

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Report: Missteps in Roosevelt response

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

A deeper dive into the coronavirus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in March found missteps by senior commanders exacerbated conditions on the warship, according to a month-long investigation by the Navy.

Those findings prompted Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday to reverse his recommendation in late April to reinstate Capt. Brett Crozier, the carrier's former commander, Gilday told reporters June 19. He ordered the investigation after then-acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly relieved Crozier of command April 2.

"Had I known then what I know today, I would have not made that recommendation to

reinstate Capt. Crozier," Gilday said. "Moreover, if Capt. Crozier were still in command today, I would be relieving him."

Crozier was at the helm when the Roosevelt diverted to Guam on March 26 after several sailors tested positive for the coronavirus. He was later removed from command after a letter he emailed to his Navy superiors pleading for help surfaced in the San Francisco Chronicle soon after. The ship remained in Guam two more months as sailors were isolated, tested and treated.

Ultimately, more than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors tested positive, one of whom died.

Adm. Robert Burke, until June 8 the vice chief of naval operations, conducted the investigation, whose results were released June 20.

On March 8, as the Roosevelt wrapped up a port visit to Da Nang, Vietnam, the U.S. Embassy there informed the Roosevelt and its strike group that 39 sailors had been to a hotel where two guests had tested positive for the virus. The carrier left Da Nang the next day.

Those sailors were quarantined, and crews began a "bleach-a-palooza" campaign with twice-daily workspace cleanings, according to the report. Daily announcements also reminded crews to "wash their hands, maintain social distance and avoid face touching," according to the report.

However, common areas and activities such as gyms, the ship store, library and chapel services remained open despite concerns of coronavirus exposure, the report said. In the galleys, self-service buffets

were discontinued, but salad bars were allowed.

Social distancing measures were not enforced, the investigation found.

"Specifically, no seats were removed, lines continued to form without six feet of separation between sailors and condiments were available for common use," the report said.

Crozier believed the March 12 guidance did not apply very well to deployed aircraft carriers, the report said.

The first coronavirus cases appeared aboard the Roosevelt on March 24. Three sailors tested positive: two from the carrier's air wing and one from the nuclear reactor department. The ship put on steam and reached Guam on March 27, earlier than planned.

## Recent cases highlight white extremism in military

*The Washington Post*

As Ohio National Guard soldiers were dispatched to help quell unrest in Washington, D.C., one was keeping a secret from his commanders: He had frequently espoused neo-Nazi views among like-minded friends.

Pfc. Shandon Simpson had participated in a white supremacist channel on the Telegram messaging app called Rape-Waffen Division, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. The channel's members have touted the rape of female police officers, posted images with Confederate battle flags and swastikas and called white women who have children with men of other races "traitors."

On Twitter, Simpson tried to recruit fascists to join him in a new group, used an image of Nazi Party leader Richard Walther Darr as his profile picture and marked the 75th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's death on April 30.

Simpson is one of several service members whose actions have come under scrutiny in recent months as the U.S. military grapples with white extremism in its ranks. The military has wrestled with the problem for decades, but the issue is receiving new attention amid a broader conversation about race and discrimination prompted in part by the death of George Floyd, a Black civilian who was killed in police custody last month.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced June 5 that a guard member had been suspended for expressing white supremacist views but did not identify him. Simpson is now being processed for a separation from the military, said Stephanie Beougher, an Ohio National Guard spokeswoman. It is not clear how his actions first came to the attention of authorities, or if he will face any charges.

"Racism and prejudice has no place in our organization," Beougher said in a statement. "Every member of the Ohio Na-

tional Guard is held to a high standard of professionalism. Ohio knows and trusts its National Guard. Any threat to that public trust will not be tolerated."

Simpson's case has come into focus as another soldier faces serious charges. Last week, the Justice Department charged Pvt. Ethan Melzer in a plot in which authorities said he worked with the extremist group Order of the Nine Angles in an attempt to kill fellow American soldiers abroad.

Members of the "racially motivated violent extremist group" have espoused neo-Nazi and satanic beliefs and admiration for both Hitler and Osama bin Laden, the indictment said.

It is unclear if other members of Rape-Waffen are U.S. service members, but more than one of them have claimed to be, Rita Katz, SITE's executive director, said. A general recommendation for O9A adherents is to join the armed forces to gain combat experience in anticipation of war, she added.

# Pacific tensions flare over island naming

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A naming controversy over the contested, uninhabited Senkaku Islands has ramped up tensions between Japan, China and Taiwan in the East China Sea.

On Monday, the Ishigaki city assembly in Okinawa prefecture voted to change the addresses of the chain's five main islands to include the name "Senkaku." Officials said the change, which takes effect Oct. 1, removes redundancies with other addresses within the city.

The Senkakus are administered by Japan, but claimed by China and Taiwan, which refer to them as Diaoyu Dao and Diaoyutai, respectively.

"This is a simple administrative procedure by a local government," Ishigaki Mayor Yoshitaka Nakayama said in a statement Monday. "To differentiate between the Tonoshiro district on Ishigaki Island, we decided to change the Senkaku Islands' address from 'Aza Tonoshiro, Ishigaki City' to 'Tonoshiro Senkaku, Ishigaki City,' instead." Beijing responded by naming 50 underwater geological features around the islands, according to Japanese broadcaster NHK.

"Japan's adoption of the so-called name-changing bill is serious provocation against China's territorial sovereignty, which is illegal, null and void," Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, said Monday.

"It cannot change the fact whatsoever that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China," he added. "We firmly oppose this move taken by Japan."

Taiwan also pushed back, saying it is not "conducive to regional peace and stability," Kyodo News reported Monday. The local council in Yilan County then changed the name of Uotsuri Island, which Taiwan previously called Diaoyutai, to Toucheng Diaoyutai, to reflect the name of a local township.

Ishigaki's mayor later took to Twitter to clarify the decision.

"The name change is to improve the efficiency of administrative work and not to claim ownership, once again," Nakayama wrote.

In Japan, the islands require addresses because Japanese citizens can set their fam-

ily registry to anywhere within Japanese territory, by law, even if they do not live there, an Ishigaki spokesman said Wednesday.

As of May 2020, there were 48 families registered within the five uninhabited islands, with 76 people registering their personal domiciles there.

Zhao said that China has protested the move through diplomatic channels.

"We reserve the right to make further responses," he said.

Tokyo deflected responsibility for the name change.

"It is not our place to comment on a local mayor changing the name of the district after getting an approval from the local assembly," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Monday, according to the Mainichi newspaper.

## Bill introduced to improve troops' mental health care

BY NIKKI WENTLING

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Over the past two years, Patrick and Teri Caserta have tried to create a positive legacy for their son, a 21-year-old sailor who died by suicide on June 25, 2018, after throwing himself into the spinning tail rotor of a MH-60s helicopter at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

A command investigation into Brandon Caserta's death determined that belligerent and brash leadership of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 contributed to his decision to end his own life. He felt alone, stuck and afraid of retaliation, his parents said.

After fighting the Navy for accountability and urging Congress for change, the Casertas are finally seeing progress.

On Thursday, the two-year anniversary of Brandon Caserta's death, Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., introduced a bill in his name: the Brandon Act. The underlying goal is to create a

pathway for service members to seek mental health care in confidence without disclosing it to their command. It would create a safe word that, when said, would trigger an immediate, confidential mental health evaluation.

"Brandon tasked us with doing something like this, in his final letter to us," Teri Caserta said. "Brandon's legacy is to save lives. The rest of our lives will be focused on that, too."

The suicide note from their son prompted the Casertas to seek the help of Congress. They were novices at lobbying and unaware of what went into creating a bill, but they set out on a cross-country road trip from their home in Peoria, Ariz., to Washington to give it a try.

For one week last year, they walked through the Senate and House buildings, meeting with any lawmaker or staff member they could. They told their son's story and what stood in his way of getting help.

Sen. Kirstin Gillibrand, D-N.Y., was one of those lawmak-

ers. She brought up Caserta's case during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in December that focused on suicide prevention. At the time, she urged military leaders to alter a policy that requires mental health professionals to report many service members' mental health concerns to a commander, arguing it "creates mistrust and acts as a barrier to treatment."

"Brandon Caserta felt so unhappy and felt so hopeless," Gillibrand said during the hearing. "He faced personal setbacks, combined with daily abuse from his superiors and little hope that anything would change."

In response, Capt. Michael Colston, director for mental health programs in the Pentagon's health services policy and oversight office, said the Navy has a zero-tolerance policy for hazing and bullying and "to the extent they happen, they're leadership failures."

It was a small but powerful moment for the Casertas — the

first time anyone in the Navy had admitted failure regarding their son's case.

A more powerful moment came Wednesday, when they learned the Brandon Act would be introduced. Work on the bill had been delayed during the coronavirus pandemic, and the Casertas weren't expecting legislation until later in 2020.

"We were shocked," Patrick Caserta said over the phone Thursday morning. "It's a great start in the right direction. We believe it meets the criteria to help people immediately."

The Brandon Act creates a system modeled off the process available to victims of sexual assault, which would allow service members who experience mental health issues to receive care without notifying their command or opening an official investigation of any allegations they raise. The Casertas feel the change would help reduce the perceived barriers of self-reporting for mental health evaluations and ease service members' path to care.



# Trump denies knowledge of Russia bounties

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that he had been briefed on reported U.S. intelligence that a Russian military intelligence unit secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American troops in Afghanistan, and he appeared to minimize the allegations against Moscow.

American intelligence officials concluded months ago that Russian officials offered rewards for successful attacks on American service members last year, at a time when the U.S. and Taliban were holding talks to end the long-running war, according to The New York Times.

Trump, in a Sunday morning tweet, said “Nobody briefed or told me” or Vice President Mike Pence or chief of staff Mark Meadows about “the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians.”

“Everybody is denying it & there have not been many attacks on us,” he said.

The White House had issued a statement Saturday denying that Trump or Pence had been briefed on such intelligence. “This does not speak to the merit of the alleged intelligence, but to the inaccuracy of the New York Times story erroneously suggesting that President Trump was briefed on this matter,” press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

Trump’s director of national intelligence, John Ratcliffe, also said neither the president nor vice president was “ever briefed on any intelligence alleged” in the Times’ report and he said the White House statement was “accurate.”

Trump’s tweet came a day after presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said that the report, if accurate, was a “truly shocking revelation” about the commander in chief and his failure to protect U.S. troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia.

Russia called the report “nonsense.”

“This unsophisticated plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence,

who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

A Taliban spokesman said the militants “strongly reject this allegation” and are not “indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country.”

The Times, citing unnamed officials familiar with the intelligence, said the findings were presented to Trump and discussed by his National Security Council in late March. Officials developed potential responses, starting with a diplomatic complaint to Russia, but the White House has yet to authorize any step, the report said.

## Summer may decide fate of coronavirus’ vaccine race

Associated Press

People on six continents are already getting jabs in the arm as the race for a COVID-19 vaccine enters a defining summer, with even bigger studies poised to prove if any shot really works — and maybe offer a reality check.

British and Chinese researchers are already chasing the coronavirus beyond their borders, testing potential vaccines in Brazil and the United Arab Emirates because there are too few new infections at home to get clear answers.

The United States is set to open the largest trials — 30,000 people to test a government-created shot starting in July, followed about a month later with another 30,000 expected to test a British one.

Those will likely be divided among Americans and volunteers in other countries such as Brazil or South Africa, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told The Associated Press.

While he’s optimistic, “we’ve been burned before,” Fauci cautioned.

Multiple successes, in multiple parts of the world, are vital.

“This isn’t a race of who gets there first. This is, get as many approved, safe and effective vaccines as you possibly can,” Fauci said.

Vaccine experts say it’s time to set public expectations. Many scientists don’t expect a coronavirus vaccine to be nearly as protective as the measles shot.

If the best COVID-19 vaccine is only 50% effective, “that’s still to me a great vaccine,” said Dr. Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania.

“We need to start having this conversation now,” so people won’t be surprised, he added.

And for all the government promises of stockpiling doses in hopes of starting vaccinations by year’s end, here’s the catch: Even if a shot pans out — and it’s one that your country stockpiled — only some high-risk people, such as essential workers, go to the front of a very long line.

“Will you and I get vaccinated this year? No way,” said Duke University health economist David Ridley.

## Number of confirmed cases hits 10 million worldwide

Associated Press

ROME — Worldwide confirmed coronavirus infections hit the 10 million mark Sunday as voters in Poland and France went to the polls for virus-delayed elections.

New clusters of cases at a Swiss nightclub and in the central English city of Leicester showed that the virus was still circulating widely in Europe, though not with the rapidly growing infection rate seen in parts of the United States, Latin America and India.

Wearing mandatory masks, social distancing in lines and carrying their own pens to sign voting registers, French voters cast ballots in a second round of municipal elections. Poles also wore masks and used hand sanitizer, and some in virus-hit areas were told to mail in their ballots to avoid further contagion.

“I didn’t go and vote the first time around because I am elderly and I got scared,” said Fanny Barouh as she voted in a Paris school.

While concern in the U.S. has focused on big states like

Texas, Arizona and Florida reporting thousands of new cases a day, rural states are also seeing infection surges, including in Kansas.

The U.S. handling of the outbreak has drawn concern from abroad. The European Union seems almost certain to bar Americans from traveling to the bloc in the short term as it draws up new travel rules.

Globally, confirmed COVID-19 cases passed the 10 million mark and confirmed deaths neared half a million, according to a tally by the Johns Hopkins University, with the U.S., Brazil, Russia and India having the most cases. The U.S. also has the highest virus death toll in the world at over 125,000.

Experts say all those figures significantly undercount the true toll, due to limited testing and missed mild cases. U.S. government experts last week estimated the U.S. alone could have had 20 million cases.

Polish voters were casting ballots for a presidential election that was supposed to have taken place in May but was postponed amid the pandemic.

# 2 dead after shooting at distribution center

Associated Press

RED BLUFF, Calif. — A man drove into a Northern California distribution center and started shooting at people, killing an employee and wounding four others before he was killed by police, authorities said.

The shooting by a 31-year-old man with a semi-automatic rifle started about 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Walmart distribution center south of Red Bluff, a city of about 14,000 people about 131 miles north of Sacramento.

Tehama County Assistant

Sheriff Phil Johnston said at a news conference that the shooter circled the parking lot four times before crashing into the building and opening fire with the rifle. Red Bluff Police officers shot and killed the suspect, KHSL-TV reported.

The employee who died was Martin Haro-Lozano, 45, of Orland, Calif., Johnston said.

Officials did not identify the shooter, but Johnston said he has a history with the Red Bluff workplace.

The shooting victims were taken to St. Elizabeth Com-

munity Hospital in Red Bluff, spokeswoman Allison Hendrickson told The Associated Press. She confirmed that four were hospitalized, but declined to provide more details.

Some of the 200 workers inside the facility locked themselves in a room, employees told KHSL-TV.

The suspect was shot in the chest about 3:45 p.m., dispatchers told the newspaper.

Vince Krick told the Record-Searchlight that his wife and son work at the facility and he was on his way to pick up his wife when he saw the flames.

Neither was hurt, but his wife told him not to come to the front entrance, the newspaper reported.

Dispatchers told the Record-Searchlight that at least one woman had been shot. A man had also reported his leg being run over when the shooter rammed a vehicle into the building, but the man wasn't sure if he had been shot, dispatchers said.

Walmart spokesman Scott Pope told the Record-Searchlight that the company was "aware of the situation" and working with law enforcement.

## Third Ill. warehouse shooting victim has died

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A third person, who was critically wounded in a shooting at a warehouse in central Illinois where the suspect had fatally shot two coworkers before apparently killing himself, died Saturday afternoon, authorities said.

Police believe Michael L. Collins opened fire on three of his coworkers Friday, killing two at the Bunn-O-Matic facil-

ity in Springfield, Ill., shortly after 11 a.m.

The victims who died Friday are Christopher Aumiller, 25, and Bill Gibbons, 61, both of Springfield, according to Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon. Their autopsies conducted Saturday morning concluded both died of multiple gunshot wounds, Allmon told The (Springfield) State Journal-Register.

The third victim is a 54-year-

old woman, who died Saturday just after 4:30 p.m. at HSHS St. John's Hospital. Her identity hasn't been revealed because her family hasn't been notified of her death, Allmon said. The woman's autopsy is scheduled for Monday, Allmon said.

Collins and his coworkers had all arrived for work at about 7 a.m. Friday in the welding area of the facility, Springfield Police Chief Kenny Winslow said. They all worked in the same

area, he said.

Later Friday after the shooting, Collins was found dead in his car apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Winslow said. Two handguns were also found in his car. No other suspects were being sought.

Aumiller and Gibbons' bodies were found Friday by officers searching the facility building. The woman who died Saturday was found in the parking lot and taken to a hospital.

## California's alleged Golden State Killer set to plead guilty

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Forty years after a sadistic suburban rapist terrorized California in what investigators later realized were a series of linked assaults and slayings, a 74-year-old former police officer is expected to plead guilty Monday to being the elusive Golden State Killer.

The deal will spare Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. any chance of the death penalty for 13 murders and 13 kidnapping-related charges spanning six counties. In partial return, survivors of the assaults that spanned the 1970s and 1980s expect him to admit to up to 62 rapes that

he could not be criminally charged with because too much time has passed.

Yet nothing is certain until he actually speaks in a Sacramento State University ballroom pressed into use as a courtroom to provide for social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I've been on pins and needles because I just don't like that our lives are tied to him, again," said Jennifer Carole, the daughter of Lyman Smith, a lawyer who was slain in 1980 at age 43 in Ventura County. His wife, 33-year-old Charlene Smith, was also raped and killed.

Investigators early on con-

nected certain crimes to an armed and masked rapist who would break into sleeping couples' suburban homes at night, binding the man and piling dishes on his back. He would threaten to kill both victims if he heard the plates fall while he raped the woman.

Gay and Bob Hardwick were among the survivors.

They are now looking forward to DeAngelo admitting to that 1978 assault. The death penalty was never realistic anyway, she said, given DeAngelo's age and Gov. Gavin Newsom's moratorium on executions.

A guilty plea and life sentence avoids a trial or even the planned weeks-long pre-

liminary hearing. The victims expect to confront him at his sentencing in August, where it's expected to take several days to tell DeAngelo and Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Michael Bowman what they have suffered.

Ron Harrington's younger brother, Keith, was married to Patti Harrington for just three months when they were bludgeoned to death in their Orange County home in 1980 by a killer then known as the Original Night Stalker.

Their father found the couple two days later.

"It was so gruesome," Harrington said. "My dad was never the same."



# Young protesters keep spirit of US resistance alive

Associated Press

Before George Floyd stopped pleading for air beneath a police officer's knee, Weidmayer Pierre, 19, was planning to work at Walmart during his summer break from Palm Beach State College.

Now his days look completely different. Pierre has quit his retail job to focus on organizing Black Lives Matter protests every few days in Florida, determined to channel the groundswell of energy around the world into meaningful reform in his hometown.

"Every time someone gets killed by police brutality we protest once or twice and it's done," said Pierre, who wants to help police improve the system from within. "This time, I'm not planning on stopping until we have a change."

Pierre is part of a grassroots, decentralized wave of young organizers across the U.S. helping drive the outpouring of protests against racism and police brutality in cities and towns around the nation.

Many are new to organizing but have seen a drumbeat of deaths of police-brutality cases captured on video since they were children. Social media is second nature for many, and they're showing how small

groups can translate online information quickly into real-life action.

The novice organizers' visions for the future differ, but they all hope their voices are helping create a historic turning point in dismantling racism and inequity.

In Detroit, Stefan Perez, 16, said his only real public speaking experience was on his school's debate team before early June when he was handed a megaphone and asked to help lead a protest at the city's police headquarters.

Protesters have skewed younger demographically, with a median age of 30 or younger, at several major demonstrations since Floyd's death, said Dana R. Fisher, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland and author of the book "American Resistance."

Many older adults are staying home due to their increased risk of the coronavirus and the pandemic has left younger people with more free time by forcing the cancelation of everything from internships to beach plans.

Most of the protesters she has surveyed report hearing about the rallies from decentralized sources, like their family, friends or the social-media platform Instagram.

## Artist: More looking to erase racist tattoos

Associated Press

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — A Vermont tattoo artist who has long offered free removal or covering of hateful skin art like swastikas, SS lightning bolts or the words "white power" says he's seen an uptick in business recently following George Floyd's death.

Alexander Lawrence, who runs Mountainside Tattoo from a storefront in the village of Bellows Falls, says he's always offered to remove hateful images or cover scars for free. But following Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police, which sparked global protests against police brutality and revived the Black Lives Matter movement, Lawrence says he's been getting so many requests he's looking for an office manager to schedule his appointments.

"I think they were out there, but it wasn't, like, in the lime-light, you know, until things started happening and people are, like, 'Oh, man I have this old tattoo. I'm not like that anymore and I don't want people to think that I am,'" Lawrence said.

Earlier this month Dylan Graves, 28, visited Lawrence's shop to cover a swastika tattoo superimposed over a grinning skull wearing a World War II German army helmet he had inked on the inside of his upper left arm a decade ago.

When asked why he got the tattoo, Graves answered, "Stupidity, partying when I was younger. Really, that's it. Just

being dumb."

Now he works for an excavation company that does jobs at the homes of wealthy people in the tourist town of Ludlow.

"It's just not something to have on, and I hate it now," he said while Alexander sketched the outline of the image that would cover the swastika.

Many tattoo artists across the country will cover or erase old tattoos, especially in the aftermath of Floyd's killing, but Alexander said not all do it for free.

Alexander said he's been doing free cover-ups since shortly after he opened his business in 2006. He's had brushes with the law and the free cover-ups are a way give back.

"I've had people forgive me and look past my bad decisions and help me get to a better place," he said.

It's hard for people with offensive tattoos to escape them, and he said helping to remove them is a way he can help.

"These people, they're stuck looking at their bad decisions every day," he said. "They have to hide them."

Graves said his swastika tattoo hasn't drawn a lot of attention because it's hidden, but he was still eager to get rid of it.

Since Graves' tattoo already has the image of a skull, Alexander used a pen to outline the image of the grim reaper.

After almost 90 minutes in Alexander's tattoo chair, the swastika is gone, replaced by the head of a grim reaper, the mythological character that is a symbol of death.

## 4 charged in attack on statue near White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities have charged four men in connection with a failed effort last week to pull down the statue of President Andrew Jackson near the White House.

In a complaint unsealed Saturday, authorities allege that the men damaged and

attempted to tear down the Jackson statue, which is located in Lafayette Square, on June 22. The square has been the site of protests in the aftermath of George Floyd's death while in police custody in Minneapolis.

Those charged are Lee Michael Cantrell, 47, of Virginia; Connor Matthew Judd, 20, of

Washington, D.C.; Ryan Lane, 37, of Maryland; and Graham Lloyd, 37, of Maine.

Judd was arrested Friday and appeared in Superior Court of the District of Columbia on Saturday, authorities said. The other three have not been apprehended. The FBI and the U.S. Park Police have been investigating the incident.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Three sentenced for dealing Disney DVDs

**KY** COVINGTON — Three people were sentenced in federal court in Eastern Kentucky for trafficking counterfeit Disney DVDs.

Hongtao Zhu, Hui Lin and He Lin were sentenced to 46 months in federal prison and ordered to pay nearly \$900,000 in restitution, according to a news release from federal prosecutors. The defendants pleaded guilty in October.

The DVDs appeared to be genuine Disney productions but were counterfeits from China, according to the release. The defendants imported them and sold them online over eBay. The scheme continued for two years.

## Restaurant chain fined for taking wages, tips

**FL** DAVIE — Federal officials said a Florida restaurant chain with six locations was fined more than \$314,500 for taking employee tips and wages.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported that the Vietnamese chain Pho 79 “illegally diverted” federal overtime pay and tips for 65 employees. The South Florida Sun Sentinel reported that, on average, the fine would come out to about \$4,800 per employee.

The Labor Department found that Pho 79 had a number of violations, including forcing some employees to work virtually unlimited hours, taking all tips from workers and not keeping a record of employee hours worked.

A Labor Department spokesman said the restaurant agreed to comply with the applicable laws in the future.

## Police pursue vandals of firefighter memorial

**SC** CHARLESTON — An investigation was underway after a Charleston police officer spotted debris in a road that led to the discovery of vandalism at a memorial site for nine firefighters.

The memorial marks the former site of the Sofa Super Store, where nine firefighters died battling a massive fire in the furniture showroom June 18, 2007.

When he arrived at the memorial park, the officer found an American flag draped over a cross along with several smaller flags scattered around, an incident report stated. The officer then noticed that the nine PVC pipe memorial crosses at the park had been uprooted and broken.

Police also said the American flag and the memorial flag had been removed from the flagpole in the park, an angel statue at the Louis Mulkey memorial plaque had been knocked over, and an American flag had been broken off of the Billy Hutchinson memorial plaque.

## ‘Tiger King’ zoo being probed for neglect

**OK** WYNNEWOOD — Federal officials are investigating an Oklahoma zoo made famous in Netflix’s “Tiger King” series after an animal rights group accused it of neglect.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals sent requests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park after a whistleblower provided them with photos and video of animals suffering from flystrike, according to the nonprofit’s release.

Flystrike is a condition in which flies, usually drawn to uncleared animal waste, bite animals and lay eggs on them. The maggots eat away at their skin, HOKH-TV reported.

## Man arrested for using TNT, charged anew

**PA** HARRISBURG — A man who authorities said claimed to use explosives to blow up at least one cash machine in Philadelphia was hit with additional charges after 30 more sticks of homemade dynamite were found in his home, Pennsylvania’s attorney general said.

Talib Crump, 26, was charged with additional counts of felony possession of weapons of mass destruction, risking a catastrophe and more.

Crump was initially arrested June 2 during an undercover buy, and his car was found to have enough dynamite to blow up at least four ATMs.

## Wildlife officers seek killer of black bear

**NC** WASHINGTON — Wildlife officials in North Carolina are investigating the shooting of a black bear that had been seen sleeping in the community of Washington.

The bear, estimated to weigh between 250 to 300 pounds, was shot Thursday, WRAL-TV reported. Wildlife officers and police officers had been keeping an eye on the animal. After wildlife officers were notified about a shooting, they found the bear dead when they arrived at the scene.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Officer Ryan Biggerstaff said people in the community have not cooperated with the investigation.

The state agency has offered a \$1,000 reward for informa-

tion that leads to an arrest. The person responsible could face misdemeanor charges and thousands of dollars in fines.

## Two men charged after stealing from churches

**PA** NORRISTOWN — Two men were charged with burglary and other crimes for allegedly breaking into 10 churches in Philadelphia and nearby suburbs, stealing safes, precious metals and electronics, prosecutors announced.

Authorities alleged that Gabriel E. Minnick, 21, and Samaj Howard, 20, both of Philadelphia, burglarized the churches over about a month earlier this year, typically going in at night through first-floor windows.

They’re accused of taking a TV from a nursery, cash from a collection box for the poor and bottles of wine, among other things.

## 58 neglected cats rescued from home

**IA** DES MOINES — Fifty-eight cats were rescued from an Iowa home, but rescuers were unable to save one other dehydrated cat who died shortly after they arrived.

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa said the animals found in a home in Mitchell County ranged in age from kittens to adult cats, the Des Moines Register reported.

Urine and feces were all over the home, said Stephanie Filer, spokeswoman for the Animal Rescue League.

All the cats in the home had fleas and mites, and some had respiratory infections and ringworm, she said in a news release.

The cats are now at the group’s shelter in Des Moines.

From wire reports

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## NBA sets schedule for restart

Associated Press

Zion Williamson is about to get another chance at opening night.

Injury kept him out of New Orleans' appearance in the first game of this NBA season when the Pelicans started the year at Toronto, but now the big-name rookie will be in position to be on center stage at Disney when play resumes — against the team that was the first to find itself in the middle of the NBA's coronavirus situation.

New Orleans will be in the first game of the resumed NBA season July 30, taking on Utah at the Disney World complex near Orlando, Fla., in the opener of a doubleheader. And just as the initial first night of this season-like-none-other did, the second game of nationally televised twinbill will pit the Los Angeles Lakers against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Jazz were a logical storyline for the first game back, after Utah's All-Star center Rudy Gobert was the first player in the league to test positive for the coronavirus — a development that forced the league to suspend the season March 11. More than four and a half months will have passed between game nights in the NBA, but the league officially completed talks Friday with the National Basketball Players Association on the terms for restarting the season.

Finally, play will resume in a season that started with political strife between the NBA and China in October, the deaths of David Stern and Kobe Bryant in January, a pandemic breaking out in March and racial issues surrounding police brutality and other forms of inequality dividing the country during much of the league's shutdown.

"There's no question this season and frankly this year has been one which none of us will soon forget," NBPA executive director Michele Roberts said.

## NWSL players kneel during anthem as Challenge Cup opens

Associated Press

Players for the Portland Thorns and the North Carolina Courage knelt during the national anthem Saturday when the National Women's Soccer League opened the Challenge Cup tournament in Utah.

The players and coaches wore Black Lives Matter T-shirts in warmups before the game, which was nationally televised on CBS. The players also knelt during a moment of silence before kickoff.

"We took a knee today to protest racial injustice, police brutality and systemic racism against Black people and people of color in America. We love our country and we have taken this opportunity to hold it to a higher standard. It is our duty to demand that the liberties and freedoms this nation was founded upon are extended to everyone," the Thorns and Courage said in a joint statement released before the game.

During the late match between the Red Stars and the Washington Spirit a few players remained standing. There was a touching moment when Chicago's Julie Ertz consoled teammate Casey Short, who was overcome by emotion.

The NWSL is the first professional team sport in the United States to return amid the coronavirus outbreak. The monthlong Challenge Cup is being played without fans at Zions Bank Stadium in Herriman, Utah.

"Today, hopefully, it was a powerful statement," Courage midfielder Sam Mewis said after her team defeated the Thorns 2-1. "It was an emotional time and I hope that both teams' message comes through clearly."

Megan Rapinoe, who plays for OL Reign but opted out of the Challenge Cup, was criticized when she knelt at an NWSL game and a pair of U.S. national team games in 2016. She said she wanted to express solidarity with former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who took a knee during the anthem to bring attention to racial inequality.

In response, U.S. Soccer adopted a rule that required players to stand. But that rule was repealed earlier this month amid nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd and racial inequity.

## Courage, Spirit early winners

Associated Press

HERRIMAN, Utah — Rose Lavelle and Ashley Hatch each scored to give the Washington Spirit a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Red Stars in the National Women's Soccer League's Challenge Cup on Saturday night.

The NWSL became the first professional team sport in the United States to return amid coronavirus earlier in the day when the North Carolina Courage defeated the Portland Thorns 2-1 at Zions Bank Stadium. The Challenge Cup is being played without fans in attendance.

Most players knelt during the national anthem to protest racial inequity and there was an emotional moment when Julie Ertz put her arm around teammate Casey Short. All of the players also knelt for a moment of silence before kickoff.

Lavelle, who scored for the United States in the World Cup final last summer in France,

blasted a rebound goal in the eighth minute to give the Spirit the early lead.

Hatch added a second goal just seconds into the second half, challenging Chicago goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher then breaking free for the goal.

"We've been training hard in D.C. and we were all kind of itching to get back to playing a game. For some people they haven't played since the end of last season. So we were definitely really excited and it was great to be back on there," Lavelle said.

Morgan Gautrat, known previously by her maiden name Brian, pulled a goal back for the Red Stars in the 51st minute.

"The game stopped so much after we scored, regardless if it was the referee letting subs in or somebody hurt. It just seemed like the game kept stopping so it was hard to find a rhythm," Chicago coach Rory Dames said. "But it was good,

there will be a lot of things to learn out of this. We said we were going to script the first three games, we kept with the script that we had tonight, and we'll continue on with that for the next two."

The NWSL's teams had opened preseason training camps but had not played any games when the league shut down on March 12.

The eight teams taking part in the Challenge Cup are sequestered in Utah for the duration of the monthlong tournament and must follow a strict protocol that includes frequent testing.

The league's ninth team, the Orlando Pride, was forced to withdraw last week because of multiple positive COVID-19 tests among players and staff.

Red Stars are playing this season without Sam Kerr, who led the league last season with 18 goals and holds the league's career record.

# Poirier tops Hooker in thriller

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Dustin Poirier won a thrilling unanimous decision over Dan Hooker on Saturday night, surviving a brutal second round and persevering to finish a well-rounded performance in the main event at the UFC's corporate gym.

Mike Perry also ended his two-fight skid with a one-sided unanimous decision over Mickey Gall in the penultimate fight of the UFC's fifth consecutive fan-free event in its hometown.

The main event was a barn-burner from the opening round, with both lightweights trading wicked strikes and displaying minimal regard for defense. The second round was a spectacle, with each fighter badly hurting the other while throwing punches and knees at full power.

The fight went to the ground in the fourth round, and Poirier attempted several submissions before Hooker escaped. Poirier appeared to have more energy left for the fifth round, and he won on all three cards: 48-47, 48-47 and 48-46.

"It was a tough one," Poirier said. "Dan came to fight. He's a tough guy. He's on the rise. He really thought he was going to get past me. I trusted in my team, in my skill and my work ethic."

Poirier (26-6) capped his long rise by beating Max Holloway in April 2019 for the interim lightweight title. He lost the belt to unbeaten champion Khabib Nurmagomedov last September, and a leg injury subsequently kept him out of the cage for the longest stretch of his career.

He was back in fine form against Hooker (20-9), the tough kickboxing star from New Zealand who had won seven of his last eight bouts since 2016.

Perry had lost five of his last seven fights, and his wild mixed martial arts career took another swerve in recent months when he split with his wife, separated from his coaches and decided that his girlfriend, Latory Gonzalez, would be the only person in his corner at this fight.

"Every time we get in there, it's all up to me," said Perry, who used his superior striking skills and impressive ground game to earn just his second win since July 2018. "I trained for this. I'm a professional."

This latest Vegas show was stacked with impressive finishes and unusual results.

Heavyweight Maurice Greene stopped his two-fight skid with an unorthodox submission of Gian Villante, who was on top of Greene and apparently in control when Greene wrapped an arm around his head. Although Greene (9-4) didn't have a traditional chokehold around Villante's neck, an exhausted Villante was unable to move and tapped out with 1:16 left in the fight.

Japanese welterweight Takashi Sato produced one of the most impressive stoppages of the night, beating late replacement opponent Jason Witt with a flurry of strikes in just 48 seconds.

Julian Erosa, another late replacement opponent, won his fight on five days' notice by forcing Sean Woodson to tap out with a choke midway through the third round. Erosa was dropped from the UFC roster last year after three straight losses, but seized his last-minute chance to return.

A string of five consecutive finishes began with the second fight of the night. Kay Hansen, a 20-year-old strawweight making her UFC debut, beat Jinh Yu Frey in the third round with an armbar finish reminiscent of her hero, Ronda Rousey.

## Source: Yanks at Nats on opening day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole could make his New York Yankees debut in a tasty opening-day treat for fans, facing Juan Soto and World Series champion Washington at Nationals Park.

The Yankees and Nationals are set to meet when the virus-delayed season begins next month, a person familiar with the game told The Associated Press on Saturday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because there hasn't been an official announcement. The New York Post first reported the matchup.

MLB will start a 60-game season on July 23 or 24. The schedule is still being worked out — there could be a game or two on the first day of play, or a full slate.

Cole started the previous game played at Nationals Park. He pitched the Houston Astros past the Nationals 7-1 last October for a 3-2 edge in the World Series.

The Nationals won the last two games to earn their first championship. Max Scherzer started Game 7 and fellow ace Stephen Strasburg was the World Series MVP, and either of them could start on opening day.

Cole signed a \$324 million, nine-year contract with the Yankees as a free agent.

The Yankees and Nationals met twice in spring training, including New York's 6-3 win on March 12 on the final day before MLB stopped because of the virus outbreak.

Players will begin reporting to summer training camp on Wednesday — Gleyber Torres, DJ LeMahieu and their New York teammates will work out at Yankee Stadium while Trea Turner, Patrick Corbin and Washington will train at Nationals Park.

The Yankees are hopeful that slugger Aaron Judge has fully recovered from a rib injury that bothered him during spring training in Florida.

## Harvick ends 0-for-38 Pocono skid

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Kevin Harvick hit pause on that victory swirl of scorched rubber and billows of smoke at Pocono Raceway. Sure, Harvick needed to save the engine for a repeat run in the same Ford and a shot at a weekend sweep in a Cup Series twin bill. He stood on his car alone again in victory lane in front of another race with barren grandstands and the only noise at the track just a few cheers from his Stewart-Haas Racing crew.

It's not much of a blowout if there's no one at the party.

"I'm not doing any more celebrations with nobody out there to celebrate with," Harvick said. "Until the fans come

back, I'm not doing a burnout, I'm not standing on the car, I'm not doing any of that stuff. It doesn't feel right not having my team in victory lane."

Harvick snapped an 0-for-38 drought at Pocono, taking the checkered flag Saturday at one of two tracks where victory had eluded him.

Harvick won the first of two NASCAR Cup races in front of no fans this weekend at Pocono and will start 20th on Sunday with the field set by inverting the lead-lap finishers.

The 44-year-old California driver has won at every active track except Kentucky Speedway (nine tries) and the 2014 series champion has three wins overall for SHR this season. He

has three career wins at Charlotte Motor Speedway, though he's lost two races on the roval configuration.

Harvick held off a hard-charging Denny Hamlin, whose efforts were hampered by a late vibration, for his 52nd career Cup victory. He had 12 top-five finishes in his other 38 starts at Pocono.

"That's great to finally check Pocono off the list," Harvick said.

Aric Almirola was third, followed by Christopher Bell and Kyle Busch. Ryan Preece finished 20th and will start on the pole Sunday. Teams brought cars straight to the garage instead of lining them up on pit road.