

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

More military bases raise health safety due to rise in cases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has increased health protection requirements in at least 21 bases in recent weeks, particularly across Texas and Florida, as the COVID-19 rate continues to spike among service members, more than doubling in the last month.

“We’ve seen some places that initially went to green that have gone back up in some of these states where we’ve seen a dramatic rise in the number of COVID infections,” said Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon’s chief spokesman.

More than 45% of the installations around the globe are currently at what is called “health condition Charlie,” which involves “substantial risk” of “sustained community transmission” of the virus, according to data obtained by The Associated Press.

A significant number of those bases are spread across the South and West and have stayed at or gone back to level C. That’s one step below the most restrictive level, on a scale that goes from Zero to Level D — Severe.

Under level C, base access and travel is significantly restricted, in-person gatherings such as school and other activities are likely canceled, and more people must work from home. Service members are told to prepare for “limited access” to supplies and services.

Under level B, social distancing and other health procedures are still recommended, but more movement, travel

and in-person gatherings are allowed. Service members are told to avoid “unnecessary travel,” particularly to virus hot zones.

Nearly all the rest of the bases are at level B, which is moderate risk, and a small number of very remote bases, such as Air Force installations in Norway and Greenland, are at level A-plus.

The Air Force has had the most installations — 14 — that reduced restrictions this spring only to have to revert back to a higher protection level in recent weeks due to the surge in cases.

The Navy went back to level C at four locations this month, while the Army and Marine Corps each has had only had one base increase restrictions after having loosened them earlier in the year. One joint Navy/Air Force base in New Orleans also reduced restrictions.

The escalating numbers mirror the increase in coronavirus cases in the general public across the country, where more than 4 million people have contracted the virus, and more than 144,000 have died. The military, however, still has a dramatically low death rate, losing three service members — including just one active-duty — out of nearly 23,000 virus cases so far.

The moves to higher alert levels at the defense installations are somewhat limited because the military as a whole has been much slower to loosen pandemic restrictions than cities and states around the country.

Berger: USMC must focus on diversity and inclusion

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps must listen more to Marines when it comes to issues of diversity and inclusion amid the national conversation about systemic racism that erupted a few months ago, said Gen. David Berger, the service’s commandant.

“I’ll never have lived the life of an African American officer in the Marine Corps, I will not have lived that life. What I can do? Listen, understand, try to empathize, so that we can make adjustments within our service to change the way that some people view ... either a conscious bias or an unconscious bias, either way,” Berger said Thursday. “We got to change the way that we discuss things, the way that we understand them. And that means a lot more listening.”

The military stepped forward with renewed attention toward its diversity and inclusion initiatives after the deaths of several African Americans this year involving law enforcement, including George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky. The incidents sparked protests.

The Defense Department and the Navy have recently established organizations to examine diversity, inclusion, and biases among the force and put forth a policy to fix issues.

The Marine Corps already has a talent management council and executive council that was set up by former commandant Gen. Robert Neller within the service’s headquarters, according to Berger. It was formed after the Marines United scandal in 2017 when female service members were targeted online in a private Facebook group and their nude

photos were distributed among the group’s members, which consisted of other active-duty service members.

The Marine Corps is focused on looking into the deeper reasons why certain groups of people are not as represented in specific career fields, such as in combat arms or aviation. Berger said they are starting to look at the beginning of a Marine’s career in their initial training and education to see what can be improved.

Marine officers compete during their six-month initial course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., because the better they perform, the better chance they have of selecting the specialty they want. But the Marine Corps has found not many African American Marines are choosing combat arms, Berger said. For African American Marines who go to aviation school, many of them do not select flying fixed-wing aircraft.

There is also the perception in the service that a Marine needs to be in combat arms in order to rise through the ranks.

Berger said it’s “not necessarily true,” but the perception exists.

“We have to bore into where it begins. In other words, from recruiting through the early stages of training, what is it that we’re doing that we should look at to make sure that we start out as a more diverse force,” he said. “Because if we don’t start out that way, we cannot fix it when somebody is a lieutenant colonel or a colonel. We can’t make major adjustments at that point.”

Berger said the service is looking into how discussions occur with Marines when they are selecting a specialty and how those discussions impact their career choice.

Senate defense bill omits funding for Stripes

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Funding for Stars and Stripes was not included in the Senate's version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act passed Thursday, setting up deliberations with House members about the future of the news organization.

The Senate's version of the NDAA, which passed 86-14, contains no language reversing the Pentagon's February request to strip the roughly \$15.5 million annual subsidy that the editorially independent news organization receives.

The Senate's \$740.5 billion version of the NDAA, which sets annual Pentagon spending and policy priorities, was passed just two days after the House approved its version of the NDAA for the same amount by a vote of 295 to 125. The Senate bill left that chamber's Armed Services Committee without restoring funding for Stars and Stripes and no amendments regarding the news organization were added to the bill when it came up for a vote Thursday on the Senate floor.

The House's version of the NDAA authorized \$15.5 million in funding for Stars and Stripes and the House Appropriations Committee's budget bill also approved

Tuesday provided the same amount to fund the news organization in fiscal year 2021. The Senate's Appropriations Committee has not yet released its bill.

The \$15.5 million in funds account for about half of Stars and Stripes' annual spending. The news organization receives about \$8.7 million annually in operations and maintenance funds and about \$6.9 million in contingency operations funds to support news reporting throughout the world. The remainder of its funding comes from sales, subscriptions and advertising. The \$15.5 million is the same amount that Stars and Stripes received for fiscal year 2020.

The House and Senate each approve authorization bills that specify the amount of money that can be spent on a program. The Appropriations Committees also approve bills in each chamber that allows the money to be made available from the treasury for a program that has been authorized.

Now a conference committee made up of House and Senate Armed Services Committee members must sort out the differences between the two chambers' authorization bills. Each chamber will vote to authorize a conference committee and leaders will select members for the committee, though that has not happened yet, a

Senate Armed Services Committee staffer said Friday.

The conference committee decides on the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act and consults with the Appropriations Committees on funding amounts. If the Appropriations Committees provide money for a program such as Stars and Stripes in its final legislation, the money can be spent, according to a Senate staffer, even if the program's funding is not in the final authorization bill.

Lawmakers have said they do not expect the NDAA to be finalized ahead of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

The Pentagon moved to strip funding for Stripes after Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered a defense-wide review of spending practices in an effort to reallocate funds to prepare the military to fight a major near-peer rival, such as China or Russia. Esper defended the funding cut for the newspaper in February, telling reporters that the money would go to "higher-priority issues."

Though Stars and Stripes is part of the Pentagon's Defense Media Activity, the news organization retains its editorial independence and is congressionally mandated to be governed by First Amendment principles.

Trump, GOP senator vow base names won't change

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and a top Senate Republican are pushing Congress to preserve the names of military bases that honor Confederate generals, even though the House and Senate have overwhelmingly approved bills that rename them.

Trump said in a tweet Friday that he had spoken to Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, "who has informed me that he WILL NOT be changing the names of our great Military Bases and Forts, places from which we won two World Wars (and more!)."

Like him, Inhofe "is not a believer in 'Cancel Culture,'" Trump said.

Inhofe, a staunch conservative and close Trump ally, also opposes the name change, even though he led Senate approval of the defense bill that would mandate name changes at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning and other Army posts named for Confederate generals.

Inhofe told The Oklahoman newspaper

that he spoke with Trump on Thursday about the base names, adding: "We're going to see to it that provision doesn't survive the bill. I'm not going to say how at this point."

Defense policy bills approved by both the House and Senate would change the names of 10 Army posts that honor Confederate leaders. The two versions must be reconciled, but both bills were approved by veto-proof margins this week.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Friday the White House would "leave that to Senator Inhofe as to how that works legislatively speaking," but said Trump "was assured by Sen. Inhofe that that (provision) would be changing and that Republicans stood with the president on this."

The top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services panel said Trump was "on the wrong side of history" in trying to defend traitors who "fought to preserve slavery."

"Nobody wants to erase history," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I. "We want to be truthful and honest about it and build a brighter, more inclusive future that lives up

to our nation's promise and core values."

There are 10 Army posts named for Confederate military leaders, including Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Forts Robert E. Lee and A.P. Hill in Virginia. The House bill would require the base names to be changed within a year, while the Senate would give the military three years to rename them.

Reed said Friday he is confident Congress will include the name-change provision in the final bill, and he urged Trump to "read up" on men like Lee, Braxton Bragg and Henry Benning and learn "what they believed and why they fought against the United States." Trump also should listen to uniformed and civilian military leaders "who know that racism has no place in the ranks," Reed said.

If Trump vetoes a bill with a 3% pay raise for U.S. troops, that would be a rare event, Reed said: "But rarer still is an American president who would put the interests of a handful of pro-slavery Confederates above the well-being and national security of the entire nation."

Feds use tear gas to clear protests

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Thousands of protesters gathered outside the federal courthouse in Portland, Ore., into the early hours of Saturday shooting fireworks at the building as plumes of tear gas, dispensed by U.S. agents, lingered above.

The demonstration went on for hours until federal agents entered the crowd around 2:30 a.m. and marched in a line down the street, clearing remaining protesters with tear gas at close range. They also extinguished a large fire in the street outside the courthouse.

The Federal Protective Ser-

vice had declared the gathering as “an unlawful assembly” and said that officers had been injured.

As the crowd dispersed, someone was found stabbed nearby, Portland police said. The person was taken to a hospital, and a suspect was taken into custody.

By 3 a.m., most demonstrators had left with only some small groups roaming the streets.

Earlier Friday night, the protest had drawn various organized groups, including Healthcare Workers Protest, Teachers against Tyrants, Lawyers for Black Lives and

the “Wall of Moms.”

As the crowd grew — authorities estimate there were 3,000 present at the peak of the protest — people were heard chanting “Black Lives Matter” and “Feds go home” to the sound of drums.

Later, protesters vigorously shook the fence surrounding the courthouse, shot fireworks towards the building and threw glass bottles. Many times these actions were met by federal agents using tear gas and flash-bang grenades.

The flow of tear gas caused protesters to disperse at times, some becoming sick as others remained toward the front of

the courthouse with leaf blowers directing the gas back to the courthouse. Federal agents had leaf blowers of their own to counteract.

It was unclear whether anyone was arrested during the protest. The federal agents, deployed by President Donald Trump to tamp down the unrest, have arrested dozens during nightly demonstrations against racial injustice that often turn violent.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who was tear-gassed this week as he joined protesters, says the federal presence is exacerbating a tense situation, and he’s repeatedly told them to leave.

Hawaii military bases prepare for Douglas

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Military bases on Oahu are preparing for the possible weekend onslaught of Hurricane Douglas, which was a potent category 3 storm, as of Friday.

Douglas, the first hurricane in this year’s storm season, was about 900 miles southeast of the Hawaiian Islands on Friday morning.

The state’s military bases were placed under the Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness

3 on Friday, indicating that destructive winds were possible within the next 48 hours.

Navy ships were being readied to sortie out of Pearl Harbor beginning Saturday morning to waters outside the storm’s expected path. Meanwhile, the Air Force commenced securing aircraft at Hickam Airfield.

Most of Hawaii’s military installations are on Oahu, including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands is on the island

of Kauai.

The National Hurricane Center projected that the hurricane could move directly over Hawaii late Saturday through Sunday. The storm, which had sustained winds up to 115 mph Friday morning, was expected to weaken during the next 24 hours but would still be able to wreak serious damage if it did directly hit the state.

The Coast Guard on Friday afternoon announced port condition X-Ray for Hawaii and the Maui islands, meaning that gale force winds up to 39 mph were predicted within the next 48

hours. The island of Kauai was on condition Whiskey, meaning gale force winds were expected within the next 72 hours.

Under both port condition levels, all pleasure craft were to “seek sheltered waters,” the Coast Guard said in a statement. All ocean-going commercial ships also needed to make plans to depart unless granted permission by the state to stay.

Hawaii last faced serious hurricane weather in late summer 2018 with Hurricane Lane and Tropical Storm Olivia, which arrived less than a month apart.

Hanna, 1st '20 Atlantic hurricane, approaches Texas

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tropical Storm Hanna was upgraded to a hurricane Saturday, moving toward the Texas coast and threatening to bring heavy rain, storm surge and possible tornadoes to a part of the country trying to cope with a surge in coronavirus cases.

The storm, which is the first

hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, was expected to make landfall Saturday afternoon or evening south of Corpus Christi, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Saturday morning. It had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph, was centered about 100 miles east-southeast of Corpus Christi and was moving west at 9 mph.

Many parts of Texas, including the area where Hanna is expected to come ashore, have been dealing with a spike in coronavirus cases in recent weeks, but local officials said they were prepared for whatever the storm may bring.

The main hazard from Hanna was expected to be flash flooding, Chris Birchfield, a meteorologist with the

National Weather Service in Brownsville, said Friday. Forecasters said Hanna could bring 6 to 12 inches of rain through Sunday night — with isolated totals of 18 inches — in addition to coastal swells that could cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

Tornadoes were also possible Saturday for parts of the lower to middle Texas coastal plain.

Financial ruin looms for at-risk Americans

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — As public health officials warned Friday that the coronavirus posed new risks to parts of the Midwest and South, enhanced federal payments that helped avert financial ruin for millions of unemployed Americans were set to expire — leaving threadbare safety nets offered by individual states to catch them.

Since early in the pandemic, the federal government has added \$600 to the weekly unemployment checks that states send. That increase ended Saturday, and with Congress still haggling over next steps, most states will not be able to offer nearly as much.

The extra federal aid helped keep Wally Wendt and his family afloat.

Wendt, 54, of Everett, Wash., was laid off from the fitness company where he worked for 31 years. The extra federal benefits helped him pay a loan to put a new roof on his house that he took out before the virus struck and the economy cratered.

The money also helps his daughter, who lost her restaurant job. With the boost, she can afford diapers, baby formula, rent and utilities. Without it, Wendt said, his daughter and her two children might move in with him.

“The politicians need to get their ducks in a row,” Wendt said. “The pressure’s not on them, it’s on all of us blue-collar workers who are struggling to make a living.”

In addition to the end of the \$600 payments, federal protections against evictions also are set to expire.

Standard unemployment benefits often

leave recipients with poverty-level incomes, but they are sure to continue, even as states wrestle with diminishing unemployment trust funds.

Every state offers assistance for at least some unemployed workers based on a portion of their previous earnings. The maximum amounts vary widely, from \$235 a week in Mississippi to \$1,234 in Massachusetts. Benefits are available for as few as six weeks in Georgia and up to 28 weeks in Montana. Most states normally cut people off after 26 weeks.

The potential loss of benefits comes at a time of increasing pessimism about job prospects. Nearly half of Americans whose families experienced a layoff during the pandemic now believe those jobs are lost forever, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Aside from the pandemic’s economic damage, the virus itself threatens to overwhelm parts of the country that have been relatively unscathed.

White House coronavirus response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx warned in a television interview that the surge of cases in the South and Southwest could make its way north.

“What started out very much as a Southern and Western epidemic is starting to move up the East Coast, into Tennessee, Arkansas, up into Missouri, up across Colorado,” Birx told NBC’s “Today” show. She implored people to wear masks, wash hands and keep at least 6 feet apart.

In Missouri, confirmed cases have risen sharply since Republican Gov. Mike Parson allowed the state to reopen in mid-June. The number of positive tests set a record three days in a row this week.

Masks continue to be a national flashpoint. Police in Green Bay, Wis., were investigating death threats made against elected city officials over a new mandate requiring face coverings in public buildings. Indiana’s governor dropped a planned criminal penalty from the statewide face mask mandate that he signed Friday after objections from many law enforcement officials and some conservative legislators.

Sunbelt states that have been besieged in recent weeks are still struggling. Florida, for example, reported 135 new deaths and 12,000 new cases, pushing its total of identified infections past 400,000. In California, officials reported a record 159 deaths Friday, bringing total deaths to around 8,200. California now has more than 435,000 confirmed cases.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Washington were negotiating a new coronavirus relief bill as state and local governments, schools, businesses and others pushed for a new dose of aid. Congressional Democrats have sought to keep the extra \$600 in unemployment checks rolling. Republicans who control the Senate have proposed benefits worth 70% of what people made before.

The \$600 weekly bonus is technically set to expire July 31, but the cutoff is effectively Saturday owing to how states process payments.

S. Korea, S. Africa report spike in virus cases

Associated Press

BEIJING — South Korea on Saturday reported more than 100 new coronavirus cases for the first time in four months, while South Africa announced a surge in infections and some U.S. states tightened anti-disease controls.

South Korea’s 113 new cases included 36 workers returning from Iraq and 32 crew members of a Russian freighter, the government said. Authorities had warned of a spike in cases from abroad and appealed to the public not to be alarmed.

China, which has relaxed most of its anti-disease controls after case numbers dropped off, reported 34 new cases in a

new surge of infections. That included 29 that were contracted within the country.

Worldwide, more than 15.7 million cases and 640,000 deaths have been reported, according to data compiled from government announcements by Johns Hopkins University.

South Africa, Africa’s hardest-hit country, reported more than 13,000 new cases, raising its total to over 408,000. The government has reported over 6,000 deaths.

India, the country with the third-highest infection total behind the United States and Brazil, reported its death toll rose by 740 to 30,601. The government reported a surge of more than 49,000 new cases, raising

its total to over 1.2 million.

In the United States, Gov. Tate Reeves of Mississippi tightened controls on bars to protect “young, drunk, careless folks.” Bars already were limited to operating at 50% capacity. Now, patrons will have to sit down to order alcohol and sales stop at 11 p.m.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans ordered bars closed and banned restaurants from selling alcoholic drinks to take away after more than 2,000 new cases were reported in the state, including 103 in New Orleans.

Arizona reported 89 additional deaths, raising the state’s fatality total to 3,142. The state reported over 3,300 new cases,

raising its total to more than 156,000.

The United States has suffered more than 145,000 deaths and has over 4.1 million confirmed cases.

In Australia, Premier Daniel Andrews of the southern state of Victoria announced five deaths and 357 new cases. Victoria, where the death toll has risen to 61, earlier closed its border with neighboring New South Wales.

In Europe, French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced travelers from the United States and 15 other countries where viral circulation is strong must be tested on arrival unless they can show proof of a negative test in the past 72 hours.

Court denies Nev. church's virus appeal

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court denied a rural Nevada church's request late Friday to strike down as unconstitutional a 50-person cap on worship services as part of the state's ongoing response to the coronavirus.

In a 5-4 decision, the high court refused to grant the request from the Christian church east of Reno to be subjected to the same COVID-19 restrictions in Nevada that allow casinos, restaurants and other businesses to operate at 50% of capacity with proper social distancing.

Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley argued that the hard cap on religious gatherings was an unconstitutional violation of its parishioners' First Amendment rights to express and exercise their beliefs.

Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the liberal majority in denying the request without explanation.

Three justices wrote strongly worded dissenting opinions on behalf of the four conservatives who said they would have granted the injunctive relief while the court fully considers the merits of the case.

David Cortman, senior counsel for Georgia-based Alliance Defending Freedom representing the church, said in an email sent to The Associated Press late Friday that they were disappointed in the ruling but will continue to work to protect Calvary Chapel and others "from discriminatory policies that put religious groups at the back of the line for reopening."

Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE — Florida's burgeoning coronavirus crisis is forcing its high schools to delay the start of their football and other fall sports seasons, a reversal aimed at quelling a revolt that could have pitted urban counties against their rural counterparts.

The Florida High School Athletic Association's board voted 11-4 Thursday night to

push the first day of practices from Monday to Aug. 24 with games starting no earlier than mid-September instead of mid-August. The decision came as Florida has experienced a sharp increase in coronavirus deaths over the past two weeks, including another 136 recorded Friday as the state's total confirmed cases topped 400,000.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor dropped a planned criminal penalty from the statewide face mask mandate that he signed Friday after objections from some law enforcement officials and conservative legislators.

The decision comes after Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb had said Wednesday in announcing the mask requirement that violators could face a misdemeanor charge, while stating that the "mask police will not be patrolling Hoosier streets."

The executive order on the mask mandate, however, does not mention penalties and describes the move as a step to protect health during the coronavirus outbreak and help ensure that businesses remain open while allowing schools to reopen and operate safely.

"State and local health departments shall be responsible for enforcing compliance through education about the importance of wearing face coverings and dispelling myths and misconceptions about the use and/or benefits for the requirement," the order said.

Iowa

IOWA CITY — U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack said Friday that he's "deeply concerned" about an Associated Press report that showed the first known coronavirus outbreak at an Iowa meatpacking plant was far more severe than the state publicly acknowledged.

Loebsack wrote a letter to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds requesting answers to several questions about the state's response to the outbreak at the

Tyson Foods pork processing plant in Columbus Junction.

Loebsack's letter came two days after the AP reported on documents showing that Tyson officials reported to workplace safety inspectors on April 30 that 522 employees were known to be infected. A dozen were hospitalized and two died.

But at a May 5 news conference, the Iowa Department of Public Health said that 221 workers at the plant had tested positive.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky will extend its contract with an outside company hired to help work through a backlog of unemployment claims amid the coronavirus outbreak, Gov. Andy Beshear said Friday.

The contract with Ernst & Young will be prolonged by another five weeks at a cost of \$4.4 million, the governor announced. The company has helped process more than 56,000 claims under its original contract with the state, exceeding expectations, Beshear said.

Coronavirus-relief funds from the federal government will pay for the original contract — which was about to expire — and the extension, the governor told reporters. The original contract paid the company more than \$7 million.

The company dug into the most complex claims that had stalled for months.

Montana

BILLINGS — A senior home in Montana that has been pummeled by a coronavirus outbreak that infected nearly every resident has seen another death as the number of confirmed virus cases to date topped 3,000 statewide on Friday.

Health officials confirmed 129 additional cases of the virus, one of the highest daily totals yet. Yellowstone County, which includes Billings, again accounted for the highest number of new cases, with 40.

Health officials also announced the first death from

the virus in Glacier County — a woman in her 80s — bringing the number of fatalities in the state to 46. Glacier County includes much of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and parts of Glacier National Park.

New Jersey

TRENTON — State officials provided more details Friday on the reopening of schools this fall, including that parents will be allowed to opt-out their children from in-person learning without having to demonstrate a risk of illness or other special circumstance.

The amended guidelines represent a shift from guidance released four weeks ago by Gov. Phil Murphy that required in-person instruction, though school districts were given latitude to decide the number of days students would be required to report in person, and whether they could also use online learning.

School districts must have clearly communicated policies on remote learning and procedures for students to transition back to in-person learning when they are ready, interim Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer said Friday.

Oregon

PORTLAND — Nine more people have died from COVID-19 in Oregon, the highest number of deaths reported in one day in the state since the pandemic began, health officials said Friday.

The newly-reported deaths raised the state's death toll to 282, according to the Oregon Health Authority. The authority also reported 396 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, bringing the state total to more than 16,100.

An outbreak of 22 COVID-19 cases has been reported at Norris Blueberry Farm in Roseburg, health officials also said Friday. The investigation started June 25, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure, officials said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Fugitive of week' was found asleep on porch

NH LACONIA — A "fugitive of the week" sought by the U.S. Marshals Service was found sleeping on a porch in New Hampshire, authorities said.

John Cathcart, 55, was sought on multiple arrest warrants issued from Belknap County, Deputy U.S. Marshal Jeffrey White said in a news release. The warrants included failing to appear on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm and failing to appear on three outstanding narcotics charges.

Cathcart was in a segment featured in local media and distributed to law enforcement officers statewide.

TSA finds assault rifle hidden in checked bag

NJ NEWARK — Transportation Security Administration officers at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport uncovered an assault rifle and ammunition concealed in a checked bag, the agency said.

The officers were screening luggage when they spotted the weapon and bullets hidden in the lining of the suitcase.

"In this case, they detected an assault rifle, which is illegal in New Jersey; a high-capacity magazine, which is also illegal in New Jersey; four boxes of hollow-point bullets, again, illegal in New Jersey; three magazines, one of which was fully loaded; and two additional boxes of rifle ammunition," said Tom Carter, TSA's federal security director for New Jersey.

Police tracked down the East Orange resident who checked the bag and her traveling companion at their departure gate, where they were arrested.

Woman arrested after alleged child abduction

KS TOPEKA — A 40-year-old Kansas woman was jailed after allegedly trying to abduct a child.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that Shelby D. Parker of Topeka was arrested after a nearly four-hour standoff.

Police were called to a report that a woman entered a home and stole something, then tried to kidnap a child. Police Sgt. Ron Ekis said the child's mother was able to thwart the abduction.

Police said the woman then barricaded herself inside another home and later surrendered.

City to remove damaged anti-lynching marker

MO KANSAS CITY — A historical marker in Kansas City commemorating the 1882 lynching of a black man by a white mob that was damaged will be removed.

The marker in a Kansas City park was installed in 2018. It details the case of Levi Harrington, who was killed by a white mob on April 3, 1882, after he was falsely accused of killing a white police officer earlier that day.

The actual killer was later arrested and tried. No one was ever charged in Harrington's death.

Officials: 'Dangerous' inmates escaped jail

MS PRENTISS — Authorities in Mississippi are searching for two "extremely dangerous" inmates, including one charged with murder, who escaped from county jail, according to officials.

Desmond Fortenberry, 28, and Marcus Bridges, 30, es-

caped from the Jefferson Davis County Jail on Thursday, the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Fortenberry was being held on a murder charge and Bridges was booked into jail on an armed robbery charge, news outlets reported.

Friends share lottery win, keep 1992 promise

WI MENOMONIE — A western Wisconsin man will share his millions in lottery winnings with a long-time friend because of a promise they made to each other nearly three decades ago.

Friends Tom Cook and Joseph Feeney shook hands in 1992 and promised that if either one of them ever won the Powerball jackpot, they would split the money.

That promise came to fruition when Cook bought the winning ticket for a \$22 million jackpot at Synergy Coop in Menomonie.

The men chose the cash option, leaving each with nearly \$5.7 million after taxes are paid.

Woman slain when man fires into wrong house

PA DERRY — A man angry over a botched drug deal fired several shots into a Pennsylvania residence where he mistakenly thought someone involved in the deal lived, authorities said, killing a woman.

Nathan Joseph Quidetto, 20, remained held without bond on charges of criminal homicide, reckless endangerment and weapons offenses.

Quidetto wanted to scare someone who was involved in the botched drug deal but drove to "the completely wrong residence," a state police spokesman said. He then fired several shots

at the home around 4 a.m.

Tracy Marie Squib, 52, and her husband were sleeping in their bedroom at the time.

Squib was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead a short time later.

5 donkeys struck and killed on freeway

CA RIVERSIDE — Five donkeys were struck and killed by vehicles when they walked onto a freeway in the inland region of Southern California.

Callers reported a herd entering Interstate 215 in Riverside around 2:23 a.m., the California Highway Patrol said.

CHP units were on their way when it was reported that a truck hit two donkeys, and two more vehicles also struck donkeys.

Police: Man assaulted, injured 2 police officers

NE LINCOLN — A 31-year-old man assaulted two police officers when they tried to take him into custody during a disturbance at a Walgreens' pharmacy counter in Lincoln, police said.

Ray Q. Burns of Lincoln was arrested on suspicion of two counts of third-degree assault on an officer and resisting arrest, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

Police responding to a call arrived to see Burns causing a disturbance before jumping behind the pharmacy counter, said police officer Luke Bonkiewicz.

When officers tried to arrest him, Burns hit one officer in the head, causing two cuts that required four staples to close. A second officer suffered scrapes, bruising and swelling of his right arm.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

MLB roundup

Bieber fans 14 as Indians shut out Royals

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Shane Bieber struck out 14 over six scoreless innings as the Indians, making a statement for minorities by wearing their road jerseys with “Cleveland” on the front, beat Kansas City 2-0 Friday.

Bieber’s 14 strikeouts set a club record for opening day and are the most in the majors in an opener since Hall of Famer Randy Johnson also fanned 14 on March 31, 1996.

Oscar Mercado and Cesar Hernandez drove in runs in the fifth for Cleveland, which was blanked over the first four innings by Royals starter Danny Duffy (0-1).

The Royals struck out 18 times.

Cubs 2, Brewers 0: Kyle Hendricks convinced new manager David Ross to let him finish a three-hitter, Anthony Rizzo homered and dished out hand sanitizer, and host Chicago started the season by beating Milwaukee.

Ian Happ also had a two-run drive and Ross got his first victory as a big league manager as the Cubs opened this pandemic-shortened 60-game season without fans at Wrigley Field.

Astros 8, Mariners 2: Dusty Baker posted a win in his debut as Houston’s manager and the Astros, playing for the first time since their sign-stealing scandal rocked baseball, opened the season by beating visiting Seattle.

Michael Brantley hit a three-run homer to back Justin Verlander for Houston.

Blue Jays 6, Rays 4: Cavan Biggio hit a three-run homer and Toronto began its still-in-progress odyssey by winning at Tampa Bay.

Earlier the Blue Jays announced they will play the majority of their home games at the stadium of their Triple-A affiliate in Buffalo, though it’s not yet certain when the park will be ready.

Reds 7, Tigers 1: Free agent pickup Mike Moustakas drove in four runs, teaming with fellow newcomers Shogo Akiyama and Nick Castellanos, in Cincinnati’s home win over Detroit.

Free agents Moustakas and Castellanos each got \$64 million as cornerstones of the Reds’ rebuild. They combined to produce Cincinnati’s first three runs, and Moustakas added a two-run homer to get the Reds off and running.

Mets 1, Braves 0: Yoenis Cespedes took advantage of the new designated hitter rule in the National League, launching a home run that sent Jacob deGrom and New York past visiting Atlanta.

Cespedes connected in the seventh off reliever Chris Martin (0-1) for his first long ball since his previous major league game on July 20, 2018.

Red Sox 13, Orioles 2: J.D. Martinez and Kevin Pillar each drove in three runs, and host Boston rolled past Baltimore.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) gave up just one run

and five hits, striking out four over six innings in his first career opening day start.

Rangers 1, Rockies 0: Lance Lynn struck out nine in six sharp innings and host Texas inaugurated its new retractable-roof stadium with a win over Colorado.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4: Jack Flaherty struck out six and didn’t walk a batter in seven solid innings, Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer and host St. Louis opened the season by beating Pittsburgh.

Twins 10, White Sox 5: Max Kepler homered against ace Lucas Giolito in his first two at-bats and Minnesota won at Chicago.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 2: Eric Hosmer hit three-run doubles in consecutive innings to ruin Madison Bumgarner’s Arizona debut and give host San Diego a victory in Jayce Tingler’s first game as manager.

Marlins 5, Phillies 2: Jesus Aguilar hit a two-run homer off Aaron Nola, Sandy Alcantara pitched into the seventh and Miami spoiled manager Joe Girardi’s first game in Philadelphia.

Dodgers 9, Giants 1: Max Muncy homered twice and doubled, Ross Stripling pitched seven neat innings and Los Angeles defeated visiting San Francisco.

Athletics 7, Angels 3 (10): The first big league game with an automatic runner in extra innings was decided with a blast rather than a bunt.

Sports briefs

Thompson, Werenski top leaderboard at 3M Open

Associated Press

BLAINE, Minn. — Michael Thompson and Richy Werenski maintained their momentum at the 3M Open.

Tony Finau, fresh off a caddie change, put himself in prime position right behind the leaders at the halfway point of the second-year tournament.

Thompson and Werenski topped the leaderboard at 12 under, Finau and Talor Gooch climbed within a stroke and stars Brooks Koepka and Tommy Fleetwood struggled again Friday at the TPC Twin Cities.

Barrera suspended for positive steroid test

WASHINGTON — Washington Nationals catcher Tres Barrera was suspended 80 games without pay by Major League Baseball on Saturday after testing positive for an anabolic steroid.

MLB said the 25-year-old Barrera tested positive for the performance-enhancing substance dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, the chemical compound used in a drug that fueled Olympians in the former East Germany decades ago.

Hill dominates opener of Truck doubleheader

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Austin Hill made all the right moves getting to the front in the NASCAR Truck Series race at Kansas Speedway on Friday.

That included strategically hitting the brakes.

Hill was coming out of the pits in third after the final stop but wanted to have the outside lane, so he hit the brakes and let someone else get ahead of him. So what if Brett Moffitt bumped him from behind? Hill had the position he wanted

— and the fastest truck by far — and he cruised away to win the opener of the first Truck Series doubleheader.

3 Missouri players opt out of NBA draft

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri basketball players Xavier Pinson, Mitchell Smith and Jeremiah Tilmon Jr. withdrew from the NBA draft Friday and will return to the Tigers for the upcoming season.

Coach Cuonzo Martin’s team will have 11 players that are upperclassmen, most in the SEC.

Camps ready to open after NFL, union reach agreement

Associated Press

NFL training camps are set to open after the league and the players' union reached agreement on several issues, including future salary cap mechanisms and how players can opt out of the upcoming season because of the coronavirus.

The NFL Players Association's executive committee and 32 player representatives approved the offers Friday.

Players who decide they want to opt out have until Aug. 3 to do so, and they will receive a stipend from the owners. The amount of the stipend will be \$350,000 for medical opt outs and \$150,000 for voluntary opt outs, two people with knowledge of the decisions told The Associated Press. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the stipend amount was not made public.

That agreement eliminated one major obstacle to a full opening of training camps next week. Already, the sides had agreed to cancel all preseason games, as well as to a reduction in the number of roster spots in training camp from 90 to 80 — though teams will have until

Aug. 16 to get down to 80.

The NFLPA said in a statement on Twitter that its board of representatives adopted the proposed amendments to the CBA by a vote of 29-3.

The league also offered an extended acclimation period of 18 days for players, given that the coronavirus caused the cancellation of all offseason on-field activities at team facilities. Training camps are to open Tuesday, though the Texans and Chiefs, who meet in the season opener Sept. 10, have veterans scheduled to arrive this weekend for COVID-19 testing.

"We have worked collaboratively to develop a comprehensive set of protocols designed to minimize risk for fans, players, and club and league personnel," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "These plans have been guided by the medical directors of the NFL and the NFLPA and have been reviewed and endorsed by independent medical and public health experts, including the CDC, and many state and local public health officials."

Many economic issues were settled, including how to handle revenue losses that would

result from games played without fans or even canceled games because of COVID-19. The league has proposed a minimum salary cap of \$175 million for 2021; this season's cap is \$198.2 million.

Should the 2021 salary cap decrease — a very likely outcome — caps through 2024 would be adjusted to cover some of that drop-off. That way, the cap wouldn't plummet too far.

The cap has increased exponentially since 2014, going up by \$10 million or so annually.

Players will also get a prorated salary for games played if any games are canceled this season.

Practice squads will be increased to 16 players. Four such players could be protected weekly from being exposed to other teams.

Actual practices in camps won't begin for about three weeks.

"The season will undoubtedly present new and additional challenges," Goodell said, "but we are committed to playing a safe and complete 2020 season, culminating with the Super Bowl."

Williamson back in the NBA bubble

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Zion Williamson is back in the NBA bubble, after tending to a family situation.

He won't be the last to go through the reinitiation process.

The New Orleans rookie, the No. 1 pick in last year's NBA draft, returned to Walt Disney World on Friday night and immediately went back into quarantine. There was no immediate announcement about how long he would remain separated from the Pelicans, but being back now suggests that it is possible he could play when New Orleans faces Utah on July 30 in the first seeding game of the NBA restart.

"My family and I appreciate the love and respect that everyone showed us while we dealt with a private family matter," Williamson said Friday night in a statement. "I'm excited to rejoin my team in Orlando and look forward to getting back on the court with my teammates after the quarantine."

Williamson spent eight days outside the bubble. He was tested daily during his absence for COVID-19, and all those tests were negative. That will likely shorten the amount of time he will spend in quarantine.

And there are going to be more than a few NBA people very interested to see how Williamson's return process works — because similar ones await other players as well.

Two people with knowledge of the situations said Friday that both Lou Williams of the Los Angeles Clippers and Austin Rivers of the Houston Rockets have added themselves to the list of players who have left the NBA campus at Walt Disney World to tend to family issues.

Among the others who have left the bubble so far for what were described as family reasons are Clippers teammates Montrezl Harrell and Patrick Beverley.

Chiefs' lineman opts out of season

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Offensive lineman Laurent Duvernay-Tardif became the first player to opt out of the upcoming NFL season on Friday, choosing to put his medical degree to use on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic rather than helping the Kansas City Chiefs defend their first Super Bowl title in 50 years.

Duvernay-Tardif has been working to fulfill his requirements to become a doctor in the offseason, and has spent this summer working at a clinic in his native Canada. He said that experience helped him decide that if he was going to take any risks with his health, it would be to help patients dealing with the virus.

"This is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make in my life but I must follow my convictions and do what I believe is right for me personally," Duvernay-Tardif said in his announcement on Twitter. "That is why I have decided to take the opt-out option."

"Being at the front line during this offseason has given me a different perspective on this pandemic and the stress it puts on individuals and our healthcare system," Duvernay-Tardif said. "I cannot allow myself to potentially transmit the virus in our communities simply to play the sport that I love."

The 29-year-old Duvernay-Tardif was a sixth-round in the 2014 draft.