

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Trump OKs drawdown in Germany

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has signed off on a plan to permanently withdraw up to one-third of about 34,500 U.S. troops currently based in Germany, bringing the total down to no more than 25,000, according to U.S. officials.

Implementation of the plan is being turned over to the Defense Department, a senior administration official said. Defense officials said they had no immediate comment on the subject, and referred questions to the White House National Security Council, which did not respond to queries.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the move, said the troops would be shifted by September.

Moving 9,000 troops, many of them likely with families, within three months would be a major logistical undertaking. U.S. European Command declined to comment on whether it was drawing up plans to scale down, referring questions to the Pentagon.

Reuters News Agency quoted an unidentified administration official as saying some of the 9,500 troops would be sent to Poland, some to other allied countries, and some would return to the United States.

An Air Force F-16 squadron and Army support units are among the forces that would be moved out of Germany, The New York Times reported, citing unnamed former defense officials.

The reduction plan, pushed by U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, has been closely held within the White House. Grenell has also served for the past several months as acting director of national intelligence, following Trump's firing of his predecessor, acting director Joseph Maguire, over concerns about Maguire's staff's loyalty. Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas, was confirmed for the post last month. Attempts to contact Grenell were not successful.

As of late Friday, Germany had not been officially informed of the withdrawal order, which the Wall Street Journal, said had been formally signed by Trump national security adviser Robert O'Brien after the president approved it.

It was unclear whether members of Congress had been told of the withdrawal. But as word of the plan became public, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called Trump's order "petty and postposterous."

U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the still-unannounced plan, said that it had been under consideration for several months. But confirmation that Trump has signed off on it came as he has been increasingly at odds with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel declined to attend the Group of Seven summit that Trump had announced for later this month in Washington, citing health concerns. Other leaders had also expressed worries about traveling during the pandemic, particularly given the high numbers of U.S. infections and deaths.

But Merkel's public refusal tipped the balance, and Trump was forced to postpone the gathering of world leaders, at the same time he declared that America was ready to "reopen" and to recapture the economic boom that he has hoped would lead to his reelection.

The fact that Germany was given no "heads up" that Trump had signed off on the withdrawal "speaks for itself," said one senior European official, and is unlikely to improve the generally low state of "the trans-Atlantic environment."

Top black general addresses racial unrest

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The general nominated to become the Air Force's first African American chief of staff weighed in on the racial unrest roiling the country in a poignant video describing his personal and professional experiences navigating the "two worlds" of black and white lives.

"As the commander of Pacific Air Forces, a senior leader in our Air Force and an African American, many of you may be wondering what I'm thinking about current events surrounding the tragic death of George Floyd," Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said in the opening moments of the 5-minute video posted to Facebook on Friday.

"I'm thinking about living in two worlds, each with their own perspective and views,"

he said of the divide many African Americans feel during lives and careers spent encountering — and often accommodating — the worldview of white America.

Other high-ranking U.S. military officials issued statements and videos earlier this week on protests and riots sparked by Floyd's death on May 25. The 46-year-old African American died as a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for nearly 9 minutes while he was handcuffed and lying on the pavement.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, who is also African American, expressed solidarity with protesters Monday by saying, "I am George Floyd." He and Gen. David Goldfein, the sitting chief of staff, held a virtual town hall on Wednesday discussing the matter.

Brown said he was filled with emotion

"not just for George Floyd, but for the many African Americans who have suffered the same fate as George Floyd."

He noted that the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution "that I've sworn my adult life to support and defend" have not always delivered "liberty and equality" to all.

His nomination to the Joint Chiefs of Staff has brought to him both a feeling of hope and burden, Brown said.

"I just want to have the wisdom and knowledge to lead during difficult times like these," he said. "I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead, participate in and listen to necessary conversations on racism, diversity and inclusion. I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead those willing to take committed and sustained action make our Air Force better."

Milley confers with Capitol Hill leaders

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's top military officer, Gen. Mark Milley, spoke privately with congressional leaders and many other lawmakers as Pentagon officials came under fire for the military's role in containing protests following the police killing of George Floyd.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to express her concerns Tuesday, according to two people who were not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversations and were granted anonymity. That was the day after authorities cleared protesters near the White House so President Donald Trump could hold a photo opportunity at a nearby church. Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper were sharply criticized for accompanying Trump and thereby giving the impression of endorsing a politicization of the military.

Milley also reached out

Tuesday to Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, said another person granted anonymity to discuss the situation. A third official said Milley had spoken with perhaps 20 or more members of Congress in the days following Monday's photo op.

The outreach comes as Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper have tried to contain damage in the aftermath of Monday's walk with Trump.

Late Friday, Esper and Milley declined a request from Democrats to appear before the House Armed Services Committee next week.

"This is unacceptable," Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the committee chairman, said in a statement Friday, joined by the panel's 30 Democrats.

"Our military leaders are sworn to be accountable to the people of this country, and Congress is constitutionally responsible for oversight," the Democrats wrote. "They must appear and testify on these crucial matters in order to

meet that responsibility."

An informal briefing Friday with the secretary of the Army was also canceled, according to a congressional aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that had not been publicly disclosed.

The White House has prohibited officials from the administration from testifying before the House unless they have cleared any appearances with the White House chief of staff.

In the call with Milley, Pelosi raised a number of issues that were spelled out in a subsequent letter to Trump seeking an accounting of "increased militarization" in response to the protests.

Schumer on Tuesday warned Milley and Esper, in a speech on the Senate floor, not to allow the U.S. military to engage in "ugly stunts" like the event the night before outside the White House.

Milley released a message this week to military leaders stating that the Constitution "is

founded on the essential principle that all men and women are born free and equal and should be treated with respect and dignity" and that it "also gives Americans the right to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly."

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, James Inhofe, R-Okla., defended Milley's handling of the protest.

In his own Senate speech Tuesday morning, Inhofe said he wanted to "set the record straight" after conferring with Milley before and after Monday's events.

Inhofe said Milley "told me that he intends to honor his oath and uphold the delicate balance between civilians and the military, and I fully believe him."

The House Armed Services Committee members said they expect a briefing from the Defense Department by Monday.

Amid mourning, protests continue in US, world

Associated Press

RAEFORD, N.C. — Mourners held a private memorial service Saturday in George Floyd's North Carolina hometown, and the nation's capital prepared for what was expected to be the city's largest demonstration against police brutality yet.

Military vehicles and officers in fatigues closed off much of downtown Washington to traffic ahead of the planned march, which was expected to attract up to 200,000 people outraged by Floyd's death 12 days ago at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Large protests also took place across the U.S. and in major cities overseas, including London, Paris, Berlin and Sydney, Australia.

In Raeford, the small town near Fayetteville where Floyd was born 46 years ago, two lines of people about 100 deep formed separate lines at the entrance to the church where the private service took place. A public service was scheduled for later in the day.

When a hearse bearing Floyd's coffin arrived, chants of "Black Power," "George Floyd" and "No justice, no peace," echoed from beneath the covered entrance.

Washington has seen daily protests for the past week — largely peaceful, with people marching back and forth from the White House to the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said local officials expected 100,000 to 200,000 protesters

for Saturday's event. The White House has been fortified with new fencing and extra security precautions.

In general, demonstrations in the U.S. have shifted to a calmer tenor in recent days after frequent episodes of violence in the early stages. Protesters and their supporters in public office say they are determined to turn the extraordinary outpouring of anger and grief into change, notably in regard to policing policies.

In London, thousands of demonstrators endured cold rain to gather in Parliament Square, a traditional venue for protests. They knelt in silence and chanted Floyd's name before applauding his memory.

In Paris, hundreds of people gathered at the Place de la Con-

corde in defiance of a police ban on large protests. Members of the multiracial crowd chanted the name of Adama Traore, a black man whose death while in police custody a few years ago has been likened by critics of French police to Floyd's death in Minnesota.

Jessica Corandi, a subway driver, said she cried when she saw the video of Floyd's death.

Corandi said her three young girls have started to notice people looking at them strangely on the streets of Paris, which she believes is because they are black.

"It's sad to say to our kids that we have to fight just to exist," said Corandi, 37, who attended the protest near the U.S. Embassy.

Biden clinches nomination with mail ballots

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After primaries and caucuses in 42 states and the District of Columbia, Joe Biden has won the last few delegates needed to clinch the Democratic nomination for president as states worked to tally a surge of mail ballots.

Indiana, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island were among the seven states, plus the district, holding elections Tuesday. But a huge increase in vote-by-mail ballots, driven in large part by the coronavirus pandemic, meant election officials were still counting ballots Friday.

Democrats don't hold win-

ner-take-all contests in which the top vote-getter wins all the delegates. Instead, the delegates are split up proportionally among the candidates based on their share of the vote — both statewide and in individual congressional districts.

As the states that voted Tuesday updated their results, a team of analysts at The Associated Press parsed the votes into the correct congressional districts so the delegates could be allocated between Biden and Bernie Sanders.

The process led the AP to allocate 21 delegates to Biden late Friday, after it completed an analysis of votes released by election officials in the three

states earlier in the evening. AP later added two more to Biden's total, after the release of additional results in New Mexico.

The former vice president now has a total of 1,995 delegates. It takes 1,991 delegates to win the nomination on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention.

Biden became the party's presumptive nominee two months ago, following decisive wins over Bernie Sanders in several March primaries and in Wisconsin on April 7. The Vermont senator, the final major challenger in the race, dropped out the next day.

Biden would have wrapped up the Democratic nomina-

tion much earlier, if not for the coronavirus pandemic — 15 states, along with Guam and Puerto Rico, postponed their nominating contests due to the outbreak.

The formality of reaching 1,991 was also delayed by a deal Biden's campaign cut with Sanders in an effort to build Democratic Party unity and avoid the bitter feelings that marred the party's 2016 convention and helped lead to Hillary Clinton's defeat.

The agreement allowed Sanders to keep about 300 delegates he would have otherwise forfeited under party rules after suspending his campaign.

Trump uses Maine visit as chance to rebuke governor

Associated Press

GUILFORD, Maine — President Donald Trump on Friday laced into Maine's Democratic governor for not moving quickly enough to reopen the state's economy and urged his supporters to help him win the rest of the state in November if they want to see the country rebound from the coronavirus shutdown.

Referring to Maine's electoral votes, Trump said: "Get that other half to go with Trump." He spoke in the small town of Guilford, home to Puritan Medical Products, one of only two major companies producing a special type of swab needed to ramp up coronavirus testing.

At stops in Guilford and Bangor, Trump used his first visit to the state as president to lob jabs at Gov. Janet Mills for not reopening businesses more quickly. Trump won just one of Maine's four electoral votes in 2016.

"When are you going to open the state up?" Trump demanded as he spoke at Puritan Medical Products. "What's she doing?"

Earlier in Bangor, Trump compared Mills to a "dictator"

and said she was preventing her state from reaping money from Maine's busy summer tourist season.

"She's going to destroy your state," he said. "I'm not a fan."

Mills responded with a lengthy rebuttal.

"Yesterday, I asked the president to check his rhetoric at the door and to lead us with courage and compassion through this difficult time," she said. "Sadly, but unsurprisingly, he continues to prove himself incapable of doing so."

"What Maine people heard today was more of the same incendiary rhetoric and insults he uses to try to divide us and to stoke tension and fear," she added. "What Maine people heard today was largely devoid of fact and absent of reality. What Maine people saw today was a rambling, confusing, thinly veiled political rally."

She rebuffed Trump's claim that Maine remained shuttered by the virus, saying 13 of Maine's 16 counties have been reopened and that the state was the first in New England to allow indoor dining at restaurants.

Ruling: Colorado governor violated law by taking gifts

Associated Press

DENVER — U.S. Senate candidate John Hickenlooper violated Colorado ethics law as governor by accepting a private jet flight to an official event in Connecticut and by receiving benefits he didn't pay for at a meeting of government, business and financial leaders in Italy, the state's ethics commission ruled Friday.

The Colorado Independent Ethics Commission dismissed four other complaints against Hickenlooper that were filed by a conservative group led by a former Republican Colorado House speaker. It scheduled a June 12 hearing to discuss possible fines for the violations as well as for a contempt order it issued when Hickenlooper ignored a subpoena to appear at its hearing on Thursday.

Hickenlooper has long denied the charges as politically motivated. But his absence Thursday drew fire from his Democratic primary opponent, former House Speaker Andrew Romanoff, as well as national Republicans seeking to defend U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner's seat in November. The primary is June 30.

Hickenlooper declined to participate in the remote hearing after seeking an in-person hearing that he said would make it easier to confront his accusers. The Public Trust Institute, the conservative group that brought the complaint, didn't oppose that request. Commissioners ultimately set this week's remote hearing, noting the format adopted because of the coronavirus pandemic worked for civil cases not requiring juries in Colorado courts.

Hickenlooper repeatedly insisted the trips either involved personal business or happened while he was promoting Colorado's economy to potential investors during his 2011-2019 term as governor.

Colorado law at the time prohibited gifts worth more than \$59 to elected officials with limited exceptions. That figure is now \$65.

By a 4-1 vote, the quasi-judicial commission found that Hickenlooper violated ethics law by accepting transport, meals, tours and other perks during a 2018 conference in Turin, Italy, sponsored by Fiat Chrysler.

US-Mexico wall breached; solution sought

The Washington Post

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has asked contractors for help making President Donald Trump's border wall more difficult to climb over and cut through, an acknowledgment that the design currently being installed across hundreds of miles of the U.S.-Mexico boundary remains vulnerable.

The new Request For Information notice that CBP posted gives federal contractors until June 12 to suggest new anti-breaching and anti-climbing technology and tools, while also inviting proposals for "private party construction" that would allow investors and activists to acquire land, build a barrier on it and sell the whole thing to the government.

Trump continues to campaign for reelection on a promise to complete nearly 500 miles of new barrier along the border with Mexico by the end of 2020, but administration officials have scaled back that goal in recent weeks. The president has ceased promoting the \$15 billion barrier as "impenetrable" in the months since The Washington Post reported smuggling crews have been sawing through new sections of the structure using inexpensive power tools.

In a statement, CBP officials said their new request for information — first reported by the KJZZ Fronteras Desk in Arizona — does not amount to an admission that the current design is inadequate or flawed.

"We have an adaptive adversary; regardless of materials, nothing is impenetrable if

given unlimited time and tools," the agency said. "Walls provide the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) the ability to slow and stop potential crossings. That means building the wall will deter some people from attempting to cross, while slowing the efforts of those who still try."

The public notice is the first indication CBP officials do not believe the steel bollard design they selected from prototypes in 2017 is sufficiently formidable to achieve that goal. The primary design, consisting of 30-foot-tall steel bollards topped with flat metal anti-climb panels, is now being installed by private contractors at multiple locations along the border.

"This is the most sophisticated border wall system we have ever built, but we will never disregard innovative and creative ideas that could continue to enhance border barriers," CBP said.

Trump is expected to attend a ceremony in Yuma, Ariz., next week to mark the completion of the barrier's 200th mile, according to officials who were not authorized to describe the plans.

CBP has not said publicly how often smuggling crews have breached or attempted to breach the structure. Records obtained by The Post via the Freedom of Information Act indicate there were 18 breaches in the San Diego area during a single one-month period last fall. The San Diego areas have some of the most formidable barriers along the entire border, and construction of new double-layered fencing there is largely complete.

Smuggling crews have nonetheless managed to saw through the steel bollards using commercially available demolition tools such as reciprocating saws with inexpensive metal-cutting blades. Others have fashioned long, improvised ladders out of cheap metal rebar. More athletic border-jumpers have been seen using rope ladders to climb up the wall, sliding down the other side by gripping the bollards like a fireman's pole.

The CBP request for information says the agency is looking for new ways to stop them.

"Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recognizes that industry, other agencies, and other private entities may have interesting, innovative, and useful ideas that could be implemented to enhance and or improve mission essential operational deterrent capabilities related to the anti-climb/anti-cut features of the border wall and persistent impedance," it reads.

Such proposals could include sensors and cameras that would provide early warnings for climbing and breaching attempts, as well as "advanced paint technology that would enhance the ability of thermal sensors to recognize wall jumpers and improve detection."

Trump maintains a keen interest in the aesthetics and design elements of the barrier, and his shifting preferences have repeatedly left border officials and military engineers struggling to adjust his tastes to the operational and geographic realities of the U.S.-Mexico border.

UK's changes on face coverings advice criticized

Associated Press

LONDON — The British government faced criticism Saturday for another sudden change in its advice on face coverings that has left those running hospitals in England scrambling to work out how they will be able to meet the new requirements.

On Friday, as the World Health Organization broadened its recommendations for the use of masks, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said all hospital staff in England will have to wear surgical face masks from June 15 while visitors and outpatients will need to don some sort of face covering.

His announcement came a day after the government said face coverings, which can be made from any fabric, would be mandatory on public transport in England, from the same date to coincide with the planned reopening of nonessential shops such as department stores and electronic retailers.

The government, which notably did not

recommend their use at the height of the pandemic, now says face coverings can provide some limited protection to others and help people avoid unknowingly spreading the virus.

The change in advice echoed developments elsewhere in Europe, where the guidance through the pandemic has often been confused and contradictory.

On Friday, the WHO said it is now advising that in areas where the virus is spreading, people should wear fabric masks when social distancing is not possible, such as on public transport and in shops.

Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers, which represents NHS organizations including hospitals, said the British government appeared to be making last-minute decisions "on the hoof" that seem "overly influenced" by political considerations.

"I think it's the latest in a long line of an-

nouncements that have had a major impact on the way the NHS operates, in which those frontline organizations feel they have been left completely in the dark and they are then expected to make significant and complex operational changes either immediately or with very little notice," he told the BBC.

His criticism was echoed by the British Medical Association, which warned there was "little detail" on how the policy would be implemented, where the masks would come from or how outpatients and visitors would be given them.

While acknowledging that face coverings will play an important role in the next stage of the pandemic, the BMA's consultants committee chair Dr. Rob Harwood pointed to the consistent lack of personal protective equipment through the pandemic, which has seen more than 40,000 people die in the U.K. across all settings.

Bars, theaters reopen in most of Florida

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Universal Orlando Resort along with bars, movie theaters and other entertainment venues reopened with restrictions in most of Florida on Friday as the state took another step away from the economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

Also allowed to reopen are bowling alleys, tattoo and massage parlors and arcades in most of the state. Bars, theaters, concert halls and bowling alleys must limit their capacity to 50% of normal and keep groups at least 6 feet apart — restrictions restaurants statewide have been using.

Massage, tattoo, tanning and similar parlors must employ masks, limit times in waiting areas and sanitize work areas between customers. Barber-shops, hair stylists and nail salons have been operating under similar restrictions statewide.

However, bars, movie theaters and these other entertainment and personal services businesses remain closed in the state's three most-populous, hardest-hit counties — Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach. Those counties must seek permission from Gov. Ron DeSantis — their facilities such as restaurants have been reopening about one to two weeks after the rest of the state.

Arizona

GLENDALE — Arizona has hit a grim milestone in its battle with the new coronavirus as deaths topped 1,000 on Friday and the number of new infections soared to a new high.

The state Department of Health Services reported 16 new deaths, bringing the total to 1,012 since the first death was revealed on March 21. The department said 1,578 new cases were tallied, by far the highest daily count since the outbreak began.

The number of emergency room visits and hospitalized patients also hit records. Hospitals told the department that 713 people were seen in emer-

gency rooms Thursday and 1,234 people were hospitalized.

The number of people confirmed infected with COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, is now at 24,332.

Idaho

BOISE — More than 60% of Idaho's coronavirus-related deaths are among residents of long-term care facilities like nursing homes, according to numbers released by the state on Friday.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare said that so far 25 long-term care facilities have had COVID-19 outbreaks since the pandemic reached Idaho's borders earlier this year. A total of 289 residents and staffers at the facilities were confirmed to have the illness, according to the report, and of them 52 people have died.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois on Friday reported 59 new deaths related to COVID-19, raising the total to nearly 5,800.

The state also said a cat recently tested positive for COVID-19 while in a house with people who had also tested positive.

"This is the first animal to test positive for the virus in Illinois," the Department of Public Health said. "There is no evidence COVID-19 is transmitted from animal to humans. However, if you are sick, you should distance yourself from pets as well as people."

The state logged an additional 1,156 virus cases, boosting the total since the outbreak began to about 126,000.

Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS — Some businesses were slammed from the minute they reopened Friday after a 2 1/2-month COVID-19 pandemic closure, while others waited for their first customers or even took another week to prepare.

Bars, massage facilities,

bowling alleys, recreational pools and tattoo shops in Louisiana were allowed to reopen under an order signed Thursday by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Restaurants and other businesses that had been allowed to open in mid-May at 25% of capacity were allowed to expand to half-capacity on Friday. The new rules will be in effect for at least three weeks, Edwards said.

Michigan

DETROIT — The Michigan Supreme Court on Friday overturned orders that directed a barber to close his shop during the coronavirus pandemic, with one justice saying judges need to follow the "rule of law, not hysteria."

The Michigan appeals court made mistakes in telling a local judge to shut down Karl Manke's shop in Owosso, 40 miles northeast of Lansing, the Supreme Court said.

On May 4, Manke stopped complying with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's order to keep barbershops and salons closed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In response, the state suspended his licenses.

But Justice David Viviano said the 2-1 injunction needed to be unanimous under Michigan court rules. In addition, he said there should have been a full briefing and oral arguments.

New Mexico

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Supreme Court is temporarily suspending consumer debt collection — such as garnishing wages or seizing assets — in response to the coronavirus pandemic and related economic downturn.

The court ordered the temporary suspension Friday in a new effort to alleviate economic hardship amid a surge in unemployment and uncertainties. The suspension takes effect Monday and does not pertain to business debts.

The Court said it took action "in response to the extraordinary circumstances presented

by the current public health emergency." Consideration was given to "protecting the due process rights of New Mexicans to claim exemptions and protect their assets from garnishment and execution as provided by law."

Texas

HOUSTON — Health officials said Friday that they are investigating an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus at a suburban Houston health care facility that has been quarantined after 14 deaths were reported.

Harris County Public Health began investigating the outbreak on April 21 after two people tested positive for the new coronavirus at the Oakmont Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center of Humble. The facility provides short-stay rehabilitation and long-term and hospice care to older patients.

It looked like things were improving but then officials learned that conditions had deteriorated and COVID-19-related deaths and cases weren't being quickly reported, said Dr. Umair Shah, the health department's executive director.

Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah reported its largest single-day increase in the number of COVID-19 cases on Friday, with many of those coming in connection with an outbreak at a meatpacking plant in northern Utah.

Health officials are investigating the "ongoing outbreak" at the unnamed facility in the Bear River Health District, which covers Cache, Rich and Box Elder counties. One-third of the 439 cases reported Friday came from that area, and many of those are linked to the facility.

"I expect to see additional cases of COVID-19 identified as part of this outbreak, both at the worksite and in the community," said Utah State Epidemiologist Angela Dunn in a statement.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man suspected of cannibalizing grandma

CA RICHMOND — Police in the San Francisco Bay Area arrested a man on suspicion of murdering and cannibalizing his own grandmother.

Dwayne Wallick, 37, was arrested after Richmond police allegedly caught him in the act of eating his 90-year-old grandmother, Ruby Wallick. Police are unsure of a motive, and continued to investigate, the East Bay Times reported.

Officers responded to the home after receiving a report of a man standing over a woman's body covered in blood. When they entered the home, they allegedly found Dwayne Wallick standing over his grandmother, police said.

Police: Man stole from bar twice in 3 days

NM FARMINGTON — A northwestern New Mexico man faces charges after police said he burglarized the same bar twice within three days and stole alcohol both times.

And police said he fell asleep on a couch in one of the cases.

The Farmington Daily Times reported Tyrone John was arrested following two reported burglaries at the B Lounge inside the Brentwood Inn and Garden Motel in Farmington.

According to court documents, John was arrested May 26 after police arrived and found the bar's window broken.

Farmington police were dispatched on May 29 after a man allegedly walked out of a side door of the bar with a bag of liquor bottles. Officers said video surveillance footage showed a man who appeared to be John.

John was found two hours later and arrested.

Man allegedly pointed gun at an ATF agent

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago man was in federal custody after he allegedly pointed a gun at a federal agent while a child stood by his side, authorities said.

Joseph Hammond was arrested after U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive agents responded to a call of an armed man firing shots on a Chicago street.

Prosecutors said agents drove toward Hammond, announcing themselves and instructing him to stop and show his hands. Hammond, 33, pointed a handgun with an extended magazine at one of the agents and told him to "keep moving," according to the federal complaint. He then picked up the child and ran. He was tracked down by agents and arrested.

City votes to remove Confederate monument

NC ROCKY MOUNT — The Rocky Mount City Council in North Carolina voted to remove a Confederate monument from a city park.

The 6-1 vote during a budget meeting was prompted by Councilman Andre Knight during a discussion about renovations in Battle Park, the Rocky Mount Telegram reported.

"I feel that we should not at this time allocate \$100,000 or in the future any money to that park until we as a council address the Confederate statue in light of what has happened all across the country and in close proximity to us," Knight said.

Rocky Mount Mayor Sandy Roberson told WRAL-TV that once the decision is finalized, the monument will be removed from the park and stored elsewhere.

Restaurant chain to sell company to pay debts

TX HOUSTON — A popular Texas cafeteria chain known for its comfort foods announced it plans to sell the company to pay off its millions of dollars in debt.

Luby's said it will begin the process of selling its business operations and assets, including real estate, to pay off \$35 million of debt. The remaining money from the sale will go to stockholders, the Houston Chronicle reported.

In the meantime, some restaurants will remain open while the Houston-based company seeks a buyer.

Police: Boy shot by gun found in father's truck

OH CLEVELAND — A 12-year-old Cleveland boy was killed when a gun he and his brother found in their father's truck was accidentally fired, authorities said.

Donell King Sr., 37, is charged with involuntary manslaughter, child endangerment and a weapons offense in the death of his son, Donell King Jr.

Cleveland.com reported that the boy and his brother found the gun and the brother picked it up. Donell Jr. tried to take the gun away, authorities said, but the weapon somehow fired and Donell Jr. was struck in the chest.

Arson suspect held after fire threatens homes

CA SAN JOSE — A man suspected of setting a half-dozen spot fires in San Jose was detained as firefighters worked to corral a blaze that briefly threatened homes, authorities said.

The fires were reported in

the dry Santa Teresa foothills near a water treatment plant. They prompted evacuations of some homes but the evacuations were lifted.

No homes were damaged.

Deputies investigate cross burning on bridge

AL TUSKEGEE — Deputies in Alabama are investigating a cross burning after a wooden cross lit ablaze was found by drivers passing alongside a bridge.

The burning cross was first seen on top of a bridge over Interstate 85 in Macon County, Macon County Sheriff Andre Brunson told WRBL-TV.

John Bolton, one of the people who saw the burning cross, said he ran toward the blaze with two other men who were with him. He called 911 while "one of the guys climbed up to the bridge to knock the cross down," Bolton said.

Oil spill settlement to aid in loon restoration

MA HADLEY — Federal and state environmental agencies are spending more than \$8 million from a legal settlement stemming from a 2003 oil spill to help restore the common loon to some areas of Massachusetts, and to support existing populations of the birds across New England and New York, federal wildlife officials said.

The plan calls for the release of 45 to 60 common loon chicks at Massachusetts breeding sites at the Assawompset Pond Complex in Lakeville and October Mountain Reservoir in Washington.

Another portion of the settlement will be used to increase survival of nesting loons at many breeding sites in the Northeast.

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Goodell: NFL should have listened to players

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says the league was wrong for not listening to players fighting for racial equality and encourages them to peacefully protest.

One day after 2018 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and several of his peers released a video demanding the league condemn racism, Goodell made his strongest statement on the issues many players passionately support.

George Floyd's death has ignited nationwide protests over racial injustice and police brutality, issues former San Fran-

cisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began speaking out against in 2016 when he started taking a knee during the national anthem.

"It has been a difficult time for our country. In particular, black people in our country," Goodell said in a video released Friday. "First, my condolences to the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all the families who have endured police brutality. We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people. We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out

and peacefully protest. We, the National Football League, believe Black Lives Matter. I personally protest with you and want to be part of the much needed change in this country.

"Without black players, there would be no National Football League. And the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans and staff.

"We are listening. I am listening, and I will be reaching out to players who have raised their voices and others on how we can improve and go forward for a better and more united NFL family."

Players say teams depriving Americans of baseball

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Players accused teams of "depriving America of baseball games" as part of a money fight set off by the coronavirus pandemic and raised the possibility baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred might push ahead with a shortened season over the union's objection.

Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator, sent a letter to Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem on Friday threatening that an attempt to play without an agreement could lead players to block any attempt to expand the playoffs and deny consent to neutral-site games in the postseason.

"The league's cynical tactic of depriving America of baseball games in furtherance of their demand for unwarranted salary concessions is shortsighted and troubling," Meyer wrote. "Meanwhile, other leagues are moving forward with their plans for resumption."

Meyer's letter was first reported by The Athletic, and a copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

Major League Baseball made its initial economic proposal on May 26, offering an 82-game regular-season schedule and a sliding scale of cuts beyond the prorated shares of salaries the sides agreed to on March 26.

Players responded on Sunday with a 114-game regular-sea-

son schedule running through October and no additional cuts. Each player would get about 70% of his original salary under the union's plan and roughly 22-47% under MLB's proposal, including \$200 million tied to the postseason being completed.

"We are disappointed that you are purportedly shutting down negotiations after making one proposal demanding over \$800 million in further pay cuts," Meyer wrote. "We reject your invitation at the end of the letter to negotiate against ourselves. We are similarly chagrined by your decision to carry through on Rob's threat from last Sunday to intentionally play as few games as possible unless players agree to your demand for pay cuts."

MLB has proposed expanding the playoffs from 10 teams to 14, which would create at least six new games with broadcast rights to sell. The union offered to agree to a playoff expansion through 2021.

Both sides have said they hope to start the season around the beginning of July, and talks may intensify next week.

Before the pandemic, players were set to earn about \$4 billion in salaries, not including signing bonuses, termination pay and option buyouts. Under the March 26 agreement, that would be cut to around \$2 billion in an 82-game season.

MLB's offer would lower sala-

ries to \$1.2 billion plus the \$200 million for the postseason. The union's proposal would leave salaries at \$2.8 billion.

"The league needs to tell us immediately when it plans to start the season if it plans to do so unilaterally," Meyer wrote. "We assume the league understands that in the event of a unilateral implementation of a season by MLB there are numerous aspects of a season that the players association will not be under any obligation to agree to, most notably any changes to the existing playoff structure and the locations of playoff games. If you intend to seek the players' agreement to any such changes, we suggest that you raise them expeditiously."

Under the March agreement, the season cannot start without MLB's consent until there are no government restrictions on playing in front of fans in home ballparks, no relevant travel restrictions in the U.S. and Canada, and a determination by Manfred there is no health risk to players, staff or spectators. The sides committed to "discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate substitute neutral sites."

Halem had written to the union on Wednesday that "we do not have any reason to believe that a negotiated solution for an 82-game season is possible."

"The commissioner is committed to playing baseball in 2020," he added. "He has started discussions with ownership about staging a shorter season without fans. Assuming that those discussions go well, we will notify you at the appropriate time of our intentions."

Meyer criticized MLB for the pace of negotiations and for not responding to all of the union's document requests, which include agreements between clubs and regional sports networks. Some of the RSNs have elements of ownership overlapping teams and individuals who own teams.

MLB claims that by playing in empty ballparks, it would lose \$640,000 for each additional game. The union has challenged MLB's analysis.

"We note that the league frequently claims that it has negative operating profits from playing baseball yet it still puts on baseball games every year," Meyer said. "The league has done nothing to persuade us of the veracity of its claims. As an example, the RSN contracts finally produced by the league on June 1 were so heavily redacted as to be essentially meaningless."

The union offered to defer up to \$100 million in salaries if the postseason isn't completed this year, but Halem said teams have assumed \$2 billion in additional debt.

NBA still has big hurdles to overcome

Associated Press

For the NBA, it is not officially time to play. It's getting closer, but the league isn't there yet.

The move to agree on a 22-team format for the resumption of the pandemic-interrupted season is a major step forward, but it was just the first of many major decisions that have to be completed before the league moves into the ESPN Wide Of Sports complex at the Disney campus near Orlando, Fla., next month.

Another step was completed Friday as expected when the representatives from the National Basketball Players Association voted to unanimously approve the proposal that the NBA's Board of Governors approved a day earlier.

More talks and negotiations are scheduled for the coming days to work out everything else, and it is a sizable list. A look at some of the other issues facing the league, both in the quest to finish this season and then what awaits in the coming year:

Testing: The format was significant, but not the biggest

hurdle for the NBA to clear in this process. That one, by far, is testing. The medical protocols are the most critical part of the return-to-play plan.

The league and the players know they must go above and beyond in the interest of safety. The protocols are the key — players will have to practice social distancing when they aren't playing, plus submit to a quarantine at the beginning of the time at Disney and likely daily testing for the entirety of their stay there.

The games: The season is set to resume July 31, with playoffs starting in mid-August and leading up to an NBA Finals that could stretch until Oct. 12.

Other than Milwaukee and the Los Angeles Lakers, who are all-but certain of going into the playoffs with No. 1 seeds, everyone at Disney will be playing for something — a playoff seed or a playoff spot.

The dynamic at the bottom of the East is fascinating with Brooklyn and Orlando separated by a half-game — and Washington just 1½ games out of getting into a two-game play-in series for the No. 8 spot.

Out West, expect craziness with six teams basically assured of vying for one berth.

Whichever team emerges from that mess will be playoff-ready and loaded with confidence heading into Game 1 of Round 1 against the Lakers. That means the Lakers will have to be playoff-sharp right away, because LeBron James and his teammates will open against a team that's hot.

The other eight: Consider this: Detroit didn't win a game in March, and now won't play in April, May, June, July, August, September, October or November.

The Pistons' last win was Feb. 28. The rough — very rough — draft of the NBA calendar suggests next season will start Dec. 1.

That's almost nine full months without games. Meanwhile, the 2020 NBA finalists aren't even slated to get nine weeks off before next season starts.

And every team will have to cram a draft and free agency into very small windows next fall.

Next season: The very long

wait for the eight teams not going to Disney and the very short offseason for the teams that go deep into the playoffs at Disney are not the only schedule issue on the table right now.

If the NBA goes forward with a normal regular season in 2020-21, a Dec. 1 start date means the playoffs wouldn't start until late May and could reach into late July.

And that calls into question whether NBA players could take part in the Olympics, which has qualifying scheduled for June 2021 for the final four spots in the men's field and then the Tokyo Games themselves beginning on July 23, 2021.

USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo has said the Americans will wait and see what the NBA schedule really is before reacting and setting a firm plan for picking a team for Tokyo next summer.

But for the players who play deep into this season, then play deep into next season, that's a lot of basketball without a lot of time off. And that could make the job of picking an Olympic team much tougher than usual.

Ohio governor gives OK for Memorial to have spectators

Associated Press

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine approved a plan for Muirfield Village Golf Club to have at least some fans for the Memorial in July, which would make it the first PGA Tour event with a crowd since the tour was shut down March 13 by the coronavirus.

DeWine announced the decision Friday. He said on Twitter that casinos, racinos, amusement parks and water parks will be able to open on June 19.

"In addition, we received safety plans for the Memorial Golf Tournament to be held July 13-19," he wrote. "We are approving that plan."

The PGA Tour resumes its schedule next week at the Charles Schwab Challenge in

Fort Worth, Texas. That is to be followed by the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head, the Travelers Championship in Connecticut and the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit. The tour said the opening four events would not have spectators.

The John Deere Classic was the first possibility for fans until it decided last week to cancel this year's event. It was replaced by another tournament, also to be held at Muirfield Village, only without spectators.

The Memorial said it would have more details later.

In a statement, the Memorial praised DeWine and his staff and said it would work with state, county and city leaders to use the tournament "as an example of how public gather-

ing events can be developed and implemented with approved and accepted protocols in place."

Dan Sullivan, the tournament director of the Memorial, had been planning on different scenarios on returning from the COVID-19 pandemic depending on state and local governments.

Sullivan told the Greater Columbus Sports Commission last month about inserting chips into tournament badges to know how many people are congregating in different areas of the golf course.

DeWine said the Memorial, parks and casinos "have come up with plans that reduce the number of people, provide for sanitation, and in some cases, provide for one-way traffic.

"They are elaborate plans that we believe are consistent with protecting the public," DeWine said on Twitter.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott earlier this week approved another level of opening that would allow outdoor events, such as the Colonial next week, up to 50% capacity.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan told The Associated Press in an interview earlier Friday that the tour was sticking to its plan of no spectators the first five weeks of the return.

"We want to have a sustained return," Monahan said. "If you think about a run to go through the FedEx Cup, we want to make sure week to week we're not taking on unnecessary risk."