed, if only digitally.

"I do believe this draft is going to be the most memorable we have ever had," said Goodell, noting that it is accompanied by a "Draft-A-Thon" to benefit six organizations on the front lines battling the coronavirus pandemic, which is what forced the NFL to cancel all in-person draft events.

The first round wasn't all that remarkable for the picks. Beginning with Joe Burrow of national champion LSU, three quarterbacks went in the top six. Hardly unusual.

For months, the Heisman Trophy winner from LSU was linked with the Bengals. Cincinnati began the draft by sending his name to Goodell in the basement of his home.

This digital/remote/virtual draft — take your choice — was up and running. With no apparent glitches.

Of course, there were no fireworks on the Las Vegas Strip. No bear hug between Goodell

and Burrow; the commissioner said he would miss those, even if his body wouldn't. This most basic selection show had team personnel making picks from their homes and players sitting on their own couches while learning their future.

The NFL canceled all draft activities in Las Vegas when the national shutdown of large gatherings began. The league had gone full-bore into free agency last month and, now, seven rounds of the draft through Saturday.

"I just believe that our job is to continue on and operate within whatever guidelines are necessary to keep our personnel safe, whether it's players or coaches or their executives or league personnel," Goodell said. "We need to make sure that we're doing things safely and put public safety No. 1, but we also need to carry on. We need to move toward the future. We need to make sure that we're prepared when we come out of this to be in a position to start our season on time and play our season. That's our role."

Normalcy, at least among the picks, was the order of the evening, though.

First came Burrow, a transfer from Ohio State in 2018. In his spectacular senior season, he threw for 60 — yes, 60 — touchdowns with only six interceptions. The Tigers beat six top 10 teams on their way to the national title.

"To jump up to No. 1 overall is crazy to me," Burrow said.

He joins a team that went 2-14 last season and desperately needs a jolt of energy.

"If you go in thinking, 'Oh, this is the year we're going to make the playoffs, this year we're going to win a playoff game,' it gets too daunting," Burrow said. "You've got to focus on the process."

Bengals coach Zac Taylor was confident Burrow could turn the franchise around.

"We will never pick at No. 1 again," Taylor said. "We don't want to pick in the top 10 again. We're looking at this as the only time you're going to get this caliber player to add him to the program, so obviously this is a big deal."

The second overall selection, Ohio State All-America edge rusher Chase Young, also was predictable. Washington fielded several offers for that spot, but many scouts and personnel executives felt Young was the best player in this crop.

At 6-foot-5, 264 pounds, Young led the nation with 16½ sacks and forced fumbles with six last season. The All-American won the prestigious Bednarik and Nagurski awards in 2019, leading the Buckeyes to the Big Ten title.

He joins a Redskins team that went 3-13 and allowed 435 points.

"I feel like I'm the best player in this draft," Young said. "What I bring to the table and how I prepare, I definitely believe I'll make a pretty big impact on the field."

## NFL Draft

### Thursday FIRST ROUND

1. Cincinnati, Joe Burrow, qb, LSU.
2. Washington, Chase Young, de, Ohio State.
3. Detroit, Jeff Okudah, cb, Ohio State.
4. N.Y. Giants, Andrew Thomas, ot, Georgia.
5. Miami, Tua Tagovailoa, qb, Alabama.
6. L.A. Chargers, Justin Herbert, qb, Oregon.
7. Carolina, Derrick Brown, dt, Auburn.
8. Arizona, Isaiah Simmons, lb, Clemson.
9. Jacksonville, CJ Henderson, cb, Florida.
10. Cleveland, Jedrick Wills Jr., ot, Alabama.
11. N.Y. Jets, Mekhi Becton, ot, Louisville.
12. Las Vegas, Henry Ruggs III, wr, Alabama.
13. Tampa Bay (from Indianapolis through San Francisco), Tristan Wirfs, ot, Iowa.
14. San Francisco (from Tampa Bay), Javon Kinlaw, dt, South Carolina.
15. Denver, Jerry Jeudy, wr, Alabama.
16. Atlanta, A.J. Terrell, cb, Clemson.
17. Dallas, CeeDee Lamb, wr, Oklahoma.
18. Miami (from Pittsburgh), Austin Jackson, ot, Southern Cal.
19. Las Vegas (from Chicago), Damon Arnette, cb, Ohio State.
20. Jacksonville (from L.A. Rams), K'Lavon Chaisson, lb, LSU.
21. Philadelphia, Jalen Reagor, wr, TCU.
22. Minnesota (from Buffalo), Justin Jefferson, wr, LSU.
23. L.A. Chargers (from New England), Kenneth Murray, lb, Oklahoma.
24. New Orleans, Cesar Ruiz, c, Michigan.
25. San Francisco (from Minnesota), Brandon Aiyuk, wr, Arizona State.
26. Green Bay (from Houston through Miami), Jordan Love, qb, Utah State.
27. Seattle, Jordyn Brooks, lb, Texas Tech.
28. Baltimore, Patrick Queen, lb, LSU.
29. Tennessee, Isaiah Wilson, ot, Georgia.
30. Miami (from Green Bay), Noah Igbinoghene, cb, Auburn.
31. Minnesota (from San Francisco), Jeff Gladney, cb, TCU.
32. Kansas City, Clyde Edwards-Helaire, rb, LSU.

## SEC smashes record for most picks in 1st round

Associated Press

The first round of the NFL draft opened and closed with players from the Southeastern Conference, a fitting way to mark the league's record-setting night.

The football powerhouse had 15 players selected Thursday, smashing the previous mark of 12 set by the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2006 and matched

twice by the SEC (2013, 2017).

The SEC's most promising crop to date was flush with players from Alabama (four) and LSU (five). It included reigning Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow at the top followed by several more next-level starters — maybe even stars — at nearly every position.

The league fell just short of having as many players draft-

ed in the first round as the rest of college football combined. Oddsmakers had listed the over/under for SEC players at 15½.

LSU cornerback Kristian Fulton, Alabama safety Xavier McKinney, Georgia running back D'Andre Swift and Alabama cornerback Trevon Diggs did not come off the board as some expected. They were ex-

pected to get selected early in the second round Friday night.

Georgia right tackle Isaiah Wilson gave the SEC the new record when Tennessee chose him with the 29th pick. Miami took Auburn cornerback Noah Igbinoghene next to make it 14 from the league. Kansas City capped the first round by drafting LSU running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire.

# Empty soccer stadiums the new norm

Associated Press

It will soon be the new norm, a cold and often unnerving sight that soccer and many other sports will have to get accustomed to over the coming months.

Games taking place in empty stadiums.

But will these stadiums actually be empty? Far from it.

"It's not about 22 players walking onto a pitch and (kicking) a ball about," FIFA vice president Victor Montagliani told The Associated Press, referring to what he called the "phased-in approach" that soccer — and society as a whole — will need to take to get back to normal following the coronavirus outbreak.

Some teams in Europe have experience in staging games without flag-waving and loudly cheering fans — be it while serving a punishment for crowd trouble or, as was the case in February and March, because

of a rapidly spreading virus that turned into a pandemic.

Now, almost every club will be planning for such a scenario as soccer leagues start to ramp up preparations for a resumption which will be staggered depending on how well countries have managed to contain the virus.

Of Europe's major leagues, Germany appears to be closest to lifting its suspension, with some state governors even hoping to resume games on May 9. The Bundesliga is planning to have a maximum of 213 people in the stadium.

In Britain, which is in the peak of the virus outbreak, a return in late June is the possible — albeit optimistic — call from clubs in the Premier League. One leading club official spoke of the need for at least 300 people at matches.

In Sweden, where soccer authorities are planning for a June 14 restart, a venue official at champion Djurgarden told

the AP that it would be possible to limit numbers to 50 if fans aren't allowed in stadiums. In Switzerland, leaked plans attained by daily newspaper Blick this week stated there should be no more than 200 essential staff at games.

Much depends on the directives from governments and the demands of domestic and international broadcasters, whose money clubs increasingly rely on.

## Inside stadiums

Players and match officials obviously are on the list. Each squad for a match has 18 or 20 players in major European leagues, and some backups will be required in case of late withdrawals. There is a four-person team of match officials (referee, two assistant referees and a fourth official), along with a replacement official.

Then there's the coaching staff — managers, assistants,

fitness coaches, physios and a club doctor.

Other essential people include a match delegate, an anti-doping official, official photographers and staff from broadcasters (like sound engineers, technicians, camera crew and producers), and medical workers. In England, for example, there needs to be four paramedics and an ambulance driver at every game.

In a list provided by the Spanish league while it planned for games without fans in March, other groups getting stadium access included both teams' board of directors, community managers, integrity officials and what it termed "technical staff with functions strictly related to holding the games," which could be a group of up to a maximum of 100 people. That could include caterers, ground staff, ball boys and girls, maintenance, ground-safety officers, people who run advertising hoardings and stewards.

# NCAA moves closer to compensation for athletes

Associated Press

The NCAA is moving closer to allowing Division I athletes to earn money from endorsements and sponsorship deals they can strike on their own as early as next year.

Recommended rule changes that would clear the way for athletes to earn money from their names, images and likeness are being reviewed by college sports administrators this week before being sent to the NCAA Board of Governors, which meets Monday and Tuesday.

If adopted, the rules would allow athletes to make sponsorship and endorsement deals with all kinds of companies and third parties, from car dealerships to concert promoters to pizza shops, according to a person who has reviewed the recommendations. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity

Thursday because the details were still being discussed and debated.

The recommendations are expected to form the foundation for legislation the NCAA hopes to pass next January so it can take effect in 2021. Changes could still be made before January.

No school-branded apparel or material could be used by athletes in their personal endorsement deals, according to the recommendations reviewed by the person who spoke to the AP. Athletes would be required to disclose financial terms of contracts to their athletic departments, along with their relationships with any individuals involved.

Athletes would be allowed to enter into agreements with individuals deemed to be school boosters, the person said.

The NCAA would create a mechanism to evaluate potential deals for fair market value

and spot possible corruption. An athlete could compromise their eligibility for failing to disclose details of a financial agreement or relationship, the person said.

The recommendations also call for allowing athletes to sign autographs for money, sell their memorabilia, and be paid for personal appearances and working as an instructor in their sport.

"Trevor Lawrence could have his own passing academy," the person said, referring to the Clemson quarterback.

The recommendations come from a working group set up 11 months ago and led by Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith and Big East Commissioner Val Ackerman.

The need for change was sped up by pressure from state lawmakers. California was first to enact a law that would make it illegal for NCAA schools to prohibit college athletes from

making money on endorsements, social media advertising and other activities tied to name, image and likeness.

Dozens of states have followed California's lead, some more aggressively than others. California's law does not go into effect until 2023 while a Florida bill awaiting the governor's signature would go into effect July 2021.

NCAA leaders have gone to Congress looking for help to fend off a patchwork of state laws and create a national standard.

In one way, the recommendations go even beyond the free-market approach of the California law, which would restrict athletes from making sponsorship deals with companies that conflict with a school's existing business relationship. For example, an athlete could not sign a deal with Nike if the school had a contract with Under Armour.