

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump mulls anti-riot deployment in US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's warning that he would deploy the United States military to any state that refuses to take aggressive action against rioting rests on a long-standing presidential power that gives wide latitude to the White House, legal experts said.

But a decision to do so would likely be met with legal opposition and strong opposition from governors seeing it as an overreaction.

"If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them," Trump said during a Rose Garden address as cities across the country grappled with property destruction, looting

and violent police clashes in the week since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Legal experts have said that the president does indeed have the authority under the Insurrection Act of 1807 to dispatch the military in states that are unable to put down an insurrection or are defying federal law. In the last half-century, presidents have sent the military to Southern states to ensure desegregation of schools and to protect civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s, and to Los Angeles after the California governor sought federal help during the 1992 riots.

But the president's comments set up an immediate conflict with officials in some states, who disputed that the president had unilateral authority to send in troops against their will.

"The President of the United States is not a dictator, and

President Trump does not and will not dominate New York state," New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement Monday, adding that the state was prepared to go to court if need be.

A leading Democratic voice on national security, Michele Flournoy, who is a former Pentagon policy official, said Tuesday that Trump should avoid using active-duty military forces except as a last resort.

"Most presidents, previous presidents, have understood the extreme sensitivity of using the U.S. military against American citizens or in confronting American citizens," Flournoy said at an online forum hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The American Civil Liberties Union said that it would be unnecessary to invoke the Insurrection Act — and irrespon-

sible and dangerous.

"No level-headed governor is asking for an even more militarized response to civilian protests against police brutality and systemic racism — for good reason," said ACLU National Security Project Director Hina Shamsi.

Eugene Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale Law School, said Monday that he does not believe Trump has the authority to send in troops without the governors' permission in these circumstances.

"Absent a request from the legislature or the governor of a state, I think the only way the power can be lawfully exercised is if there were an impeding of federal authority," he said, pointing to the example of Little Rock, Ark., when troops were sent in because the state was not abiding by a federal court order.

## Air Force's top enlisted leader speaks out, urges change

By JOSEPH DITZLER

Stars and Stripes

As violence tore across U.S. cities in the wake of a black man's death at the hands of a white police officer, the top enlisted member of the Air Force on social media Monday urged his countrymen and women to acknowledge the plight of black men in America and to do something about it.

"Just like most of the Black Airmen and so many others in our ranks ... I am outraged at watching another Black man die on television before our very eyes," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright wrote on Twitter and Facebook. "What happens all too often in this country to Black men who are subjected to police brutal-

ity that ends in death ... could happen to me."

In fact, he wrote, what happened to George Floyd, who died during his arrest at the hands of Minneapolis police on May 25, could happen to any black service member, from basic airmen to a wing commander.

"This my friends, is my greatest fear, not that I will be killed by a white police officer (believe me, my heart starts racing like most other Black men in America when I see those blue lights behind me)," Wright wrote, "but that I will wake up to a report that one of our Black Airmen has died at the hands of a white police officer."

Wright, who represents enlisted interests to the public and government and advises

the Air Force chief of staff, in his statement said that he struggles with "the Air Force's own demons." They include racial disparity in military justice and discipline among the youngest black, male airmen, "and the clear lack of diversity in our senior officer ranks."

He wrote that Americans have a "right to be upset about what's happening in our nation," and to protest injustice.

"But you must, then find a way to move beyond the rage and do what you think is right for our nation."

For himself, Wright said, "I can only look in the mirror for a solution."

He already has an "ongoing dialogue" with 25 of his closest friends of varied ranks and ethnicities "where we

began by acknowledging our right to be angry about what's happening."

Admitting that he has "not done enough as your most senior enlisted leader," Wright said that he is working with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein to "have a full and thorough independent review of our military justice system."

An independent watchdog group, Protect Our Defenders, in a report released May 27 said that the Air Force has failed to fix racial disparities within its justice system and withheld documents to hide that poor record. The same group published a 2017 report that found some of the military's most extreme racial inequalities within the Air Force.

# UN: Taliban maintains ties with al-Qaida

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban haven't severed ties with al-Qaida and may have strengthened them, despite pledging to stop cooperating with terrorist groups, the United Nations said in a report released this week.

Al-Qaida has hailed the Taliban's deal with the U.S. as a victory for global militancy, the report said. It added that some members of the Taliban — which pledged in the Feb. 29 deal to no longer allow terror groups to launch attacks from Afghan soil and to start talks with the Afghan government — still believe they “can and will ...

achieve their aims by force.”

The U.S. pledged under the deal to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan by the summer of 2021, but only if the Taliban fulfilled commitments under the agreement.

Several U.S. lawmakers have criticized the deal for failing to include mechanisms to ensure the Taliban keep their promises. The lawmakers also voiced concerns that groups intent on attacking the U.S. could strengthen once international forces leave the country.

Achieving “many, if not all” of the objectives “will prove challenging,” the U.N. report warned.

In addition to maintaining ties to al-Qaida, the Taliban remains “a formidable

fighting force” and “appears well prepared for the 2020 fighting season,” it said.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to destroy al-Qaida, masterminds of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., and to oust the ruling Taliban, who provided sanctuary to the terrorist group.

Between 400 and 600 active al-Qaida fighters remain in 12 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, the U.N. has estimated. They have long-standing ties to the Taliban — especially the Pakistan-based Haqqani network affiliate — through friendship, intermarriage and a history of shared struggle, and those “deep personal ties” don't appear to be weakening, the U.N. report said.

## Army starts \$3M project to examine off-road drones

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

*Stars and Stripes*

A nearly \$3 million military-funded program aims to find out whether robots can drive through tomorrow's battlefields without human input.

A group of seven universities and one company received funding in May to research off-road movement by unmanned vehicles, as part of an effort launched by the Army Research Laboratory, researchers said Monday.

Army researchers said autonomous planes and trucks are part of the future of war, and after a decade of research have developed a prototype “brain” for unmanned vehicles, dubbed the ARL Autonomy Stack.

Over the next year, civilian researchers will have access to the prototype brain and will be asked to improve it, said Eric Spero, manager of the Scalable, Adaptive and Resilient Autonomy program.

“With this \$3 million in funding, we've reached out to industry and academia and asked, ‘who can contribute to this Autonomy Stack?’” Spero said in a phone interview.

The program aims to improve air and ground unmanned vehicles, but most of the research this year will focus on autonomous driving.

Future Army unmanned vehicles need to be able to enter unfamiliar areas, without GPS or satellite, and make sense of the environment before moving quickly and safely, Spero said.

But current autonomous vehicles tend to move too slowly in rugged environments, said Brett Piekarski, chief scientist of the lab's vehicle technology directorate.

Their brains need to process what they're seeing, build a map of where they are and decide where to go quickly, he said.

“We're trying to make these things operate much faster, but they have to operate on unstructured environments, so that makes it challenging,” Piekarski said.

The researchers given funding to improve off-road mobility are from the Colorado School of Mines; Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; GE Research; Indiana University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Delaware; University of Rochester and the University of Washington.

## Philippines suspends abrogation of defense pact with US

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine president has suspended his decision to terminate a key defense pact with the United States, at least temporarily avoiding a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Tuesday he dispatched a diplomatic note to the U.S. ambassador in Manila informing the U.S. government that the Philippines is delaying its decision to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement by at least six months.

Washington immediately welcomed the move.

“Our longstanding alliance has benefited both countries,” the U.S. government said in a statement released by its embassy in Manila. “We look forward to continued close security and defense cooperation with the Philippines.”

President Rodrigo Duterte's administration notified the U.S. government on Feb. 11 that it intends to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint combat training with Filipino troops and lays down the legal terms for their temporary

stay. The termination would have taken effect after 180 days, in August, unless both sides agreed to keep the agreement.

The waiting time will be suspended by at least six months and could be extended by another half a year, according to the diplomatic letter to the U.S.

Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez told The Associated Press by telephone that he and his American counterpart, Sung Kim, helped discuss what could be done after the coronavirus pandemic hit and hampered possible talks ahead of the agreement's actual abrogation in August.



# DOD wants recovered virus patients' plasma

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

The Pentagon has launched a drive to collect plasma from military members and others who have recovered from the coronavirus as part of the global effort to develop an effective treatment for it.

"We may want to ask you to stick your arm out and donate blood," Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a virtual town hall meeting last week. "What that can then do is help others who are severely ill, and if we can do that, then we'll be on a good path toward getting some really powerful therapeutics."

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center at Landstuhl Re-

gional Medical Center in Germany is one of 15 facilities — and the only one outside of the United States — that will be collecting plasma from eligible military personnel, their families and civilians with access to the facility, the Army said in a statement.

Landstuhl accepted its first plasma donor last week and health officials are looking for more possible donors in the greater Kaiserslautern area, said Stacy Sanning, a spokeswoman for the blood program.

"We are also reaching out to other military medical facilities in areas within driving distance to contact their recovered COVID-19 patients and invite them to consider donating

plasma," Sanning said.

Plasma from recovered patients contains infection-fighting antibodies, which can then be transfused into a patient fighting the virus to try to boost their immune system and help with the recovery process, said Army Col. Audra Taylor, chief of the Armed Services Blood Program.

There is currently no approved treatment for COVID-19, the statement said. Using the plasma of recovered patients is being investigated as a treatment for the illness because it has helped some patients recover, it said.

Several patients in the military health system have already undergone the treatment,

which is used for those hospitalized with severe cases of COVID-19, Taylor said, without specifying what the outcomes were in those patients.

"We are calling for all who are healthy, able and eligible to donate today to help us all stand mission-ready and save lives," she said. "Our goal as a lifesaving program is to always provide a safe and ample supply of blood products. The need is now."

In addition to the other requirements, donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good overall health. Appointments are required for a screening meeting with medical personnel prior to donating.

## West Point cadets test positive for COVID-19

By TOM VANDEN BROOK

*USA Today*

WASHINGTON — The Army has determined that 16 West Point cadets have tested positive for COVID-19 after returning to the campus for a commencement address by President Donald Trump scheduled for June 13, according to sources on Capitol Hill.

The affected cadets, a fraction of the 850 who have returned to the campus since spring break in March, are receiving treatment but are not showing symptoms of the disease, Army Lt. Gen. Darryl Williams, the West Point superintendent, said in an interview.

Williams, who declined to specify the number of cadets affected, said that screening and safety procedures will allow the ceremony to be held safely.

Sources on Capitol Hill, with access to information but not authorized to speak publicly, said that of the 16 affected cadets, 14 had tested positive for the antibody that indicates they had contracted the virus, re-

covered and had developed antibodies. In addition, 71 of the more than 5,000 faculty, staff and civilians at West Point have tested positive for COVID-19 since March. All but four civilians have recovered, and they are living off the post.

The COVID-19 pandemic has scrambled graduation plans for the nation's elite military schools. The Naval Academy held a virtual ceremony, and the Air Force Academy sequestered its senior class on campus, holding graduation with cadets spaced at safe distances from one another.

Critics have called Trump's decision to attend the graduation a political stunt that risks the health of cadets and those with whom they have had contact on their return to campus.

Top Army officials have defended the decision, pointing out that the seniors had to return to the campus before heading to their first active-duty posts. The seniors need to pass physicals and retrieve their belongings, Williams said. The remaining 200 seniors are scheduled to arrive Saturday.

## Virus found in another US soldier in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Another American soldier has tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving in South Korea for a new assignment, the military said Tuesday.

The new case, which brings the number of people affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea who have been found to have the virus to 32, underscores the continuing challenges involved in personnel movements amid the pandemic.

Six troops who arrived in South Korea from abroad are among those whose virus tests have come back positive.

The latest was a soldier who was tested, according to procedure, after arriving at Osan Air Base on Saturday aboard the Patriot Express, a government-chartered flight, U.S. Forces Korea said in a press release.

He got the results while in mandatory quarantine at Camp Humphreys and was moved to a barracks that has been outfitted with negative-pressure

isolation rooms for infected patients, the command said.

"USFK health professionals determined there was limited contact tracing due to the soldier being immediately quarantined, and conducted thorough cleaning of the bus and quarantine room," the press release said.

The Pentagon announced last month that travel restrictions for military and civilian personnel aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus would be gradually reduced in a "conditions-based, phased approach."

Troops and others may also travel after obtaining an exception to policy to facilitate moves deemed essential.

South Korea has seen a sharp decline in the number of coronavirus cases since reaching a peak of 909 on Feb. 29, although authorities remain concerned about outbreaks and imported cases.

Only two USFK soldiers have been infected while stationed on the divided peninsula, and both have recovered.

# Paris reopens; cases rise in Latin America

Associated Press

PARIS — Parisians returned to the City of Light's beloved sidewalk cafes as lockdown restrictions eased Tuesday, but health experts expressed deep concerns as several Latin American countries opted to reopen their economies despite a rapid rise in coronavirus cases.

The post-lockdown freedom along Paris' cobbled streets will be tempered by social distancing rules for the city's once-densely packed cafe tables. Paris City Hall has authorized outside seating areas only, with indoor seating off-limits until June 22. But the tiny tables will have to be spaced at least 1 meter apart, sharply cutting their numbers.

"It's amazing that we're finally opening

up, but the outside area is just a fraction of the inside space," said Xavier Denamur, the owner of five popular cafes and bistros. "It's a start."

But as Parisians reclaimed the rhythm of city life, health experts warned that virus cases are still rising in Latin America, the world's latest COVID-19 epicenter.

"Clearly the situation in many South American countries is far from stable. There is a rapid increase in cases and those systems are coming under increasing pressure," said Dr. Mike Ryan, the executive director of the World Health Organization's emergencies program.

His warning came as some of Brazil's hardest-hit cities, including the jungle city of Manaus and the sprawling metropolis of Rio de Janeiro, were starting to allow more

business activity. Brazil has reported more than 526,000 infections, second only to the 1.8 million cases reported by the U.S.

Bolivia and Venezuela have also started opening up their economies, Ecuador has resumed flights and shoppers have returned to Colombia's malls.

In Mexico, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador offered a personal note of caution to his country's gradual rollback of virus restrictions by opting to drive 1,000 miles instead of flying to promote a key infrastructure project.

Despite its public praise of China, the WHO was deeply frustrated with Chinese authorities for not immediately providing the world body with information it needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, the Associated Press has found.

## Mass gatherings, trust erosion upend virus control

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Protests erupting across the nation over the past week and law enforcement's response to them are threatening to upend efforts by health officials to track and contain the spread of coronavirus just as those efforts were finally getting underway.

Health experts need newly infected people to remember and recount everyone they've interacted with over several days in order to alert others who may have been exposed, and prevent them from spreading the disease further. But that process, known as contact tracing, relies on people knowing who they've been in contact with — a daunting task if they've been to a mass gathering.

And the process relies on something that

may suddenly be in especially short supply: trust in government.

"These events that are happening now are further threats to the trust we need," said Dr. Sandro Galea, dean of the Boston University School of Public Health. "If we do not have that, I worry our capacity to control new outbreaks becomes more limited," he said.

Government officials have been hoping to continue reopening businesses, churches and other organizations after months of stay-at-home orders and other infection-prevention measures. But health experts also hoped that any reopening would be accompanied by widespread testing, contact tracing and isolation to prevent new waves of illness from beginning.

Over the past week, protests sparked by

the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed by a white Minneapolis police officer pinning a knee to his neck, have involved thousands of people gathered tightly together in large crowds in more than 20 cities nationwide.

It's unclear if the protests themselves will trigger large new outbreaks. The protests were outside, where infections don't spread as readily as indoors. Also, many of the protesters were wearing masks, and much of the contact was likely less hazardous "transient" moments of people moving around, passing each other, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

But experts are still worried that public efforts to contain the disease in the future could be undermined.

## Gilead says drug helped moderately ill virus patients

Associated Press

A California biotech company says its experimental drug remdesivir improved symptoms when given for five days to moderately ill, hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Gilead Sciences gave few details on Monday but said full results would soon be published in a medical journal.

Remdesivir is the only treatment that's been shown in a rigorous experiment to help fight the coronavirus. A large study led by the National Institutes of Health recently found it could shorten average re-

covery time from 15 days to 11 days in hospitalized patients with severe disease.

The drug is given through an IV and is designed to interfere with an enzyme the virus uses to copy its genetic material. It's approved for treating COVID-19 in Japan and is authorized for emergency use in the United States for certain patients.

The company-led study involved nearly 600 patients who had moderate pneumonia but did not need oxygen support. All were randomly assigned to get five or 10 days of the drug plus standard care, or standard care alone. Patients and their doctors knew who was getting what, which limits the ob-

jectivity of the results.

By the 11th day in the study, those on five days of remdesivir were 65% more likely to improve by at least one on a seven-point scale that included measures such as needing treatment with a breathing machine, Gilead said.

Ten days of treatment did not prove better than standard care alone.

There were no deaths among patients on five days of the drug, two among those on 10 days, and four among patients getting standard care alone. Nausea and headache were a little more common among those on the drug.



# US sees another night of protests

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday turned up the pressure on governors to quell the violence set off by the death of George Floyd, demanding New York call up the National Guard to stop the “lowlifes and losers.”

As cities around the U.S. witnessed a seventh straight night of both peaceful demonstrations and bursts of theft, vandalism and attacks on police, the president amplified his hard-line calls of a day earlier, in which he threatened to send in the military to restore order if governors didn’t do it.

“NYC, CALL UP THE NATIONAL GUARD,” he tweeted. “The lowlifes and losers are ripping you apart. Act fast! Don’t make the same horrible and deadly mistake you made with the Nursing Homes!!!”

In New York on Monday night, people smashed shop windows near Rockefeller Center and breached the doors of Macy’s flagship store on 34th Street despite the first curfew in the city in decades. Police said nearly 700 people were arrested and several officers injured in the overnight violence.

New York and other cities braced for more trouble after

nightfall Tuesday, with Mayor Bill de Blasio extending an 8 p.m. curfew all week.

“We’re going to have a tough few days,” he warned, but added: “We’re going to beat it back.” He said he would do that with the help of community leaders, urging them to step forward: “Create peace. ... Stand up.”

More than 20,000 National Guard members have been called up in 29 states to deal with the violence. New York is not among them. De Blasio has said he does not want the Guard, and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said he will not send it into the city against the mayor’s wishes.

During the violence that gripped communities from coast to coast again Monday night, police officers were shot, run over and showered with rocks and bottles.

In Atlanta, police fired tear gas at demonstrators. In Nashville, more than 60 National Guard members put down their riot shields at the request of peaceful protesters. And at a demonstration in Buffalo, N.Y., an SUV plowed into a group of officers, injuring three.

## At Trump’s command, Pentagon rushes active-duty troops to DC

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon rushed hundreds of active-duty troops to military installations just outside Washington, D.C., on Monday as President Donald Trump pledged a crackdown on violence in the nation’s capital that grew over the weekend out of peaceful protests calling for national police reforms.

Senior Pentagon officials on Tuesday said those troops — primarily military police and combat engineers — never entered Washington and are unlikely to do so unless the more than 2,000 National Guard troops operating in the city prove to be insufficient to aid the law enforcement response in the capital. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said violence was down overall in D.C. on Monday night, but also noted more than 1,000 additional Guard troops from across the country were set to arrive Tuesday in the city.

Trump in a national address Monday evening pledged to dispatch “thousands and thousands of heavily armed” service members and police to end rioting that led to property destruction across the city, including defacement of memorials in honor of World War II and President Abraham Lincoln. He

called upon America’s governors to follow his lead, and send in their own National Guard troops to quell demonstrations that have spread across the country in the wake of the May 25 killing of a handcuffed black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

The deployments of active-duty troops to unidentified bases in what the military calls the National Capital Region, which consists of D.C. and its immediate surroundings in Virginia and Maryland, included more than 200 military police officers from Fort Bragg, N.C., and, separately, an undisclosed element of the 82nd Airborne Division’s Immediate Response Force, defense officials said Tuesday. The 82nd soldiers, also from Fort Bragg, were last activated for a short-notice deployment in January to the Middle East amid escalating tensions with Iran.

Pentagon and Army officials on Tuesday declined to say whether additional active-duty troops had been sent to the Washington area or how many troops had been moved into the region. They did not provide an explanation for the decision not to disclose the information.

## EU official calls Floyd’s death ‘an abuse of power’

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union’s top diplomat said Tuesday the death of George Floyd was the result of an abuse of power and that the 27-nation bloc is “shocked and appalled” by it.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters that “like the people of the United States, we are shocked and appalled by the death of George Floyd.”

Floyd died last week after he was pinned to the pavement by a white police officer in Minneapolis who put his knee on the handcuffed black man’s neck until he stopped

breathing. His death set off protests that spread across America.

Borrell says law and order officials must not be “using their capacities in the way that has been used in this very, very unhappy death of George Floyd. This is an abuse of power and this has to be denounced.”

He underlined that Europeans “support the right to peaceful protest, and also we condemn violence and racism of any kind, and for sure, we call for a de-escalation of tensions.”

Protesters around the world have expressed solidarity with Americans demon-

strating against Floyd’s death.

Thousands marched through downtown Sydney on Tuesday. The protesters in Australia’s largest city chanted, “I can’t breathe” — some of the final words of both Floyd and David Dungay, a 26-year-old Aboriginal man who died in a Sydney prison in 2015 while being restrained by five guards.

In Europe on Monday, thousands spilled across streets in Amsterdam to denounce police brutality, and those demonstrating in Paris urged the French government to take police violence more seriously and held up signs like “Racism is suffocating us.”

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ban on sale of flavored tobacco takes effect

**MA** BOSTON — A state-wide ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, took effect on Monday.

Massachusetts became the first state to approve such a ban when Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed the bill in November. The law applies to the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Massachusetts, both in retail stores and online.

The new law specifically restricts the sale of the products to licensed smoking bars such as cigar bars and hookah lounges, where they'll only be allowed to be consumed on-site. The restriction extends to menthol cigarettes and flavored e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and chewing tobacco.

Anti-smoking groups hailed the ban, arguing that flavored tobacco products attract young people. They said that menthol cigarettes are no different. Convenience stores are among those who oppose the law.

## Opposition to hunting at refuge ramps up

**RI** MIDDLETOWN — Plans to allow hunting at a federal national wildlife refuge in Rhode Island are getting pushback from area residents who have said that it's too dangerous.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed allowing hunting at all sanctuaries of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, including Sachuest Point in Middletown, according to The Newport Daily News.

The proposal is currently going through an environmental assessment, said Janis Nepshinsky, visitor services manager for federal wildlife

refuges in the state.

The plan calls for the 242-acre refuge to be opened for hunting for three days in the fall or winter beginning in 2021, Nepshinsky said. The refuge would be closed to all other activities.

## County sees jump in illegal dumping

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Officials in New Mexico's most populous county are reporting a rise in illegal dumping amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

KRQE-TV reported that Bernalillo County officials believe the uptick in illegal dumping is a result of people cleaning out their homes during the stay-at-home order and failing to make trips to authorized dump sites.

County officials said that they have received double the number of calls for service connected to dumping from this time last year. The county reported having to pick up tires, mattresses, home appliances, cars and other big items.

The county's health protection manager, Lucas Tafoya, said that crews have to wait a couple of days before they clean up the reported messes in case there are traces of the coronavirus on the material.

## Man firing shots from apartment arrested

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Police in Albuquerque said that a man who was randomly firing shots from an Albuquerque apartment complex was arrested. They said that the man allegedly fired at four people with a rifle, but nobody was shot or injured.

Albuquerque TV station KOAT reported that police were called to the apartments near Albuquerque High School after

receiving reports of gunshots.

A SWAT team arrived on scene after police and after several hours of negotiations, police said that the suspect peacefully surrendered to officers and was taken into custody.

## Rabbit reintroduction not yet self-sustaining

**NH** DURHAM — University of New Hampshire researchers tracking the reintroduction of the endangered New England cottontail in the state have found that the rabbit's survival and reproduction have been successful, but reintroduction itself is not yet self-sustaining.

Wildlife biologists released 42 captively bred rabbits at the Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area in Dover. They've been watched over five years. Of those, six bred in the wild, along with nine of their offspring, resulting in at least 29 wild-born rabbits. Researchers determined that only a small percentage of the original rabbits released survived long enough to reproduce, and survival was highest in the year of the initial release.

It's estimated that there are fewer than 100 cottontails in New Hampshire today.

## Couple apologizes for helicopter in wilderness

**MT** BOZEMAN — A Bozeman couple apologized for landing a helicopter in the Bob Marshall Wilderness last month.

Sara and Sam Schwerin said in a statement released by a public-relations firm that they believed they had landed outside the wilderness boundary.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported that the Schwerins reported the incident to the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration.

Federal law prohibits landing a helicopter in a designated wilderness area. The National Park Service and Forest Service also requests that all aircraft stay at an altitude of at least 2,000 feet above any federal wilderness land.

## Woman dies after exiting moving truck

**MD** MANCHESTER — Police said that a Pennsylvania woman died on a western Maryland highway after jumping out of a moving pickup in the midst of an argument.

Maryland State Police said that Nicole Renae Whitcomb, 23, of Hanover, Pa., was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Police said that she was a passenger in a Ford F250 driven by a 32-year-old man from Hanover on Hanover Pike in Manchester.

Police said that the two were arguing and Whitcomb attempted to get out of the truck while it was moving and was run over by the truck.

## Youth to get free meals during summer break

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — Illinois will offer free meals to school-aged children at hundreds of sites this summer, using options such as home delivery and drive-thru distribution to ensure families that need help can get it during the pandemic.

The Illinois State Board of Education said that more organizations are needed to participate in the summer food program, as the number of families relying on the assistance for meals when school isn't in session has increased due to the coronavirus outbreak.

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# How will fan experience be different?

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The coronavirus pandemic that brought sports to a standstill for months has everyone wondering what games will be like when spectators are finally allowed back in. It will almost surely be different in ways big and small.

Fans could have their every move scrutinized by cameras and lasers. There might be nobody in the next seat to high-five after a touchdown. The idea of passing cash to a beer vendor between innings will be a memory. Temperature screenings and medical checks could be mandatory. Virtual tickets will be the norm.

It all begs the question: Will fans even be able to enjoy the experience again?

"There's a wealth of unanticipated casualties, I guess, that are going to be part of this, things we all took for granted as part of the live game-day experience," explained Nate Appleman, director of the sports,

recreation and entertainment practice for Kansas City-based architectural firm HOK. "Some things we have yet to fathom but will become painfully clear once we are allowed back into venues and get back to truly human nature, which is to gather and celebrate community."

Some leagues are returning with few or no fans, including soccer in Germany, stock car racing in the U.S. and baseball in Japan. But as sports ramp up, The Associated Press found during interviews with more than two dozen experts in stadium design and infrastructure that the only thing that might look the same is what happens on the field of play.

The biggest short-term change will be social distancing, which already has permeated everyday life. Ticket sales will be capped. Entire rows and sections blocked off. Seats on the aisle left open to keep a buffer from fans walking up the stairs. Fans will be given an entrance time to prevent crowding at the gates. Lines

at restrooms and concessions will be limited. Congregating in the corridors will no longer be allowed.

"There's the old saying, 'Necessity is the mother of invention.' I would say we're in a heightened situation of necessity right now," Appleman said. "There are a lot of really smart people coming up with really cool initiatives that could just be a new way of doing things, and new isn't always bad. Sometimes change is good. Sometimes we have to adapt."

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the home of the Falcons and Atlanta United, already has cashless systems in place for merchandise and concessions. Several professional teams are in talks with motion analytics company iinside, whose SafeDistance system uses lasers to map spaces and measure crowd density. At KeyBank Center in Buffalo, N.Y., a company called Wait-Time utilizes an app to tell Sabres fans how long lines are at restrooms and concessions.

It all sounds a bit Orwellian

— like Big Brother is watching you. The systems dance a fine line between informative and intrusive. But they also could mitigate the threat of spreading a virus, and that could make it all worthwhile.

"We're extrapolating off these trends that have already existed, and I think we're going to kick-start into 2025 even though it's only 2020," said Jason Jennings, director of strategy and digital integration for the sports and entertainment group at Mortenson, which is wrapping up construction on the Raiders' new \$2.4 billion stadium in Las Vegas. "The technology is going to be deployed much faster because of the value it has for the fan experience and public health."

Even the way facilities are cleaned will change. No longer will hosing down seats and sweeping up trash left by fans be enough. Venue giant ASM Global recently announced a new hygiene protocol for its 325 facilities worldwide.

## Sports briefs

# Basketball Hall of Famer Unseld dies at age 74

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wes Unseld, the workmanlike Hall of Fame center who led Washington to its only NBA championship and was chosen one of the 50 greatest players in league history, died Tuesday after a series of health issues, most recently pneumonia. He was 74.

Unseld's family announced his death via a statement released by the Washington Wizards, the franchise he was with throughout his entire 13-season playing career and also worked for as a coach and general manager.

A five-time All-Star and, along with Wilt Chamberlain, one of only two players to win NBA Rookie of the Year and MVP honors in the same sea-

son, Unseld instantly made the team then known as the Baltimore Bullets into a winner after he was taken with the No. 2 overall pick — behind future teammate Elvin Hayes — in the 1968 draft.

A decade later, Unseld was the MVP of the 1978 NBA Finals as the Bullets beat the Seattle SuperSonics in a seven-game series best known for Washington coach Dick Motta's proclamation: "The opera ain't over until the fat lady sings."

In the NBA, Unseld averaged 10.8 points and 14 rebounds for his career.

## Gragson wins Xfinity race at Bristol

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Noah

Gragson squeezed past JR Motorsports teammate Justin Allgaier with four laps remaining, a move that caused Allgaier to crash, and Gragson held on at Bristol Motor Speedway for his second win of the season.

Gragson also won the season-opening race at Daytona to begin his second year with Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s race team. Gragson was winless in 2019 in his first full season in NASCAR's second-tier series.

His victory Monday night was set up by a caution with 13 laps remaining that wiped away Allgaier's lead. The Chevrolet teammates lined up side-by-side for the restart with seven laps remaining but Allgaier cleared him on the restart.

Gragson chased him and as

he passed Allgaier for the lead, Allgaier wiggled into the wall and crashed for a caution.

## NWSL sets schedule for tournament

The National Women's Soccer League has set the schedule for the opening round of its tournament starting later this month in Utah, with the Portland Thorns playing the defending champion North Carolina Courage on the opening day.

The NWSL is scheduled to be the first U.S. pro team league returning to play amid the coronavirus pandemic. The tournament will be held in the Salt Lake City area starting June 27 with no fans in attendance.

# Baseball players, owners still at impasse

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball owners and players have reverted to form — the type displayed over the past half-century during eight work stoppages filled with salary squabbles.

Players proposed to resume the sport in the coronavirus pandemic with a 114-game regular season and full prorated salaries, leaving each player with approximately 70% of what he had been slated to earn.

That proposal was made Sunday, five days after Major League Baseball's plan for an 82-game season with additional pay cuts that would leave each player taking in 23-47% of his original pay, with the highest earners accepting the biggest cuts.

MLB claims an additional \$640,000 would be lost with each extra regular-season game played. The union has said it doesn't believe those calculations and asked MLB for more economic documents and data.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred discussed the next move with owners on Monday.

If spring training is to resume in mid-June followed by opening day at around the start of July, a deal would have to be reached by next week.

Players and clubs agreed March 26 to "complete the fullest 2020 championship season and postseason that is economically feasible," consistent with three provisions:

- No government restrictions on playing in front of fans at regular-season ballparks

- No relevant travel restrictions throughout the U.S. and Canada

- Manfred determining, after consulting with the union and medical experts, that there is no risk to players, staff or fans to play games with fans at all 30 regular-season ballparks, provided that MLB and the union "will discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate substitute neutral sites."

Players say the March 26 deal covered salaries and they are under no obligation to revisit the subject. MLB says they are if the plan is to use empty ballparks, which is the current intention.

Mistrust among many is at its highest level since the 1994-95 strike, the last of eight stoppages that started in 1972. Reasons abound.

**Salaries:** Salaries have been pretty much flat for five years during a time revenue has been

estimated to have risen at a 4% annual rate, a sign the collective bargaining agreement agreed to in November 2016 gained more for the clubs than it did for the union.

Payrolls totaled \$4.08 billion in 2016, according to figures compiled by the commissioner's office that included season salaries, prorated shares of signing bonuses, earned bonuses, option buyouts and termination pay. Payrolls have stayed in a historic narrow range since then: \$4.24 billion in 2017, \$4.23 billion in 2018, \$4.22 billion in 2019 and \$4.21 billion this year, based on totals as of the March 28 roster freeze.

Slow free-agent markets following the 2017 and 2018 seasons sparked player anger, and a more regular market this past offseason hasn't calmed players or the union staff.

**Tanking/rebuilding:** Players are livid over what they call tanking and clubs call rebuilding. They view noncompetitive teams as bad for the entire industry, leading to an attendance drop in each of the last four seasons.

Manfred says each club makes its own judgment on whether it can contend, and clubs are using the system to their advantage when they jetti-

son veterans, rebuild with draft picks and international youth, then contend again. World Series titles by Kansas City in 2015 and Houston in 2017 are pointed to as examples.

The union filed a grievance in February 2018 alleging the Miami Marlins, Oakland Athletics, Pittsburgh Pirates and Tampa Bay Rays did not use revenue sharing money received properly. The labor contract specifies a team has to use the money "in an effort to improve its performance on the field."

**Service-time manipulation:** Players repeatedly accuse clubs of manipulating their service time to delay free agency and salary arbitration eligibility.

Arbitrator Mark Irvings denied a grievance by Kris Bryant against the Cubs, accepting Chicago executive Theo Epstein's rationale for delaying the third baseman's debut at the start of the 2015 season. Irvings wrote there was no proof of "a nefarious motive" and the union could not prove "bad faith to mask service time manipulation." He did not rule on whether service-time manipulation was permissible in any circumstance.

Manfred maintains roster decisions are a club right.

## FIFA signals its support for Floyd in-game displays

Associated Press

FIFA urged soccer competition organizers on Monday to apply "common sense" and consider not sanctioning players demanding justice for George Floyd during matches.

The recognition by FIFA of the "depth of sentiment" over Floyd's death came in a rare statement telling the global game to show flexibility and not enforce laws of soccer it helps to set.

Players used weekend games in Germany to reveal messages expressing solidarity with Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died in Minneapolis after

a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

Germany's soccer federation announced earlier Monday that it was assessing whether to sanction the players for breaking laws of the game that prohibit "any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images" on equipment.

"FIFA fully understands the depth of sentiment and concerns expressed by many footballers in light of the tragic circumstances of the George Floyd case," FIFA said in a statement.

"The application of the laws of the game ... is left for the competitions' organizers, which should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events."

FIFA controls half of the eight votes on the International Football Association Board, which approves the laws. The other four votes are held by England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A law change in 2014 — proposed by England — led to players being banned from revealing personal statements on undergarments.

England winger Jadon Sancho was booked while playing

for Borussia Dortmund on Sunday for removing his jersey — a yellow-card offense — only so he could reveal a T-shirt with a "Justice for George Floyd" message.

Borussia Dortmund teammate Achraf Hakimi displayed the same message on a T-shirt after scoring in the same game but was not booked because he did not lift his jersey over his head.

In the Bundesliga on Saturday, American midfielder Weston McKennie wore an armband over his Schalke jersey with the handwritten message "Justice for George."