New York makes plea for help as world virus infections top 800K

Associated Press

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo begged for health care reinforcements, saying up to 1 million more workers were needed to fight the coronavirus, as the world total climbed to more than 800,000 cases.

The plea came a day after President Donald Trump warned, “Challenging times are ahead for the next 30 days.” During the Rose Garden press conference, the president said the nation should prepare for a coronavirus death toll that could exceed 100,000.

In New York, the epicenter of the American outbreak, Cuomo and health officials warned that the crisis unfolding there is just a preview of what other U.S. cities and towns will soon face. New York state’s death toll climbed by more than 250 people in a day to over 1,200, most of them in the city.

“We’ve lost over 1,000 New Yorkers,” Cuomo said. “To me, we’re beyond staggering already.”

New York City’s Health Department recorded the city’s first

SEE VIRUS ON PAGE 9

Aviano volunteers shop, deliver groceries to those stuck at home

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Senior Airman Sherraye Carter went shopping Monday at the commissary. It wasn’t much different than a normal trip, she said, except that none of the items she bought were for her.

Carter, a member of the 606th Air Control Squadron, was one of the first people to participate in an on-base grocery shopping and delivery program for those whose movement is limited under Italy’s sweeping coronavirus restrictions.

She picked up the items on the list she had and headed to the checkout, where the cashier called the customer and took their payment information. Then Carter delivered six or seven grocery bags to a home not far from where she lives.

“I would definitely do it again,” she said. “I’m just waiting for another email.”

Carter is one of more than 150 people who have volunteered to pick up and deliver groceries for those who can’t go out themselves, said Senior Master Sgt.

SEE DELIVERY ON PAGE 6
Macy’s, Kohl’s, Gap to furlough most workers

BY ANNE D’INNOCENZIO  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Macy’s, Kohl’s and Gap Inc. all said Monday that they will stop paying tens of thousands of employees who were thrown out of work when the chains temporarily closed their stores and sales collapsed as a result of the pandemic.

Macy’s said that the majority of its 125,000 employees will be furloughed this week and that it is transitioning to an “absolute minimum workforce” needed to maintain basic operations. Macy’s said that it has lost the bulk of its sales due to the temporary closing of more than 600 stores starting March 18.

Kohl’s, based in Menomonee Falls, Wis., said that the furloughs will apply to 85,000 of its 120,000 employees at stores and distribution centers. It will continue to ship products and do curbside pickup from most stores with a limited number of staff.

Gap’s spokesman Sandy Goldberg said the furloughs affect nearly 80,000 out of 129,000 workers across all brands, including Banana Republic and Old Navy.

The furloughed workers will continue to get health benefits.

The moves are perhaps the most dramatic signs that even big-name retailers are seeing their business evaporate and that the $2 trillion rescue package passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump last week may only have a limited impact.
Japanese destroyer damaged in collision with fishing vessel in the East China Sea

By Matthew M. Burke and Aya Ichihashi
Stars and Stripes

The Japanese destroyer JS Shikamaze, above, reportedly collided with a Chinese fishing vessel in the East China Sea on Monday.

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer, the JS Shikamaze, was damaged Monday after colliding with a Chinese fishing vessel in the East China Sea.

The incident occurred at 8:28 p.m. approximately 400 miles west of Yashima Island, a Joint Staff spokesman said Tuesday. Yashima is part of Kagoshima prefecture, and is about 40 miles south of Kyushu.

Japanese officials declined to release details on what caused the incident pending joint investigation with its coast guard.

One of the 13 Chinese sailors aboard the fishing boat complained of minor back pain after the incident; none of the Shikamaze’s 260 sailors was injured, the spokesman said.

Some government spokespersons in Japan customarily speak to reporters under the condition of anonymity.

The collision left a 3-foot-by-6-inch hole in the Shikamaze’s port side, but the vessel was still operable, the spokesman said. Damage to the fishing vessel is unknown, but it was left operable as well.

The Shikamaze is homeported at Sasebo Naval Base in Kyushu, which is also home to a sizable U.S. Navy contingent.

China has taken a more aggressive maritime posture in recent years as it seeks resources to fuel its rise as a global economic and military power.

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2nd ID: Foul play not fully ruled out in 2 Humphreys deaths

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

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Negotiator: US, S. Korea close on cost-sharing deal

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea are close on reaching a defense cost-sharing deal, a negotiator said Tuesday in Seoul in the wake of American military plans to put half of its local work force on unpaid leave.

U.S. Forces Korea was able to keep about 4,500 South Korean employees determined to be essential public servants, such as “life, health, safety and minimum readiness.” But the others will be furloughed beginning today, and after the two sides failed in seven rounds of talks to reach a new Special Measures Agreement to replace the one that expired at the end of the year.

Jeong Eun-bo, South Korea’s lead negotiator, expressed regret that the U.S. was going forward with the furlough after the State Department rejected Seoul’s proposal to reach a separate labor agreement.

South Korea and the U.S. are in the last stages for sealing a defense cost-sharing deal, a negotiator said Tuesday in Seoul in the wake of American military plans to put half of its local work force on unpaid leave.

U.S. service members also will fill in for some of the vacated positions, he said Friday during an interview. He wouldn’t say how many and acknowledged the troops would have a learning curve in their new roles.

Afram said it was “heartbreaking” to have to put so many people on unpaid leave.

“A lot of these people, they’re the breadwinner for their family and their extended family. It’s just really hard, and it’s an unfortunate situation,” he said Friday in an interview at his office on Camp Humphreys.

The “litmus test” will be if the furlough is still on when a Penton- gordon order barring moves to pre- vent coronavirus spread is lifted, creating a backlog that has been slow- ing to move on and off the penin- sula, Abrams said.

“I was able to go back to the de- partment in and light of COVID-19 to secure some additional authorizations so we’ve included that,” Abrams said.

On the life, health, safety and minimum readiness we’ll be OK in the short term,” he said. “I’ll be watching closely the impact on readiness and our ability to deliver services at an acceptable level.”

The issue doesn’t affect non- appropriated fund organizations such as on-base restaurants, ex- cepts and commissaries, sports and other community activities that receive money from other sources.

Military officials also have said previously that the mitigating measures would ensure “limited to no observable reactions” for the hospital on Camp Humphreys and other medical facilities, law enforcement, commissaries, schools and post offices.

However, people could expect increased wait times, modified hours and other delays for US services, non-emergency mainten- ance work orders, installation access IDs and other administra- tive needs.

The South has helped support U.S. troops under the Special Measures Agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for more than 9,000 South Korean employees, logistical support and construction projects.

President Donald Trump’s ad- ministration has demanded that Seoul sharply increase its con- tribution for offsetting the cost of some 28,500 troops stationed on the peninsula because of the threat from North Korea.

Stars and Stripes

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Stars and Stripes
Ex-detainees play key role in Taliban deal

By MISSY RYAN
AND HAQ NAWAZ KHAN
The Washington Post

As American negotiators raced to clinch last month’s landmark deal with the Taliban, several shadowy figures played a surprising but significant role: former Guantanamo Bay detainees whose release in a 2014 prisoner exchange sparked a partisan firestorm.

The so-called Taliban Five, a group of high-level militant inmantes traded for an American during the Obama administra-
tion, worked behind the scenes to build support for the agreement, currying favor with U.S. and Tal-
iban officials say.

Several of the men wielded clout, as prominent figures from both sides of the war — and pre-9/11 gov-
ernment and terrorist — released prisoners of the United States in 2011 to push months of fractional negotiations toward a deal. One

Bergdahl of them, a fearsome former commander cas-
cused in the deaths of religious minorities in Afghanistan, trave-
elled at least twice to Pakistan to get support for the group’s efforts to win former militant commanders, the offi-
cials said.

The Trump administration her-
alded the Feb. 29 agreement as a milestone toward ending nearly two decades of war, but expec-
talks among feuding Afghan par-
ties have not materialized amid disagreements over initial steps and political disputes over whom to push.

In a bid to keep the process on track, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Afghan lead-
ers in Kabul last week but also with the top Taliban negotiator in Doha, an illustration of an evolv-
ing political calculus that includes engaging a group responsible for thousands of American deaths.

The president’s decision in 2014 to free the five militants in exchange for Bowe Bergdahl, a U.S. soldier held cap-
tive by the Taliban for five years, was met with scathing criticism from Republicans including Pompeau, then a congressman and a member of the House In-
telligence Committee, Sen. Lind-
sey Graham, R-S.C., and Donald Trump.

After a dozen years at Guan-
tamo, the Taliban detainees were sent to Doha with their families, where they were barred from traveling for one year and placed under U.S. and Qatar army guard.

In 2015, then-candidate Trump criticized the prisoner swap, call-
ing Bergdahl “a no-good, rotten traitor” and characterizing the released Taliban members as “five killers” who were now “back on the battlefield.” Pompeo said he had seen no proof that the men were reformed and would not “return to trying to do harm to America.” Graham called them “the hardest of the hard core.”

“[They have] American blood on their hands and surely as night follows day they will return to the fight,” Graham wrote in a 2014 activist letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee. “In effect, we released the ‘Taliban Trump Team.’ ”

The blowback to the trade, which included contentious con-
gressional appearances and was reminiscent of the aftermath of the attacks on U.S. personnel in Benghazi, Libya, effectively shut down efforts to reach a peace deal during the Obama administration.

The controversy “tamped down the possibility of doing the things that actually could have led to further progress,” said Jar-
rett Blaine, a former State Depart-
ment official who worked on the transfer.

The defense secretary at the time, Chuck Hagel, who signed the Taliban Five’s release order, said he and other senior officials weighed the risks of freeing the men against the chance to free Bergdahl, whose condition was believed to be deteriorating.

Bergdahl was captured after walking off his remote base in southeast Afghanistan in 2009 and was held by the Taliban for five years. After being taken across the bor-
to Pakistan, he was held by the Haqqani network, a hard-line Taliban faction. He was chained to a bed or locked in a cage for long stretches, and his mental and physical health suffered.

After his release, he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before a military court and was dishonorably discharged.

Hagel, in an interview, said the men were not among the most radical at Guantánamo but ac-
knowledged that officials were not able to guarantee they would not conduct or incite violence against the United States. “Knowing like you always do that there’s never any certainty, we tried to get as many assurances as we could,” he said.

After the exchange, the nonpar-
tisan Bipartisan Policy Center found the operation vio-
lated the law because the Obama administration had not notified Congress ahead of time.

In 2015, news reports sug-
gested the former prisoners had attempted “re-engagement” with militant activity by communicat-
ing with extremist networks, an assertion that the Obama administra-
tion denied.

The same men, now members of the Taliban’s negotiating com-
mittee, were present when Pom-
peo offered a signing ceremony in Qatar to herald the U.S.-Tal-
iban deal last month. They have压力 reduction in violence and a timeline for withdrawing U.S. troops in exchange for a Taliban promise to embrace Afghan po-
litical talks.

The former prisoners, some of whom were captured in 2001 after attempting to surrender, include Kairirullah Said Wali Khairkhwa, a multilingual for-
mer Taliban provincial governor and Mohammad Fazl, the former military commander accused of murder.

Bergdahl, captured after an attack in southeast Afghanistan in 2009 and held by the Haqqani network, was handed over to U.S. authorities in 2014.

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A soldier from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade dead lifts during an Army Combat Fitness Test Jan. 27 at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Army is postponing transition to the ACFT over virus concerns.

Pentagon orders installations to stop reporting virus cases

**‘Unit level readiness data for key military forces is information that is classified as a risk to operational security and could jeopardize operations and/or deterrence,’**

Jonathan Hoffman
Pentagon spokesman

NJ National Guard member is first virus death in military

**Today is a said day for the Department of Defense as we have lost our first American service member — active, Reserve or Guard — to coronavirus,” Defense Secretary Mark Esper said in a statement. “... The news of this loss strengthens our resolve to work ever more closely with our interagency partners to stop the spread of [coronavirus].”**

Information provided from the Defense Department and the governor did not state Hickok’s age or whether he was activated with the National Guard at the time he contracted the virus.

“While services will not release the numbers of cases at each base, we will continue to work closely with the local communities to ensure the health and well-being of all,” he said. “Individual installations (and commands) will continue to work closely with their respective community’s health agencies on reporting, as necessary, if the outbreak impacted U.S. nuclear forces or other critical units.

Unit level readiness data for key military forces is information that is classified as a risk to operational security and could jeopardize operations and/or deterrence,” Hoffman said in the statement. “If a commander believes that [the coronavirus] could affect the readiness of our strategic deterrent or strategic response forces, we understandably protect that information from public release and falling into the hands of our adversaries — as we expect they would do the same.

As of Monday morning, the Pentagon reported 633 service members were among 1,087 total cases within the Defense Department community. Among those troops, 64 had recovered by Monday, while 26 were hospitalized. The latest data shows a dramatic increase in cases among troops since Friday, when the Pentagon reported 343 cases among service members.

The individual military service members remain authorized to report coronavirus cases within their ranks to the public, Hoffman said.

“Unit level readiness data for key military forces is information that is classified as a risk to operational security and could jeopardize operations and/or deterrence,” Hoffman said.

Individual installations had been providing the number of cases via official news releases, statements on their websites and largely through social media, including hosting virtual town hall events, in which top commanders provided updates on the conditions on their bases and answered questions from the public.

Hoffman said the Defense Department would not conal information about coronavirus-related deaths on its installations and would work to keep local officials abreast of any “health threats” coming from military bases.

“We appreciate our citizens understanding as we protect operational security and our nation’s readiness,” he said.

**Restraints force Army to halt ACFT transition**

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**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**Veterans groups go virtual to better connect**

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

James Martin logged in last week to what he hopes can grow into a regular meeting space for other veterans adjusting to life under a pandemic: online video game night.

Martin is a volunteer for the Wounded Warrior Project, which like other veteran service organizations is trying to find ways to reach and connect veterans at a time when most can’t meet up in person, due to social distancing guidelines meant to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Martin, a former Marine injured during combat in Afghanistan in 2013, said he is helping WWP in its effort to build a veteran service organization that can “connect members through their community.”

“Even though we’re locked in the house, you can still be connected, you can still meet other warriors,” Martin said. “We can play video games together and check on each other.”

Each night, the 39-year-old logs in from his home just outside Pittsburgh into a forum recently created by WWP on the site Discord. There, veterans and gamers can chat and find others to play games with. The forum brings together veterans from all over the country, and Martin said the discussion is not just fun and games — it’s also about untangling the stresses of life as they play.

In one gaming session Thursday night, Martin and a few other veterans shared their frustrations with self-quarantining. One had a wife who needed a COVID-19 test. Another was struggling with his college classes after they moved online.

A friend of Martin’s, Gabriel Beltres, also a wounded veteran with WWP, lightened his mood with a pregame speech:

“Listen up, today hasn’t been a good day, but it’s gonna turn into a good day. We are going to be happy, we are going to be good, because gaming is supposed to be fun,” Beltres said.

The WWP’s virtual gaming nights and fitness classes began over the last few weeks for veterans, “just to give them a place to hang out during a crazy time,” said Matt Twigg, livestreaming game specialist for the organization.

Other veteran service organizations, known for hosting pancake breakfasts and group workouts, are now organizing conference calls and virtual meetups.

Team Red, White and Blue rolled out an online fitness challenge for its members to do at home, with groups of veterans doing bodyweight exercises in a tournament styled on college basketball’s March Madness.

“The American Legion is connecting members through their phones. Using party line conference calls allows the inclusion of older veterans who may not be comfortable with social media, said Jennifer Havlick, member of American Legion Post 109 in northern Minnesota.

“For those who don’t use Facebook, it’s the greatest thing, they all know how to talk on the phone,” said Havlick, an Army veteran and originator of “enhanced buddy checks,” in which veterans call older veterans and ask if they need help buying groceries or doing chores.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, which has been around for more than 100 years, is encouraging its members to reach out to each other via Skype and other video call services.

VFW Post 5066 in Collierville, Tenn., will be using the app Zoom to conduct its elections and broadcast a concert.

Its post commander, Justin Johnson, said he hopes teleconferencing becomes a permanent feature of VFW life. “Long-term, I think this will benefit this post, because now it allows members that couldn’t really make it to meetings to attend,” he said.

It’s important for veterans to stay connected, said Timothy Byrne, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and a peer mentor for WWP. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Byrne would always encourage veterans, especially those who have just left the military or are suffering from post-traumatic stress, to leave the house and interact with other people.

“When we self-isolate, we get into our own shells, think about stuff too much,” Byrne said on the phone from his home in Salem, Mass.

**Delivery:** ‘I tried to put myself in someone else’s shoes,’ airman says of help

From Front Page

Joseph Finney, who helped start the program, called Wish List for Wyverns, after the Italian government placed strict limits on people’s movements to try to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Italy has the highest mortality rate from the coronavirus in the world, at 11%, according to data posted on the health ministry’s website. Of 101,739 people who had tested positive for the virus in Italy as of Monday, nearly 11,600 have died, the data show. Everyone in the country has been ordered to stay home unless they’re traveling to work, buying groceries or other essential items, or seeking medical care. Only one adult per family is supposed to take care of those tasks, the rules say.

Those doing the shopping and making deliveries for Wish List for Wyverns carry special memos issued by the base to prove they are providing an essential service and are authorized to be outside of their home, as Finney, also a member of the 606th.

Volunteer shoppers vastly outnumber the handful of home-bound customers who have signed up for the program so far, Finney said.

But with numerous categories of people eligible to apply for help through the program — people with kids and deployed spouses, those in isolation or quarantine, retirees, single parents, and those whose spouses work extended hours — the numbers turning to the program for help are expected to grow, he said.

The most complicated thing about Wish List for Wyverns may be finding where to sign up online. People who need someone else to shop for them should contact their chain of command, who will give them instructions on how to use the program.

Carter said her first trip went smoothly and that she was happy to help.

“I tried to put myself in someone else’s shoes,” she said. “If I were in that situation... I’d want someone to help me.”

Air Force Senior Airman Shreyara Carter bags green onions at the commissary on Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Monday. Carter is one of more than 150 people who have volunteered to pick up and deliver groceries for those who can’t go out themselves because of Italy’s limits on people’s movements to curb the spread of the coronavirus.  

James Martin, a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, shows off his gaming setup in February at his home just outside of Pittsburgh. Martin, a volunteer for the Wounded Warrior Project, hopes to connect veterans during the coronavirus pandemic through video games.

James Martin

Now, self-quarantining has deepened the feeling of isolation some veterans already have, he said. One of the veterans he’s mentoring is suffering through a recent divorce, has lost his job, and those whose spouses work extend the hours — the numbers turning to the program for help are expected to grow, he said.

**“We do these virtual things, and we still get that social contact with people,” Byrne said. “I don’t know what we’d do without it.”**

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

Twitter: @jslawrence3
Marines stop recruits from going to SC boot camp

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — A coronavirus outbreak at Parris Island has forced the service to temporarily stop new Marine recruits from heading there for boot camp.

The increase in illnesses at the base happened over the weekend, according to Capt. Bryan McDonnell, a spokesman for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The uptick in cases comes after acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly announced last week that two Marine recruits tested positive at Parris Island.

Base officials conducted an investigation and isolated everyone who was in contact with the two Marines, McDonnell said. Additionally, two other Marines stationed at the base have tested positive for the virus, though they work separately from recruit training.

McDonnell said that the outbreak was less than 50 people, though he would not provide a specific number due to a new Pentagon directive that prevents military installations from individually reporting the number of coronavirus cases at their bases.

McDonnell said that the base was prepared to deal with coronavirus cases due to screening measures put in place for recruits and the contact tracing of people who have tested positive for the virus.

The coronavirus cases are “localized and contained,” he said.

The suspension on shipping new recruits is a precautionary measure intended to protect more recruits, the training personnel and the installation community from the virus, according to a Marine Corps statement Monday.

The preservation of four Marine recruits, recruits and their families is the highest priority for Marine Corps recruiting during this national emergency,” Gen. David Berger, the commandant of the Marine Corps, said in the prepared statement. “With that in mind, we’ve paused this week’s shipping of new recruits to Parris Island and will revise our overall shipping plan to ensure we are able to meet the nation’s needs while protecting its next generation of Marines.”

The statement did not say how many new recruits would be affected by the temporary suspension. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is one of two locations for training new recruits, with the other at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in California.

McDonnell said that the base is planning to have a 14-day isolation period before recruits begin their training once recruit arrivals resume.

He could not give a date for when recruit arrivals would begin again, other than to say it was “conditions based.”

Recruits now at Parris Island will continue their training “with continued emphasis on personal and environmental cleanliness and social distancing,” according to the Marine Corps.

The statement tells new recruits to contact their recruiters to make certain that they understand changes to their shipping dates.

Four Air Force recruits have contracted coronavirus

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — The Air Force halted sending new recruits to basic training this week in an effort to ensure safety for trainees and instructors amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has sickened four people in the service’s initial training program, officials said Monday.

The pause is only expected to last one week and will allow the service to clean barracks, test and rest its instruction cadre at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, said Col. Jeffery McMenemy, the vice commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service. The halt comes as the service plans to open a second site for basic training temporarily to allow trainees more physical space to follow social distancing policies meant to slow the virus’ spread.

Air Force Maj. Gen. John DeGoes, the commander of the 59th Medical Wing in San Antonio, described the four cases as isolated events that did not appear to threaten others at Lackland.

The infected recruits have been isolated from others and are experiencing only minor symptoms, he said.

Three of the recruits appear to have contracted the disease before shipping to basic training. The fourth individual likely contracted the disease from one of the others — the first individual to test positive March 18 for the virus — while traveling to basic training together, DeGoes told reporters Monday.

Last month, the Air Force instituted a movement restriction policy for new recruits, in which 40-person groups flew to Lackland together and have been segregated from other individuals for their first two weeks at the base in an effort to limit the spread of the disease.

Service officials have said that continuing to train recruits is essential for the Air Force to complete its global missions. Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullos, the commander of 2nd Air Force, said that the service must strike a “delicate balance” in training new airmen and helping stop the spread of the coronavirus, which the Pentagon said Monday has infected more than 1,000 members of the Defense Department community.

“Quite simply, it’s because we are our nation’s 9-1-1,” Tullos said Monday. “When the nation needs us, we answer the call … [and] we have a responsibility to be able to continue to generate the forces our nation to win the fight.”

To date, all four military services with Pentagon-controlled training have reported recruits who have tested positive for the virus. The services have continued their initial entrance training programs, though some of them have made adjustments. The Army, for example, has shipped about 50% fewer recruits than normal to basic combat training.

And the Marine Corps on Monday announced that it would pause sending recruits to its legendary Parris Island Recruit Depot in South Carolina for at least one week.

Like the Army, the Air Force is sending fewer recruits to basic training amid the deepening crisis. But the service also elected to send a class of 60 recruits to Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., for a shortened basic training class at the base on the state’s coast.

Those recruits will arrive at Keesler on April 7 and conduct basic training in six weeks. Air Force basic typically lasts 8.5 weeks. Tullos said that recruits who train at Keesler will receive the same instruction as ones at Lackland at a slightly quicker pace.

“The airman we produce at Keesler will meet the same training objectives as the airman that we produce at Lackland,” she said. “At the end of the day, the airman that comes out and marches across the parade field [at Keesler] is going to be the same quality airman we deliver to our commanders.”

The initial 60 recruits will be the only class sent to Keesler until they complete training, Tullos said. Service officials will study the class as it moves through training and decide later whether additional classes will be sent to Keesler for basic training.

First virus case at Navy basic training postpones new recruits’ arrival

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — The Navy has rescheduled sending new recruits to basic training after the service’s Joint Base Great Lakes, Ill., announced its first positive case Sunday.

A recruit tested positive Saturday and is being treated at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Chicago, the command announced on its official Facebook page.

“Given the serious nature of this case this past weekend, and as we conduct thorough contact tracking and further testing, out of an abundance of caution we have rescheduled the shipping of new recruits planned for this week in order to further assess the situation and enhance our mitigation measures,” Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for the chief of naval personnel, said in a statement.

People who had been in close contact with the recruit are being notified and areas, including the barracks, are being thoroughly cleaned, according to the service’s media post.

New recruits have been rescheduled to arrive next week in order to give the command time to do a contact investigation and clean the barracks, according to a Navy official.

Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, the only basic training installation for the Navy, started restricting movement for 14 days on March 26 for incoming recruits prior to beginning their training. The policy requires them to practice social distancing. The recruit who tested positive arrived a week prior to the start of the new policy, according to the Facebook post.

Before arriving at basic training, new recruits are asked health screening questions about the virus and have their body temperatures checked. Most of the active-duty staff and instructors at the command have been moved onto the base for at least 30 days in order to reduce the spread of the virus, Hecht said.
VIRUS OUTBREAK

DODEA schools in Japan, South Korea to extend closures

By Dave Ornauer
Stars and Stripes

URUMA, Okinawa — Defense Department schools in Japan and South Korea will remain closed beyond spring break and virtual instruction will continue “until further notice” due to ongoing coronavirus concerns, school officials announced Tuesday.

“Due to the current health protection conditions in our communities, we will not be able to resume our normal operations on April 13,” said Lois Rapp, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific, wrote in a letter Tuesday.

The goal remains for students to meet required standards to move on to their next grade level “and for seniors to graduate as scheduled, whether that accomplishment is celebrated in person or virtually,” Rapp wrote.

DODEA schools in South Korea will also remain closed through spring break, and DOD PACIFIC officials will “continue to monitor the environment in coordination with U.S. Forces Korea” South Korea have increased.

U.S. Forces Korea reported its 14th confirmed case Tuesday. The outbreak in South Korea began in Daegu and has spread, with 9,661 cases confirmed as of Monday.

Members of the 18th Medical Group test for coronavirus at Kaduna Air Base, Okinawa, on March 20.

Marines delay deployment of 2,500 troops to Australia

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps is delaying the deployment of thousands of Marines to northern Australia for a six-month rotation starting in April due to concerns associated with the coronavirus, U.S. officials said Monday.

The Marines had planned to push ahead with the mission, known as Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, by isolating troops in their barracks during their first 14 days Down Under.

However, Defense Secretary Mark Esper issued orders last week barring nearly all official movement overseas for Defense Department personnel.

“It was in cooperation with the Australian government, the MRF-D 2020 rotation is delayed at this time due to concerns over COVID-19, and we agree that force protection must be a top priority for both countries as we continue to fight the virus,” Marine Corps Forces Pacific commander Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta said in a statement Monday.

The U.S. remains committed to its defense treaty with Australia, he said.

The deployment was to have involved 2,500 Marines. Some elements arrived in Darwin in March, Australian officials said in an email Friday.

“All members of these elements have confined with Australian Government and Northern Territory protocols in place at the time of their arrival, including 14 days in quarantine on Darwin premises, away from the public,” the Australian Department of Defense officials said.

Before they departed the U.S., the Marines were subject to a range of medical precautions, including being examined by medical teams over four days prior to departure and pre-deployment medical screening, the officials said.

“The Marine Corps said it is prepared to conduct the deployment later this year if the situation permits, keeping within health and force protection concerns. The changes to this year’s deployment do not change the plans for those in subsequent years, the Marines said.

Navy, Marine base commanders in Japan urge cooperation on anti-virus measures

By Joseph Ditzler
Stars and Stripes

The commander of Sasebo Naval Base imposed a series of closures of many base activities Tuesday to prepare for the coronavirus, which is cropping up on military bases in Japan.

Base commander Capt. Brad Stallings took an urgent tone and cited “folks who are not following the guidance, which is placing the force and the community at risk,” according to his announcement on Sasebo’s Facebook page.

“I take this situation dead seriously,” Stallings wrote. “It is up to each and every one of us to follow the guidance and keep this virus out of our community. For you that are ‘all in now,’ thank you.”

No cases of coronavirus have been reported at either Sasebo or Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, whose commander announced similar measures Monday, according to Facebook posts.

Effective immediately, Stallings wrote, the Sasebo base gym is closed, along with bars and playgrounds. Most retail shops along with theaters and hobby shops are closed. The command is urging a community effort, said base spokesman Aki Nicholas.

Civilians as well as military need to cooperate, he said.

Civilian Defense Department employees and contractors, who mostly exempt from military orders aimed at stemming the coronavirus pandemic, have been encouraged to comply as commanders increasingly tighten restrictions.

Stallings emphasized cooperation, in capital letters: “THIS IS FOR ALL 7,500 INDIVIDUALS THAT LIVE AND WORK” on Sasebo.

At MCAS Iwakuni, base commander Col. Lance Lewis late Monday declared similar measures.

Lewis wrote that he expects active-duty Marines, their families, Defense Department civilians and contractors to “be smart and follow the guidelines in place. Even the most rigid direction is all for nought if someone is selfish enough to break the rules.”

He, too, stressed personal hygiene and social distancing.

“Instead of pushing the rules, live your life like the health of every person on this base depends on your actions,” Lewis wrote. “Spoiler alert: We are counting on everyone to protect everyone else.”

Visiting relative of Okinawa-based airman also tests positive for virus

By Matthew M. Burke
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A family member visiting an Okinawa-based airman who tested positive for coronavirus over the weekend also has the disease, the Air Force announced Tuesday.

The family member’s movements have been restricted since medical personnel began tracing his contacts, 18th Wing officials at Kaduna Air Base said in a message posted to Facebook on Tuesday.

“Bottom line: This person had no contact with the community inside or outside of Kaduna Air Base.”

The World Health Organization has said the incubation period for the virus appears to be between one and 14 days.

Officials previously stated that the 18th Wing airman had recently returned from Europe and that his movements were restricted for 15 days afterwards. Symptoms developed while the airman was in restricted.

Since that news broke Saturday afternoon, a second airman assigned to Kaduna Air Base has tested positive. Base missions and services were reduced Monday and Tuesday as a result.

“Our collective ability to prevent further exposure is of the utmost importance right now,” the Facebook message said.

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Stars and Stripes reporter James Bolinger contributed to this report.

Twitter: @JosephMDitzler

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Health care workers dread tough decisions

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A nurse with asthma, a grandfather with cancer and a homeless man with no known family are wracked with coronavirus-induced fevers. They are struggling to breathe, and a ventilator could save their lives. But who gets one when there aren’t enough to go around?

With health care systems, with Spain saying that the guidelines typically designate separate triage teams to make the call, rather than leaving it to the doctors and nurses providing bedside care.

“This is a really terrifying decision — you don’t want any doctor or nurse to be alone with this decision,” said Nancy Berlinger of the Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute.

Having separate teams make decisions also is intended to ensure patients get a fair shot at care regardless of their race, social status or other personal factors.

Berlinger noted that underlying social inequities can still persist — for example, poorer people tend to be sicker — but that those are deeper injustices that can’t be remedied in the throes of a pandemic.

Another grim calculation that experts say hospitals could make is how long a patient might need a ventilator and how much longer the machine might otherwise save. That calculation is particularly wrenching decision doctors in the U.S. likely have never faced in taking one off a machine to free it up for others. The norms don’t apply in the current crisis and taking preventative bed or ventilator from one patient to save others in a pandemic “is not an act of killing and would actually save the patient in question,” said a paper addressing the COVID-19 emergency published last week in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In Japan, the countdown clocks are reset and ticking again for the pandemic.

In Serbia, Hungary and other nations, concerns were rising that populist leaders were using the situation to try to seize more power and silence critics.

In Sweden, the government’s criticism continued, with British Airways suspending all its flights at Gatwick Airport amid a collapse in demand as nations close borders and airlines slash flights.

In Japan, the countdown clocks were reset and ticking again for the Tokyo Olympics. The clocks now read 479 days to go, with the games scheduled to begin on July 23, 2021.

11.5 million people have reported more than 12,775 infections.

National crisis-center coronavirus spokesman Emmanuel Andre said Belgian authorities expect the disease to reach its peak in coming days, and that “we will arrive at a point where we’re close to saturation point at our hospitals.”

To the east, Russia registered 500 new confirmed cases in the biggest spike since the beginning of the outbreak, bringing its total to 2,337. Moscow, the capital, has been on lockdown since Monday and the government is edging toward to declaring a national state of emergency.

Worldwide, more than 826,000 people have been infected and at least 174,115 have recovered, according to Johns Hopkins University.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia and even death.

China on Tuesday reported just 41 new deaths. It has now read 479 days to go, with the games scheduled to begin on July 23, 2021.
WASHINGTON — Facing a growing outbreak of the coronavirus, the captain of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is asking for permission to isolate the bulk of his roughly 5,000 crew members on shore, which would take the warship out of duty in an effort to save lives.

The ship is docked in Guam. In a memo to Navy leaders, the ship’s captain, Capt. Brett Crozier, said the spread of the disease is ongoing and accelerating, and said that removing all but 10% of the crew is a “necessary risk” in order to stop the spread of the virus.

U.S. Navy leaders on Tuesday were scrambling to determine how to best respond to the extraordinary request as dozens of crew members tested positive.

“We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset our sailors,” Crozier said in a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

A U.S. Navy official said Crozier alerted commanders on Sunday evening of the continuing challenges in isolating the virus. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said Crozier wants more isolated housing for the crew and that Navy leadership is reviewing options to ensure the health and safety of the crew.

In Asia, a carrier presence is central to what the Pentagon has identified as a fundamental shift from fighting insurgent and extremist conflicts in the Middle East to a return to “great power competition.” That means, principally, a bigger focus on China, including its militarization of disputed areas of the South China Sea.

The carrier, like other Navy ships, is vulnerable to infectious disease spread given its close quarters.

The massive ship is more than 1,000 feet long; sailors are spread out across a labyrinth of decks linked by steep ladder-like stairs and narrow corridors. Enlisted sailors and officers have separate living quarters, but they routinely grab their food from crowded buffet lines and eat at tables joined end-to-end.

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Max Rose, a Democrat from New York, activated his unit on duty Wednesday after his unit was called to support the state’s response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rose, a combat veteran who served in Afghanistan, is a captain in the Army National Guard. He will serve at Staten Island facilities as an operations officer in the coronavirus response.

He made the announcement in a video posted to Twitter on Tuesday.

“You won’t be hearing from me as much because I’ll be activated in the military,” Rose said. “This is a small, small thing compared to the doctors, nurses, our frontline medical staff and our first responders out there each and every day putting their lives on the line without the equipment they so desperately need.”

Rose represents Staten Island and parts of southern Brooklyn. His staff will continue to work on constituent services, he said.

“Soon enough, I’ll be back out of the military and in my full roll as congressman,” Rose said. “Stay safe, stay strong, and I’ll see you soon.”

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A team of 19 Arizona National Guard soldiers built a 50-bed medical station overnight Sunday to begin supporting the Navajo Nation in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Eight soldiers from the Iowa National Guard set up two tents Friday at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital to screen people entering.

In Pennsylvania, 25 National Guard members unloaded equipment during the weekend to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency build a non-coronavirus overflow clinic at a school.

These are some of the missions of the nearly 15,000 National Guard members working in every U.S. state and territory.

“This pivot into the medical realm demonstrates the depth and breadth of the skill sets that the Arizona National Guard brings to emergency response,” Maj. Gen. Michael McGuire, Arizona’s adjutant general and director of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, said in a statement. Prior to Sunday, the state’s troops had focused on filling gaps in the grocery supply chain by getting products from warehouses to stores.

“We will adapt as needed to defeat this pandemic and we will be always ready, always there for the citizens of this great state,” McGuire said.

Arizona now has more than 1,000 troops activated to respond to the pandemic.

National Guard troops set up beds at a medical station at the Los Angeles Convention center to help relieve nearby hospitals.

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Facing a growing outbreak of the coronavirus, the captain of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is asking for permission to isolate the bulk of his roughly 5,000 crew members on shore, which would take the warship out of duty in an effort to save lives.

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The massive ship is more than 1,000 feet long; sailors are spread out across a labyrinth of decks linked by steep ladder-like stairs and narrow corridors. Enlisted sailors and officers have separate living quarters, but they routinely grab their food from crowded buffet lines and eat at tables joined end-to-end.

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15,000 guardsmen now on active duty
MIAMI — As a cruise ship stranded at sea with dozens sick and four dead makes for Florida, passengers who have been confined to their rooms for more than a week are anxious for relief, hoping Gov. Ron DeSantis will change his mind and allow them to disembark despite confirmed coronavirus cases.

Hundreds of passengers and crew members from the Zaandam have not stepped on dry land for 15 days as the virus prompted authorities around the world to seal borders, implement checkpoints and force people into quarantine. Passengers were asked to keep their rooms dark and leave their drapes closed when they passed through the Panama Canal on Sunday after days of wrangling with local authorities.

The Zaandam’s plans to dock as early as Wednesday in Florida are still in the air but have already been rebuffed by local officials and DeSantis, who says health care resources are stretched too thin. The governor said he has been in contact with the Coast Guard and the White House about diverting the ship.

Broward County officials will meet Tuesday to decide whether to let the ship dock at its Port Everglades cruise ship terminal, where workers who greet passengers were among Florida’s first confirmed coronavirus cases.

Dozens on the Holland America Line ship have reported flu-like symptoms and four people have died, with at least two of the deaths blamed on the coronavirus by Panamanian authorities.

The company said eight others have tested positive for COVID-19 and 2,250 passengers and crew members are in good health.

LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John Bel Edwards said Monday that he will extend Louisiana’s “stay at home” order through the end of April, in line with President Donald Trump’s most recent guidance, as the number of Louisiana residents who have died from COVID-19 jumped significantly overnight.

Louisiana’s health department reported that 155 residents had died from the disease caused by the new coronavirus, 34 more than the number reported on Sunday. Edwards said Louisiana has the second-highest COVID-19 death rate per capita among states, and he’s warned that the Greater New Orleans region is running low on ventilators, which the hardest-hit patients need.

He said he signed an order to partially revive Pure Michigan, a new program he had touted that would have provided financial assistance for adults age 25 and older to attend community college. Also vetoed was $16 million to partly revive Pure Michigan, the state’s tourism campaign.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — North Carolina’s new stay-at-home order won’t show any conclusive effect on blunting the intensity of the new coronavirus for about two weeks, the state epidemiologist said Monday.

Restrictions on business operations and prohibitions of gatherings of more than 10 people issued by Gov. Roy Cooper on Friday took effect at 5 p.m. Monday. Several urban counties and some cities already began enforcing similar orders late last week.

Health officials reported a sixth death related to the coronavirus Monday, the first reported in Mecklenburg County. Residents from Harnett, Cabarrus, Buncombe, Johnston and Rowan counties also have died. The state now counts about 1,300 confirmed COVID-19 cases, a jump of 140 from Sunday. The number of people hospitalized from the virus has grown to more than 135.
US extends waivers on Iran nuclear cooperation sanctions

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration renewed several waivers on U.S. sanctions against Iran, allowing Russian, European and Chinese companies to continue to work on Iran’s civilian nuclear facilities without drawing American penalties.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo signed off on the waivers as the hulking beasts migrated about 270 bison have been killed from being infected with brucellosis, which can cause abortions in pregnant animals.

The officials said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, however, had prevailed in an internal debate on the subject last week by arguing that the coronavirus pandemic made eliminating the waivers unpalatable at a time when the administration is being criticized for refusing to ease sanctions to deal with the outbreak.

Last week, the administration slapped new sanctions on 20 Iranian people and companies for supporting the Iranian atomic program that might otherwise not exist. They have also said that some of the work, particularly at the Tehran reactor on nuclear isotopes which can be used in medicine, is humanitarian in nature.

But Iran hawk in Congress have been pressing Pompeo to eliminate all the waivers, saying that they should be revoked because they give Iran access to technology which could be used for weapons. The hawks most strenuously objected to the waiver that allowed work at Iran’s secret Fordow facility, which is built into a mountain.
US outlines plans for Venezuela transition, relief on sanctions

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Trump administration is prepared to lift sanctions on Venezuela in support of a new proposal to form a transitional government representing allies of both Nicolas Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaido, U.S. officials said.

The plan, which was to be presented Tuesday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, echoes a proposal made over the weekend by Guaido that shows how growing concerns about the coronavirus, which threatens to overwhelm the South American country’s already collapsed health system and crippled economy, are reviving U.S. attempts to pull the military apart from Maduro.

What’s being dubbed the “Democratic Framework for Venezuela” would require Maduro and Guaido to step aside and hand power to a five-member council of state to govern the country until presidential and parliamentary elections can be held in late 2020, according to a written summary of the proposal seen by The Associated Press.

Four of the members would be appointed by the opposition-controlled National Assembly that Guaido heads. To draw buy-in from the ruling socialist party, a two-thirds majority would be required. The fifth member, who would serve as interim president until elections are held, would be named by the other council members. Neither Maduro nor Guaido would be on the council.

“The hope is that this setup promotes the selection of people who are very broadly respected and known as people who can work with the other side,” U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams told the AP in a previous view of the plan. “Even people in the regime look at this and realize Maduro has to go, but the rest of us are being treated well and fairly.”

The plan also outlines for the first time U.S. requirements for lifting sanctions against Maduro officials and the oil industry — the source of nearly all of Venezuela’s foreign income.

Campaign manager John Payne said that because of social distancing and other safety concerns, there is no practical way for campaign workers to gather the signatures. He said that the campaign is exploring options and suggested the state could extend the deadline for turning in the signatures.

But Maura Browning, spokeswoman for Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, said that Ashcroft doesn’t have the authority to extend the deadline because the date is outlined in the Missouri Constitution.

Payne said that the campaign would try to put a similar question on the 2022 ballot if the 2020 campaign ends.

The plan that the makes the ballot, Missouri would have a chance to become the 12th state in the U.S. to fully legalize marijuana.

Wyoming court to make ruling on gender changes to birth certificates

Cheyenne, Wyo. — The Wyoming Supreme Court is expected to rule on a case that would determine whether transgender residents can change the genders on their birth certificates.

The case could decide if the Laramie County District Court has jurisdiction to recognize a change of sex by a transgender woman, The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported Sunday.

The high court is also expected to decide whether the jurisdiction would comply with state statutes and rules for the Wyoming Department of Health.

The woman, identified only by the initials M.H., filed to have her name and gender legally changed in April 2019.

The state health department said that the request required a court ruling.

A Laramie district court judge said that Wyoming birth certificates identify a person’s sex, not gender, and denied the petition because of a lack of jurisdiction.

The district court filed a brief arguing that the Wyoming Legislature has not given the court the power to issue a gender change order, but the health department’s rules allow the sex on a birth certificate to be amended.

The court said that it “could not usurp the power of the legislature to create statutory authority where the legislature did not establish.”

The woman’s lawyer said that the district court left them in a “Catch-22” situation, and they hope the Supreme Court appeal will allow her to proceed.

“I’m representing a transgender woman who is exercising her rights under Wyoming law,” attorney George Powers said. “The statutes and law required her to get a court order to exercise those rights.”

The Legislature has not kept pace with changes affecting gender and vital statistics, said Democratic state Rep. Sara Burlingame, who noted that some statutes have been on the books since Wyoming gained statehood.

“That law no longer fits in 2020,” Burlingame said. “We have wholly different issues.”

Epidemic likely dooms Missouri recreational marijuana campaign

Jefferson City, Mo. — The spread of the coronavirus likely doomed an effort to get a proposal to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri on the November ballot, according to organizers of the campaign.

With businesses closing, public gatherings restricted and more people staying at home because of the virus, it is becoming harder to find voters to sign the petitions, said Dan Viets, chairman of the Missourians for a New Approach committee.

The campaign has collected 60,000 signatures. It needs to collect 170,000 signatures by May 3 to get the question of whether to legalize the use of marijuana for those 21 or older on the November ballot, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Missouri recreational marijuana campaign

Associated Press

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**By Eric Tucker**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI has reached out to Sen. Richard Burr about his sale of stocks before the coronavirus caused markets to plummet, a person familiar with the matter said Monday.

The outreach suggests federal law enforcement officials may be looking to determine whether the North Carolina Republican and his wife sold between roughly $600,000 and $1.7 million in stocks in stock after he and other members of Congress were informed about the virus.

Burr has denied wrongdoing but has not ruled out an ethics review of the stock sales.

The Justice Department's actions were reported by CNN and have also requested an ethics review of the market.

In a statement, Alice Fisher, an attorney for Burr, said, “The law is clear that any American — including a senator — may participate in the stock market based on public information, as Senator Burr did.”

Some ethics officials began to review the matter who was not authorized to discuss it and spoke on condition of anonymity. The Justice Department declined to comment.

In a statement, Burr said, “The sale of stock to the investor was solely based on my travel to China and my knowledge that the virus was spreading rapidly there.”

In February, Burr and the wife sold between roughly $600,000 and $1.7 million in more than 30 transactions in late January and mid-February, just before the market began to nosedive and government health officials began to sound alarms about the virus.

Each of the stocks were in companies that own hotels.

Burr has acknowledged selling the stocks because of the coronavirus but said he relied “solely on public news reports,” specifically CNNB’s daily health and science reporting out of Asia, to make the financial decisions.

There is no indication that Burr, whose six-year term ends in 2023 and who does not plan to run for reelection, was acting on inside information.

The FBI has already blocked efforts in Texas and Alabama to ban abortions during the coronavirus pandemic, handing Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers a victory as clinics across the U.S. filed lawsuits to stop states from trying to shutter them during the outbreak.

A new Ohio order is also unconstitutional if it prevents abortions from being carried out during the coronavirus outbreak.

**Idaho governor signs into law 2 anti-transgender measures**

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Idaho Gov. Brad Little on Monday signed into law two anti-transgender bills, making Idaho the first among 30 states similarly ordered a stop to non-emergency procedures and specifically included abortion among them.

The laws were filed by Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights and local lawyers in each state.

Their aim, like abortion providers in Texas, is to stop state officials from prohibiting abortions as part of temporary policy changes related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights and local lawyers in each state.

Executive Director Chrissie France talks about Preterm, the busiest abortion clinic in Ohio, in the procedure room in Cleveland in February. A judge ruled Monday that a new Ohio order is unconstitutional if it prevents abortions from being carried out during the coronavirus outbreak.

Judges slow abortion bans in Texas, Ohio, Ala. amid virus

Associated Press

**Preventing them from getting an abortion doesn’t do anything to stop the COVID-19 virus, it just takes the decision whether to have a child out of their hands.**

Randall Marshall, executive director, ACLU of Alabama

Monday night, U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson issued a temporary restraining order against Alabama’s order, saying the ruling will be in effect that birth certificates, and another

Attorney General Mike Hunter, said the order was needed to help preserve the state’s limited supply of personal protective equipment, like surgical masks and gloves.

But U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel said the “Supreme Court has spoken clearly” on a woman’s right to abortion. One abortion provider in Texas, Whole Women’s Health, had it canceled more than 150 appointments in the days after the Texas order went into effect.

There can be no outright ban on such a procedure,” Yeakel wrote. Paxton said the state would allow the “decision whether to have a child out of their hands,” Randall Marshall, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama, said in a statement.

Alabama closed many nonsurgical procedures with a state health order, effective Saturday. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said earlier Monday the state would not offer a “blanket exemption” to abortion clinics.

In Ohio, Planned Parenthood and abortion clinics that sued last year to try to thwart a law that bans most abortions after a first detectable fetal heartbeat are asking a court to speed its decision in that case and to consider a recent coronavirus order by the state health director. In filings Monday, the groups’ attorneys argued “the state is again attempting to ban abortions” through Dr. Amy Acton’s directive barring all “non-essential” procedures and Attorney General Dave Yost’s threats that it will be enforced.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds spokesman Pat Garret said the governor “is focused on protecting Iowans from an unprecedented public health disaster, and she suspended all elective surgeries and procedures to preserve Iowa’s health care resources.”
John Prine is in stable condition, his wife says

John Prine is in stable condition after being placed on a ventilator while being treated for COVID-19-type symptoms, his wife, Fiona Whelan Prine, said Monday.

The singer-songwriter's family said Sunday that Prine was critically ill. Fiona Prine's message Monday on social media suggested his condition had improved overnight. Prine remains hospitalized.

“Please continue to send your amazing love and prayers,” she said on Twitter. “Sing his songs. Stay home and wash hands. John loves you. I love you.”

News that Prine's health was in jeopardy provoked an outpouring of affection for Prine. Joan Baez responded with a video of her playing his song “Hello In There” from her kitchen.

Fiona Prine earlier in March tested positive for coronavirus and said the couple was quarantined and isolated from each other. Fiona Prine, who is also Prine's manager, said Monday that she has recovered from COVID-19.

The 73-year-old Prine, one of the most influential singer-songwriters in folk and country music, has twice fought cancer.

Placido Domingo feels ‘fine’ after coronavirus

Tenor Placido Domingo said Monday he is resting at home after catching the new coronavirus.

The opera star said in a statement that he is “at home and I feel fine.”

The 79-year-old was reportedly hospitalized in Mexico after publicly acknowledging on March 22 that he had tested positive for COVID-19 and said he was going into isolation. Domingo had suffered from a fever and a cough.

Domingo wrote on Monday that “from the very first symptom I was, as usual, under medical supervision, given my age and my compromised immune system.”

“My thoughts right now are with those who suffer and with any health care workers who are generously working to save lives,” he said. “I thank everyone for your affection and once again I recommend everyone to stay safe at home. See you soon.”

Other news

The Yemeni-American poet Tomie dePaola, has won the Walt Whitman Award for best first book. Almontaser’s “The Wild Fox of Yemen” comes out in April 2021. As part of the award, the Academy of American Poets will purchase hundreds of copies of her book and distribute them to members.

Tomie dePaola, the prolific children’s author and illustrator who delighted generations with tales of Strega Nona, the kindly and helpful witch in Italy, died in his sleep on April 8. He was 85. He was badly injured in a fall last week and died of complications following surgery. He worked on close to 250 books in a half century of publishing.

From wire reports
Gun in waistband accidentally discharged

NH COLEBROOK — Police in New Hampshire said that they are investigating the unintentional discharge of a firearm by a man who was carrying an unholstered gun in his waistband.

State police said that Tyler Rancloes, 25, of Columbia, was brought to the hospital Sunday with injuries that were believed to be non-life-threatening. He was at a gathering with several others in Columbia when the gun went off.

Police said that they are investigating whether circumstances surrounding the unintentional discharge warrant criminal charges.

Suspect dies of medical emergency after pursuit

VA MARION — A Virginia sheriff’s office said that a suspect died of an unspecified medical emergency after being taken into custody following a bizarre chase.

The Smyth County Sheriff’s Office said in a news release that the case began when it received a call Saturday night about someone driving the wrong way on a road. Another emergency caller said that the driver had crashed through the utility gate of a business.

Deputies found the pickup truck, which then led investigators on a pursuit, according to the news release. Authorities said that during the pursuit, the suspect struck several police vehicles.

An officer forced the truck off the road, the driver tried to set it on fire. The sheriff said officers forced their way into the vehicle and removed the combative driver.

Once in custody, the man suffered a medical emergency, according to the news release. He was given CPR and taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The news release doesn’t define the medical emergency.

Arson charges filed in fire at school

ME GRAY — A man has been charged with setting fire to an elementary school in Maine, officials said Sunday.

Robert MacKenzie, 22, was arrested and charged with arson Saturday.

MacKenzie is accused of setting a pile of leaves on fire in the entryway of Russell School, an elementary school in Gray, according to a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

The fire reportedly damaged a table and a few other items in the entrance and released smoke throughout the building. There was minimal damage to the building.

Cemetery crash leading to possible drug charges

DE REHOBOTH BEACH — State troopers in Delaware arrested a man on drug charges after they said he drove into a cemetery and over the headstones.

The Delaware State Police said in a news release that troopers responded to a single vehicle collision Saturday morning. The release said the driver ran a red light, crashed through a brick wall and drove over several headstones at the Midway Presbyterian Church cemetery in the Rehoboth Beach area. Witnesses told officers the suspect got out of the vehicle and fled on foot.

The suspect, a 32-year-old from Rehoboth Beach, was found nearby and taken into custody.

Authorities said heroin and drug paraphernalia were found in his vehicle.

The man was arrested on charges including driving under the influence and drug possession.

More charges for man found with explosives

NY NIAGARA FALLS — A man in western New York who police said had nine explosive devices in his home is facing additional charges.

Joseph M. Gandia, 47, of Niagara Falls, has been charged with unlawful possession of a destructive device and unlawful possession of a shortened shotgun, according to U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy Jr. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Gandia is already facing other charges, including assaulting a police officer and menacing.

State police troopers responded to reports of a man pointing a shotgun with a red laser out of a pickup truck on the New York State Thruway Wednesday morning, police said. A trooper found the vehicle and tried to handcuff Gandia. Gandia got out of his car and tried to fight the trooper, authorities said.

Gandia was arrested, and police reportedly found several weapons and a pipe bomb in his car. Authorities also recovered nine “possible” destructive devices from inside Gandia’s home, officials said.

Police: Sheriff showed up at standoff drunk

NM RIO RANCHO — The New Mexico Attorney General’s Office is reviewing a case involving a sheriff who police said showed up drunk to a SWAT standoff and tried to order officers away.

Sheriff’s office said that the sheriff, Michael Gonzales, was at a call Saturday night about some officers on a pursuit, according to the news release. Authorities said that they are investigating.

The approximate value per pound of baby eels, called elvers, in Maine. The state’s lucrative harvest of elvers was to begin Monday after the coronavirus forced the season to be delayed. Fishermen catch elvers in rivers and streams every spring, as they’re an important part of the worldwide supply chain for Japanese food. The season would have started on March 22, but Maine Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher said at the time that aspects of the fishery made it difficult to maintain social distancing and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The state’s lucrative harvest of elvers is held online lessons for kids online

GA JEFFERSON — Georgia’s hospital for sick and injured sea turtles is holding online lessons for children.

A sheriff’s deputy said that the stop was justified because Owen was speeding in a 25 mph zone. But Owen’s lawyer argued that the speed limit was actually 55 mph by default because there was no sign on Parsonage Road.

The Michigan appeals court in 2019 ruled in favor of Owen and threw out evidence of drunken driving, saying that a “reasonably competent” officer should have known that Owen couldn’t be stopped for speeding. But the Supreme Court last week said that it’s wondering if the officer simply “made an objectively reasonable mistake of law.”
Crisis reveals a long list of deficiencies

BY CONNIE SERN
Bloomberg Opinion

Crisis reveals underlying weaknesses in social and economic systems. Although disruptive, they provide opportunities to shore up those systems. The 2008-09 financial crisis revealed weak points in banks, the financial system and the mortgage market, all of which were greater than they were. The coronavirus crisis similarly is revealing weaknesses in different areas of our economy. As we chart our way through this crisis to make them stronger, creating the foundation for a more resilient world in the future.

When thinking about a crisis, our focus should be on what underlying fragilities existed that allowed the crisis to happen in the first place. With the financial crisis, several weak points were exposed. Banks took on too much leverage to juice profits and financial derivatives speculators worked out well in booming markets because it meant banks were able to make greater profits on ever-smaller equity base. Once the economy slumped, though, those capi- tal buffers proved to be insufficient to absorb huge credit losses, putting the whole financial system and broader economy at risk.

The financial system was also put at risk because traditional bank-based banking activities shifted from banks and regulated fi- nancial exchanges to nonbank entities with less over- sight and more regulatory slack behind them. The credit-derivatives market boomed. When some of those bets went bad, because the collateral backing them largely didn’t exist, financial firms weren’t able to make good on their side of the bargain, leading to panic about whether any of those nonbank financial intermediaries would default.

In the housing market, mortgage-underwriting standards were loosened too much. Lenders made loans without adequate verification of borrowers’ ability to repay, and borrowers took on more debt than they could afford on the assumption they would soon sell their homes for a profit. Many of the loans originated had interest rates that reset after a short period of time, making them unaffordable to the buyer. Many of these same loans were made with low or no down payment requirements. When the housing-market slump deepened and the Great Recession began, people lost their jobs and the payment shock was traumatic econom- ically and because there was little or no equity in so many homes, sobering defaults and foreclosures. The nation’s lead- ing banks had huge losses.

Regulations and business practices were changed to at least partially address these perceived weaknesses. Capital requirements were increased, and large banks now have to pass annual stress tests before they can return capital to share- holders. As a result, banks are not rushing to the federal government for rescue pack- ages. Trump administration officials are now watching the way Washington will proceed now. Regulations were put in place govern- ing credit derivatives, curtailing their use.

Mortgage-underwriting standards were tightened, contributing to the sluggish housing recovery during the past decade but also meaning that we’re less likely to see the housing market strain the system in this crisis in the same way as a decade ago.

Now the coronavirus crisis is revealing other weak points in our society. The U.S. health care system lacks the spare capacit- y to respond to a pandemic. Public-health agencies were too slow to begin taking ac- tion after federal funding cuts. Too many hospitals and nursing homes didn’t have adequate savings cushion, making it diffi- cult for them to withstand a prolonged econ- omic shutdown. Some large nonfinancial businesses may have immediate liquidity shortfalls after just a relatively brief shutdown. State and local governments will struggle when billions of dollars are needed to try to meet budget requirements.

What’s striking is how many of today’s weaknesses were already evident before the pandemic.

The U.S. Congress has proposed sending another $2.2 trillion to the states, cities and local governments to help them pay for an 8% per capita spending increase. That will have a significant impact on the states’ bottom lines. And it’s a long way off.

The 2008 financial crisis revealed these weaknesses in an instant. When the United States government did not act to support the financial system, it was drawn down and the Fed had to support it with $1 trillion. The current crisisShare

The Stars and Stripes digital experience is designed for you.

Give Americans the chance to buy ‘war’ bonds again

BY HUGH HEEWIT
Special to The Washington Post

Throughout World Wars I and II, ci- vilians supported U.S. war efforts in part through purchases of “war” bonds. America’s military in- spiration in the Atlantic and Mediterranean campaigns of World War II was signified by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signature on D-day, framed in his office that was given to him by the British prime minister after the D-Day invasion. Roosevelt had signed the D-Day declaration in his office.

The Federal Reserve was given the power to buy war bonds in World War I, and the government had used it to buy war bonds throughout World War II. As a result, the Federal Reserve was able to grow from a bank to a bank that could grow the money supply and lend it to banks and other institutions. But the Federal Reserve was not able to do that in World War II. The Federal Reserve was able to buy war bonds in World War II, but it was not able to do that in World War II. The Federal Reserve was able to buy war bonds in World War II, but it was not able to do that in World War II.

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Heewitt is a Washington Post contributing column- ist, hosts a nationally syndicated radio show and is author of “The Fourth Way: The Conservative Playbook for a Lasting GOP Majority.”
China fills leadership void as pandemic plays out

By Doyle McManus
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON

Life, as the Wuhan virus clearly has demonstrated, is a battle zone. The United States and China have turned the pandemic into a battle zone in their struggle for global influence. And so far, the United States is losing ground.

The White House bungled its initial response to the Wuhan virus at home, and launched a broad attack on Xi Jinping and China. The Department of State, the Commerce Department, the Treasury Department, and the United Nations offers to send scientists and doctors from other countries to cover shortages at home.

Meanwhile, Beijing and Washington squabbled over which country was to blame. In China, officials initially tried to cover up the Wuhan outbreak and rebuffed U.S. and United Nations offers to send scientists to help study the virus. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spread a conspiracy theory, unbacked by evidence, that visiting U.S. officials had introduced it.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called his counterpart in Beijing to complain, and launched a broad attack on Xi Jinping's government.

The “Chinese Communist Party poses a substantial threat to our health and way of life, as the Wuhan virus clearly has demonstrated,” Pompeo told reporters, blasting Beijing for providing assistance to other countries and then “claiming that they are now the white hat.”

Pompeo also created a needless diplomatic flap last week by demanding that the Group of 7 democracies blame the pandemic on the “Wuhan virus” in a joint communique intended to show global powers standing shoulder to shoulder during a crisis.

The other G-7 countries refused and the joint statement was shelved. As a result, a once-powerful coalition led by the United States was visibly dismantled.

President Donald Trump chairs the G-7 this year, but diplomats said he didn’t convene a videoconference of its leaders until France’s Emmanuel Macron repeatedly nudged him to.

That’s not leadership. Pompeo is right about the facts. China did try to cover up the initial outbreak. Its Communist Party does lead a brutal authoritarian regime.

But he is ignoring our allies’ needs. European countries in the grips of the deadly pandemic want China’s help. They don’t want to score rhetorical points against Beijing; they need to stay on Xi’s good side.

China’s apparent recovery, coupled with the White House disarray, has given Xi an opportunity to win hearts and minds around the world. The Chinese people are sick, they don’t care where the medicine comes from. Xi is simply doing what any normal big-power leader would do: working to expand his country’s influence.

The problem isn’t that China is acting more like a global leader. It’s that the United States is acting less like one.

The State Department offered aid to more than two dozen countries, but it’s been virtually invisible, both because this administration is preoccupied with the pandemic at home and because it shows such disdain for alliances and international organizations.

China’s still recovering from its outbreak. Although its economy is the world’s second-largest, its military is far smaller than America’s and its allies. It limits access to the internet, jails dissidents and recently expelled journalists from major U.S. news organizations.

And Beijing’s aid offensive hasn’t been error-free. There has been a backlash in parts of Europe against clumsy Chinese efforts to mix humanitarian aid with commercial deals, like the electronic giant Huawei’s shipments of surgical masks to countries where it’s seeking big contracts.

“I’d say both,” said a source at the Pentagon: “They are playing the soft-power game very poorly.”

Susan A. Thornton, a former State Department China expert, told me.

“Trying to use a disaster response to score political points is tricky,” she said. “When thousands of people are dying, you’d better be seen to be doing everything you can to save lives and cooperate, or you’re not going to win any hearts and minds.”

If the question is which political or economic model has been most effective in fighting the pandemic, the answer is neither. The United States and China are two medical places that have fared best so far are well-run democracies with sophisticated healthcare networks that did lots of early testing: South Korea and New Zealand.

Like any other global cataclysm, the pandemic appears likely to change the balance of power, but the balance largely on which countries recover quickly.

So far, China appears to have increased its influence; how much isn’t clear. It has made the United States look ineffective; how durably isn’t clear.

It has made traditional institutions of international cooperation, like the U.N. and the G-7, less relevant as a medical catastrophe and economic carnage pose dangers to global stability.

That’s why the most likely outcome a world in which nobody’s a winner.

By Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

Russian facade of control over COVID-19 is cracking

By Garry Kasparov
Special to The Washington Post

With most of Europe and the United States a COVID-19 swamp, and the slow coronavirus pandemic’s advance, it was surprising to see Russia and Putin’s government in April announce the country was out of the crisis. It is remarkable that anyone ever took Russia’s coronavirus numbers at face value. Like most dictatorships, Putin’s regime lies constantly, even when it doesn’t have to. Authoritarian regimes are obsessed with information control, especially when there is news that could make them look weak. No appearance of vulnerability can be permitted, otherwise the people might start getting dangerous ideas.

Then there is Putin’s track record in the specific realm of health and epidemics. HIV officially barely exists in Russia, where it is still wrongly considered a “gay disease,” and where the LGBTQ community is a persecuted minority. Activist groups are harassed and shut down. Unsurprisingly, Russia is one of the few places where HIV cases are increasing.

Putin’s coronavirus malpractice isn’t just the latest misery visited upon the Russian people; he also endangers the rest of the world. Remember the lessons of Chernobyl. The toxic nuclear cloud that the Soviet authorities pretended didn’t exist until it was over Sweden did not stop at the Soviet border. The artificially low coronavirus numbers kept Russia off most flight ban and mandatory quarantine lists as the pandemic spread, with hundreds of flights going in and out of the country.

The human cost would be beside the point to Putin, who cares only about sending the message that he is strong and in control. If you think that description also applies to President Donald Trump’s recent news conferences, you wouldn’t be wrong. Trump’s tendency to echo autocratic rhetoric is well-established, and the pandemic is no exception. Having wasted precious weeks minimizing the threat, Trump and his acolytes started (though then abandoned) a drumbeat about returning to normal life by Easter — April 12 — in a rhetorical campaign that demanded the false and immoral choice between saving lives and restoring economic growth.

Trump’s callousness about potential victims of the pandemic has been jarring, even by this president’s standards. A crisis means difficult choices, impossible decisions that must still be made. But valuing every life — including the elderly, the weak, the vulnerable — is one of the signal traits that distinguish democracies from dictatorships.

Many of the core elements of democracy are already under pressure from the virus itself. Public gatherings, including some elections, have been suspended. Privacy is at risk as the government tracking apps that can help control the spread. Even the social media platforms that routinely tolerate offensive content have grown more vigilant while Germany has moved quickly to take down misinformation about COVID-19. Worthwhile measures in the short term could be used for bad ends in the wrong hands.

The pandemic will leave its mark, changing the balance of power around the world; we must unite to determine the kind of society we want to live in on the other side of it. We have the ability to stop the virus from destroying our bodies, we must also reach deeply to our souls. America will outlast the coronavirus despite Trump, and it doesn’t have to become like him to do it.

Garry Kasparov is the chairman of the Renew Democracy Initiative.
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Red Sox’s Sale has surgery on elbow

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

BOSTON — Red Sox starter Chris Sale had Tommy John surgery on his left elbow on Monday, May 3, on his 31st birthday, waiting 11 days after doctors said he needed the procedure due to difficulty in scheduling during the coronavirus pandemic.

Red Sox chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom said the team worked with doctors to make sure the procedure didn’t burden an already-stressed healthcare system.

“Under normal circumstances we might have been able to have it happen a little bit sooner,” Bloom said on a conference call with reporters. “We know that this is not life and death. It’s apples and oranges with this versus when you talk about something that’s life-threatening.”

Dr. Larry Atrochak replaced Sale’s ulnar collateral ligament at the Kerlan-Jobe Institute in Los Angeles; the Red Sox said the lefty will return to Boston to begin his recovery. Sale is expected to miss 14-15 months, which would bring him back in time for the start of the 2023 season.

“We look forward to his return sometime next year,” Bloom said. Also Monday, Red Sox general manager Brian O’Halloran said that the team will wait until next week to consider whether to re-sign its free agent in lefty. Sale is a free agent after the 2022 season.

“If we look forward to his return sometime next year,” Bloom said.

Mega Millions

MLB glance

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball is extending its financial support to minor league players through May while suspending their contracts because of the new coronavirus pandemic.

MLB announced March 19 that it was giving minor league players $400 weekly allowances through April 9, the day before the minor league season was scheduled to start. The commissioner’s office said Tuesday that minor league players will continue to receive those allowances and health benefits through May 31 or the minor league opening day, whichever comes first.

Minor league contracts have a provision allowing them to be suspended “during any national emergency.” MLB said Tuesday it had told the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the minor league governing body, that it was unable to supply players to minor league affiliates because of the emergency.

Major and minor league seasons are on hold due to the new coronavirus. Weekly minimum salaries on full-season minor league teams range from $290 at Class A to $502 at Triple-A over the five-month season, meaning many players are making more during this hiatus than they do in-season.

The allowances are meant to help players cover costs for housing, food and training. Most players were instructed to leave their spring training complexes just over two weeks ago, sending them scrambling to make ends meet because they hadn’t received a paycheck from teams since the end of the 2019 season. Exceptions were made for players from Venezuela and other high-risk areas, many of whom remained at the spring camps.

MLB reached an agreement last week with the Major League Baseball Players Association, which covers players in the minors who have big-league contracts. The teams are providing $170 million in advance salaries to that group.

MLB’s minor league initiative also does not cover players on the restricted, voluntary retired, disqualified or ineligible lists, and those already receiving housing or food from teams. In addition, each team will make arrangements for players on Dominican Summer League rosters.

Safety: ‘Crazy, challenging’ season is ahead

FROM BACK PAGE

No one knows when baseball and other suspended sports will resume, because no one knows when life might return to normal in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak. More than 800,000 people around the world have become infected and over 39,000 have died, according to a running count kept by Johns Hopkins University, counts that include more than 165,000 infections and more than 3,100 deaths in the U.S.

Spring training was halted on March 12; opening day was supposed to be last week and won’t happen any earlier than mid-May.

“At this point, it’s hard to say what can or should be done. MLB is exhausting all of its (brain)power and manpower, along with the 30 clubs, to come up with some ideas and what’s the best way to play a regular season in as many games as possible and get to a playoff scenario,” said Washington Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo, whose team has turned over the grounds of its spring facility to public testing for the coronavirus.

“As the commissioner said, we’re going to need to get creative, “Rizzo added. “But beyond that, we’re just speculating on all of these things."

MLB and its players are hoping to complete initial discussions on scheduling by April 10, and among the proposals under consideration: pushing back the end of the season, even if it involves using neutral sites and domes to avoid colder weather in many cities; increasing doubleheaders to get more games in per week than usual, playing games without spectators, changing the postseason format.

“We’ve been told,” said Tal-...
NCAA gives spring athletes an extra year of eligibility

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

The NCAA will permit Division I spring-sport athletes — such as baseball, softball and lacrosse players — who had their seasons shortened by the coronavirus pandemic to have an additional year of eligibility.

The NCAA Division I Council voted Monday to give spring-sport athletes regardless of their year in school a way to get back the season they lost, but it did not guarantee financial aid to current seniors if they return to play next year.

Winter sports, such as basketball and hockey, were not included in the decision because many athletes in those sports had completed all or most of their regular seasons, the council decided.

The council is made up of college sports administrators representing all 32 D-I conferences, plus two members of the student-athlete advisory committee. Earlier in the day, 60 SAAC members released a letter asking the council to provide the extra eligibility to all athletes whose seasons were impacted by the COVID-19 related shutdown.

Voting is weighted to give the Power Five conferences more say. Chairwoman Grace Calhoun, who is Penn's athletic director, declined to reveal the final vote. “At the end we really did coalesce around all of the decisions that we made today,” Calhoun said. “They were strongly supported.”

How much scholarship money will be made available to each athlete whose college career would have ended this spring will be determined by the athlete’s school.

The added scholarships could cost a school hundreds of thousands of dollars more than it would usually spend on spring-sport athletes. The extra expenses come at a time when athletic departments could be facing cuts. The pandemic forced the cancellation of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, which cut the revenue from its distribution to members by $375 million this year.

There had long discussions around the fact that this does not avoid substantially difficult circumstances, but what we felt was important was to localize that decision-making and to ensure that we were as permissible as possible,” Calhoun said. “At the end of the day, each institution is going to have to figure out what it can do.”

Schools will be able to use the NCAA’s Student Assistance Fund to pay for scholarships for students who take advantage of the additional eligibility in 2020-21.

Roster and scholarship limits for teams will be adjusted next season to fit returning seniors and incoming freshman. Similar changes have already been approved in Division II.

Nebraska-Omaha softball player Hailey Bartz was planning to graduate in December and move on from school. Now she’s not so sure.

“I’ve been speaking with my family about it and trying to figure out pros and cons. Do I want to take advantage of that year? Do I not?” Bartz said. “Some of my teammates have their schooling set up, full-time jobs. You have your life planned out and then this kind of pushes everything back another year. At the same time it’s really hard to pass up because it’s a game of love.”

NCAA Division I rules allow athletes to have four seasons of competition in a five-year period. Schools will be allowed to apply for waivers to restore one of those seasons for any athlete who competed while eligible in the spring season shortened by COVID-19 in 2020. After the 2021 spring season, scholarship and roster limits will apply to athletes granted the waiver.

“This has a four- or five-year effect depending on how you want to count it,” said Marquette athletic director Bill Scholl, whose school fields track, lacrosse, tennis and golf teams in the spring. “So the roster management piece is just something we have to manage, we’re going to have to figure out and work our way through.

Calhoun said the council did not consider the possibility of the fall sports season, including football, being interrupted. Football generates billions of dollars, especially for Power Five conferences. Losing that would be potentially devastating to schools that play major college football.

“There was an acknowledgment that we don’t know the future and if other seasons are canceled (or other things happen in the future) we’ll have to take that up with the individual merits of the case at time,” Calhoun said.

Football coaches try to fill void without spring practice

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Since taking over as Florida State coach in December, Mike Norvell has spent seemingly endless hours laying the foundation of his program.

Winter is time for coaches to deliver a consistent message, build the culture they want and get players to buy into a way of going about their business whether they are in the weight room, a meeting room or classroom.

Norvell has seen plenty of positive signs. Spring practice is the first opportunity to see how it translates to the field. The Seminoles have three practices before the coronavirus outbreak shut down college sports and upended nearly everything else.

“You spend so much time teaching them why we do things. And you’re hopeful to get the chance to show them some of the payoff of that through spring practice,” Norvell said.

Normally, college football teams all over the country would be preparing for the upcoming season. Installing new schemes. Working on fundamentals. Developing less experienced players and expanding the skills of veterans. Building a cohesive team, players and coaches connecting.

That’s gone now and coaches are trying to figure out how to create some of what has been lost.

“Your football team is under construction,” Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said. “A new group of players that require time. Those hours mean a lot. You begin to develop the DNA of your football team.”

Kelly said his top concern was making sure players stay on top of their now online academics. Notre Dame normally offers no online classes.

“We’re all academic advisors,” Kelly said of his staff.

Miami coach Manny Diaz doesn’t have Kelly’s luxuries. The Hurricanes have a new offense under coordinator Rhett Lashlee and a new quarterback in Houston transfer D’Eriq King.

“With the roster management piece, which is just something our coaches have to manage, we’re going to have to figure out and work our way through.”

Calhoun said he planned to send spring football schedules to the 14 players — who had their seasons shortened — as well as any other athletes who had their seasons cut.

Associated Press writer Eric Olson in Omaha, Nebraska, and Steve Megargee in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

Miami’s Manny Diaz, above, is trying to put in a new offense under coordinator Rhett Lashlee and a new quarterback in Houston transfer D’Eriq King despite not having a full spring practice. Other coaches, with veteran players, such as Cincinnati’s Luke Fickell, below, should be less impacted by the loss of spring football practice.

Football coaches try to fill void without spring practice

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Coaches are hopeful some of the time they have lost in the spring might be given back in the summer, either through minicamps or earlier starts to preseason practices. But there is so much uncertainty the old coaching cliche of taking things one day at a time has never been more relevant.

Luke Fickell is entering his fourth season at Cincinnati with an established core of experienced players. He said his goal is to give the players a routine. The American Athletic Conference has canceled athletic activities for the rest of the school year.

The Bearcats will be getting workout regimens they can do on their own without access to local gyms. Fickell plans to organize online meetings with position groups and assistant coaches.

“Don’t know how much they’re going to get out of the meetings. Don’t know how much they’re going to get out of the workouts,” Fickell said. “We just have to create some type structure.”

Fickell said he is not overly concerned about his veteran players. Sometimes keeping those guys engaged and motivated in spring practice is a challenge.

For younger players, especially at a developmental program like Cincinnati, losing spring practice is a huge setback.

“They’re going to lose half a year of development,” he said.

Norvell said he planned to send his players a five-minute video of himself, twice a week. Having them hear his voice and see his face is more about building trust than teaching football.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty with everyone,” Norvell said.
Rock chalk, Jayhawk nice shot

Chalmers' trey in 2008 final forced overtime, was highlight of Kansas' rally over Memphis

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO—Mario Chalmers, meet Lorenzo Charles and Keith Smart.

The Kansas guard made one of the biggest shots in NCAA history Monday night, a three-pointer with 2.1 seconds left to force overtime and lead the Jayhawks to the national championship with a 75-68 victory over Memphis.

Chalmers' shot was the most tremendous moment of a tremendous game that saw the Tigers squander a nine-point lead over the final 2:12. Derrick Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts missed four of five free throws over the final 72 seconds to set the table for Chalmers, a junior from Anchorage, Alaska, who is suddenly a household name.

"Probably the biggest shot ever made in Kansas history," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "That has to be one of the biggest shots in basketball history," teammate Rodrick Stewart said.

The win gave the Jayhawks their first title since 1988, when "Danny (Manning) and the Miracles" pulled an upset over Oklahoma.

Chalmers' shot came almost 25 years to the date after Charles became famous with his stick-back of Dereck Whittenburg's air ball sent Jim Valvano to give North Carolina State a title of Dereck Whittenburg's air ball.

"The best shot in college basketball history," Kansas' Sherron Collins and Mario Chalmers late in overtime in his team's 75-68 victory over Memphis in the 2008 national championship game in San Antonio. Below: Chalmers, now a pro player in Greece, celebrates after hitting the shot.

Kansas cheering section Monday wearing a Jayhawks sticker.

But the Jayhawks (37-3) used the strategy any smart opponents of Memphis' would, fouling the heck out of one of the country's worst free-throw shooting teams and when Rose and Douglas-Roberts started putting up bricks, KU had its opening.

"Being a leader of this team, I feel I let them down by missing them," Douglas-Roberts said. "I told them that I take the blame." Everyone on Kansas deserves some credit. Arthur was dominant inside, finishing with 20 points and 10 rebounds, lots on dunks and easy layups off lob passes. Chalmers finished with 18 points. Rush had 12 and Collins had 11 points, six assists and did a wonderful job handling Rose for the first 26 minutes.

Rose wound up with 18 points in a game that showed how ready he is for the NBA. He was 3-for-4 from the line, however, and that one miss with 10.8 seconds left is what almost certainly would have sealed the game and given the Tigers their first title.

"It wasn't really the free throws," Rose said. "If we'd done things before the free throws, we would've been in good shape." Instead, the title goes back to Lawrence for the third time in the fabled program's history.

The inventor of the game, James Naismith, was the first Jayhawks coach. It's the school that made household names of Wilt Chamberlain, Manning and yes, even North Carolina's Roy Williams, the coach who famously left the Jayhawks, lost to them in the semifinals, but was in the

Chalmers was every bit as clutch, while Memphis was the exact opposite. The ending made a mockery of Tigers coach John Calipari's theory that his players, among the country's worst with 59% free-throw shooting, would always come through when the stakes were highest.

"Ten seconds to go, we're thinking we're national champs, all of a sudden a kid makes a shot, and we're not," Calipari said.

Hustling the ball down the court with 10.8 seconds left, no timeouts and trailing by three, Sherron Collins handed off to Chalmers at the top of the three-point line, and Chalmers took the shot. It hit nothing but net and tied the score at 63.

Robert Dozier missed a desperation heave at the buzzer, and Rose limping to the bench, favoring his right leg.

Brandon Rush, Darrell Arthur and Darnell Jackson scored the first six points of overtime to put Kansas ahead 69-63. Memphis, clearly exhausted, didn't pull any closer than three of the rest of the way.

Rose played all 45 minutes in what could very well be his last college game.

"Overtime, they kind of beat us down," Calipari said. "I didn't sub a whole lot, because I was trying to win the game at the end."

Although Chalmers will go down in history, Rose was setting himself up to be the star of the game, the next 'King' in Memphis. He took over in the second half, scoring 14 of his team's 16 points during one stretch to lift the Tigers (38-2) to a 60-51 lead with 2.1 left.

The win gave the Jayhawks (37-3) a 75-68 victory over Memphis in the 2008 national championship game in San Antonio. Below: Chalmers, now a pro player in Greece, celebrates after hitting the shot.
As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

As baseball ponders post-coronavirus season, players worry about health

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

As Major League Baseball and the players’ union contemplate ways to create a schedule for whenever the coronavirus pandemic subsides, Cincinnati Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart raised a concern that is surely shared by others around the sport: Could trying to cram in games, and maybe extend the season into late November or December, lead to injuries?

“The player safety piece is a big thing,” Barnhart, a union representative, said Monday during a conference call with reporters.

That involves how many off-days are salvaged in 2020, how many times teams are told to play in any given week and how 2021 could be affected if there is a shorter-than-usual offseason.

“Moving forward, I don’t think you can do things that are going to compromise the integrity of next season, as well. What I mean by that is forcing the issue of getting so many games in that you risk injury, and you risk major injury to players, because you are trying to get in as many games as you can,” Barnhart said.

“This is all assumptions and thoughts from me specifically — it’s not from the union — but you’re going to have to protect us as players,” he continued. “And if you can’t do that, I think that would be where I personally would kind of draw the line.”

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TO OUR READERS

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