

STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, May 30, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Protesters ignore curfew in Minnesota

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Fires burned unchecked and thousands protesting the police killing of George Floyd ignored a curfew as unrest overwhelmed authorities for another night in Minneapolis, and the governor acknowledged Saturday that he didn't have enough manpower to contain the chaos.

The new round of tumult — which has also spread to other cities — came despite Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz vowing Friday to show a more forceful response than city leaders had the day before. But by early Saturday morning, Walz said he didn't have enough troops, even with some 500 National Guardsmen.

"We do not have the numbers," Walz said. "We cannot arrest people when we are trying to hold ground."

Walz said he was moving quickly to mobilize more than

1,000 more Guard members, for a total of 1,700, and was considering the potential offer of federal military police. But he warned that even that might not be enough, saying he expected another difficult night Saturday.

The Pentagon on Saturday ordered the Army to put military police units on alert to head to the city on short notice at President Donald Trump's request, according to three people with direct knowledge of the orders who did not want their names used because they were not authorized to discuss the preparations. The rare step came as the violence spread to other cities: a man shot dead in Detroit, police cars battered in Atlanta and skirmishes with police in New York City.

Criminal charges filed Friday morning against the white officer who held his knee for nearly nine minutes on the neck of Floyd, a black man who

was handcuffed at the time, did nothing to stem the anger. Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Minneapolis police said shots had been fired at law enforcement officers during the protests but no one was injured.

As the night dragged on, fires erupted across the city's south side, including at a Japanese restaurant, a Wells Fargo bank and an Office Depot. Many burned for hours, with firefighters again delayed in reaching them because areas weren't secure.

Shortly before midnight, scores of officers on foot and in vehicles moved in to curb the violence, one day after city and state leaders faced blowback for their handling of the crisis. On Thursday, protesters had torched a police station soon after it was abandoned by police and went on to burn or vandalize dozens of businesses.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association urged Gov. Walz to accept any help.

"You need more resources," the group said in a tweet. "Law enforcement needs leadership."

Not all the protests were violent. Downtown, thousands of demonstrators encircled a barricaded police station after the 8 p.m. Friday curfew. "Prosecute the police!" some chanted, and "Say his name: George Floyd!" Some protesters sprayed graffiti on buildings.

Anger filled the streets of Minneapolis.

Ben Hubert, a 26-year-old local resident, said he wasn't surprised people were breaking curfew and setting fires.

"I'm outraged," he said of the Floyd case. "But I'm also sad. The injustice has been going on for so long. It's been swelling for years."

Squadron pulled from Ford after positive virus test

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 100 members of a fighter squadron were kept behind as the USS Gerald R. Ford went underway Thursday after one of its sailors tested positive for the coronavirus, according to a Navy official.

The sailor, who tested positive Wednesday, is a member of the Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 213, which flies F/A-18F Super Hornet aircrafts and is based out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va. The sailor, who has been in isolation since last week, was never aboard the aircraft carrier but the indi-

vidual had been in contact with other squadron members who had been on the ship Tuesday ahead of it going underway, said Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, a spokeswoman with Naval Air Force Atlantic.

More than 100 sailors of the squadron had gone aboard the Ford and had been medically screened with none of them having flu-like symptoms, according to Cragg.

The sailors disembarked the Ford on Wednesday and have been ordered to restrict their movement as a precautionary measure as they wait to complete additional health screenings and contact tracing, Cragg said. Most of the sailors will be

able to return to work Saturday, and those who had been in close contact with the sailor are in isolation at their homes for 14 days.

"At this time, the risk to other USS Gerald R. Ford sailors and embarked personnel is believed to be very low," Cragg said. "All sailors who may have come into contact with the [coronavirus] positive sailor were removed from the ship, placed in a precautionary quarantine, and will be tested for [the coronavirus] prior to returning to the ship."

The Ford had one sailor test positive for the virus May 4, but the individual had not been on the ship since May 1, The Virginian-Pilot reported. It is be-

lieved they were infected by a visiting family member.

The Ford is the first aircraft carrier in its class and has faced several delays due to issues with its new equipment such as weapons elevators and the catapult system for aircraft. Based out of Norfolk, Va., the aircraft carrier is conducting carrier qualifications for pilots in the Atlantic Ocean, Cragg said.

The Navy has the highest number of coronavirus cases in the military at 2,396 as of Friday, according to the Pentagon. The military has a total of 6,278 cases and three deaths, including one sailor who was assigned to another aircraft carrier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Iran warns US against activity in gulf

Bloomberg

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps unveiled scores of new and upgraded defensive speedboats with a warning to the U.S. that it won't shy away from challenging American naval power.

"Today we announce that wherever the Americans are, we're right there beside you, and in the near future you will sense us even more," IRGC Navy Commander Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said on the sidelines of a ceremony in the Persian Gulf, the semiofficial Tasnim news agency reported Thursday.

While battling sanctions and a major coronavirus outbreak, Iran appears determined to keep striking a defiant tone as tensions with the U.S. simmer. A month ago, President Donald Trump ordered the navy to destroy any Iranian vessels harassing U.S. ships, after accusations that the IRGC's craft dangerously approached

American military vessels in what U.S. Central Command said were international waters.

It's not clear if all the vessels shown at the ceremony were new or how many had been refurbished. The IRGC received a number of Ashoura and Zulfaghar-class vessels — the same models unveiled Thursday — from the Defense Ministry in March 2016, state TV reported at the time.

Earlier this month, Iran's regular navy lost 19 sailors in a friendly fire incident involving its own ships during a military exercise in the Gulf of Oman. The Guard is also building a new vessel that will be named after Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq in January, according to Tangsiri.

Hostilities between Iran and the U.S. have spiraled after Washington exited the multiparty 2015 nuclear deal that aimed to rejuvenate the Iranian economy and

renewed sanctions on the country's oil exports. It also designated the IRGC — the largest branch of Iran's armed forces — a terrorist organization.

The Trump administration says it wants Iran to agree to a tougher deal on the Islamic Republic's atomic program, and to roll back its military reach in the Middle East, including through groups like Hezbollah. Iran says it won't negotiate until the U.S. returns to the original accord.

In its latest step, the U.S. on Wednesday ended sanctions waivers that allowed Russian, Chinese and European companies to work at Iranian civilian nuclear sites.

"The Islamic Republic Iran will not back down nor will we bow before any enemy," General Hossein Salami, commander of the IRGC, said in a speech broadcast on state TV. "Defense is our logic in war, but that defense does not mean passivity. Our operations and tactics are offensive and we've shown this in the field."

National Guard called to aid cities amid riots

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Protesters burned businesses in Minneapolis. They smashed police cars and windows in Atlanta, broke into police headquarters in Portland, Oregon, and chanted curses at President Donald Trump outside the White House. Thousands also demonstrated peacefully, demanding justice for George Floyd, a black man who died after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck.

As anger over Floyd's killing spread to cities nationwide, local leaders increasingly said they could need help from National Guardsmen or even military police to contain the unrest.

Georgia's governor declared a state of emergency early Saturday to activate the state National Guard as violence flared in Atlanta. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler also declared an emergency and ordered a nighttime curfew for the city.

Another 500 Guard soldiers were mobilized in and around

Minneapolis, where Floyd died and an officer faced charges Friday in his death. But after another night of watching fires burn and businesses ransacked, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said early Saturday that he was moving to activate more than 1,000 more and was considering federal help.

The Guard was also on standby in the District of Columbia, where a crowd grew outside the White House and chanted curses at President Donald Trump. Some protesters tried to push through barriers set up by the U.S. Secret Service along Pennsylvania Avenue, and threw bottles and other objects at officers wearing riot gear, who responded with pepper spray.

Many protesters echoed frustration that Floyd's death was one more in a litany. The anger that seized the nation comes in the wake of the killing in Georgia of Ahmaud Arbery, who was shot after being pursued by a white father and son while running in their neighborhood, and in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic that has thrown mil-

lions out of work, killed more than 100,000 people in the U.S. and disproportionately affected black people.

In scenes both peaceful and violent across the nation, thousands of protesters chanted "No justice, no peace" and "Say his name. George Floyd." They hoisted signs reading: "He said I can't breathe. Justice for George."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp tweeted that up to 500 members of the Guard would deploy immediately "to protect people & property in Atlanta." He said he acted at the request of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who earlier appealed in vain for calm.

Some demonstrators smashed police cars and spray-painted the iconic logo sign at CNN headquarters in downtown Atlanta. At least three officers were hurt and there were multiple arrests, Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos said, as protesters shot at officers with BB guns and threw bricks, bottles and knives.

A person was killed in down-

town Detroit just before midnight after someone in an SUV fired shots into a crowd of protesters near the Greektown entertainment district, police said. In Portland, Ore., protesters broke into police headquarters and authorities said they lit a fire inside. In Virginia's capital, a police cruiser was set on fire outside Richmond police headquarters, and a city transit spokeswoman said a bus set ablaze was "a total loss," news outlets reported.

Video posted to social media showed New York City officers using batons and shoving protesters down as they took people into custody and cleared streets. One video showed on officer slam a woman to the ground as he walked past her in the street.

Demonstrators rocked a police van, set it ablaze, scrawled graffiti across its charred body and set it aflame again as officers retreated. Blocks away, protesters used a club to batter another police vehicle. The police department said numerous officers were injured.

Trump ends trade status, suspends visas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has announced that he would end Hong Kong's special trade status and suspend visas of Chinese graduate students suspected of conducting research on behalf of their government, escalating tensions with China that have surged during the coronavirus pandemic.

Tensions over Hong Kong have increased over the past year as China has cracked down on protesters and sought to exert more control over the former British territory.

Trump said the administration would begin eliminating

the "full range" of agreements that had given Hong Kong a relationship with the U.S. that mainland China lacked, including exemptions from controls on certain exports. He said the State Department would begin warning U.S. citizens of the threat of surveillance and arrest when visiting the city.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified Congress on Wednesday that Hong Kong is no longer deserving of the preferential trade and commercial status it has enjoyed from the U.S. since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

"The downward spiral in the bilateral relationship has now

reached lows not seen since the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen massacre, and there is little reason to expect things to get better soon," said Dexter Tiff Roberts, an Asia expert at the Atlantic Council, which publishes nonpartisan policy analysis.

Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who is a commissioner of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, praised the decision on Hong Kong as an overdue response to the government of President Xi Jinping for human rights abuses, including against religious minorities in the Xinjiang region.

In an order released after the

White House announcement, the president also said the U.S. would be suspending entry of Chinese graduate students who are suspected of taking part in an extensive government campaign to acquire trade knowledge and academic research for the country's military and industrial development.

Allowing their continued entry to the country would be "detrimental to the interests of the United States," Trump said.

The president's order includes an exemption for students whose work was not expected to benefit the Chinese military

Biden ally: Klobuchar not likely choice for VP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar seems a less likely choice to become Joe Biden's running mate on his presidential ticket following this week's death of a black man in police custody in Minneapolis, a key ally of the former vice president said Friday.

Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., told reporters that while he believes Klobuchar is "absolutely" qualified to be vice president, "This is very tough timing for her."

Klobuchar, D-Minn., was

a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis. As she was leaving the post to join the Senate, an officer involved in this week's death of George Floyd was involved in the death of another man. The officer ultimately was not prosecuted.

Clyburn, who said his view was his "gut feeling," played a pivotal role in helping Biden become the party's all-but-certain presidential nominee. Clyburn is the No. 3 House Democratic leader and Congress' highest-ranking black lawmaker.

On MSNBC, Biden said the

tensions in Minnesota have "nothing to do with my running mate."

Before being elected to the Senate in 2006, Klobuchar, who is white, was prosecutor of Minnesota's largest county, which includes Minneapolis.

While Klobuchar was in that job, more than two dozen citizens died during encounters with police but none of the officers involved were criminally charged. Most victims were people of color, according to data compiled by Communities United Against Police Brutality and news articles reviewed

by the AP.

An officer involved in one of the past fatal incidents was Derek Chauvin, who was arrested and charged Friday in this week's death of Floyd. Chauvin was among six officers who fired on and killed a man in 2006 who reportedly stabbed two people and then aimed a shotgun at police. The case went to the grand jury after Klobuchar had been elected to the Senate. Klobuchar told MSNBC Friday that reports stating she had declined the case were "absolutely false."

Missouri's only abortion clinic to stay operational

Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. — Missouri's only abortion clinic will be able to keep operating after a state government administrator decided Friday that the health department was wrong not to renew the license of the Planned Parenthood facility in St. Louis.

Missouri Administrative Hearing Commissioner Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi's decision means Missouri will not become the first state without a functioning abortion clinic since 1974, the year after the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.

"In over 4,000 abortions provided since

2018, the Department has only identified two causes to deny its license," Dandamudi wrote, adding that Planned Parenthood has "substantially complied" with state law.

Yamelsie Rodriguez, president and CEO of Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, said in a statement that the ruling "is vindication for Planned Parenthood and our patients who rely on us."

The state refused to renew the license for Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic in June 2019, after an investigation turned up four instances of what the state called

"failed abortions." That led the health department to launch an investigation of other instances where women underwent multiple procedures to complete an abortion.

The Administrative Hearing Commission agreed with the health department that Planned Parenthood should have filed a complication report for one of the patients and should have documented what it did to address the physician who missed that another woman was pregnant with twins.

Dandamudi wrote that those two cases were atypical. He said those two violations "did not constitute a substantial failure."

Trump cuts funding to WHO amid pandemic

Associated Press

President Donald Trump's announcement he was cutting U.S. funding for the World Health Organization prompted criticism Saturday, as spiking infection rates in India and elsewhere served as a reminder the global pandemic is far from contained.

Trump on Friday charged that the WHO didn't respond adequately to the pandemic, accusing the U.N. agency of being under China's "total control."

The WHO wouldn't comment on the announcement but South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize called it an "unfortunate" turn of events.

"Certainly, when faced with a serious pandemic, you want all nations in the world to be particularly focused ... on one common enemy," he told reporters.

The U.S. is the largest source of finan-

cial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "re-directing" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday urged Trump to reconsider, saying that "actions that weaken international results must be avoided" and that "now is the time for enhanced cooperation and common solutions."

"The WHO needs to continue being able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future," she said. "For this, the participation and support of all is required and very much needed."

Close to 6 million coronavirus infections have been reported worldwide, with more than 365,000 deaths and almost 2.5 mil-

lion recoveries, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The true dimensions are widely believed to be significantly greater, with experts saying many victims died without ever being tested.

As some countries have effectively lowered the rate of infections, they have been moving ahead with relaxing restrictions but are keeping a very close eye on developments.

In South Korea, credited with one of the most successful programs to fight the pandemic, there were 39 new cases reported Saturday, most of them in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area where officials have linked the infections to warehouse workers. Authorities have so far maintained the phased reopening of schools in the hope that the recent transmissions could be contained quickly.

Schools nationwide brace for budget cuts amid crisis

Associated Press

ATLANTA — It was during the Great Recession when Catoosa County first shortened its school year, from 180 to 175 instructional days, as it began years of furloughs due to budget cuts. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the next school year will be shorter still, with only 170 classroom days.

The 10,000-student system in northern Georgia will also be sending its 1,700 employees home for 10 unpaid days to help make up a projected \$12.6 million budget gap.

"It was a great day when we didn't have furloughs anymore," Catoosa County Superintendent Denia Reese said. "It's

disheartening right now because I see it happening again."

The financial crisis wrought by COVID-19 has left America's more than 13,000 school systems wrestling with the likelihood of big budget cuts. In some, it already has spoiled dreams of expanded funding and teacher pay raises. Advocates are pushing for more federal aid to schools as researchers warn budget woes could lead to massive teacher layoffs — and less learning.

The cuts will add to the strain on districts like Catoosa County that never recovered fully from the 2008 recession, which led to sharp staffing declines at American public schools over a period of rising student enrollment.

With cuts expected to a budget that relies on the state for over half its funding, Reese and school board Chairman Don Dycus said the shortened year and accompanying 5.5% reduction in teacher pay were the best of bad options. Dycus said board members didn't want to raise property taxes because of residents' economic troubles. And Reese said it was important to avoid laying off employees because she wants a full workforce when students return to help them overcome this year's lost instructional time.

"Right now we need every teacher and every paraprofessional we can afford to be ready when the kids get here because there are going to be gaps," Reese said.

Seas in Italy testing cleaner during virus lockdown

Associated Press

FIUMICINO, Italy — Pollution from human and agriculture waste spilling into the seas off Rome has decreased 30% during Italy's coronavirus lockdown, preliminary results from a nationwide survey of seawater quality indicate.

Authorities stressed it was too soon to give the lockdown sole credit for the change, saying that shifting sea currents and limited rainfall in April and May also could have been responsible for reduced runoff of livestock and fertilizer waste.

But Marco Lupo, director general of the

Lazio region's environmental agency, hypothesized that the evaporation of tourism starting in March could have reduced the amount of sewage produced by the 30 million tourists who normally visit Rome each year.

In addition, the lockdown meant Italians couldn't flock to their seaside vacation homes as they normally would in spring, a phenomenon that typically overwhelms local water treatment plants and results in increased pollutants spewing into the seas, Lupo said.

"This year, coastal towns have been much less populated, decreasing the

(human-caused pollution) burden" on the water, he told The Associated Press.

There's no indication seas will stay cleaner, since the lockdown is ending and any pollution reduction may be temporary.

But scientists around the world have documented some remarkable ecological changes as a result of travel ceasing, industrial production in many countries grinding to a halt and people staying home. Air pollution is down in some of the world's smoggiest cities, while wildlife such as coyotes and boars have been seen in urban areas.

Challenge to church service limits denied

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court on Friday rejected an emergency appeal by a California church that challenged state limits on attendance at worship services that have been imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Over the dissent of the four more conservative justices, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four liberals in turning away a request from the South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista, Calif., in the San Diego area.

The church argued that limits on how many people can attend their services violate constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and had been seeking an order in time for services on Sunday. The church said it has crowds of 200 to 300 people for its services.

Roberts wrote in a brief opinion that the restriction allowing churches to reopen at 25% of their capacity, with no more than 100 worshipers at a time, "appear consistent" with the First Amendment.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in dissent that the restriction "discriminates against places of worship and in favor of comparable secular businesses." Kavanaugh pointed to supermarkets, restaurants, hair salons, cannabis dispensaries and other businesses that are not subject to the same restrictions.

DC

WASHINGTON — As the nation's capital took the first tiny steps toward reopening Friday, the continued threat of coronavirus was ever present.

Showing IDs was not enough at the Dacha Beer Garden in Washington's Shaw neighborhood. Would-be customers had to answer a series of questions about any possible exposure to the COVID-19 and whether they themselves had shown any symptoms.

"Please keep your mask on when you're not dining and drinking," hostess Amy Symonds told the patrons, laying

out a series of rules and taking down everyone's phone numbers before they were seated at socially-distanced tables.

Idaho

BOISE — A southwestern Idaho newspaper on Friday said it will file a lawsuit against the state Department of Health and Welfare if the agency doesn't turn over the names of long-term care facilities in the state with confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff.

The Idaho Statesman, through its attorney, sent a letter to the agency contending the information should be made available under Idaho's Public Records Act.

The newspaper requested the information in a public records request earlier this month. But the agency denied the request, saying it failed to meet the requirements of the public records law.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Gov. Andy Beshear reported an upswing in coronavirus cases across Kentucky on Friday, but cautioned that it's too soon to reach any conclusions about the sudden surge.

The governor announced 283 more virus cases, increasing the statewide total to more than 9,460 cases since the pandemic began. Despite the one-day upswing, the state averaged 158 new cases the past four days — a decline from recent weeks, he said.

"I don't want to jump to a conclusion about today's numbers," Beshear said. "We've got to admit that they are higher. But we also have to know that any average that we've seen over the last four, or even more, days is on a decline. So let's wait. Let's see tomorrow."

Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans will likely ease restrictions on gatherings and businesses more slowly than

the rest of Louisiana as the fight against the new coronavirus continues, a city health official said Friday.

Gov. John Bel Edwards is expected to announce Monday whether Louisiana will further ease restrictions when current emergency orders expire June 5.

But New Orleans — where huge Mardi Gras crowds in late February are suspected of contributing to a deadly COVID-19 outbreak — will likely move more slowly than the state, city health department director Jennifer Avegno said.

"New Orleans has to be more careful," Avegno said during a live-streamed news conference.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — Mass COVID-19 testing began on Friday at a second North Carolina state prison, keeping to a policy of making widespread diagnoses only when incremental case numbers for those behind bars warrant it.

Testing will be performed on all 420 inmates at the medium-security Caswell Correctional Center, located 70 miles northwest of Raleigh near the Virginia border. Results from a private lab are expected early next week, the Department of Public Safety said in a news release. That will likely be followed by separating those testing positive in medical isolation and broad disinfecting within the prison.

Nevada

RENO — A federal judge rejected a rural Nevada church's request Friday for an emergency injunction that would allow it to exceed Gov. Steve Sisolak's 50-person cap on religious gatherings.

Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley filed a lawsuit against the governor last week that argued the previous ban on religious gatherings of more than 10 people was unconstitutional.

Sisolak raised the limit to 50 people under strict social

distancing guidelines when he announced this week the reopening of several business categories previously considered non-essential. That cleared the way for casinos to open June 4 for the first time since mid-March.

Leaders of the Christian church in Dayton, southeast of Reno, said the new limit still violates their religious freedoms protected under the First Amendment.

New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE — Organizers say it's "full speed ahead" as they plan for this year's Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Hosted by New Mexico's largest city, the annual event usually draws hundreds of thousands of spectators and hot air ballooning teams from around the world for nine days in early October. Last year's gathering generated an estimated \$186 million in economic benefits for the Albuquerque area and \$6.5 million in tax revenues for the state.

Sam Parks, the fiesta's director of operations, said in a video update that officials are considering a few options and are hopeful they can find a way to let spectators through the gates in a safe way.

Wyoming

LARAMIE — Four roommates in Wyoming were charged in criminal court on suspicion of violating a quarantine order issued because of their exposure to COVID-19, prosecutors said.

Albany County prosecutors have said the four women were required under quarantine orders last week to remain home and avoid close contact with non-household members, the Casper Star-Tribune reported.

All four women were recorded on video Tuesday at Lake Hattie with an unidentified man after their quarantine order was issued, prosecutors said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

3 orphaned grizzly cubs heading to zoo

MT GREAT FALLS — A trio of grizzly bear cubs whose mother was killed after attacking a hiker in Montana have a new home at a zoo in Arizona, state and federal wildlife officials said.

The bears will be placed at Bearizona Wildlife Park in Williams, Ariz.

The cubs' mother was euthanized by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff, a day after it bit a hiker in the leg during a surprise encounter just south of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

Police: Body kept in freezer for benefit check

PA DILLSBURG — A Pennsylvania woman was charged with hiding her maternal grandmother's remains in a freezer so the dead woman's Social Security checks would continue.

Police said they charged Cynthia Carolyn Black of York Haven with abuse of a corpse, theft and receiving stolen property.

Police were summoned to a bank-owned home for sale in Dillsburg to investigate skeletal remains in a chest freezer.

Investigators used DNA to help determine that the remains were those of Glenora Reckord Delahay.

State police said Black, 61, told them she found her grandmother dead in their home in Ardmore more than 16 years ago, but kept her body in a basement freezer.

Man arrested after explosives found in home

NC HIGH POINT — A North Carolina man is in jail after explosive devices

were found inside his apartment, according to a police department.

High Point police Capt. C.B. O'Toole said an investigation began when movers working at a High Point apartment called police about finding explosive devices, the High Point Enterprise reported. O'Toole said the devices were homemade explosives, and investigators are trying to determine why the man had the devices.

Police found James Timothy Steedman, 55, at a Greensboro motel and arrested him.

Siblings OK after turtle hits car window

GA SAVANNAH — A Georgia woman and her brother were not seriously hurt after a turtle launched through the air and became lodged into the windshield of a car they were in.

Latonya Lark told WSAV-TV she was driving in Savannah when she saw an object that looked like a brick approaching her car.

Lark's brother, Kevin Grant, was in the passenger seat and shielded his face as the animal collided with the windshield and sent shards of glass flying toward him.

The turtle was taken to a Savannah animal hospital for treatment where it later died from its injuries, the news outlet reported.

Lark said she thinks a car in front of her might have hit the turtle first, sending it flying into their vehicle.

Athletic trainer jailed for giving minors alcohol

NE PLATTSMOUTH — A woman who worked as an athletic trainer in eastern Nebraska was sentenced to 30

days in jail for giving alcohol to Plattsmouth High School students.

Ashley Torske, 27, of Bellevue, was sentenced after she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, the Omaha World-Herald reported. In exchange for her plea, prosecutors dropped four counts of procuring alcohol for a minor.

2 brothers arrested for shot fired, machete

NH NASHUA — Two brothers were arrested following a disturbance involving a large group of people at an apartment complex parking lot, multiple gunshots and a machete, police in New Hampshire said.

Police in Nashua said they arrested Julio Santiago-Hernandez, 37, accusing him of shooting a gun 13 times near an occupied vehicle and in the parking lot. No one was hurt.

Police also accused his brother, Adam Santiago-Hernandez, 34, of brandishing a machete, threatening someone inside a vehicle and damaging it.

Police: Man says he stole to feed his family

FL BOYNTON BEACH — An unemployed Florida man accused of robbing a beauty supply store told police he was trying to get money to feed his family, an arrest report said.

Manuel Edgardo Zomora Torres, 40, apologized to officers when they arrested him, the Palm Beach Post reported.

Boynton Beach police investigators said Zomora Torres pointed a gun at a Sally's Beauty Supply employee and took an undisclosed amount of cash, the report said.

Zomora Torres sped away when officers approached his vehicle at a red light, driving on the sidewalk to get away, the report said. But officers boxed him in with their vehicles and arrested him.

He told investigators he had been out of work for two months and needed money to feed his family, the report said.

8 rescued after their boat sinks in lake

MN WILLMAR — Eight people were rescued after their boat sank in Big Kandiyohi Lake in west-central Minnesota.

The Kandiyohi County sheriff's office said authorities received a call of a submerged boat. Everyone who was in the water was pulled to safety by others on a pontoon who heard the calls for help.

The driver of the 1974 Larsen speedboat, a 35-year-old Hector man, was trying to bring the boat up to speed when there was a loud noise at the rear, KSTP-TV reported. At the time, the driver, three other adults and four children were aboard.

Baby beluga whale born at aquarium

GA ATLANTA — The Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta announced the birth of its newest beluga whale.

Staff at the aquarium said the calf was born to 20-year-old Whisper.

At birth, the newborn weighed 174 pounds and measured 5 feet and 4 inches long. Mother and calf are bonding away from other beluga whales, according to the aquarium.

The typical gestation period for beluga whales is 15 to 18 months.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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Cowboys' Smith gets another chance

Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys defensive end Aldon Smith had already been suspended from the NFL several years when his ailing grandmother implored him to change his life before she died of complications from Lou Gehrig's disease.

That conversation, and her death last year, were catalysts for Smith trying to get a handle on issues with alcohol, working his way into shape and earning reinstatement nearly five years after he was banished for substance-abuse violations.

"The way I look at where I am now to who I was in the past, I was a young 12-year-old or young teenage boy in a man's body," said Smith, who signed a one-year contract with the Cowboys in April and was reinstated by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell last week.

"The way I handled those issues, life, was in that immature manner. With the time I've had to work on myself, it's allowed and given me the chance to grow into the man I am now. So the man on the inside fits how the man on the outside looks."

Smith's grandmother couldn't speak the last time he saw her because of the effects

of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. But before ALS had taken her ability to speak, she told the grandson who had always looked up to her "just to do better," as Smith recalled it.

"That stuck with me," he said. "That, her passing, with me being totally defeated and surrendering to the problem that I had with my drinking, I was ready to turn my life around."

The 30-year-old Smith last played in the NFL with Oakland in November 2015, when he was suspended for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. Before that, Smith was a rising star in San Francisco when his legal troubles began in 2013.

The Raiders still had his contractual rights two years ago before releasing Smith after San Francisco police issued an arrest warrant over allegations of domestic violence. A plea agreement was reached in that case.

In all, Smith has been arrested at least six times, with multiple drunken-driving charges. He avoided jail time in the domestic case by serving a 90-day sentence as part of his alcohol and drug rehab.

The Cowboys took a chance

on a pass rusher with a history of domestic issues by signing Greg Hardy five years ago. That tumultuous 2015 season — Hardy's last in the NFL — was difficult for Dallas. Smith sees a difference.

"If anybody is going to look deep, I never was physical with that woman," Smith said. "And I just want everybody to know that I don't stand for being physical with women. I'd like to make that clear."

"As far as what I can do is I can just continue to keep being the person who I've become, and that's somebody who I'm proud of, somebody that the Cowboys thought it was good taking a chance on and somebody that the NFL thought was good taking a chance on."

Before the Cowboys hired him, first-year coach Mike McCarthy happened to meet Smith in a Los Angeles gym in December when Smith was getting back in shape.

The momentum for Smith's NFL return with Dallas grew when McCarthy hired Jim Tomsula as defensive line coach. Tomsula was Smith's position coach with the 49ers.

"His path to Dallas is special and unique," said McCarthy, who faced Smith and San

Francisco four times in a span of two seasons as Green Bay's coach. "I obviously have great respect for him and what he's done on the field. And then obviously had a chance to witness what he's done recently to put himself in this position. Very impressive young man."

After going to the 49ers with the seventh overall pick in the 2011 draft, Smith set an NFL record with 33½ sacks in his first two seasons. San Francisco reached the Super Bowl in his second season, losing to Baltimore, and played in the NFC championship game each of his first three years.

Smith has just 5½ sacks since that three-year run, and now faces the rare test of trying to become the player he was after four dormant seasons. He's not thinking at all about how long those odds might be.

"I still feel great. I still feel young. I still move well," Smith said. "I still have a great knowledge of the game, if not a better knowledge of the game."

"I know how to be a leader. I know how to win. And also just everything I've gone through and been through in life, I feel I can be a source, people can talk to me about whatever they need."

MLB teams cut hundreds of minor league players

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major league teams have released hundreds of young players with the minor league season in doubt due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Over 200 players were cut Friday and more than 400 have been released over the past month according to transactions posted at MiLB.com.

The start of the minor league season was postponed in March and players were mostly sent home from spring training. While Major League Baseball and the players' association are negotiating terms to play big league ball this summer, it's unlikely there will be minor league games.

Minor league players not on 40-man rosters were promised \$400 per week through May 31 by a policy drafted by MLB.

At least 15 teams have promised to ex-

tend those allowances through at least June, with Oakland the only club known to be ending its stipends at the end of May.

The Chicago White Sox were among the clubs to make cuts, but they will continue to pay \$400 per week to the 25 players released last week.

Kansas City general manager Dayton Moore said the Royals will not release any minor leaguers amid the pandemic and will continue providing the \$400 per week allowances.

"The minor-league player, the players that you'll never know about, the players that never get out of rookie ball or High-A, those players have as much impact on the growth of our game as 10-year, 15-year veteran players," Moore said.

"They have as much opportunity to influence the growth of our game as those in-

dividuals that play for a long time because those are the individuals that go back into their communities and teach the game. They work in academies. They're junior college coaches. They're college coaches. They're scouts. They coach in professional baseball. They're growing the game constantly because they're so passionate about it."

Lower-level players were hit hardest by cuts, with at least 172 players released from the rookie-level Gulf Coast, Arizona and Dominican Summer Leagues.

It's not unusual for big league teams to release minor leaguers at this time of year. Cuts are routine ahead of the June draft as franchises make space for newly acquired players, and teams also kept more players than usual after spring training.

No consensus for NBA on season format

Associated Press

The NBA Board of Governors met again without a consensus opinion emerging on how many teams should be back on the floor for the planned late-July resumption of the pandemic-interrupted season, three people familiar with details of the call said Friday.

The people, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because no details of the call were publicly released, said Commissioner Adam Silver is still collecting information on multiple options ranging from 16 to 30 teams returning to action when the season begins again at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando, Fla.

One person said the idea of bringing back 20 teams — possibly a few more, but not all 30 — continues to resonate as the most likely scenario, as of now.

Another plan discussed Friday, the person said, would bring any team within six games of a playoff spot back for the resumption of the season, a scenario where, based on the current standings, 13 teams from the Western Conference and nine from the Eastern Conference would return.

Silver, who has been closely working with the National Basketball Players Association, has not revealed when or how a formal decision will ultimately be made. ESPN reported that the league is planning a Thursday vote to ratify whatever proposal Silver recommends.

Given the league's known hope to be back on the court by the end of July, Silver's decision would likely have to come very soon. Not all team practice facilities have reopened for voluntary workouts, meaning there could be some players who haven't done any on-court

work since the league suspended the season on March 11 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Jared Dudley of the Los Angeles Lakers wrote on Twitter that Silver has said the season could go into early October before finishing, and added that a later start to next season gives "more time to (potentially) have some sort of fans" back in the stands.

The New York Knicks and Washington Wizards opened their facilities Friday for the first time since the shutdown started, and the Boston Celtics said they will do the same on Monday. The only teams left at this point without a known reopening plan for their practice facilities are Detroit, San Antonio and Golden State.

Teams that are open can have a maximum of four players in a facility simultaneously at this point, with none of them

allowed to work out together or even play 1-on-1. The belief has been that the league will ramp up what's allowed within the voluntary workouts before setting a date for a training camp that would precede the resumption of the season.

Countless questions remain unanswered after the Board of Governors call, including the playoff format, if additional regular-season games — roughly 21% of the league's schedule remained when the season was stopped — would be played and if so, how that schedule would work.

Details of what the league's testing plan would be are also somewhat unclear, though it's almost certain that any program would involve all players and staff being checked regularly and possibly even daily once the season resumes.

Title IX hampering colleges' cost-cutting measures

Associated Press

Financially challenged schools considering cutting sports in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic are making difficult decisions of who gets to keep playing and who doesn't.

The choices aren't just about money when they involve women's sports. And while Title IX doesn't prevent women's sports from being eliminated, the federal law is a huge part of the conversations.

"I wouldn't say that women's sports are more at risk," said attorney Timothy J. O'Brien, who is based in Maine with a practice focused on employment and college sports law. "I would say that all sports in an economic downturn will be scrutinized. But it should be done in a fair and equitable manner so at the end of the day the institution is compliant with Title IX."

The civil rights law, which applies to each gender, is credited with expanding women's opportunities and participation

in sports.

With the shutdown of college and professional sports in March amid the pandemic, it's unclear how many schools will be able to have sports on reopened campuses this fall. Some — including Appalachian State, Cincinnati, East Carolina, Furman and Old Dominion — have already cut nonrevenue sports programs, but any move must ensure equitable treatment of remaining men's and women's athletics programs to comply with Title IX.

Established in 1972, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving federal funds, such as student financial aid. It applies to sports by ensuring men and women have equitable participation opportunities, as well as access to scholarships.

While schools are facing financial hardships, Boston-based attorney Janet P. Judge said that fact doesn't nullify Title IX responsibilities.

"Title IX still applies," said

Judge, who focuses on sports and civil rights law. "It's a federal law that still applies. It's not suspended because there are financial challenges for the institutions."

Schools are reviewing guidelines with college athletics facing an uncertain financial future — including big-budget programs that rely on football as the revenue driver through lucrative TV deals and the ability to fund lower-profile sports. There was also the hit from the cancellation of the NCAA Tournament, which meant far less money distributed to Division I schools.

O'Brien, who joined Judge in co-authoring the NCAA gender equity manual, said schools are "keenly aware" that decisions can't be based solely on which programs cost the most money with the least return. That's because any decision to cut sports can affect the "delicate balancing act" in complying with Title IX when it comes to the school's gender breakdown of athletes and sports, he said.

Still, it doesn't mandate schools offer men's and women's programs that are mirror images. As an example, NCAA guidelines require Football Bowl Subdivision schools to sponsor at least 16 varsity sports with a minimum of six for men or mixed-gender teams, and eight for women.

O'Brien said compliance can be measured in multiple ways, including whether the overall sports program's gender breakdown is proportionate to that of the general student body.

"That's really the focal point of the analysis: what's left, not what was eliminated," O'Brien said.

Like O'Brien, Judge does not believe women's programs are at more risk because it "would be difficult" for schools to comply with Title IX while widely cutting women's sports. So far, they're right; more men's programs (16) have been cut than women's (four) in Division I as of Tuesday, according to a count by The Associated Press.