

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## No charges brought up in Taylor's death

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Anger, frustration and sadness over the decision not to charge Kentucky police officers for Breonna Taylor's death poured into U.S. streets as protesters lashed out at a criminal justice system they say is stacked against Black people. Violence seized the demonstrations in Taylor's hometown of Louisville as gunfire rang out and wounded two police officers.

Activists, celebrities and everyday Americans have been calling for charges since Taylor, an emergency medical worker, was shot multiple times by white officers after one of them was shot while bursting into her home during a narcotics investigation in March. The officers had a no-knock warrant but the investigation showed

they announced themselves before entering, said state Attorney General Daniel Cameron, a Republican and the state's first Black top prosecutor.

A grand jury returned three charges of wanton endangerment Wednesday against fired Officer Brett Hankison over shooting into a home next to Taylor's with people inside.

Hundreds of demonstrators chanted Taylor's name and marched in cities including New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Portland, Ore.

People gathered in downtown Chicago's Millennium Park, chanting demands for justice as drivers on Michigan Avenue honked their horns. Police in Atlanta unleashed chemical agents and made arrests after some protesters tried to climb on a SWAT vehicle. In Minne-

sota and Wisconsin, marchers peacefully blocked highway traffic.

In Louisville, police said they arrested 127 people after what began as peaceful protests. Officers declared an unlawful assembly after they said fires were set in garbage cans and several vehicles were damaged. A police statement also described the "looting" of several stores.

Interim Police Chief Robert Schroeder also said a suspect was detained in the shooting of two officers. Jail records later confirmed that Larynzo D. Johnson, 26, was charged with two counts of assault on a police officer and multiple charges of wanton endangerment of police officers. Mayor Greg Fischer said one officer was treated and released with leg wound, while the other was

shot in the abdomen and doing well after surgery.

"I'm asking everyone to reject violence," Fischer said. "The question obviously is what do we do with that pain."

Carmen Jones has protested in downtown Louisville every day for nearly three months. She said she feels despair after the grand jury's decision and doesn't know what's coming.

"We're tired of being hashtags. We're tired of paying for history in our blood and our bodies and being told to respond to this violence and aggression with peace," she said. "We did it the Martin way for the entire summer, and it got us nowhere. Maybe it's time to do things the Malcolm way," referring to the nonviolent vs. at-all-costs philosophies of 1960s civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

## Marine Corps begins field-testing new pistol

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps has begun fielding its new service-wide 9-millimeter pistol, replacing handguns that the service had been using since the 1980s.

The Marine Corps Systems Command began fielding the Sig Sauer pistol, based on the company's Model P320, earlier this month, the Marine Corps said in a news release Wednesday.

The M18 "modular handgun system" will replace all other pistols in the Marine Corps inventory, including the M9, M9A1, M45A1 and M007, the statement said.

"All Marine Corps units with a pistol will receive an M18," said Brian Nelson, the M18

project officer at the Systems Command.

The Marine Corps collaborated with the Army's program that developed the compact M18 and the larger M17 pistols.

The Army began fielding the Sig Sauer pistols in 2017.

The Air Force has also made the switch to M18s, with field testing that began for some units early last year.

The first Marine Corps units to receive the M18 will be Formal Marksmanship Training Centers, Reconnaissance Battalions, Provost Marshall Offices and Marine Corps Security Forces, the statement said.

Fielding is slated to be complete by Oct. 1, 2021.

The M18 offers greater flexibility and easier handling than pistols used until now by the

Marine Corps.

The M9, the most widely used handgun in the Corps, has a steel frame, making it heavier than the M18.

The M9 has a single- and double-action trigger, meaning that in order to fire the first shot, the pull of the trigger first cocks the hammer and then fires the round. Subsequent rounds are fired as a single action.

The M18 always fires with single action.

"For some Marines, having two trigger pulls, like with the M9, is difficult to get used to because different forces are acting upon the gun," Sgt. Randall McClellan, pistol program manager with the Weapons Training Battalion at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., said

in the statement. "With the M18, the trigger is going to be the same weight every time."

The M18 is versatile, featuring interchangeable components to fit small, medium or large hands, the statement said.

An accessory rail will allow users to attach lights or lasers beneath the barrel, such as a red-dot sight once that has been approved for the pistol, the statement said.

Requirements for qualifying with a pistol will not change with the new pistol, the statement said.

"The only thing changing in the qualification course now is the verbiage in regard to single action/double action and the decocking," said Nelson, the M18 project manager.

## Free AFN TV ends Sunday at Army housing in Germany

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Free American Forces Network television broadcast via cable ends this weekend for U.S. soldiers and their families living on Army posts in Germany.

The end of the automatic AFN programming, which includes college and professional sports as well as popular state-side shows, comes after the Army in Europe decided this year not to renew a contract for the service in Germany, officials said.

Individual commands will evaluate whether they'll continue funding the service in the barracks for their soldiers, the Army said this year. As of Thursday, officials could not say whether any units planned to do so or how such a funding mechanism would work. Many units are working through the process, a U.S. Army Europe spokeswoman said.

Programming should end sometime Sunday, said Mark Heeter, a spokesman for Installation Management Command-Europe. That coincides with the end of a five-year, \$7.3 million contract between IMCOM-Europe and cable service provider TKS to pay for AFN television programming on post.

One of the factors driving the

decision to discontinue the contract was the growing popularity of programming other than AFN, including streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, officials said.

This week, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart said more than 3,900 people in the Stuttgart military community could be affected by the change.

Soldiers and their families living on post in Germany who already subscribe to an easyTV package through TKS Cable will continue to receive AFN and U.S. channels without interruption. Residents can either purchase a set-top decoder box, or lease a box from TKS for about 10 euros a month, which will provide only AFN. An easyTV monthly service plan, which includes AFN, starts at about 28 euros a month, a TKS spokesman said.

Basic AFN programming will continue to be provided free to people living in Air Force-operated military family housing on Kapaun, Landstuhl, Ramstein and Vogelweh, all in the Kaiserslautern area, Ramstein officials said earlier this year. Free service will also continue in common areas like fitness centers and dining facilities, and in Air Force dorm common rooms, but not in individual rooms.

## Many bases lifting travel restrictions

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — More than half of U.S. military installations worldwide have lifted travel restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, according to the Pentagon.

As of Monday, 117 of 231 installations, or about 51%, have lifted travel restrictions, meaning they have met specific criteria including the base's health protection condition is below "Charlie" and essential services are available, according to a Pentagon document posted Wednesday.

Travel restrictions were put into place in March to try to prevent the spread of the virus within the Defense Department. Defense Secretary Mark Esper signed a memorandum May 22 that laid out the conditions needed for locations to allow for travel to and from bases. The restrictions have impacted the military moves of service members and their families during the past several months, causing backlogs during the busiest moving sea-

son for the military.

The Air Force, which has the most installations on the list at 79, has only 22 installations that still have travel restrictions in place. The Army has 68 installations on the list and 42 still have restrictions. The Navy has a similar situation, with 63 installations on the list and 43 that still have restrictions. The Marine Corps has 17 installations on the list and only four still have travel restrictions.

The Pentagon on Wednesday also posted the latest numbers of the coronavirus among the military population. The military has had 43,851 coronavirus cases as of Wednesday morning, an increase of 1,892 cases during the past seven days.

The Army has had the most cases by far among the military services at 16,010, an increase of 818 cases since last week, according to the Pentagon's data. The Navy has had 9,950 cases, an increase of 319 cases since last Wednesday, and the Marine Corps has had 5,476, an increase of 237 during the past week.

## Congressional honor for Merrill's Marauders awaits OK

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

House lawmakers approved a bill Tuesday that would award the Congressional Gold Medal to members of the famed Merrill's Marauders of World War II.

The Senate passed a version of the bill late last year, and supporters say they expect President Donald Trump will sign the legislation.

The Marauders were named for Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, who led the Army unit as it fought behind Japanese lines in

Burma during the war.

The Congressional Gold Medal would recognize the extraordinary service of the nearly 3,000 men of the 5307th Composite Unit, as the Marauders were formally known.

The unit was tasked with capturing the Myitkyina airfield in northern Burma, which they did on May 17, 1944, after a 1,000-mile trek over the Himalayan foothills, through jungles and enemy resistance. Disease, exhaustion, malnutrition and the enemy winnowed them down to a handful by the time they seized the airfield.

"I feel like I'm floating on air," Robert Passanisi, a 96-year-old Marauder veteran, said in a statement after the bill passed Tuesday evening.

"It has been a long journey, and we've had to struggle through three congressional sessions to obtain this great honor," said Passanisi, who emerged as the Marauders' spokesman and historian as the years have passed.

"My one regret is that only eight of us are alive to enjoy this historic honor," he said.

The House passed the bill one day after the 77th anni-

versary of 2,000 volunteers from the Caribbean and United States boarding the S.S. Lurline on Sept. 21, 1943, in San Francisco to ship out to New Caledonia. There, another 1,000 veterans from South Pacific battles joined them to head to a mission in Burma that not even they fully understood.

Some individual members of the Marauders have in the past received the Congressional Gold Medal. But as an overall unit, Merrill's Marauders had been overlooked for what is perhaps the most prestigious award bestowed to civilians.



# Bill would ban use of camo by feds

BY STEVE BEYNON

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., introduced a bill Wednesday that would ban the use of camouflage uniforms by federal law enforcement following criticism during the summer that federal agents assigned to control racial protests looked like National Guard troops.

“The Trump administration’s decision to deploy federal law enforcement officers outfitted in camouflage uniforms in response to those protesting the death of George Floyd and other Black Americans blurred the lines between military service members and law enforcement officers while causing even more fear and division,”

Duckworth said in a statement.

The Clear Visual Distinction Between Military and Law Enforcement Act would essentially outlaw camouflage for federal police. The measure does not apply to the military, including National Guard and military police troops supporting law enforcement during protests. There is an exception for federal agents who might need to wear camouflage to blend into their surroundings to conduct an operation. However, law enforcement officials would be required to explain each instance that federal agents wore camouflage in a biannual report to Congress.

Some activists and lawmakers have blasted law enforcement agencies for using camouflage in situations where

there is no need to blend into any environment, such as when federal agents assigned to protect federal buildings in Portland, Ore., during civil unrest in the city this summer were wearing camouflage and looked like soldiers.

“Many troops and veterans are very frustrated with the way law enforcement have conflated themselves with the military, wearing uniforms that confuse the public and cause panic, fear and distrust,” said Alexander McCoy, political director of Common Defense, a progressive veteran and foreign policy advocacy group.

McCoy, a Marine Corps veteran, said police making themselves look like soldiers only escalate already tense situations.

“The purpose of law enforcement is not to fight battles, and camouflage uniforms and other tactical gear only escalate situations, putting Americans at risk,” he said. “We need a clear visual distinction between police and the military, and this bill is a step in the right direction.”

Acting Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli told Congress that the agents in Portland eventually were ordered to stop wearing camouflage.

Officers using uniforms virtually identical to the Army also raised eyebrows at the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said in July that he was worried federal agents could be confused with military personnel.

## N. Koreans kill S. Korean man near border island

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean forces shot to death, then burned the body of a South Korean fisheries inspector who had gone missing from a patrol boat near a border island, officials said Thursday, condemning the “brutal act” and demanding that those responsible be punished.

President Moon Jae-in called it “a shocking incident that can’t be tolerated for any reason” and ordered the military to tighten its defensive posture.

“The North Korean authorities should take responsible measures regarding this case,” Moon said, according to the presidential office. His administration also demanded that the North Koreans apologize and provide an explanation.

The killing threatened to stoke tensions between the rival nations, which have seen a steady decline in relations

since the collapse of U.S.-led talks aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

The 47-year-old man, who was affiliated with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, disappeared Monday while working on an inspection boat near the border island of Yeonpyeong off the western coast of the divided peninsula, according to the Defense Ministry.

“North Korea found the man in its waters and committed an act of brutality by shooting at him and burning his body,” the Defense Ministry said Thursday in a statement, citing an analysis of various intelligence, including surveillance equipment in the area.

“We also sternly warn North Korea that it is entirely responsible for this incident,” it said.

The military believes the man may have been trying to defect to the North, but the investigation was ongoing, a defense ministry official said separately.

## 15 US troops, civilians win shopping sprees

BY MATTHEW KEELER

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Fifteen troops and civilians affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea filled their shopping carts at the post exchange Thursday after each won a \$10,000 shopping spree.

The prizes were part of a \$2 million Sip. Rip. Ultimate Trip sweepstakes sponsored by Subway that began on July 1 to honor the 125th anniversary of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which runs exchanges and other stores on military bases worldwide.

Army Sgt. Justin Moore, assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, stopped to eat on Aug. 12 at a Subway before picking up a friend on the way to a basketball game. He peeled a game piece off his 30-ounce drink that came with his order and made a game-changing discovery. “I decided to eat, and I just happened to get lucky,” Moore said. “First thing that happened

when I read it was, I just yelled out, ‘No way’ and everybody looked at me funny.”

Moore said the winnings would allow him and his wife, Leona, to buy things they didn’t necessarily need, but have wanted, and get items for their children that will make their lives better.

U.S. service members, family members and others authorized to use the exchange are eligible to participate in the contest on bases in the United States, Germany, Italy, Kosovo, South Korea, Japan, Puerto Rico, Honduras and Kwajalein.

In a stroke of enormous luck, one family walked away with two winning tickets, on the same day, at the same Subway location, totaling \$20,000.

In all, only 33 of the 100 exchange shopping sprees have been won worldwide.

The sweepstakes will continue through Oct. 31 and can be redeemed no later than Dec. 31, according to the sweepstakes website.

# McConnell, Pelosi vow peaceful transfer despite Trump remark

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders from both parties, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, swiftly pushed back Thursday after President Donald Trump declined to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Trump said during a Wednesday news conference, “We’re going to have to see what happens,” responding to a question about committing to the results. “You know that I’ve been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster.”

By Thursday, the White House sought to clarify Trump’s words.

“The president will accept the results of a free and fair election,” said Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany. But she said Trump does want to “get rid of mass, mail-out voting,” which he claims without evidence will lead to massive fraudulent ballots.

Reaction to Trump’s comments was strong and negative

from Capitol Hill. Lawmakers from both parties — including leaders of Trump’s Republican Party — had no hesitation in committing to an orderly transfer if he loses.

“The winner of the November 3rd election will be inaugurated on January 20th,” McConnell said in a tweet. “There will be an orderly transition just as there has been every four years since 1792.”

Democrat Pelosi said it was “very sad” the president of the United States was even raising this question. “What would our founders think?” she asked.

“Calm down, Mr. President,” Pelosi said at a news conference.

She reminded Trump that the U.S. is not North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia or other countries with strongman leaders he openly admires.

“You are in the United States of America. It is a democracy,” she said. “So why don’t you just try for a moment to honor our oath of office to the Constitution of the United States.”

Hardly any GOP lawmakers came to the president’s defense.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told “Fox & Friends” on Thursday, “If Republicans lose we will accept the result. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of Joe Biden, I will accept that result.”

Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, a member of the House GOP leadership, tweeted: “The peaceful transfer of power is enshrined in our Constitution and fundamental to the survival of our Republic. America’s leaders swear an oath to the Constitution. We will uphold that oath.”

Longtime Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, chairman of the Appropriations Committee said, “Well, we’ve always had a peaceful transfer of power. That’s one of the hallmarks. And I think this year will be no exception.”

It is highly unusual that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy’s electoral process. But Trump also declined four years ago to commit to honoring the election results if his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, won.

## Examining differences between flu, COVID-19

Associated Press

It’s impossible to tell the difference between influenza and COVID-19 without a test. They have such similar symptoms, you may need to get tested to know what’s making you miserable.

Body aches, sore throat, fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue and headaches are symptoms shared by the two.

One difference? People with the flu typically feel sickest during the first week of illness. With COVID-19, people may feel the worst during the second or third week, and they may be sicker for a longer period.

Another difference: COVID-19 is more likely than the flu to cause a loss of taste or smell. But not everyone experiences that symptom, so it’s not a reliable way to tell the viruses apart.

That leaves testing, which will become more important as flu season ramps up this fall in the Northern Hemisphere. Doctors will need to know test results to determine the best treatment.

It’s also possible to be infected with both viruses at the same time, said Dr. Daniel Solomon, an infectious diseases expert at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Both the flu and coronavirus spread through droplets from the nose and mouth. Both can spread before people know they are sick. The flu has a shorter incubation period — meaning after infection, it can take one to four days to feel sick — compared to the coronavirus, which can take two to 14 days from infection to symptoms.

On average, COVID-19 is more contagious than the flu. But many people with COVID-19 don’t end up spreading the virus to anyone, while a few people spread it to many others. These “superspreader events” are more common with COVID-19 than flu, Solomon said.

## Jobless at 870K; fraud, backlog clouds data

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment aid rose slightly last week to 870,000, a historically high figure that shows that the viral pandemic is still squeezing restaurants, airlines, hotels and many other businesses six months after it first erupted.

The figure coincides with evidence that some newly laid-off Americans are facing delays in receiving unemployment benefits as state agencies intensify efforts to combat fraudulent applications and clear their pipelines of a backlog of jobless claims.

California has said it will stop processing new applications for two weeks as it seeks to reduce backlogs and prevent fraudulent claims. Pennsylvania has found that up to 10,000 inmates are improperly receiving aid.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the

number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits declined to 12.6 million. The steady decline in that figure over the past several months reflects that some of the unemployed are being re-hired. Yet it also indicates that others have exhausted their regular jobless aid, which lasts six months in most states.

In addition to those receiving aid on state programs, about 105,000 others were added last week to an extended jobless-benefits program which provides an additional 13 weeks of aid. This program, established in the economic relief package Congress passed earlier this year, is now paying benefits to 1.6 million people.

Applications for jobless aid soared in the spring after the viral outbreak suddenly shut down businesses all across the country, which cost tens of millions of jobs and triggered a deep recession.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man who set pews on fire at church sought

**FL** TAMPA — Sheriff's officials in Florida are looking for a man who was caught on security cameras breaking into a church and setting some pews on fire.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's officials said the man broke into Incarnation Catholic Church near Tampa on Friday night and poured flammable liquid onto three wooden pews before setting them on fire. The man then ran from the church, news outlets reported.

"While we are unsure of his motive, it is clear he has no respect for private property or a sacred place of worship," said Sheriff Chad Chronister. "We promise this church community we are doing everything we can to capture this suspect and ensure he is held accountable for his actions."

## Parents tackle man accused of spying on girl

**SC** DUNCAN — A group of parents tackled and restrained a registered sex offender accused of spying on a 15-year-old girl in the women's bathroom of a Cracker Barrel restaurant in South Carolina over the weekend, authorities said.

Douglas Lane, 53, has been charged with voyeurism, as well as possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, according to Duncan Police Chief Carl Long.

Lane has several past convictions for similar behavior in both North and South Carolina dating back more than 20 years, court records show.

News outlets report that the incident occurred Sunday when the girl was using the bathroom and noticed a man looking out from under the stall beside her.

Lane tried to flee the scene after being confronted by the girl's father but was stopped by a group of parents who were in town for a girls' softball tournament, Long said. They tackled Lane in the parking lot and held him until police arrived.

During a bond hearing Monday, an attorney representing him claimed that Lane didn't know he was in the women's bathroom.

## Fight near courthouse follows sentencing

**MN** ST. PAUL — A family fight following a sentencing for murder at the Ramsey County Courthouse caused deputies to lock down the building before gunshots were fired outside nearby in a shooting believed to be related to the argument.

No one was injured in the shooting several blocks from the courthouse Monday.

A judge sentenced Marcus Baker to more than 40 years in prison for fatally shooting Shawn Jones last November, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported.

According to Undersheriff Tina McNamara, the defendant's family had a fight in the lobby of the courthouse and when it began to get physical deputies escorted those involved outside. Soon after deputies heard gunshots fired.

## Trapped dog lured to safety with beef jerky

**NC** MORGANTON — A group of mountain bikers on a North Carolina trail spotted a dog trapped 30 feet down in a sinkhole — and it took a salty snack and some straps to lift him to safety.

The group was riding the Sinkhole Trail at Pisgah National Forest, about 50 miles south of Asheville, on Sunday

when they encountered the dog, who had apparently been stuck in the hole for several days, according to Burke County Search And Rescue.

The bikers called for help and led rescuers more than a mile to the stranded animal, where they rappelled into the sinkhole, enticed the starving dog with some beef jerky and raised him to safety using a harness, the rescue squad said.

The dog was not injured, but was starving and dehydrated, according to the rescuers.

He was taken to Burke County Animal Services for an examination and named "Sinker." Officials said he did not have a collar or a microchip, and if owners are not found, he could be placed up for adoption.

The 7-mile trail is named for the large sinkhole along its ridge.

## County sets aside money for renters

**MD** TOWSON — Officials in Baltimore County say that there could be as many as 24,000 eviction filings in a single month once the courts get back up to speed following the coronavirus-related closures.

The Baltimore Sun reported Tuesday that county officials are setting aside assistance money to try to help renters.

Terry Hickey, Baltimore County's deputy director of Housing and Community Development, said that as many as 8,000 families are at risk of losing housing as people lose their jobs.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr. has asked the council to approve an application for \$3 million in federal relief funds for the county's rental assistance program. County spokesman Sean Naron said that the county is also redirecting \$800,000 to future eviction prevention efforts.

## 2 hospitalized after WWII-era plane crashes

**CA** STOCKTON — Two people were hospitalized after a World War II-era plane crashed in a field in central California over the weekend, officials said.

The multiengine North American B-25 crashed Saturday evening a few miles southeast of Stockton Metropolitan Airport, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Three people were on board. One person walked away and two others were taken to hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries, the Sacramento Bee reported. The plane appeared to have hit an irrigation ditch during an attempted landing in a field, the newspaper said.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

## Strip clubs fight to lower dancer age to 18

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — Some Florida strip club owners are lobbying to lower the age limit for dancers from 21 to 18-years-old, calling the current age requirement unconstitutional.

A lawyer representing 13 clubs and four dancers in Jacksonville argued before a federal judge that dancing is a form of expression protected under the First Amendment.

The city law currently bans dancers under 21 and was passed in an effort to reduce sex trafficking. The measure also requires dancers to have a city-issued ID card.

City attorneys said younger people are more susceptible to the coercion that's often part of trafficking and argued that 21 is a safer age.

From wire reports

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# Games may go on, but traditions on hold

Associated Press

To the delight of fans young and old, an English bulldog named Uga has been stationed on the sideline at all but one Georgia home football game since 1956.

Charles Seiler, whose family has bred and cared for each of the Ugas all these years, said lots of people have told him they enjoy seeing the dog, adorned in his jersey with the big “G” on front, as much as the games themselves. Thousands of fans have their pictures taken with him.

“He’s so approachable,” Seiler said. “But in this day and age, because of what’s going on, it’s not good to approach.”

Uga X won’t be on hand for any games this season unless the Southeastern Conference changes its policy of not allowing live mascots as part of its coronavirus precautions.

Many other beloved traditions, some dating to the 19th century, also are on hold or taking different forms this year because of the pandemic. The Grove at Mississippi is closed. War Eagle flights are grounded at Auburn. Fans won’t “Gather at the Paw” after games at Clemson.

These traditions and others are extremely meaningful, especially in the South, said Andrew McIlwaine Bell, who wrote the 2020 book “The Ori-

gins of Southern College Football: How an Ivy League Game Became a Dixie Tradition.”

“They create community and give people from different walks of life an awareness of their shared history and culture,” Bell said in an email to The Associated Press. “For many of us, game day rituals also bring to mind generations past, including departed friends and relatives who shared our love of college football and would enjoy seeing a modern game if they could somehow be here with us again.”

Some traditions will go on: The Ramblin’ Wreck (1930 Ford Model A) still leads Georgia Tech onto the field, Clemson players still touch Howard’s Rock before running down the hill. The Sooner Schooner is rolling along at Oklahoma.

Georgia, which opens at Arkansas on Saturday, plays its first home game Oct. 3 against Auburn and will allow about 16,000 fans inside Sanford Stadium. Uga, which stands for “University of Georgia,” will spend that day and other game days with Seiler and his family in Savannah, Ga.

“We’ll have the game on, we’ll put his jersey on, and he’ll be able to listen to it,” Seiler said. “I have a feeling the networks are going to run out of stuff to show, so I wouldn’t be surprised if they don’t try to catch me on a Zoom or maybe

a video of him on game day sitting at the house.”

The only time Seiler can recall an Uga missing a home game was in 2009. Uga VII had died two days before the game, and Uga VIII wasn’t in place until the following week.

Other traditions that won’t be the same this season:

**Mississippi’s Grove:** The Grove has been the place for pregame socializing since the 1950s and is famous for students and older fans dressing to the nines: men in slacks, coats and ties and women in sundresses or cocktail dresses.

**Tiger walks:** Auburn’s walk down Donahue Drive has been a tradition since the 1960s. LSU’s team and coaches — including ebullient Ed Orgeron — walk down “Victory Hill,” a procession that also involves the band.

**Midnight Yell:** Texas A&M’s Midnight Yell practices have moved online. A tradition that dates to 1931, Midnight Yell is held at Kyle Field before home games and is attended by thousands of fans. Smaller versions are also held near the site of away games.

**Gathering at The Paw:** Clemson fans head to the field shortly after the game and join players and coaches for autographs and photos while the band plays the alma mater.

**Jump around:** With no fans in Big Ten stadiums, there’ll be no

bouncing up and down between the third and fourth quarters at Camp Randall Stadium in Wisconsin during the song “Jump Around” by House of Pain.

**Horsing around:** The white horse named Traveler, whose rider is dressed as a Trojan warrior, has appeared at Southern Cal home games since 1961. He’ll stay in the stable this year unless the Pac-12 decides to play.

At Florida State, the Appaloosa horse Renegade and the rider portraying Chief Osceola will still dash to midfield before each home game to spike a flaming spear into the turf. They aren’t allowed to remain on the sideline, as is custom.

**Hold the beef:** Texas’ pregame entertainment zone is closed, so there is no parade of cheerleaders, the band and Bevo into the stadium. The beloved 1,800-pound longhorn still hangs out in the end zone, but no photo opportunities. Still, “when you are as big as Bevo, social distancing pretty much takes care of itself,” said Ricky Brennes of the sponsoring Silver Spurs Alumni Association.

At Colorado, Ralphie VI’s debut is on hold while the Pac-12 decides what to do this fall. Ralphie V retired after last season. This would be the 54th season a live buffalo has led the team onto the field at the start of games.

## Former Georgia DB: Racist events seemed ‘never-ending’

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Former Georgia defensive back Otis Reese says he left the school because of racist treatment on campus, and contends that coach Kirby Smart manipulated him to continue playing for the Bulldogs last season after he expressed his intention to transfer.

Reese transferred to Mississippi in January after two seasons at Georgia and is awaiting a ruling from the NCAA and Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey on his request for a waiver to play immediately.

Georgia, which is ranked fourth in the country, denied the allegations and said

it would share its full response to Reese’s waiver application if he is granted permission.

Reese released a statement Tuesday night on Twitter expressing frustration that his waiver had yet to be granted. He addressed it to the NCAA, the SEC and Sankey.

Reese said he decided to transfer because his 1½ years at Georgia “took a devastating mental toll on me. From my first moment I stepped on campus, it was not what I expected. The racist events that I kept experiencing weighed on me heavily and seemed never-ending.”

Smart declined comment on Reese’s allegations but denied that he was standing

in the way of him playing right away for Ole Miss, pointing to SEC rules that mandate anyone transferring from one conference school to another must sit out a season.

Reese, who is Black, said the racist treatment in Athens included two stops by local police, once when he was driving alone and another time when he was a passenger in a teammate’s car.

Reese said the racist behavior extended to the athletic building, including one of his best friends being called a racial slur by a white athlete.

“Another group of white classmates mocked slavery and pretended to whip each other,” he added. “These were two very public events.”



# Stamkos, Lightning cruise past Stars

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — As soon as Steven Stamkos scored on his first shot since February, his Tampa Bay Lightning celebrated on the ice and the bench with 211 days of pent up excitement.

Even after Stamkos left with an injury, they didn't let up and dominated without him, blowing the Dallas Stars out of an empty arena with a 5-2 rout in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday night to take the lead in the series. Even though he only skated five shifts for 2:47, the longtime Lightning captain making his 2020 playoff debut 211 days after he last played in an NHL game gave the Lightning a jolt.

"Just to be able to get out into a game and have an impact on a game, which a month ago may have never been possible," a smiling Stamkos said. "It's been such a long time. At this time of the year, you want to do anything you can to help your

team win. I've watched these guys be so committed to what our end goal is, and to be part of it tonight, it was a dream come true."

Stamkos made the most of limited ice time, scoring a vintage goal by going around Esa Lindell and sniping a shot past Anton Khudobin. Defenseman Victor Hedman, who fed the puck to Stamkos, lost track of it until he saw it in the back of the net.

The Lightning bench broke into a spontaneous celebration perhaps unlike any goal during the playoffs.

"I think that the cheer was just a little bit louder," coach Jon Cooper said. Stamkos skated off gingerly at the end of his final shift in the first period and was not on the bench for the start of the second. He returned to the bench and took a few twirls to test out the injury but did not return.

The Lightning were just fine with Stamkos offering moral support sitting in the middle

of the bench. Just his presence meant so much.

"Unexpected, but just the lift he gave us A) being able to dress and play and B) scoring, I don't think the guys were going to be denied," Cooper said.

That's because the Lightning got goals from all three of their first-line forwards, their top defenseman and their captain and big saves from their Vezi-na Trophy finalist goaltender, while the Stars' best players were quiet again or made big mistakes to contribute to the loss. Nikita Kucherov, Stamkos, Victor Hedman, Brayden Point and Ondrej Palat all scored for Tampa Bay, which was the better team from the start of the second period on.

"They made two good shots early," Stars captain Jamie Benn said. "They capitalized on their chances and we didn't."

Khudobin was under pressure most of the night and allowed five goals on 29 shots before coach Rick Bowness replaced him at the start of

the third with rookie Jake Oettinger. Khudobin said it was Bowness' choice and that he didn't ask for the rest.

At the other end, Andrei Vasilevskiy made a few big saves among his 31, including a brilliant left pad stop on Corey Perry early in the game.

The game was everything that has made Tampa Bay one of the best teams in hockey for more than half of the last decade. That included the return of Stamkos, the Lightning's leader who has been forced to watch while rehabbing a core muscle injury.

Stamkos, who last played Feb. 25, had surgery in early March and aggravated the injury at least once over the summer, didn't want to go into detail about what happened then or Wednesday night.

"I wanted to play as much as I could," Stamkos said. "Obviously there was an issue that I've been working through. We'll see what happens from here."

## Rookie Herro scores 37 points, leads Heat by Celtics

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Tyler Herro should still be in college. He's not, but is still a student.

He carries a red spiral-bound notebook with him at all times, jotting down notes when things pop into his head. What worked, what didn't, where he thinks he can get better and how he's feeling after a game.

"It helps me get locked in, helps me focus," Herro said.

Whatever he read Wednesday night helped him put together the game of his life — and carry the Miami Heat a win away from the NBA Finals. The 20-year-old Herro scored a Heat rookie-record 37 points and Miami beat the Boston Celtics 112-109 in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"He has a great competitive humility about him," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He

has a confidence. He has a fearlessness that is uncommon. But he's humble enough to work, to be coachable, to take the mentorship from the veteran players that we have on our team, and he just continues to gain more confidence as we go."

Jimmy Butler scored 24 points, Goran Dragic added 22 and Bam Adebayo — dealing with a bit of shoulder soreness — had 20 points and 12 rebounds to help the Miami take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. It can close it out Friday night in Game 5.

Jayson Tatum scored all 28 of his points in the second half for the Celtics. They erased a double-digit deficit to take a one-point lead in the fourth — then saw the Heat run away again. Jaylen Brown scored 21 points, Kemba Walker added 20, Gordon Hayward had 14 and Marcus Smart finished with 10 points and 11 assists.

Brown's three-pointer with 16 seconds left cut the Heat's lead to 107-104. Herro went to the line 2.1 seconds later and coolly swished a pair, stretching the lead back to five. Boston got within two points twice, Butler made a free throw with 1.1 seconds remaining, and the Celtics — out of timeouts — never got a desperation shot off.

"At the end of the day, we've got to find a way," Walker said. "That's really all we can do. We can do it. It's about pride. It's about wanting to do it. Next game we got to come out and show that."

Herro made 14 of 21 shots from the floor, 5-for-10 from three-point range and became just the second 20-year-old in NBA playoff history to score at least 37 points in a game. The other: Magic Johnson, who had 42 in Game 6 of the 1980 NBA Finals for the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I feel good about it," Herro said. "There's a lot of work to be done still. We're up 3-1."

And the Miami rookie playoff record was 27 by Dwyane Wade in 2004; it now belongs to Herro, who scored 17 points in the fourth alone.

Daniel Theis scored with 8:44 left to put Boston up 85-84, the Celtics' first lead since 25-24 with 11:19 left in the second quarter. It was Boston's only lead in the second half and it lasted just 16 seconds. Adebayo scored to give Miami the lead, and Herro basically carried the load from there.

"Herro's shot-making tonight was ... the difference in the game," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "Jimmy was great late. Adebayo was his typical self. Dragic made some big plays. But Herro was ridiculously good tonight. That rim must have looked like the ocean to him."

## MLB roundup

# Cave homers twice as Twins win, take lead in AL Central

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Jake Cave hit a pair of home runs, Kenta Maeda finished off his regular season with another strong start and the Minnesota Twins beat the Detroit Tigers 7-6 on Wednesday to take over sole possession of the AL Central lead for the first time since late August.

Eddie Rosario added a two-run homer for the Twins (35-22), who have won four straight. They moved a half-game ahead of the second-place White Sox (34-22).

Maeda (6-1) allowed three runs and four hits in six innings with nine strikeouts. After an infield hit by the first batter of the game, he set down 15 of his next 16 hitters. He gave up a three-run homer to Miguel Cabrera in the sixth.

**Indians 3, White Sox 2:** Shane Bieber lowered his ERA to 1.63 in his final regular-season start, the lowest in the American League since Luis Tiant's 1.60 for the same team in 1968, and Jordan Luplow hit a game-winning home run for host Cleveland.

Bieber, who leads the big leagues with eight wins, allowed an unearned run and two hits in five innings with 10 strikeouts in his eighth double-digit strikeout game, also a major league high.

**Athletics 6, Dodgers 4:** Ramon Laureano broke a ninth-inning tie with a two-run homer and Oakland won at Los Angeles in a matchup of West division champions.

Laureano also had an RBI single in the seventh and made a diving catch in center field.

**Giants 7, Rockies 2:** Mauricio Dubón hit a three-run homer off reliever Yency Almonte in the fifth inning and San Francisco defeated visit-

ing Colorado to move barely in front in a crowded NL wild-card race.

Evan Longoria also went deep for the Giants. Brandon Belt added three hits and walked twice.

**Phillies 12, Nationals 3:** Given a chance to DH so he could ease the burden on his bothersome back, Bryce Harper homered twice against his former team, helping Philadelphia win at Washington and eliminate the 2019 World Series champions from the playoff race.

The loss ended the Nationals' modest — albeit season-best — four-game winning streak and left their record at 23-33. Washington was knocked out of postseason contention hours later when San Francisco beat Colorado.

**Royals 12, Cardinals 3:** Salvador Perez and Franchy Cordero each had two homers and five RBIs, and out-of-contention Kansas City pummeled visiting St. Louis in their series finale.

The Cardinals (27-26) remain 3½ games back of first-place Chicago in the NL Central but had their edge for the No. 2 spot in the division nearly wiped out.

**Braves 9, Marlins 4:** Dansby Swanson hit a three-run homer and host Atlanta cruised to its third straight win over Miami in a game overshadowed by Max Fried's early departure with an ankle injury.

The Braves ace was making his final regular-season start, hoping to boost his NL Cy Young Award credentials ahead of starting Game 1 in the NL playoffs next week.

**Red Sox 9, Orioles 1:** Nathan Eovaldi struck out eight over six scoreless innings, Rafael Devers hit a three-run double that capped a six-run third

and host Boston won a matchup of the AL East's worst teams.

**Diamondbacks 7, Rangers 3:** Rookie Wyatt Mathisen hit his first two career homers, fellow rookie Daulton Varsho knocked in the go-ahead run with a triple, and host Arizona rallied past Texas.

**Reds 6, Brewers 1:** Joey Votto homered for his first hit all season against Milwaukee, Trevor Bauer dominated on short rest and host Cincinnati won a pivotal series for playoff contention.

The Reds are in position for a wild-card playoff berth after taking two of three from their NL Central rival.

**Angels 5, Padres 2:** San Diego starter Mike Clevinger was pulled after one inning because of a tight right biceps, potentially a big setback for playoff-bound San Diego, in a loss to visiting Los Angeles.

Clevinger, acquired last month in a trade with Cleveland and the presumed starter for Game 1 of the playoffs next week, was sent for an MRI.

**Blue Jays 14, Yankees 1:** Catcher Gary Sánchez made two of his team's season-high four errors and Toronto damaged visiting New York's hopes in its race for home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

**Pirates 2, Cubs 1:** Adam Frazier and Ke'Bryan Hayes led off the bottom of the first inning with back-to-back homers off Kyle Hendricks, sending Pittsburgh past visiting Chicago.

**Mariners 3, Astros 2:** Nick Margevicius tossed six shutout innings, Ty France drove in a pair of runs and host Seattle kept its slim postseason hopes alive.

## Rays clinch AL East title

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Confetti instead of champagne. Silly string instead of beer.

The Tampa Bay Rays, long accustomed to doing more with less, figured out a way to maximize the division-clinching celebration they were allowed to enjoy during a 2020 season shortened by the coronavirus.

Randy Arozarena homered twice and the Rays clinched their first AL East title in 10 years Wednesday night with an 8-5 victory over the New York Mets.

"I'm completely dry right now, which I'm not a huge fan of," center fielder Kevin Kiermaier, the longest-tenured Rays player, said with a grin. "But you have to adapt to what we're asked of."

With teams instructed to celebrate in a muted and socially distant style, Tampa Bay went old school — or maybe elementary school — with its clinching party.

The team filed slowly onto the field after Nick Anderson fanned Andres Gimenez for the final out. A couple of players shot off canisters filled with confetti that eventually dotted the grass and dirt at Citi Field. Hugs and handshakes were exchanged before the Rays doused one another with silly string and lit some cigars in the visiting clubhouse.

"We're little kids trapped in grown men's bodies," Kiermaier said.

Joey Wendle and Brandon Lowe also went deep for Tampa Bay to back Tyler Glasnow's six solid innings. The team will be home at quirky Tropicana Field for a best-of-three first-round playoff series next Tuesday.

It is the third division crown for the thrifty Rays, whose payroll this season is just over \$28 million — more than only the Pittsburgh Pirates and Baltimore Orioles.

Tampa Bay, which began play in 1998, also won the AL East, home of two big-spending powers in the Yankees and Red Sox, in 2008 and 2010.