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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Modly blasts fired skipper as 'stupid'

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly justified his firing last week of the USS Theodore Roosevelt's skipper in a speech broadcast Monday over the ship's public address system, calling Capt. Brett Crozier "stupid" if he thought a letter calling for his crew to be evacuated because of coronavirus concerns wasn't going to leak.

Modly's remarks on Guam came days after the crew cheered Crozier and chanted his name after he left the ship, a scene captured in videos made by sailors that received wide attention.

"If he didn't think, in my opinion, that this information wasn't going to get out into the public, in this day and information age that we live in, then he was either A, too naive or too stupid to be a commander of a ship like this," Modly said over the "1MC," which broadcasts throughout the aircraft carrier, according to a transcript posted anonymously online.

Modly's spokesperson did not respond to phone calls Monday to confirm its authenticity, but The Wall Street Journal and CNN each said they verified the comments through Navy officials.

"The alternative is that he did this on purpose," which Modly said would violate military law.

Roosevelt is now docked in Guam, where more than 1,800 of its roughly 5,000 crew members were being quarantined ashore after more than 150 tested positive for COVID-19.

The skipper's letter, published by the San Francisco Chronicle last week, has been seen by some as a sacrificial move to protect his crew. It had warned that the outbreak could kill sailors, saying that "if we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our sailors."

"Keeping over 4,000 young men and women on board the TR is an unnecessary risk and breaks faith with those Sailors entrusted to our care," Crozier wrote.

Crozier has since tested

positive for the virus and is in quarantine, The New York Times reported Sunday, citing two former Naval Academy classmates.

Modly said the leaked memo exposed a potentially weakened U.S. posture in the Pacific, which has become an arena for the "great power competition" between the U.S. and China, according to the transcript and an audio recording later posted by Task and Purpose. Modly called it a "betrayal of trust" that led to a "big controversy ... about a martyr CO who wasn't getting the help he needed," according to the online transcript.

He accused Crozier of doing something "very, very wrong at a moment when we expected him to be the calming force in a turbulent sea."

Americans expect the U.S. Navy and its sailors to "keep their s--- together and take care of each other," Modly said, according to the online transcript, likening fear of the virus to experiences in war.

"If the ship was in combat and there were hypersonic missiles

coming at it, you'd be pretty f--- scared too," he was quoted as saying. And later, "T-R has to stand strong as warriors, not weak like victims."

Modly warned the sailors of the consequences of jumping the chain of command or disobeying it, but also told them never to go to the media, which he said had an agenda of embarrassing the Navy. He promised to "never, ever, ever, ever throw you guys under the bus in Washington or anywhere else in the media."

Modly also criticized China's lack of transparency about its own response to the virus, which he said "put the world at risk to protect themselves and to protect their reputations."

"We don't do that in the Navy," he said. "We are transparent with each other, using the proper channels with each other."

He added that the memo caused concern among Guam residents, who he said were afraid thousands of infected sailors would descend upon their island.

Esper to troops: Wear face masks in close quarters

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

U.S. troops worldwide must wear masks, and sew their own if necessary, if they cannot maintain social distancing standards to protect against the coronavirus, the Pentagon announced Sunday.

The directive follows a sharp rise in coronavirus infections in the ranks and concerns about the ability to maintain 6-foot social distancing, especially aboard ships and aircraft.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the directive applies

to all personnel: troops, family members, military civilians and contractors.

"Effective immediately, to the extent practical, all individuals on DoD property, installations and facilities will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers," Esper said in a message to the force.

Personnel are not required to don masks inside their homes, the directive stated.

The Pentagon will not issue masks to the military community, Esper said, adding that

people should make facial coverings from household material such as T-shirts and cloths that can cover the nose and mouth area.

Proper surgical masks will not be issued because they are being reserved for the "appropriate personnel," Esper said.

The Navy, in an administrative message Monday, said the service plans to procure official uniform masks. Until they're issued, sailors and Navy civilians were authorized to wear medical or construction masks as well as bandanas and scarves to cover their nose and mouth.

When troops and civilians approach bases for work, they should be prepared to lower their masks when crossing security checkpoints, Esper said.

Exceptions to Esper's mask instruction require the approval of local commanders and also must be submitted up the chain of command for notification.

Esper's announcement comes as coronavirus infections surge within the military. As of Friday, 978 service members were infected with the coronavirus along with nearly 700 hundred civilians, according to Pentagon data.

USFJ: Public health emergency for US bases around Tokyo

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The commander of U.S. Forces Japan has declared a public health emergency for U.S. military bases on the Kanto Plain in and around Tokyo.

The declaration Monday afternoon “ensures commanders possess the necessary authorities to enforce compliance health protection measures among military, civilians and contractors who live and work on U.S. installations,” a USFJ statement said. The guidance will be in effect until at least May 5.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider, USFJ commander, said in the statement that protecting the health and safety of everyone associated with USFJ is his No. 1 priority.

“I cannot underscore enough the importance of personal responsibility at a time like this,” he said. “Stopping the spread of [the coronavirus] requires the entire team — service members, civilians, families and our Japanese partners. The virus

makes no exceptions based on military or civilian status, and our policies and procedures won’t either.”

Kanto Plain installations include Yokosuka Naval Base, which is on lockdown because of positive cases there, Yokota Air Base, home of USFJ and 5th Air Force, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Camp Zama, home of U.S. Army Japan, and the Marine Corps’ Camp Fuji training area.

The declaration gives commanders the power to order U.S. civilian workers, contractors, Japanese employees and dependents to follow rules, said Air Force Maj. Genieve White, a USFJ spokeswoman.

U.S. civilians and dependents have, so far, been “highly encouraged” to follow guidance.

Now, a commander could punish a civilian who broke those rules, such as a curfew or restriction on movement, for example, by barring them from bases or revoking their right to stay in Japan under the status of forces agreement and sending them back to the U.S., she said.

1,100 troops will deploy to NYC as peak approaches

By **ROSE L. THAYER**
Stars and Stripes

More than 1,100 additional medical personnel will deploy to New York City in response to the coronavirus pandemic that has pummeled the region, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Sunday, as the federal government’s coronavirus task force warned some of the worst days of the pandemic are expected this week.

The troops will join about 1,000 service members already working at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, located near the Lincoln Tunnel in Manhattan, where the military and the Federal Emergency Management Agency transformed the space into a 2,500-bed hospital slated to begin caring for coronavirus patients as of Friday.

New York is the epicenter of the U.S. coronavirus outbreak with more than 122,000 confirmed cases and more than 4,100 deaths, according to the New York State Department of Health. Much of that is concentrated within New York City.

This new push of military medical personnel includes more than 120 Air Force reservists — the first mobilization from the Air Force Reserve Command in response to the coronavirus pandemic, said Lt. Col. Jon Quinlan, spokesman for the Reserve Command,

based at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

The deployment includes more than 40 doctors, more than 70 nurses and about 13 respiratory technicians who departed their various home stations Monday for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., where they will undergo further in-processing with the U.S. Northern Command’s Joint Forces Land Component Command, based out of New Jersey, according to a news release from the command.

Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon’s chief spokesman, said Friday that the military would add 350 additional doctors and 500 nurses to aid in the coronavirus-related efforts. The military so far has deployed about 400 doctors and 1,000 nurses, he said. The 1,100 troops that Esper announced Sunday are in addition to these personnel, Pentagon officials confirmed Monday.

The Javits center has soldiers from Fort Campbell’s 531st Hospital Center and Fort Hood’s 9th Hospital Center providing support, as well as the New York National Guard.

The Air Force reservists were called through the volunteer process and members were screened for impact to their civilian communities and professions, according to the news release.

Pentagon: US military coronavirus cases surpass 1,500

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 1,500 U.S. service members have tested positive for the coronavirus, marking a substantial jump over the weekend in confirmed cases among active-duty troops, the Pentagon said Monday.

The new figures released Monday show the Navy remains the hardest hit of the Defense Department’s military services with 431 of the 1,435 active coronavirus cases reported among service members. The

Pentagon on Friday reported 978 active cases among service members.

In total, 1,555 service members have tested positive for the virus, including troops who have since recovered. Thirty-seven are hospitalized by the coronavirus and one soldier — a New Jersey National Guardsman — died of complications caused by the virus.

Another 973 Defense Department-linked individuals had tested positive for the virus by Monday, including five who died after contracting it, the Pentagon data showed. That included 425 DOD civilian workers,

362 military dependents and 186 defense contractors.

The Navy’s latest numbers showed a 99-case increase since Friday, as the service deals with the only known significant outbreak of the virus among military troops serving together.

The Army, the largest of the military services, reported the second highest total of coronavirus troops with 334 cases as of Monday. The Air Force reported 281 cases, and the Marine Corps reported 86 cases. The National Guard reported 303 cases among its Air and Army Guard members.

New virus numbers offer glimmer of hope

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The steep rise in coronavirus deaths in New York appears to be leveling off in a possible sign that social distancing is working in the most lethal hot spot in the U.S., the governor said Monday — a trend that seems to have taken hold more convincingly in hard-hit Italy, Spain and France.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that the number of new people entering hospitals daily has dropped, as has the number of critically ill patients who require ventilators. But he warned that people must continue to abide by the social distancing and lockdown measures.

“It’s hopeful,” he said. “But it still depends on what we do.”

He ordered schools and nonessential businesses to remain closed until the end of the month and lambasted New Yorkers for being out in parks over the weekend.

“That is just wholly unac-

ceptable,” he said. “People are dying. People in the health care system are exposing themselves every day to tremendous risk walking into these emergency rooms.”

Italy’s day-to-day increase in new COVID-19 cases dipped again, for the lowest one-day increase in early three weeks. The country, ravaged by the virus, also saw a drop for the third straight day in the intensive care beds occupied by patients with coronavirus infections.

Italy still has, by far, the world’s highest coronavirus death toll — almost 16,000 — but the pressure on northern Italy’s intensive care units has eased so much that Lombardy is no longer airlifting patients to other regions.

Nursing coordinator Maria Berardelli at the hard-hit Pope John XXIII hospital in Bergamo said that while the numbers of new patients had eased up a bit, hospital staff members

were still pulling long, difficult shifts.

“There has been no reduction in the work,” Berardelli said. “There have been fewer admissions to the emergency room, but our intensive care units are still full, so the activity hasn’t been reduced.”

Stocks rallied on Wall Street and around the world on the news out of the U.S. and Europe, where deaths and new infections appeared to be slowing not only in the three hardest-hit countries but in the Netherlands and Germany as well.

But leaders echoed New York’s warning: Any gains could easily be reversed if people do not continue to abide by the rules that they keep their distance from one another.

More than 9,600 people have died of the virus in the U.S., and it leads the world in confirmed infections at more than 337,000.

Louisiana health officials reported 68 more coronavirus-

related deaths, the state’s biggest jump since the outbreak began. In all, the state where New Orleans hosts millions of tourists yearly has about 480 reported deaths and over 13,000 infections.

In Spain, deaths and new infections dropped again Monday. The health ministry reported 637 new deaths, the lowest toll in 13 days, for a total of over 13,000 dead. New recorded infections were also the lowest in two weeks.

Emergency rooms in the hard-hit Madrid region of 6.6 million were returning almost to normal a week after scenes of patients sleeping on floors and in chairs.

Patients awaiting treatment in Madrid-area ERs went down Monday to 390 cases, one-tenth of the arrivals last week, the regional government said. The number of people being treated for the coronavirus in intensive care stabilized at about 1,500 for five straight days.

COVID-19 cases are in 3 of 4 US hospitals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three out of four U.S. hospitals surveyed are already treating patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, according to a federal report that finds hospitals expect to be overwhelmed as cases rocket toward their projected peak.

A report Monday from a federal watchdog agency warns that different, widely reported problems are feeding off each other in a vicious cycle. Such problems include insufficient tests, slow results, scarcity of protective gear, the shortage of breathing machines for seriously ill patients and burned-out staffs anxious for their own safety.

“There’s this sort of domino effect,” said Ann Maxwell, an assistant inspector general

at the Department of Health and Human Services. “These challenges play off each other and exacerbate the situation. There’s a cascade effect.”

The inspector general’s report is based on a telephone survey of 323 hospitals around the country, from March 23-27. With hundreds of new coronavirus cases daily, the situation is becoming more dire for many the nation’s 6,000 hospitals. Others can still scramble to prepare.

“Hospitals reported that their most significant challenges centered on testing and caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19, and keeping staff safe,” the report concluded.

“It’s likely that every hospital in America is going to have to deal with this,” Maxwell said.

NYC parks could become ‘temporary’ burial sites

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — New York City has plans to turn parks into temporary cemeteries if the death toll from the coronavirus continues to spike, according to a Manhattan politician.

With morgues and funeral homes overwhelmed, the city will dig trenches with 10 caskets each if needed, Councilman Mark Levine tweeted Monday.

“It will be done in a dignified, orderly — and temporary — manner. But it will be tough for NYers to take,” wrote Levine, D-Manhattan.

“The goal is to avoid scenes like those in Italy, where the military was forced to collect bodies from churches and even off the streets,” added Levine, who chairs the Council’s Health Committee.

He emphasized that the park

burials are a “contingency plan” and “if the death rate drops enough, it will not be necessary.”

“We’re monitoring capacity closely, but there are no immediate plans to do this,” a spokeswoman for Mayor Bill de Blasio said in an email.

New York City had 67,820 confirmed COVID cases and 4,758 deaths as of Sunday afternoon, according to the Health Department.

The park burial plan comes as some funeral homes have been so overwhelmed, they’ve stopped making arrangements for mourning families. The city built a massive makeshift morgue at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan last month.

De Blasio said that the city has the capacity to do “temporary burials,” but did not go into detail.

South Africa's TB, HIV past prepares it for virus testing

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa, one of the world's most unequal countries with a large population vulnerable to the new coronavirus, may have an advantage in the outbreak, honed during years battling HIV and tuberculosis: the know-how and infrastructure to conduct mass testing.

Health experts stress that the best way to slow the spread of the virus is through extensive testing, the quick quarantine of people who are positive, and tracking who those people came into contact with.

"We have a simple message for all countries: test, test, test," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization and a former Ethiopian health minister, said recently.

South Africa has begun doing just that with mobile testing units and screening centers established in the country's most densely populated township areas, where an estimated 25% of the country's 57 million people live.

Clad in protective gear, medical workers operate a mobile testing unit in Johannesburg's poor Yeoville area. In the windswept dunes of Cape Town's Khayelitsha township, centers have been erected where residents are screened and those

deemed at risk are tested.

While most people who become infected have mild or moderate symptoms, the disease can be particularly dangerous for older people and those with existing health problems, such as those whose immune systems that are weakened or who have lung issues. That means many in South Africa — with the world's largest number of people with HIV, more than 8 million, and one of the world's highest levels of TB, which affects the lungs — are at high risk of getting more severe cases of the disease.

"Social distancing is almost impossible when a large family lives in a one-room shack. Frequent hand-washing is not practical when a hundred families share one tap," said Denis Chopera, executive manager of the Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/HIV Research Excellence.

"These are areas where there are high concentrations of people with HIV and TB who are at risk for severe symptoms. These are areas that can quickly become hot spots," said Chopera, a virologist based in Durban.

But years of fighting those scourges has endowed South Africa with a network of testing sites and laboratories in diverse communities across the country that may help it cope, say experts.

Tiger at Bronx Zoo tests positive

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A tiger at the Bronx Zoo has tested positive for the new coronavirus, in what is believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the U.S. or a tiger anywhere, federal officials and the zoo said Sunday.

The 4-year-old Malayan tiger named Nadia — and six other tigers and lions that have also fallen ill — are believed to have been infected by a zoo employee who wasn't yet showing symptoms, the zoo said. The first animal started showing symptoms March 27, and all are doing well and expected to recover, said the zoo, which has been closed to the public since March 16 amid the surging coronavirus outbreak in New York.

The test result stunned zoo officials: "I couldn't believe it," director Jim Breheny said. But he hopes the finding can contribute to the global fight against the virus that causes COVID-19.

"Any kind of knowledge that we get on how it's transmitted, how different species react to it, that knowledge somehow is going to provide a greater base resource for people," he said in an interview.

The finding raises new questions about transmission of the virus in animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which confirmed Nadia's test result at its veterinary lab, said there are no known cases of the virus in U.S. pets or livestock.

Nadia, her sister Azul, two Amur tigers and three African lions developed dry coughs, and some of the cats exhibited some wheezing and loss of appetite, said Dr. Paul Calle, the zoo's chief veterinarian.

The seven sickened cats live in two areas at the zoo, and the animals had contact with the same worker, who is doing OK, zoo officials said. They said there are no signs of illness in other big cats on the property.

From Iran's hot zone, Afghans flee home, spreading the virus

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Mahdi Noori, a young Afghan refugee in Iran, was left jobless when the factory where he'd worked cutting stone was shut down because of the coronavirus outbreak. He had no money, was afraid of contracting the virus and had no options. So he headed home.

He joined a large migration of some 200,000 Afghans and counting who have been flowing home across the border for weeks — from a country that is one of the world's biggest epicenters of the pandemic to an impoverished homeland that is woefully unprepared to deal with it.

At the border, Noori lined up with thousands of other returning refugees earlier this month, crowded together waiting to cross. "I saw women and children on the border, and I was thinking, What if they get infected now, here?" the 20-year-old said.

The massive influx of returnees, who are going back untested and unmonitored to cities, towns and villages around the country, threatens to create a greater outbreak in Afghanistan that could overwhelm its health infrastructure wrecked by decades of war. So far, Afghan authorities have confirmed 273 cases of the new coronavirus, more than 210 of them in people

who returned from Iran. Four deaths have been recorded.

Afghan Health Minister Ferozudin Feroz says the virus has already spread because of the returnees.

He and other Afghan officials expressed concern Iran would push out the more than 1 million Afghans working illegally in the country. Iran has already barred entry from Afghanistan, preventing any who left from returning. Iran has had more than 58,000 coronavirus cases and more than 3,600 deaths.

The International Organization of Migration has recorded more than 198,000 Afghans returnees from Iran this year.

Intel IG 'disappointed' by his firing by Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The ousted inspector general of the intelligence community says he is “disappointed and saddened” that President Donald Trump fired him, but he also encouraged other inspectors general to continue to speak out when they are aware of wrongdoing.

Trump notified Congress late Friday evening that he intended to fire Michael Atkinson, a pivotal figure in his impeachment last year, because he had lost confidence in him. On Saturday, Trump made it clear that the move had been retaliatory, telling reporters that Atkinson was a “disgrace” and had done “a terrible job” because he had provided an anonymous whistleblower complaint to Congress — a move that was required by law.

Atkinson said in the statement, sent to reporters late Sunday, that “it is hard not to think that the president’s loss of confidence in me derives from my having faithfully discharged my legal obligations as an independent and impartial inspector general, and from my commitment to continue to do so.”

Atkinson was required by law to notify Congress of the complaint, which was written by an anonymous intelligence

official and detailed Trump’s pressure on Ukraine to investigate Democrats. The inspector general had deemed it urgent and credible, meaning that he was required to share it with the House and Senate intelligence committees. But the acting director of national intelligence at the time, Joseph Maguire, overruled him for several weeks.

After a firestorm sparked by media reports of the complaint, it was turned over and made public in September, and a congressional inquiry into the matter led to Trump’s impeachment by the House in December. The GOP-led Senate acquitted Trump in February.

Atkinson said in the email that he was legally obligated to “ensure that whistleblowers had an effective and authorized means to disclose urgent matters involving classified information to the congressional intelligence committees,” and that such whistleblowers were protected against reprisal. Trump repeatedly called for the whistleblower’s name to be revealed.

Atkinson also directed his message to other inspectors general, saying that he knows they will “continue to do everything in their power” to continue to protect whistleblowers.

Man killed while live streaming

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Baltimore police are investigating the shooting death of a man who was hosting a “game night” party in a short-term rental property and streaming it live on Facebook, a city councilman said.

The selfie video shows Ernest Wilson III walking through the house party and playing a hide and seek game early Saturday. He goes into the back yard to find people when suddenly, an attacker can be seen climbing over the fence. Someone orders Wilson to get on the ground.

After a commotion, the recording ends.

Democratic City Councilman Eric Costello said in his own Facebook post that police told him there were two attackers who demanded money.

The Baltimore Sun reported that according to Wilson’s social media pages, he routinely hosted parties around the city, and began his Facebook Live video by telling people to reach out to him if they wanted to attend. In another post earlier that night, he wrote that there were only 15 people there and invited more to come for “only \$5.”

Ukraine battles fire near Chernobyl plant

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Emergency teams in Ukraine on Monday continued battling a forest fire in the contaminated area around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant that has raised radiation fears.

Police said they tracked down a person suspected of starting the blaze by setting dry grass on fire. The 27-year-old man said he burned grass “for fun” and then failed to extinguish it when the wind caused it to expand quickly.

Two blazes erupted Saturday in the zone around Chernobyl that was sealed after the 1986

explosion at the plant.

Firefighters said they managed Monday to put out the smaller of the two fires, but the second one continued burning, covering about 50 acres.

The authorities said that radiation levels in the area engulfed by fires substantially exceeded normal levels, but the emergency service said radiation levels in the capital, Kyiv, about 60 miles south, were within norms.

The 1,000-square-mile Chernobyl Exclusion Zone was established after the April 1986 disaster that sent a cloud of radioactive fallout over much of Europe.

US school districts start banning Zoom because of online security issues

The Washington Post

Some school districts around the country have started to ban the use of Zoom for online learning from home during the coronavirus crisis because of growing concerns about security, and others are reassessing how and whether to use the teleconferencing platform.

Days after the FBI issued a warning to the public about the “hijacking” of online classrooms and teleconferences, the New York City Department of Education, which runs the largest school district in the country, said teachers should no longer use Zoom and should instead work through Microsoft Teams.

Other school districts, too, have banned Zoom or are trying to beef up security around its use. Clark County Public Schools in Nevada said in a statement that it had decided to “disable access to Zoom out of an abundance of caution due to instances of hacking that created unsafe environments for

teachers and students.”

Asked about the school districts that are banning its platform, Zoom said in a statement:

“We are deeply upset to hear about the incidents involving this type of attack and we strongly condemn such behavior. Starting on March 20th, we have been actively educating users on how they can protect their meetings and help prevent incidents of harassment through features like waiting rooms, passwords, muting controls and limiting screen sharing. We have also been offering trainings, tutorials, and webinars to help users understand their own account features and how to best use the platform. We are listening to our community of users to help us evolve our approach — for example, we recently changed the default settings for education users to enable waiting rooms by default and ensure teachers by default are the only ones who can share content in class.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

23 guns seized, man arrested after inquiry

CA VENTURA — A Southern California man was arrested and nearly two dozen guns were seized following an investigation that began when deputies responded to a call about numerous firearms inside a parked vehicle, authorities said.

Detectives identified the owner of the vehicle as Jerome Perkins, 40, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies suspected several of the rifles found in the vehicle last month were not in compliance with state Department of Justice firearm standards, officials said.

They seized 23 firearms in all, including 10 assault-style rifles and three high-powered bolt-action WWII-style rifles along with high-capacity magazines and ammunition, the newspaper reported.

Man coughed and spit on produce at store

MA KINGSTON — Police were pursuing charges against a man they said was coughing and spitting on produce at a Massachusetts grocery store.

Kingston police said they were called to a Stop and Shop supermarket for a report of a disturbance.

They said the 65-year-old Duxbury resident, who they haven't named, was seen coughing and spitting on food items and then became physically combative with staff and store patrons.

He was taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth to be evaluated, but is not believed to have COVID-19, the department said in a Facebook post.

For sale: 200-year-old home, needs repair

GA SPARTA — A house built more than 200 years ago by a friend of President Andrew Jackson is on the market in eastern Georgia.

But the nonprofit group selling the property in Hancock County requires that the buyer be willing to do repairs and rehabilitation work to preserve the home's historic integrity.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation wants \$130,000 for the Alston-Wiley House built by Col. Robert West Alston around 1817. The home sits on 4 acres in the small city of Sparta, about 100 miles east of Atlanta.

Zoo gets 2 new lions named Brutus, Titus

IL BROOKFIELD — A zoo in suburban Chicago is getting two new lions named Brutus and Titus after the previous lions were euthanized, officials said.

Brookfield Zoo officials said they are 4-year-old male siblings that arrived from Hogle Zoo in Utah last month.

The previous lions were euthanized in January, one for age-related health issues and the other an injury believed to have been caused by a fall.

Baby alligator found with drugs and guns

FL ORLANDO — Florida authorities tracking a stolen car also discovered a little something unexpected — a baby alligator being kept as a pet.

Seminole County Sheriff Dennis Lemma said a deputy ran a license plate number and discovered a car was stolen.

The deputy trailed the car to

a Lake Mary home and stopped a separate car that was attempting to leave the driveway. Deputies found guns, heroin and cocaine in the car, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

Inside the house, investigators found the baby alligator along with more drugs and guns.

Father sentenced for running son's drug ring

MT MISSOULA — A Montana man was sentenced to more than 16 years in federal prison for taking up his son's methamphetamine and heroin distribution operation.

Allan Roy Goodman, 43, was sentenced on eight charges including drug distribution, retaliating against a witness and firearm offenses, The Missoulian reported.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy sentenced Goodman to 195 months in federal prison followed by 10 years of supervised release.

Informants told authorities Goodman took over the operation from his son, Stephen Goodman, who was sentenced to nearly six years in federal prison for drug distribution two years ago, court records said.

Woman charged after setting another on fire

NC GOLDSBORO — A North Carolina woman was charged with attempted first-degree murder after police said she set another woman on fire.

Goldsboro police said Karla Ann Davis of Goldsboro was being held without bond in the Wayne County jail, news sources reported.

Officers responding to a call regarding an assault at a home found Latonya McCoy, who suffered severe burns.

3 charged for robbery, assault in cemetery

MO HARRISONVILLE — The Cass County Sheriff's Office said three people were charged with robbing and assaulting a woman in a Kansas City, Mo.-area cemetery.

Prosecutors charged Harrisonville resident Maggie Justice, 32; Lancaster, Kan., resident Dustin Richardson, 31, and Harrisonville resident Glen Downton, 59, .

A 35-year-old Blue Springs woman told officers she went to the Orient Cemetery near Harrisonville with a friend, then the friend and two other people assaulted her.

Officers said she escaped and hid in the woods..

Man arrested for shooting ex-girlfriend

GA SNELLVILLE — A Georgia man on the run after shooting and wounding his ex-girlfriend was arrested a week after the incident, authorities said.

Venezia Cole, 26, was captured and charged news outlets reported.

Gwinnett Police spokeswoman Cpl. Michele Pihera said authorities were called to a home in Snellville, where they found a 22-year-old woman suffering from multiple gunshot wounds in the driveway.

Police said Cole shot the woman in front of their 1-year-old son then fired multiple rounds into the home. No one inside the home was injured.

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office said the child was outside during the shooting but was not wounded. They also said the woman survived.

From wire reports

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Redskins pioneer Mitchell dies at 84

Wire reports

Bobby Mitchell, the Pro Football Hall of Famer who broke the Washington Redskins' color barrier as their first African American player and later served as a scout and front-office executive during his more than four decades with the organization, died Sunday, according to the Hall of Fame and the team.

Mitchell was 84. No cause of death was disclosed.

"I was extremely saddened to hear the news about the passing of the great Bobby Mitchell," Redskins owner Daniel Snyder said in a written statement. "His passion for the game of football was unmatched by anyone I have ever met. Not only was he one of the most influential individuals in franchise history, but he was also one of the greatest men I have ever known. He was a true class act and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Gwen and the entire Mitchell family during this time."

Mitchell, whose playing career spanned from 1958 to 1968, was a four-time Pro Bowl selection in 11 seasons as a halfback with the Cleveland Browns and as a flanker with the Redskins.

"I have to live with people always talking about me as the first black player against all my exploits," Mitchell said in 2003. "I've always been very upset that people always start with that. I don't want to hear that, and yet I have to hear it constantly and it overshadows everything I've done in the game."

Mitchell was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1983. In 2002, he was named one of the 70 greatest Redskins as part of their 70th anniversary celebration.

At the time of his retirement from playing for the Redskins, after the 1968 season, he ranked third in NFL history with 14,078 all-purpose yards and fifth in touchdowns with 92, including one on a pass that he threw.

Also:

■ Tom Dempsey, the kicker born without

toes on his kicking foot who made a then-record 63-yard field goal, died late Saturday while struggling with complications from the new coronavirus. He was 73.

The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate first reported Dempsey's death. Ashley Dempsey said Sunday that her father, who has resided in an assisted living home for several years after being diagnosed with dementia, tested positive for the coronavirus a little more than a week ago.

The Orleans Parish coroner has yet to release an official cause of death.

Dempsey's game-winning field goal against Detroit on Nov. 8, 1970, stood as an NFL record for 43 years until the Broncos' Matt Prater broke it with a 64-yarder in Denver in 2013.

Dempsey spent 11 seasons in the NFL: His first two seasons were with New Orleans (1969-70), the next four with Philadelphia, then two with the Los Angeles Rams, one with the Houston Oilers and the final two with Buffalo. He retired after the 1979 season.

Davis, 'Melo lead list of NCAA tourney's top one-and-done stars

Associated Press

Anthony Davis didn't need to score big to control a game for Kentucky.

He made that clear during the final performance of his freshman season. Coach John Calipari recalls the conversation Davis had with his teammates after struggling to shoot during the first half of the 2012 NCAA championship game.

"And I overheard him saying to his teammates, 'I can't make a shot. I don't know what's going on. You guys shoot the balls. I'll get every rebound, block every shot and I'll defend like crazy. Let's just win this,'" Calipari recalled.

Davis went 1-for-10 from the field that night but still was named the most outstanding player of the Final Four because of everything else he did as Kentucky won the national title.

He had 16 rebounds, six blocks, five assists and three steals in the 67-59 championship victory over Kansas.

With no Final Four this weekend due to the coronavirus pandemic, AP put together

an informal list of the greatest one-and-done players in the history of men's college basketball. Davis and Syracuse's Carmelo Anthony top the list, which is alphabetical, after leading their teams to national titles.

Carmelo Anthony, Syracuse (2002-03): Anthony averaged 22.2 points and 10 rebounds to earn second-team Associated Press All-America honors in while helping Syracuse win the national title. He averaged 26.5 points and 12 rebounds per game in the Final Four.

The 10-time NBA All-Star provided the \$3 million lead gift that led to the construction of the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center, a \$19 million practice facility for the Syracuse basketball programs.

"He was here just one year, but he's stayed with us continuously," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "He's just very supportive of what we've done."

Michael Beasley, Kansas State (2007-08): Beasley led all Division I players in rebounding (12.4) and ranked third in scoring (26.2) to earn

first-team AP All-America honors. His 28 double-doubles remain the most ever by a Division I freshman.

Beasley carried Kansas State to a 21-12 record and a round-of-32 appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

"In the era of one-and-dones, you put his stats up against any of them and he's by far the best one-and-done year of any of the guys out there from a statistical standpoint," said South Carolina coach Frank Martin, who coached Beasley at Kansas State.

Kevin Durant, Texas (2006-07): Durant averaged 25.8 points and 11.1 rebounds as a consensus national player of the year. He helped Texas go 25-10 with an NCAA Tournament round-of-32 loss to Southern California.

"His work ethic is second to none," said Tennessee coach Rick Barnes, who coached Durant at Texas. "He was always a person that I would take the best clips I could find of (Michael) Jordan and LeBron (James) and Kobe (Bryant) and show him those little subtle things those guys did, and

he was like a Kodak camera, man. He could click it and almost make it part of his game instantly."

Greg Oden, Ohio State (2006-07): Oden earned first-team AP All-America honors as Ohio State went 35-4 and lost to Florida in the NCAA Tournament final. Three of the Buckeyes' top four scorers were freshmen and former AAU teammates: Oden, Mike Conley and Daequan Cook.

Oden averaged 15.7 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.3 blocks for Ohio State and was picked No. 1 overall in the 2007 draft. Injuries caused the 7-footer to play just 105 career NBA regular-season games.

Zion Williamson, Duke (2018-19): Williamson swept the national player of the year awards during his lone season at Duke, averaging 22.6 points, 8.9 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 1.8 blocks.

Williamson helped Duke go 32-6 with a loss to Michigan State in an NCAA regional final. The New Orleans Pelicans took Williamson with the top pick in the 2019 draft.

Racing roundup

Byron wins at virtual Bristol

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — William Byron led the most laps in NASCAR's first two virtual races and had nothing to show for his gaming skills. The third time out, he got the win.

Byron easily won the iRacing event Sunday at virtual Bristol Motor Speedway, where NASCAR would have been really racing before the coronavirus pandemic caused sports to shut down.

"Some things are different but a lot of things are similar and this is a racetrack I've always enjoyed coming to," Byron said. "It's fun to have some pressure on iRacing; I usually just run it to have some fun and get better."

NASCAR changed the format this week and started with single-car qualifying to set the field for a pair of 50-lap heat races. Those heat races determined the starting order. Byron started from the pole and was never challenged.

The entertainment again came from the drivers, most of whom streamed their gaming experiences for fans to eavesdrop on the action and the arguing. Clint Bowyer was the in-race reporter and again delivered a hilarious performance.

"I got Bubba'd!" Bowyer shouted after he was moved out of line by Bubba Wallace. "I need a beer really badly."

Wallace appeared to "rage quit" the race after the incident. "That's why I don't take this (crap) serious. Peace out," Wallace said on his gaming stream.

After fans ripped him on Twitter, he laughed at how seriously some are taking iRacing with his response.

"I ruined so many peoples day by quitting ... a video game," he wrote. "Bahaha. A video game. Damn quarantine life is rough." He also admitted to rage quitting in a second post.

Blue-Emu, one of Wallace's sponsors, was apparently not pleased. "Bye bye Bubba. We're interested in drivers, not quitters," said a tweet on the account of the topical pain reliever cream. The company added a second tweet using the image of Donald Trump uttering his "You're Fired" catchphrase from "The Apprentice."

The iRacing has been a savior for the motorsports industry — IndyCar launched a series a week after NASCAR, and Saturday's second race was aired on NBC Sports — and NASCAR's first two televised events

both set eSports records. More than 1 million people watched last week when Fox made the race available to affiliates and also aired it nationally on its cable channel.

McLaughlin on top at virtual IndyCar event

Scott McLaughlin's real IndyCar debut is on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Australian V8 SuperCars champion isn't letting that stop him from learning how to virtually drive the cars.

McLaughlin won IndyCar's virtual race from virtual Barber Motorsports Park in Alabama, the second race in the series' attempt to create content during the worldwide shutdown of sports.

McLaughlin drives for Roger Penske in Australia and the team owner had planned to give McLaughlin his series debut in May on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. That plan was scrapped when the IndyCar season was suspended last month. The road course race has been tentatively rescheduled for July 4, a date Penske said would be too hectic for McLaughlin to make his debut.

Briefly

Texas lures Schaefer from Mississippi State

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas moved quickly to hire a new women's basketball coach, luring Vic Schaefer away from powerhouse Mississippi State on Sunday.

Texas athletic director Chris Del Conte announced the move by tweeting a picture of himself with Schaefer and his family holding up the "Hook'em Horns" hand signal. Del Conte did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The move comes just two days after Texas dismissed eight-year coach Karen Aston, who had only one losing season in her tenure and had led the Longhorns to the Sweet 16 or farther four times. Aston had reached the end of her contract and it was not renewed.

Schaefer will inherit a Texas program that went 19-11 last season but will lose four of its top six scorers next season.

Schaefer, 59, was 221-62 in games at Mississippi State and the Bulldogs lost in the NCAA Tournament championship game in 2017 and 2018. Mississippi State was 27-6 and ranked No. 9 before last season was cut short and the tournament canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. He also led Mississippi State to one of the greatest upsets in women's basketball history when the team beat UConn in the Final Four in 2017, ending the Huskies' 111-game winning streak.

British Open canceled as schedule reworked

The British Open will not be played this year for the first time since 1945, with the R&A choosing to play golf's oldest championship next year at Royal St. George's and move the 150th Open at St. Andrews to 2022.

Golf organizations were expected to announce later Monday the PGA Championship moving to August, the U.S. Open going to September and the Masters to be played in November, two weeks before Thanksgiving — all pending guidance from government and health authorities.

Guam league cancels spring sports

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Spring sports for Guam's private school league have been canceled for high schools and middle schools because of the ongoing coronavirus threat.

The decision was announced Friday in a news release from the Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam president Terry Debold.

The Department of Defense Education Activity's Guam High School is a member of the IIAAG.

"This was a very difficult decision obviously influenced by the COVID-19 public threat

and corresponding government mandates prohibiting social gatherings," Debold said in the release.

The league's decision affects track and field, girls soccer, boys volleyball and paddling for high schools.

The announcement came as the number of cases on the island reached 82, according to local media reports.

"We truly sympathize with all of our student-athletes ... most especially the graduating seniors who will not have the opportunity to enjoy some final moments in high school sports," Debold said.

Far East tournaments in spring sports were canceled previously.