

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Sailors fighting fire test positive for virus

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

At least two sailors from the amphibious transport dock USS San Diego tested positive for COVID-19 after fighting the fire onboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, the Navy said Friday.

At least 27 people who were in contact with them are quarantined.

The Navy's statement came in response to questions raised by several USS San Diego sailors during interviews with The San Diego Union-Tribune. According to the sailors, at least five sailors from their ship have tested positive in the last few days.

The sailors spoke anonymously because they are not authorized to publicly comment on the matter.

The Navy confirmed that two of the sick were at the scene of the fire.

"Two Sailors supporting USS Bonhomme Richard firefighting operations recently tested positive for COVID-19 after exhibiting symptoms," said Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman, a Navy spokeswoman.

"Contract tracing identified 27 close contacts. All contacts were placed in ROM (restriction of movement). The Navy continues to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures to protect the health of our force."

The sailors from the ship said a significant number of the 27 "close contacts" work in the San Diego's engineering department and include senior department personnel. The department has increased its staffing rotations to fill in gaps left by those under quarantine, the sailors said.

Citing health privacy law, Schwegman declined to comment on who is quarantined or in which department they work.

One USS San Diego sailor who helped fight the fire told the Union-Tribune Friday that the scene outside the Bonhomme Richard during the height of the conflagration was "chaotic" and responding sailors routinely swapped and shared firefighting equipment, such as masks and gloves.

Photos provided by the Navy show firefighting equipment being washed and sanitized.

More than 400 sailors from 16 San Diego-based ships helped fight the fire, said Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, at a news conference Friday. Gilday was in San Diego touring the fire-ravaged ship and meeting with its leaders, sailors and firefighters who battled the blaze over five days.

According to the sailor who fought the fire, much of the Bonhomme Richard's

firefighting equipment was damaged or destroyed in the flames, so its sailors relied on gear brought from neighboring vessels — including the USS San Diego.

The Navy announced the fires onboard were extinguished midday Thursday. The damage done to the ship is "extensive," Gilday said.

It has been a tumultuous few months for the Navy as it tries to balance its national defense mission with the need to keep sailors healthy amidst a pandemic.

The San Diego-based aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt was sidelined in Guam for two months earlier this year as the virus spread to almost 25% of its 5,000-person crew, claiming the life of one of them. The subsequent firing of the Roosevelt's captain by then-Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly ignited a political firestorm that ended with Modly's resignation days later.

The fate of the Bonhomme Richard is up in the air. Gilday said he believes the 22-year-old ship can be repaired but he isn't sure it should be. A damage assessment is not yet complete.

Navy fire teams are expected to continue to rotate through the Bonhomme Richard throughout the weekend, doing fire watches and inspecting the ship, the sailors said.

## Adm. Gilday visits ship in San Diego to survey damage

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON— The Navy's top officer, Adm. Mike Gilday, toured the fire damage to the USS Bonhomme Richard at Naval Base San Diego on Friday, describing it as "very extensive in terms of the damage and the intensity."

"We've not seen a fire of this magnitude in a Navy ship in recent memory, at least in my career," Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said during a news conference following the tour of the ship.

The fire aboard the amphibious assault ship started Sunday morning and lasted more than four days, spreading throughout the ship. During the effort to extinguish the multiple fires, 40 sailors and 23 civil-

ians were treated for minor injuries and helicopters were called in to dump water on the ship to cool it down.

Gilday said he toured four decks, the flight deck and inspected the damage to the ship's superstructure.

"I was able to get a good sense of the extent of the damage, and the damage is extensive. There is obviously electrical damage to the ship, there's structural damage to the ship, and mechanical damage to the ship that we need to assess in much more detail before we make a final determination of next steps," he said.

Navy officials believed there was potential to get the fire under control and put it out by Sunday evening, according to Gilday. However, the wind coming off the bay and the location of the fire allowed it to spread

throughout the ship.

"This fire probably couldn't have been in a worst point on the ship in terms of its source that allowed it to spread up elevator shafts as an example, up exhaust stacks as an example. To take that fire up into the superstructure and then forward," he said.

How the fire started is still unknown, however, Navy officials believe it began in the cargo hold of the ship where supplies for the maintenance work being conducted on the ship were stored at the time.

There were also a series of explosions during the fire that forced firefighters off the ship, Gilday said.

One explosion could be heard about 13 miles away, he said he was told, and another blew debris across the pier and onto another ship.

# DOD mulls promotion packet changes

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Top Pentagon officials said Friday that they are considering new moves to remove information from service members' promotion packets that could potentially lead evaluators to discriminate against them, such as redacting individuals' full names and gender.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the task force created last month to study issues of racism and equality in the ranks would consider whether the inclusion of troops' names and genders could "trigger un-

conscious bias" in some evaluators. Esper on Wednesday released updated guidance that directed the military services to remove all official photographs from promotion packets later this year. That followed the Army's decision last month to remove photos from its promotions processes.

"We are trying to root these practices out that might enable unconscious bias and things like that," Esper said Friday during a virtual town hall session at the Pentagon alongside Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the military's top enlisted service member, Senior En-

listed Advisor to the Chairman Ramon Colon-Lopez.

The subject was raised in a video recording played during the town hall by Army 1st Sgt. Jonathan Fadeyi, who was born in Nigeria and raised in Michigan after moving to the United States when he was 5 years old.

Esper's new task force is challenged with looking at a wide range of race-related issues within the ranks, including how to train service members to identify their own unconscious biases and to root out practices, policies or cultural norms that might be discriminatory. The services are to develop new training protocols on those is-

sues by Oct. 1.

"When it comes to names and possibility of redacting certain information, we are taking a very holistic look at the way that boards can look at packages by virtue of merit toward promotion," Colon-Lopez said. "That is looking at character, demonstrated abilities and credibility of [the person] based on actions, to go ahead and pick the best person for the best duties."

He vowed improvement in the Pentagon's military promotions systems.

"We can do better when it comes to those boards," Colon-Lopez said.

## WSJ: Pentagon refined options for South Korea

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The Pentagon has given the White House options for reducing the U.S. military presence in South Korea amid a defense cost-sharing dispute between the allies, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing unnamed administration officials.

In the fall, the White House requested preliminary options for withdrawing troops worldwide, including Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa, the newspaper said Friday.

The Pentagon came up with broad ideas by the end of the year that reflected its strategy for competing with China and Russia, and its emphasis on rotational forces.

It refined a number of options, including some for South Korea, and presented them to the White House in March, one of the officials was quoted as saying.

The officials declined to provide details about contingency plans to cut the number of troops in South Korea below the current level of 28,500 and said no decision has been made, according to the Journal.

The report came weeks after Presi-

dent Donald Trump approved a plan to cut nearly a third of the 34,500 American troops in Germany, prompting worries in South Korea and other allied nations that they may face similar decisions.

U.S. legislators also have raised concerns, with Congress including restrictions on drawing down troops in last year's funding bill. Similar legislation is being considered this year.

Trump has frequently complained about the cost of stationing troops overseas and said he wanted to bring them home.

## Marine gets 5-year term in 2019 shooting death

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON— The Marine Corps has sentenced a lance corporal to five years in jail and a dishonorable discharge for the shooting death of a fellow Marine while they were on guard duty at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on New Year's Day in 2019.

Lance Cpl. Andrew M. Johnson was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and four charges of willful dereliction of duty as part of a plea agreement. He was sentenced June 5 to a reduction in rank to

E-1 or private, loss of all pay, five years of confinement, and a dishonorable discharge, Capt. Allison Burgos, a spokeswoman for Marine Corps Base Quantico, said in a statement Friday. The base is where Johnson was sentenced.

On Jan. 1, 2019, Johnson pointed his M9 service pistol at the head of Lance Cpl. Riley S. Kuznia, 20, and pulled the trigger "believing the weapon was unloaded," Burgos said. A charge sheet released by the Marine Corps in August stated Johnson had pulled "the trigger in jest."

"Lance Cpl. Johnson had not followed procedures to unload his pistol in accor-

dance with Guard Company policy," Burgos said. Kuznia, from Karlstad, Minn., was a team leader for Guard Company at the barracks, according to the Marine Corps. Kuznia's mother, Markelle Kuznia, wrote on Facebook a week after the sentencing that "no justice was served that day." The family wanted Johnson to stand trial, not work out a plea bargain, she said.

After the incident, the Marines' unit took steps to provide more supervision and personal accountability, Gunnery Sgt. John Jackson, a spokesman for Marine Barracks Washington, said in a statement Friday.

# John Lewis, civil rights icon, dies at 80

Associated Press

ATLANTA — John Lewis, a lion of the civil rights movement whose bloody beating by Alabama state troopers in 1965 helped galvanize opposition to racial segregation, and who went on to a long and celebrated career in Congress, has died. He was 80.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi confirmed Lewis' passing late Friday night, calling him "one of the greatest heroes of American history."

"All of us were humbled to call Congressman Lewis a colleague, and are heartbroken by his passing," Pelosi said. "May his memory be an inspiration that moves us all to, in the face of injustice, make 'good trouble, necessary trouble.'"

The condolences for Lewis were bipartisan. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Lewis was "a pioneering civil rights leader who put his life on the line to fight racism, promote equal rights, and bring our nation into greater

alignment with its founding principles."

Lewis's announcement in late December 2019 that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer — "I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now," he said — inspired tributes from both sides of the aisle, and an unstated accord that the likely passing of this Atlanta Democrat would represent the end of an era.

Lewis was the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for leading some 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

At age 25 — walking at the head of the march with his hands tucked in the pockets of his tan overcoat — Lewis was knocked to the ground and beaten by police. His skull was fractured, and nationally televised images of the brutal-

ity forced the country's attention on racial oppression in the South.

Within days, King led more marches in the state, and President Lyndon Johnson soon was pressing Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. The bill became law later that year, removing barriers that had barred Blacks from voting.

Lewis also joined King and four other civil rights leaders in organizing the 1963 March on Washington. He spoke to the vast crowd just before King delivered his epochal "I Have a Dream" speech.

A 23-year-old firebrand, Lewis toned down his intended remarks at the insistence of others, dropping a reference to a "scorched earth" march through the South and scaling back criticisms of President John Kennedy. It was a potent speech nonetheless, in which he vowed: "By the forces of our demands, our determination and our numbers, we shall splinter the segregated South into a thousand pieces and put

them together in an image of God and democracy."

It was almost immediately, and forever, overshadowed by the words of King, the man who had inspired him to activism.

Lewis was a teenager when he first heard King preaching on the radio. They met when Lewis was seeking support to become the first Black student at Alabama's segregated Troy State University. He ultimately attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary and Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

Lewis turned to politics in 1981, when he was elected to the Atlanta City Council.

He won his seat in Congress in 1986 and spent much of his career in the minority. After Democrats won control of the House in 2006, Lewis became his party's senior deputy whip, a behind-the-scenes leadership post in which he helped keep the party unified.

Lewis' wife of four decades, Lillian Miles, died in 2012. They had one son, John Miles Lewis.

## Mayor of Portland demands removal of troops

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The mayor of Portland demanded Friday that President Donald Trump remove militarized federal agents he deployed to the city after some detained people on streets far from the federal property they were sent to protect.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Mayor Ted Wheeler said at a news conference.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Trump is looking for a confrontation in the hopes of winning political points elsewhere. It also serves as a distraction from the coronavirus pandemic, which is causing spiking numbers of infections in Oregon and the nation.

Brown's spokesman, Charles Boyle, said Friday that arresting people without probable cause is "extraordinarily concerning and a violation of their civil liberties and

constitutional rights."

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she would file a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Marshals Service, Customs and Border Protection and Federal Protection Service alleging they have violated the civil rights of Oregonians by detaining them without probable cause. She will also seek a temporary restraining order against them.

## Justice Ginsburg announces her cancer has returned

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Friday she is receiving chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer but has no plans to retire from the Supreme Court.

The 87-year-old Ginsburg,

who has had four earlier bouts with cancer including pancreatic cancer last year, said her treatment so far has succeeded in reducing lesions on her liver and she will continue chemotherapy sessions every two weeks "to keep my cancer

at bay."

"I have often said I would remain a member of the Court as long as I can do the job full steam. I remain fully able to do that," Ginsburg said in a statement issued by the court.

Ginsburg, who was appoint-

ed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, is the senior liberal justice on a court that leans conservative by a 5-4 margin. Her departure before the election could give President Donald Trump the chance to shift the court further to the right.

# Trajectory reversal: US deaths climbing

*The Washington Post*

For weeks this summer, it was a seeming paradox of the coronavirus pandemic: Cases in the United States were rising, but deaths were falling.

To the Trump administration, this was evidence that its strategy for combating COVID-19 was working. To medical experts, it was only a matter of time before the trajectory changed.

And now it has. Nationwide, deaths have begun to rise again. In some of the worst-hit states, especially across the South and the West, new death records are being set daily. As a virus-scarred summer wears on, public health specialists say the numbers are almost certain to continue to climb.

“Even if we could magically lock everyone in their room and no one transmits to anyone, we would still be seeing an increase in deaths for the next several weeks,” said Catherine Troisi, an epidemiologist with the UTHHealth School of Public Health in Houston.

That grim assessment came as the United States on Friday set another record for total cases, with more than 76,000 — including a new high of nearly 15,000 in Texas alone.

More than 900 people died, matching a death count of recent days that has consistently hovered just below 1,000. That is well beneath the toll during the virus’ most devastating stretch, in April, when 2,000 or more people were dying daily nationwide. But it is also well above the totals earlier this month, when the average number of daily deaths dropped below 500.

More than 136,000 people in the United States have died of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The recent increase in fatalities follows a nationwide surge in cases that has brought the country record numbers of new infections. Public health experts have long said that the death count is a lagging indicator — with patients typically taking two to three weeks after diagnosis to succumb — and that the number of new deaths would inevitably follow the case count higher.

But Trump administration officials — and the president himself — have repeatedly sidestepped that view and used lower mortality rates as an argument for why concerns about a coronavirus resurgence were overblown.

“When you look at the mortality rate, we’re seeing that our efforts here at the

federal government have been working,” White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said this week.

Experts say there are legitimate reasons mortality rates are lower now than in the spring, when COVID-19 ravaged New York City and other major urban centers.

For one thing, doctors have learned new techniques for attacking the virus.

For another, the latest spike of infections has been concentrated among younger people, many of whom have contracted the virus while at work, bars or restaurants. They are generally less vulnerable to severe consequences from COVID-19 than older people, many of whom have continued to stay home despite economic reopenings.

But that phenomenon can only last for so long as working-age Americans meet up with their elderly parents or grandparents.

“Young people are not living in a vacuum,” said Farshad Fani Marvasti, director of public health at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix. “They’re interacting with people who are more susceptible.”

That is likely contributing to the spike in deaths now, Marvasti said.

## South Africa poised to join ranks of worst-hit countries

*Associated Press*

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa was poised on Saturday to join the top five countries most affected by the coronavirus, while breathtaking numbers around the world were a reminder a return to normal life is still far from sight.

Confirmed virus cases worldwide have topped 14 million and deaths have surpassed 600,000, according to Johns Hopkins University data, a day after the World Health Organization reported a single-day record of new infections at over 237,000. Death tolls in the United States are reaching new highs, and India’s infections are over 1 million.

Iran’s president made the startling announcement that as many as 25 million Iranians could have been infected, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday. Hassan Rouhani cited a new Health

Ministry study that has not been made publicly available. Iran has seen the worst outbreak in the Middle East with more than 270,000 confirmed cases.

Experts believe the true numbers around the world are higher because of testing shortages. And as countries try to ease lockdowns, new ripples of cases follow.

South Africa could join the U.S., Brazil, India and Russia as the most badly hit countries as its cases near 350,000.

That comes as the world marks Mandela Day, remembering South Africa’s first Black president and his legacy of fighting inequality. The country, however, remains the world’s most unequal, and health officials have warned that the pandemic will lay that bare.

“The simple fact is that many South Africans are sitting ducks because they cannot comply

with World Health Organization protocols on improved hygiene and social distancing,” the foundation of former South African archbishop and fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and his wife, said in a statement.

South Africa’s new epicenter, Gauteng province, is home to one-quarter of the country’s population, with many poor people living in crowded conditions.

The country’s cases make up roughly half of all on the African continent. Its struggles are a sign of trouble to come for less-resourced nations there.

In India, a surge of 34,884 new cases was reported as local governments continue to re-impose focused lockdowns in several parts of the country, only allowing essential food supplies and health services.

In China, the number of confirmed cases in a new COVID-19 outbreak in the far western re-

gion of Xinjiang has risen to 17.

In Bangladesh, confirmed cases surpassed 200,000, but experts say the number is much higher as the country lacks adequate labs for testing. Most people in rural areas have stopped wearing masks and are thronging shopping centers ahead of the Islamic festival Eid al-Adha later this month.

And in Britain, scientists are pouring cold water on Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s hope that the country may emerge from lockdown and return to normality by Christmas.

Epidemiologist John Edmunds, a member of the government’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, said a return to pre-pandemic normality is “a long way off, unfortunately” without a vaccine for the virus.

Britain has registered more than 45,000 COVID-19 deaths, the highest in Europe.

# NYC can reopen zoos; museums stay shut

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City was cleared Friday to take the next step in its reopening next week, allowing movie and TV crews to film, zoos to welcome reduced crowds, professional sports teams to play to empty seats. Visitors are set to return to the island that houses the Statue of Liberty — but not the statue itself.

But malls, museums and restaurant dining rooms will stay shuttered in the nation's biggest city.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the city is set to begin a limited version of the fourth phase of the statewide reopening process starting Monday. But he warned that New York's progress is fragile as COVID-19 cases surge elsewhere in the country.

"I feel like we're standing on a beach and we're looking out at the sea and we see the second wave building in the distance, so I want all New Yorkers to be on high alert," the Democratic governor told reporters during a telephone briefing.

New York City, which has seen the bulk of the state's confirmed coronavirus cases and deaths, began reopening June 8, after the rest of the state.

## California

SACRAMENTO — Most of California's 6.7 million school kids will be learning from home when the new school year begins in a few weeks as the state struggles with soaring rates of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday issued strict guidelines for 32 counties that are on a state watch list because of COVID-19 outbreaks. They effectively require distance learning in public and private K-12 schools until those counties see 14 days of declines in virus cases.

Rural counties in the central and northern parts of the state have seen little of the virus and can bring students and teachers back to campus but those in grades three through 12 must wear masks.

## Colorado

DENVER — Denver Public Schools is planning to delay the opening of fall semester by a week, starting with remote learning Aug. 24 and gradually transitioning to in-person classes Sept. 8 at the earliest.

Starting the week of Aug. 17, teachers will begin reaching out to individual students to build relationships and gauge their technology needs for remote learning, The Denver Post reported Friday. The district handed out laptops and internet hotspots in the spring to students who needed them and plans to expand that effort going into the fall.

## Michigan

DETROIT — A contract employee for the state of Michigan has been charged in a scheme that saw the fraudulent disbursement of more than \$2 million in unemployment insurance funding intended to help people during the coronavirus pandemic.

Brandi Hawkins, 39, of Detroit, worked in the state's Unemployment Insurance Agency with duties that included reviewing, processing and verifying the legitimacy of unemployment insurance claims for the state, according to U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider's office.

In April, insider access was used to release federal and state funds on hundreds of fraudulent claims, his office said.

A search of Hawkins' home later turned up more than \$200,000 in cash. Authorities said some of the money was used to buy high-end handbags and other luxury items.

## Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota hospitals asked Gov. Tim Walz to order people throughout the state to wear masks in public to slow the spread of the coronavirus — a step the governor said he has been considering.

In a letter released Friday,

the Minnesota Hospital Association urged the governor to act quickly to protect the state from the type of surges in other states, many of which aggressively lifted virus restrictions to reopen their economies despite warnings from health officials about doing so too soon.

Walz told Minnesota Public Radio on Friday that he still hadn't made a decision. Although the Democratic governor said he would be willing to order a mandate "at some point in time," he said he'd like to get Republican support rather than impose it unilaterally.

## Montana

BILLINGS — Montana's unemployment rate dropped sharply in June as many businesses reopened, but the state's economic rebound from the coronavirus pandemic remained on shaky ground as confirmed infections jumped again Friday and new problems emerged with testing for the virus.

Led by hiring in the leisure and hospitality sectors, the number of people employed increased by more than 20,000, driving a 2 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate to 7.1%, state officials said. That's one of the lowest rates in the U.S. and well below the national rate of 11.1%.

But employment in Montana remains roughly 4% below pre-pandemic levels. That's equal to about 21,000 fewer jobs.

## Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Council voted Friday to require faces to be covered inside all public buildings in an effort to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

The council approved the ordinance by a 6-3 vote at a special meeting. The ordinance requires persons age 11 and up, with few exceptions, to don face coverings or shields covering their noses and mouths in all indoor public spaces.

Among the exempt are those who work in offices with no

face-to-face interactions, diners while eating and drinking, those engaged in sports or cardio exercise, and those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

## Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — As Pennsylvania approached 100,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus on Friday, restaurant and bar owners say they will fight back against Gov. Tom Wolf's orders to further limit the number of patrons they're allowed to serve at a time.

Wolf's order to reduce occupancy at bars and restaurants from 50% to 25% will drive them out of business or into debt, restaurant owners said Friday, asserting his administration lacks the data to target them as the reason behind the spike in coronavirus cases in some parts of the state.

At a news conference outside a suburban Harrisburg restaurant, restaurant owners said they are laying off staff and taking yet another hit, with barely any notice before the governor announced new restrictions Wednesday.

## Texas

HOUSTON — A federal judge ruled Friday that Houston can't ban the Texas Republican Party from holding its convention in-person, but it was not clear whether the GOP would move for a physical meetup or keep the event virtual as the coronavirus continues to surge.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes ruled verbally that the city failed to make a case compelling enough to trump the party's First Amendment right to meet, said Jared Woodfill, attorney for GOP party activist Dr. Steven Hotze. A written order was to be filed later.

"He gave us everything we asked for," Woodfill said. "This is a great victory for the First Amendment."

Hughes ordered the city to accommodate the party convention this weekend or the following weekend, at the GOP's choice, Woodfill said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man charged in threat to use gun at hospital

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — A man was charged after allegedly threatening to use a gun at St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City.

Clinton Miller, 49, of Mokane was charged with first-degree making a terrorist threat, The Jefferson City News-Tribune reported.

Officers were called to the hospital after Miller allegedly told emergency room staff he had a gun and would use it if he could not see his ex-wife and daughter, who had come to the hospital.

Officers responding to the hospital found Miller sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot, and arrested him without incident. Officers did not find a firearm and Miller reportedly told police he did not have a gun.

## Woman charged with helping inmates escape

**VA** BON AIR — A woman who worked at a Virginia juvenile correctional facility was arrested and accused of helping two inmates escape, authorities said.

Destiny L. Harris, 23, was charged with two counts of aiding with the escape of a juvenile, news outlets reported. Harris worked at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

It's unclear what role Harris may have had in the escape.

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice said Jabar A. Taylor, 20, and Rashad E. Williams, 18, escaped from the Bon Air center through a hole that was cut in the perimeter fence.

Taylor was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder and aggravated malicious assault. Williams was convicted of malicious wounding and robbery.

## Men charged with theft of protected eggs

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — Two Florida men were charged with stealing 93 protected sea turtle eggs.

Federal prosecutors in West Palm Beach announced charges against Carl Lawrence Cobb, 63, and Bruce Wayne Bivins, 63. They each face three felony counts, including violating the Endangered Species Act, and up to 15 years in prison.

According to the complaint, Cobb dropped Bivins off at the Singer Island Beach. Bivins found a sea turtle nest, removed 93 eggs and then called Cobb for a pick-up, officials said. Officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported seeing the poaching and stopped Cobb's truck. The eggs were recovered and relocated by marine biologists, officials said.

## Firefighters battle blaze engulfing train car

**NE** NORTH PLATTE — Fire crews battled a blaze that consumed a rail car loaded with automobiles at Union Pacific's Bailey Yard in North Platte, officials said.

Arriving firefighters found the car fully engulfed in flames. It took several hours for fire crews from several surrounding departments, as well as Union Pacific employees, to extinguish the fire.

No one was injured, but all of the vehicles loaded on the rail car were destroyed.

## Lifeguards rescue deer stuck in ocean

**NJ** LONG BRANCH — Emergency responders on land and in the water helped rescue a deer that got stuck

in the ocean off a New Jersey beach.

The deer was spotted in the water near Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant, Long Branch police wrote on Facebook.

Two members of the city's beach rescue team on personal water craft and two lifeguards on paddle boards headed into the surf, while police officers and an animal control supervisor on land helped coordinate the rescue.

The rescuers helped guide the young deer to shore at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.

## Station, lighthouse now part of national park

**ME** BAR HARBOR — The Bass Harbor Head Light Station is now part of Acadia National Park.

The National Park Service announced that the property, including the lighthouse constructed in 1858, was transferred by the U.S. General Services Administration.

The acquisition includes five historic buildings on two acres of land. The Bass Harbor Head Light Station becomes one of three light stations in Acadia National Park along with Baker Island and Bear Island lights.

## State reaches record high in marijuana sales

**CO** DENVER — Cannabis sales in Colorado set a new monthly record in May, reaching their highest level since broad legalization in 2014.

Dispensaries sold over \$192 million worth of cannabis products that month, according to data from the state Department of Revenue's Marijuana Enforcement Division compiled by The Denver Post. That figure is up about 29% from April and 32% from May 2019.

In all, the cannabis industry has sold more than \$779 million in products this year and paid more than \$167 million in taxes and fees to the state.

## Wedge wolf pack attacks 7 more cattle

**OR** SALEM — The Wedge wolf pack in northeast Washington attacked seven more cattle, bringing the number of depredations by the pack to nearly a dozen since May 11.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife investigated and confirmed the depredations at a private ranch, a department spokeswoman told The Capital Press. All the cattle suffered injuries, she said.

The pack crossed the threshold for the department to consider lethal removal with four earlier attacks. The department opted not to cull the pack.

The department has not made a decision on how to respond to the depredations confirmed, the spokeswoman said.

## Virgin Mary statue at church scorched

**MA** BOSTON — Boston police are investigating vandalism to a statue of the Virgin Mary outside a Roman Catholic church in the city.

Officers responded to St. Peter's parish in the city's Dorchester neighborhood, according to a post on the department's website.

Fire investigators at the scene told police that someone had set fire to plastic flowers, which were in the hands of the statue, causing the face and upper body of the statue to be burned and marred with scorch marks.

No arrests were announced.

From wire reports

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# NFL, union still fighting over protocols

Associated Press

The 60-game mini-season Major League Baseball assembled this summer was still long enough that a dozen or so health-concerned players, even a few stars, decided to sit it out.

The NFL's player pool is more than twice as big as MLB's, groomed for fundamental extreme-contact activities of blocking, tackling and covering that are as inherently ripe for virus spread as any in sports. If the 2020 season can get off the ground this fall amid the global paralysis of the COVID-19 pandemic, players opting out will be a sure bet.

For those who choose to sideline themselves with a medically approved high-risk condition, will they continue to receive their salary and benefits and accrue a season toward free agency eligibility? Who will sign off on the categories and the diagnosis?

As with the rest of society in the fight against this unseen, fierce and unprecedented foe, the list of questions is far longer than the answer key.

"I just pray that everybody can be safe. A lot of people have

families. People have kids," Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry said.

With the targeted July 28 start for training camp for most teams fast approaching, the owners and the players have a lot of health-related protocols to establish so this precarious season can even kick off. Testing frequency is at the top of the list. The practice schedule and necessity of exhibition games are also major points of negotiation. Then there's the issue of opt-out clauses.

One potential point of lingering contention between the league and the NFL Players Association is whether COVID-19 will be categorized as a "non-football injury." Players on the reserve non-football injury list are not required to be paid.

In baseball, high-risk individuals were allowed to opt out with pay. San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey, however, will not receive a salary because his reasoning for not playing was specific to him and his wife adopting identical twin girls.

For an NFL player who makes a similar decision, the NFLPA will push for at least

service time accrual and benefits eligibility, even if salary is withheld.

To date, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said Friday no players have formally decided to skip the 2020 season out of virus concern.

"Are there some things that are incredibly important to our players about being able to opt out? Yes. We don't want players unfairly punished by it, in the same way that we wouldn't want our players unfairly punished ... because of testing positive," Smith said.

He added: "If that was your son, what options would you want him or her to have, as they made a decision about engaging in this work? I know it sounds a little utterly altruistic. It is. That's how we try to make these decisions."

Tampa Bay Buccaneers left tackle Donovan Smith said recently on social media that playing this season during the pandemic "does not seem like a risk worth taking" for him and his family's health.

New York Giants left tackle Nate Solder was more blunt last week on Twitter: "If the NFL doesn't do their part to keep

players healthy," he posted, "there is no football in 2020. It's that simple."

The culture of the sport, from the natural aggression that unfolds on the field to the short careers made more urgent by the lack of guaranteed contracts, could well prompt a fringe player to ignore a heightened personal or family risk out of fear of losing his spot on the roster or his place in the league. Unlike baseball, pro football has a smaller amount of players secure enough to skip a season without worrying about the ramifications.

"You're putting them in a really difficult position, not that much different than the essential worker that's got to make a decision, 'Do I go drive the bus and potentially risk my own health and my family's health in order to pay the rent?' I'm not comparing \$18 per hour to \$610,000 a year, but the guy making \$610,000, the seventh-round rookie, he hasn't made the team yet. He doesn't have any money," said agent Blake Baratz, of The Institute for Athletes.

## Palmer, Finau share Memorial lead; Tiger hangs on

Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio — Tony Finau figured he was on the right track when he shot 59 at Victory Ranch last week in Utah.

That kind of score isn't happening at Muirfield Village, where the greens are getting firmer by the hour. Finau still took enough confidence from playing with his kids at home during a week off, and it translated into 14 birdies over two days and a share of the 36-hole lead at the Memorial.

Finau recovered from two bogeys after three holes of his second round Friday, making birdie on the rest of the par 5s and finishing with a wedge to 2 feet for birdie and a 3-under 69.

That put him at 9-under 135 with Ryan Palmer (68), who had only one bogey over two rounds. The way Muirfield Village is playing, both are impressive.

They were a shot in front of Jon Rahm (67), who has another chance to reach No. 1 in the world this week for the first time in his career. U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland had a 70 and was two behind.

For Tiger Woods, it was a matter of making it to the weekend. Woods said his back felt stiff while warming up, and missing a pair of 3-footers didn't make him feel any better. He managed two birdies and a 7-foot par save on his final three holes for a 76 that allowed him to make the cut

on the number at 3-over 147, matching his highest 36-hole score at the Memorial.

"Not very good," Woods said. "I three-putted two holes early, and whatever kind of momentum I was going to create, I stifled that early and fought it the rest of the day."

Finau elected to stay home last week instead of playing Muirfield Village twice in a row. He won't compare Victory Ranch with Muirfield Village, though it inspired him. He was 14-under par through 16 holes until making a bogey on the 17th hole and settling for his second sub-60 round away from the PGA Tour.

"I don't know how many times I've been 14 under through 16 holes on a good golf

course," Finau said. "But it told me I was in good form and just told me how good I am at scoring. So I think I definitely carried some of that right into this week, and that confidence I think is pretty cool."

The cut of 147 matched the highest of the season — it also was 147 at Bay Hill. Among those going home was Bryson DeChambeau, who was in reasonable shape until hitting his tee shot into a hazard on the 15th, taking a penalty drop, hitting the next two out-of-bounds and making 10.

It was his highest score on a hole in his career. DeChambeau came into the Memorial having finished in the top 10 in seven straight tournaments.

# Pagenaud win snaps Ganassi streak

Associated Press

NEWTON, Iowa — Simon Pagenaud's worst-to-first run capped a wild opening night to IndyCar's doubleheader at Iowa Speedway.

The former series champion, who was unable to qualify because of a fuel pressure issue, managed to stretch his tires and take advantage of a unique pit strategy — and a little bit of luck — to get to the lead. Pagenaud then held off series leader Scott Dixon through the final laps Friday night to end Chip Ganassi Racing's four-race winning streak.

"I can't believe it. I have to rewatch the race. How did I get there?" asked Pagenaud, who also gave team owner Roger Penske his first IndyCar victory since purchasing the series late last year. "I don't know. The last 50 laps, a lot of tension. When Dixon is chasing you, you'd better hit your marks."

Pagenaud went from 23rd to first, but Dixon was just as impressive. He started 17th before finishing second.

"That was an awesome race," he said. "I'm sure Simon is happy after the mess-up they had in qualifying."

Pagenaud won for the 15th time in the series, and first since Toronto last season. The 36-year-old Frenchman gave Team Penske its third Iowa win in four races.

Oliver Askew and Pato O'Ward were third and fourth for Arrow McLaren SP with Josef Newgarden rounding out the top five.

Newgarden spent much of the night racing for the lead before the back-to-back cautions shuffled up the field.

"The caution was certainly the nail in the coffin. Without sounding too over-confident, we had the car to beat tonight, hands-down," he said.

# Rigor of NCAA's plan questioned

Associated Press

If there is a college football season, Wednesdays could be busy for medical staffs around the country.

The NCAA's latest guidance for playing college sports during the coronavirus pandemic recommends testing players once a week within 72 hours of competition. For typical Saturday football games, that means Wednesday would be the soonest athletes would be tested.

Is that enough for a team of about 100 athletes playing a contact sport to get through a season without major disruptions? Especially considering simply being exposed to someone who tests positive can land a player in quarantine for two weeks?

"Seventy-two hours leaves open a big window for somebody to test negative on Wednesday, become infectious on Thursday or Friday or Saturday morning and then go onto the field and spread it around," said Zachary Binney, an epidemiologist at Emory University. "Not only (to) their team but their opponents, who then travel back where they came from."

The NCAA released updated recommendations on Thursday but also warned if national trends in the pandemic don't change there will be no football and other fall sports. Already, more than 300 Division I football games have been canceled or postponed.

There was more bad news Friday as the Colonial Athletic

Conference became the fourth Championship Subdivision league to call off its fall football season, but with a twist. The CAA is allowing its members to compete in football on their own. Powerhouse James Madison and Elon are among those that plan to try.

The Atlantic 10 and America East, neither of which sponsors football, announced they are postponing fall sports, hoping to make them up in the second semester. Indiana became the latest major-college program to suspend workouts after six participants tested positive.

All of this has happened while the U.S. sees a surge in reported COVID-19 cases.

The Nebraska athletic department, as is the case with many schools affiliated with hospitals, has been working with its academic health center to test athletes since they arrived on campus for voluntary workouts at team facilities in June. The hospital also serves the community.

"While it is a resource that's being leveraged by athletics, there are also competing interests for those resources that have to be taken into account," said Dr. Chris Kratochvil, who heads the Big Ten's Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases and is executive director of the Global Center for Health Security at University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The NCAA's recommendations say any individual with a high-risk exposure to some-

one is required to quarantine for 14 days, per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That includes an individual who was within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes while not wearing a mask. The NCAA recommends teams segment their players into "functional units" of five to 10 players. But it takes 22 on the field to play football and public health guidance that works well for grocery stores doesn't translate perfectly to sports.

The surge in COVID-19 cases in many areas of the country where big-time college football is played increases the need for more frequent testing and quick delivery of results, Binney said.

"I would be a lot more comfortable with this plan for the Ivy League than the Big 12," Binney said. "This feels like a plan that might work decently in areas without a lot of community cases. In areas with more cases and more community spread I think there is a very real likelihood of somebody being missed by this protocol and getting on the field."

The Power Fives conference are finalizing their own guidelines that are similar to the NCAA's. In that document, obtained by The Associated Press, they add to high-risk exposures "anyone participating in face-to-face or contact drills against each other or using equipment that has not been adequately cleaned."

## Sports briefs

### Edmonton CFL club to drop 'Eskimos' name

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League reportedly will change their name. The team would not confirm the two reports.

TSN and Postmedia said Friday the team will make a switch following a decision to do the same by Washington's NFL team.

### Bucks guard Bledsoe tests positive for virus

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer confirmed Eric Bledsoe tested positive for COVID-19, but remains cautiously optimistic the veteran point guard will be ready for the start of the season's resumption.

"With the virus you're never sure," Budenholzer said Friday.

### MLS delays expansion due to pandemic

NEW YORK — Major League Soccer delayed the first seasons of expansion teams in Charlotte, N.C.; St. Louis; and Sacramento, Calif., by one year each because of the pandemic.

Charlotte will start play in 2022, and St. Louis and Sacramento will take the field in 2023, the league said Friday.

— Associated Press