WASHINGTON — Nearly 3 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week as the viral outbreak led more companies to slash jobs even though most states have begun to let some businesses re-open under certain restrictions.

Roughly 36 million people have now filed for jobless aid in the two months since the coronavirus first forced millions of businesses to close their doors and shrink their workforces, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Still, the number of first-time applications has now declined for six straight weeks, suggesting that a dwindling number of companies are reducing their payrolls.

By historical standards, the latest tally shows that the number of weekly jobless claims remains enormous, reflecting an economy that is sinking into a severe downturn. Last week's pace of new applications for aid was still four times the record high that prevailed before the coronavirus struck hard in March.

Jobless workers in some states are still reporting difficulty applying for or receiving benefits. These include freelance, gig and self-employed workers, who became newly eligible for jobless aid this year.

The states that are now easing lockdowns are doing so in varied ways. Ohio has permitted warehouses, most offices, factories, and construction companies to reopen, but restaurants and bars remain closed for indoor sit-down service.

SEE JOBLESS ON PAGE 10

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

Staff Sgt. Riley Krebsbach still makes the same recruiting pitch to sell young Americans on the U.S. Army despite the current coronavirus outbreak, but his delivery is drastically different.

Face-to-face meetings with potential recruits have been replaced by long hours on a computer and smartphone — searching for and chatting with prospects in a safe digital environment. Instead of working from his Moreno Valley recruiting station in southern California, visiting local high schools and canvassing community events to explain the benefits that come with Army service, Krebsbach now posts messages on social media and interviews prospects via video conferencing services from his home.

Because of social distancing, recruiters faced a sudden shift to telework and digital prospecting, which Krebsbach said was challenging. But it has led them to rethink the art of recruiting and find innovative ways to connect. The outbreak could have lasting impact on the way the military fills its ranks.

SEE RECRUITING ON PAGE 4

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Elysis Wilson, a production recruiter with the 168th Wing, helps enlist a new recruit using a video conference call April 16 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

This virtual enlistment allowed a new Alaska Air National Guard recruit to complete their oath of enlistment while complying with COVID-19 safety regulations.

SHANNON CHACE
U.S. Air National Guard

Claims for jobless aid in US climb to 36 million

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Recruiting in the time of coronavirus

Despite deep cuts into numbers, officials say changes likely to stay

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes
**EUROPE GAS PRICES**

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(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euros.)

**INTEREST RATES**

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<tr>
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**Using Stars and Stripes ReLOCATION Guide**

Every Friday the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo
Burials, shock after Afghan hospital attack

BY SHARIF HASSAN AND SUSANNAH GEORGE
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hajar Sarwari was in labor with her second child at a western Kabul maternity ward on Tuesday morning when gunmen shot her twice in the abdomen, killing her and her unborn child.

Sarwari’s family buried her atop a hill under overcast skies on the outskirts of the Afghan capital Wednesday morning, one day after three gunmen killed 24 people in a Doctors Without Borders maternity ward. The baby remained in her womb.

“There’s no humanity left in this country,” said Sarwari’s husband, Mohammad Hussain Yaqobi, his speech slow and halting. He stood near his wife’s grave, marked by a simple black headstone and a small mound of upturned earth. “The attackers had no conscience. How can they justify killing dead innocent newborns and their mothers?”

The burial was one of many across Kabul on Wednesday morning. Hospital officials said the mothers of at least 26 newborns were among Tuesday’s dead, as were those of two infants, pregnant women, nurses and a security guard. Sixteen were wounded.

More funeral rituals were held about 30 miles to the east, in Nangarhar province. A suicide bombing there on Tuesday killed 32 and wounded 133. The attacker struck hours after the hospital rampage began and targeted a funeral gathering for a prominent local security official. The Islamic State claimed responsibility.

The brutality of the attack on the maternity ward paired with the funeral bombing shocked Kabul and the country. The Taliban denied responsibility, but the militants have increased attacks on Afghan forces in other parts of the country for weeks, inflicting heavy casualties. Afghan security officials linked that uptick in attacks to the Tuesday’s attacks on civilians.

Taliban President Ashraf Ghani responded by directing his forces to resume offensive operations against the Taliban. The move marks a major setback to peace efforts in Afghanistan. The Taliban called Ghani’s statement a “declaration of war.”

Maintaining a defensive footing was intended as a goodwill gesture as Afghan government officials and Taliban leaders worked over how to begin direct peace talks. But the talks, mandated by the U.S.-Taliban peace deal signed in February, were repeatedly delayed for months over a controversial prisoner exchange and escalating violence.

The U.S. military command in Kabul said Wednesday that there had been no change in the posture of American troops in Afghanistan since Ghani’s announcement.

“The established military-military communications channel (between the United States and the Taliban) continues to function as a conduit through which both sides can address concerns,” according to a spokesman for U.S. forces who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with departmental regulations.

In Kabul, families affected by the maternity ward attack tried to move forward Wednesday. At a hospital in western Kabul, newborns who had been rescued from Tuesday’s shooting were reunited with relatives.

Outside one of the rooms, Khan Ali held his child, with his wife by his side. She had given birth minutes before the attack, and both she and the baby girl escaped unhurt.

“God has given a second life for my wife and daughter,” he said.

In a statement released Wednesday, Doctors Without Borders said it had “indications” that one of its employees was killed and that its health workers were following up with survivors.

“Every effort is being made by our medical team to follow up on the newborns in the maternity hospital to ensure the best possible care to our patients and to those injured, to provide psychological care to affected staff, and to provide every necessary support to those bereaved,” the statement read.

At Sarwari’s family home, relatives gathered to comfort the grieving and express their condolences.

“Have you ever heard that newborn babies were shot dead? This is the first I hear. It is too close to a target and was accidentally fired,” said Mohammad Rahimi Youssifi, a distant relative.

Sarwari’s family were weep uncontrollably, supported by a group of women in long black robes. “Stop. You’re already sick, don’t cry anymore,” one of the women began to cry.

Outside, Sarwari’s 6-year-old daughter, Razia, played and giggled in the front yard.

No one had told her what had happened to her mother.

Rahila Yaqobi, her aunt, said the young girl had been eager to go to the hospital with her mother. “I told her, ‘Don’t go, wait here. Mommy will bring a baby for you,’” she recalled and then began to cry.

“I don’t know how to tell her that her mommy is dead,” she said.

US military offers condolences over deadly Iran accident

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military offered condolences Thursday to Iran over a friendly fire incident in the Islamic Republic that killed 19 of its troops, identifying the weapon used in the incident as an anti-ship cruise missile.

The U.S. military said in a statement that a missile struck the Iranian navy vessel Konarak near the port of Jask, some 790 miles southeast of Tehran in the Gulf of Oman. Authorities said the Konarak was too close to a target and was accidentally hit Sunday in an incident that also wounded 15 troops.

In a statement, Capt. Bill Urban, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command, said the military offered “our sincere condolences to the families of the fallen, to our partners in the region’s Gulf operations, to the Iranian government, and to our colleagues in the Iranian military.”

“While we are troubled that this mishap occurred in such close proximity to a high-traffic international shipping lane and at a time when the world is reeling from the impact of COVID-19, the unnecessary loss of life is regrettable,” he said.

Tensions had been expected to rise after Iran’s government overcame the initial chaos that engulfed its response to the coronavirus pandemic. In April, the U.S. accused Iran of conducting “dangerous and harassing” maneuvers near American warships in the northern Persian Gulf. Iran also had been suspected of briefly seizing a Hong Kong-flagged oil tanker just before that.

Taliban truck bomb leaves at least 5 civilians dead in latest attack

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban truck bomb killed at least five civilians when it exploded near a military court in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, continuing a series of controversial prisoner exchange and escalated attacks against the Taliban, said Rohullah Ahmadzai, a defense ministry spokesman.

“The re’s no humanity left in this country,” Ahmadzai said in a phone interview.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing, which spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement was a direct response to President Ashraf Ghani ordering Afghan troops Tuesday to resume offensive operations against the insurgents.

Ghani gave the order hours after an attack on a Kabul hospital killed 24, including at least two newborns. The Taliban denied involvement in the hospital shootings and in another attack that day that killed at least 32 at a funeral in Nangarhar province, which was later claimed by Islamic State. ISIS hasn’t claimed the hospital attack, but it was in an area home to a large Shi’ite Hazara minority, who have frequently been the target of the militants’ suicide bombings and raids.

Althoug Hadi’s televised speech focused on the Taliban, his country’s troops have continued to fight ISIS, which both the Taliban and Afghan forces consider a foe.

As of Thursday afternoon, the Afghan military had yet to resume offensive attacks against the Taliban, said Rohullah Ahmadzai, a defense ministry spokesman.

“You cannot go into action as soon as the president orders it,” Ahmadzai said. “But we’ll finish the planning and start physical operations very soon.”

The U.S. expected the signing of the Feb. 29 peace deal with the Taliban in Qatar to bring about a reduction in violence and formal talks that would bring about a comprehensive cease-fire.

Instead, the Taliban have ramped up their operations, officials from the U.S.-led NATO Resolute Support mission in the country told the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, in a recent report to Congress. But the group had refrained from attacking provincial centers, likely appraised of any potential consequences of the agreement, the command said.

The Taliban has avoided attacking foreign forces, though coalition troops have supported their Afghan allies in defensive measures and continued to serve as advisers.

The resumption of Afghan offensive operations does not signal an end to the peace process, both Ghani and U.S. officials have said. The U.S. military continues to carry out an initial drawdown of troops from around 13,000 to 8,600 as called for in the deal. If the Taliban meet the expectations of the Feb. 29 agreement, foreign forces would complete their withdrawal by the middle of next year.

KIANA HAYERI/For The Washington Post

After Hajar and her unborn baby’s burial, women gathered inside one room to console her mother, mother-in-law and sister and pay their respect to the family.
Recruiting: Military sees benefits in moving to digital enlistments

FROM FRONT PAGE

“The transition has been sort of an acquired skill set,” said Krebsbach, 31, who spent seven years in the infantry before shifting two years ago to a temporary recruiting assignment that he hopes to make permanent. “Getting used to working from home — moving us into social media and virtual prospecting. It’s not something we were very big on before, but we jumped right into it.”

“I’m already sure it will be a big part of recruiting for our future,” he said.

On March 18, the Army made an unprecedented decision in U.S. military recruiting history. The largest service shut down public access to its 1,400 recruiting stations. Krebsbach and others were ordered to telework when possible and target potential recruits online and by phone. The other services quickly followed.

By March 25, when the Marine Corps announced it would shift prospecting efforts entirely to the virtual sphere, the Pentagon’s recruiting force of more than 20,000 service members had ditched recruiting stations and offices.

The military cannot simply stop recruiting, even in the face of the world’s worst health crisis in decades. It must bring young, healthy men and women into the services — more than 150,000 every year — to fill its ranks as others leave for civilian life.

Falling behind on recruiting has serious ripple effects.

For example, when the Army failed to meet its annual recruiting goal in 2018 for the first time since 2005, it was unable to meet its end-strength goal. That skewed the Army’s ability to prepare for potential conflict with near-peer adversaries like China and Russia.

Top service officials found that the Army’s recruiting processes lagged decades behind in technology. Recruiters, Army leaders said, failed to target prized 17- to 24-year-olds where they were most likely to be found — sharing on social media and playing online video games.

The cost of corona

Despite the digital efforts, recruiting has suffered. All four services reported drops in the metrics that track progress on the recruiting front. In some cases, services fell short by thousands of new contacts with potential recruits. Others projected they would sign far fewer recruits to enlistment contracts amid the pandemic.

All four services reported drastic declines in the number of recruits they sent into their initial entrance training pipelines.

The shift to full virtual recruiting cost Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, the Army’s recruiting chief, and his team nearly two weeks of prospecting efforts.

He said he expects to face a shortfall by the end of May of about 3,100 recruits with signed contracts. His recruiters entered the pandemic with more than 2,000 signed contracts ahead of the short-term goals set by the Army.

“Even if we’re behind 3,500, 3,800, I still think with all of the innovation we are doing and the morale of the recruiters right now and how much they want to get after it — I think we’ll be able to make it,” Muth said.

While the Army does not yet have a specific recruiting goal for fiscal year 2020, Muth expects the number to fall just shy of the 68,000 that his organization exceeded last year. Service officials earlier this year floated an unofficial 69,000 recruit goal, but better-than-expected retention rates among current soldiers have likely lowered expectations.

The other military services reported similar shortfalls in March as the pandemic spread.

The Navy saw a 45% dip in qualified individuals expressing interest in March, compared to March 2019. The Navy’s recruiting chief, Rear Adm. Dennis Velez, attributed the sharp drop among current soldiers have like-minded expectations.

The other military services reported similar shortfalls in March as the pandemic spread.

Velez anticipates his recruiters’ production surging in the summer months and his service meeting its original goal of 40,800 new recruits.

The Marine Corps lowered its goal for fiscal year 2020 by 2,000 amid the pandemic, aiming to ship 33,290 to basic training.

The service saw a drop of about 25% in contacts with qualified individuals in March over the same month last year.

Kronenberg described the pandemic’s impacts on his service’s recruiting efforts as “dramatic.”

“Our systematic recruiting process has always placed a premium on ‘knock on people’s door’ interactions between a recruiter and applicant, so it may be challenging to replicate this physical assessment of those wanting to become Marines solely through tech mediums,” he said.

Air Force officials expressed similar reservations as they saw drops in recruiting metrics in March that continued into April. But despite those drops, the Air Force reported its recruiters so far in 2020 have outpaced their performance in 2019, producing 50,000 more qualified leads between January and April 2020 than in the first four months combined in 2019.

Based on that early success, service officials waived individual goals for its more than 1,800 recruiters. The overall goal remains — to ship 29,068 recruits to basic training, according to Chrissy Cuttita, a spokeswoman for Air Force Recruiting Service.

‘I knew we were ready’

Amid the outbreak, the services have streamlined once-clunky procedures to screen and process prospective recruits, developed innovative tactics to target those prospects, and proven that recruiting can be done without stations and offices.

“I think what we’ve realized is that for a lot of the basic stuff, we can do it working from home,” said Tech. Sgt. Joshua Stanley, an Air Force recruiter based in Dover, Del. “It shows we really can almost get you ready to go to a [[Military Entrance Processing Station]] before we ever see you in person. I don’t think we’d ever considered that before.”

Krebsbach said he looks forward to returning to high schools and large events, but he’ll continue to post daily workout videos and memes to Instagram and Facebook. He will keep targeting prospects through applications popular with younger people, like Snapchat, where he recently used a video feature to interview a potential recruit.

“I think it’s actually a little easier to ask questions over the digital plane than face-to-face in person for some people,” he said. “It can be intimidating sitting down in the office talking to someone in an Army uniform.”

Muth, who heads the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky., was confident his recruiters could handle the challenge of virtual prospecting. He decided to shutter stations from the general public was about protecting his own people, he said.

“We saw where this thing was going, so we came out of the stations,” he said. “We wanted to reduce the risk to our soldiers and their family members.”

Muth, a helicopter pilot by trade, led Army recruiting into a digital-first effort that he believes has positioned his enterprise well to weather the pandemic.

“I knew we were ready to do this,” Muth told Stars and Stripes. “Who would have thought that we would have had to exercise this at 100%?”

A new normal

Military leaders are already studying lessons learned from the sudden, drastic change to their recruiting model.
It could result in the reorganization of recruiting teams, drastic shifts toward virtual prospecting and other major changes to the business.

Muth, who this week allowed a select few recruiting stations to reopen to the public in areas deemed at low risk for the virus, is developing plans to change daily operations for his Army recruiting force. The general does not want to see recruiters return to spending large portions of their time in stations.

Instead, he wants recruiters there only for specific purposes, using offices as hubs between outings within their communities or time spent virtually prospecting from home. He likened them to patrol bases, small military outposts where troops stop for water, food or supplies.

He called it a “new version of the old norm.”

“I don’t need to be in the recruiting station to be able to recruit,” Muth said. “Does that mean that maybe they come into the patrol base every other day? And on those other days they are on their own — be it Starbucks or the high school or telecommuting from home.”

The Army could close some of its smaller stations as its recruiters base themselves out of their vehicles, similar to the model used by many pharmaceutical representatives.

“I think it opens up a lot of possibilities for the future,” Muth said.

Officials with other services could again follow the Army’s example. The Navy has empowered its recruiters to do much of their business away from stations, said Velez, the service’s recruiting chief.

“A recruiter right now has pretty much everything they need on a laptop,” he said. “So, when they meet with the individuals, they can take biometrics, get signatures all right on the spot — so you don’t need to meet in the [recruiting] building. You can meet someone in the Starbucks and do pretty much the entire process.”

Recruiters said they were excited about some of the changes.

After the initial adjustment period in mid-March, Krebsbach said he pitched the Army to more people in the past month via social media than ever.

Master Sgt. Dana Bazile, an Air Force recruiting flight chief based in Pennsylvania, said she has seen innovation across the large group of recruiters she oversees.

“This is great opportunity to evaluate how we function on a day-to-day basis and eliminate wasted man hours,” she said. “The ways that our recruiters are now using technology, social media — that will continue to increase greatly from what we were doing before. We’re not going back, in that nature.”

The bottom line, Velez said, the Navy — and the entire U.S. military — is open for business and needs new, dedicated people to fill its ranks. Recruiting is a no-fail mission, he said.

Recruiters “understand how critical it is for us to get new sailors and recruits into the Navy,” he said. “Because at the end of the day we have 90 plus ships at sea today — over one-third of our force is underway doing the nation’s business, and … if we fail at doing our part, some kid is going to stay at sea longer because we can’t get the right sailors through the schoolhouse to relieve him so he can get to shore duty and take a knee.”

BROOKE C. WOODS/U.S. Marine Corps

New recruits with Echo Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, respond to orders during receiving at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, on May 4.
**Tricare eliminates copays for telehealth**

By Nikki Wentling, Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The military’s health insurance provider is covering telephone appointments and has eliminated copayments for telehealth services as of Wednesday.

The changes to Tricare will remain in effect through the national emergency, according to a new rule posted on the Federal Register by Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

“These changes will reduce the spread of COVID-19 among Tricare beneficiaries by incentivizing use of telehealth services,” the rule states.

The decision came after Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., and Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., urged the Defense Health Agency to cover the full scope of telehealth services under Tricare. The senators, both of whom are veterans, particularly wanted to expand service members’ access to mental health care.

In a letter to the Defense Health Agency on May 4, the senators acknowledged that Medicare and Medicaid had lifted restrictions on telehealth and encouraged Tricare to follow suit.

“This is the right call — I’m glad Tricare heeded our concerns and rightly decided to expand coverage for telehealth services for military families at this critical time,” Shaheen said in a statement.

Wednesday’s decision will allow military families to more easily check in with a doctor without unnecessary out-of-pocket expenses, which is especially important now that health advice and counseling is in such high demand and so necessary,” Shaheen added.

Existing regulations prevent Tricare from covering telephone appointments in most cases. The new rule posted to the Federal Register created an exemption during the coronavirus pandemic.

The rule states that “it is imperative” to allow telephone appointments when medical providers deem it necessary.

With telehealth, Tricare typically requires medical providers to be licensed in the states where their patients live. During the pandemic, Tricare is relaxing its rules. Providers may be licensed in any U.S. state and allowed to treat patients across state lines.

Yongsan gives all-clear after probe of package

By Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military sealed off part of the Yongsan Garrison in Seoul for several hours on Thursday as it investigated a suspicious package at the post office, which turned out to be a hair grooming kit.

The package was cleared at about 1 p.m., and the post office will reopen on Friday, the garrison said.

The garrison had urged soldiers to stay in their barracks located in the area and other personnel to remain in offices. It also blocked an overpass that connects the area with another part of the sprawling base.

Traffic was allowed to resume as normal after the all-clear.

“Although this package did not pose a threat since it was determined to be a hair grooming kit, the processes and procedures were standard to ensure the safety and security of the community,” garrison spokeswoman Denver Beau-Hiem Hains said.

Yongsan was the main U.S. military base in South Korea for decades after the 1950-53 Korean War. However, the population has dwindled to about 2,000 as it is in the process of closing as part of a long-delayed relocation plan.

Most service members and support staff have moved to Camp Humphreys and other hubs south of the capital.

Those remaining include military police, the garrison staff, members of the Combined Forces Command and other residual staff.

Space wing commander dies at Peterson Air Force Base

By Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force Col. Thomas Falzarano, who commanded the service’s 21st Space Wing, was found dead Tuesday at his home on Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, service officials said Wednesday.

The Air Force has opened an investigation into Falzarano’s death but initial indications show he likely died of natural causes, officials said in a statement. Falzarano, 47, was not believed to have contracted the coronavirus, the officials said.

Falzarano took command of the 21st Space Wing for the Air Force and Space Force before taking command of the 21st Space Wing, Falzarano spent a year working as Raymond’s executive officer at the former Air Force Space Command, which has since morphed into the headquarters of the Space Force.

The 21st Space Wing’s vice commander, Col. Sam Johnson, who took command of the unit Tuesday, described his late boss as “a fearless leader” who will be “sorely missed.”

Falzarano was a 1994 graduate of the Air Force Academy, also in Colorado Springs. After commissioning, the F-16 fighter jet pilot trained at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and has since logged over 3,000 hours in various aircraft, including more than 1,000 hours in the F-16.

The chief of space operations, said Falzarano’s death was “tragic” for the Air Force and Space Force. Before taking command of the 21st Space Wing, Falzarano spent a year working as Raymond’s executive officer at the former Air Force Space Command, which has since morphed into the headquarters of the Space Force.

The 21st Space Wing’s vice commander, Col. Sam Johnson, who took command of the unit Tuesday, described his late boss as “a fearless leader” who will be “sorely missed.”

Falzarano was a 1994 graduate of the Air Force Academy, also in Colorado Springs. After commissioning, the F-16 fighter jet pilot trained at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and has since logged over 3,000 hours in various aircraft, including more than 1,000 hours in the F-16.

The guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones conducted live-fire training in the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday as part of an exercise designed to fully integrate units of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group.

By Wyatt Olson, Stars and Stripes

The Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones conducted live-fire training in the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday as part of an exercise designed to fully integrate units of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group.

The USS Nimitz departed from Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash., on April 27.

The ongoing exercise tests “a strike group’s ability as a whole to carry out sustained combat operations from the sea,” according to a U.S. Navy statement.

The USS John Paul Jones, which is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is joined in the strike group training by guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton; guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett and USS Ralph Johnson; Destroyer Squadron 9; and Carrier Air Wing 17.

“Ships, squadrons and staff will be tested across every core warfare area within their mission sets through a variety of simulated and live events, including air warfare, strait transits, and responses to surface and subsurface contacts and electronic attacks,” the Navy said.

In a letter to the Defense Health Agency on May 4, the senators acknowledged that Medicare and Medicaid had lifted restrictions on telehealth and encouraged Tricare to follow suit.

“This is the right call — I’m glad Tricare heeded our concerns and rightly decided to expand coverage for telehealth services for military families at this critical time,” Shaheen said in a statement.

Wednesday’s decision will allow military families to more easily check in with a doctor without unnecessary out-of-pocket expenses, which is especially important now that health advice and counseling is in such high demand and so necessary,” Shaheen added.

Existing regulations prevent Tricare from covering telephone appointments in most cases. The new rule posted to the Federal Register created an exemption during the coronavirus pandemic.

The rule states that “it is imperative” to allow telephone appointments when medical providers deem it necessary.

With telehealth, Tricare typically requires medical providers to be licensed in the states where their patients live. During the pandemic, Tricare is relaxing its rules. Providers may be licensed in any U.S. state and allowed to treat patients across state lines.
GAO: DOD failed to meet goal of fighting assault

By John M. Donnelly
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Back in 2011, the Government Accountability Office urged the Pentagon to start formally monitoring how military leaders were doing in combating sexual harassment and assault, and the auditors also proposed establishing a Defense Department system for tracking progress in the overall effort.

At the time, a top Pentagon official agreed fully in writing with the auditors’ recommendations and said both tasks would be done that year.

But, more than eight years later, neither job has been accomplished, GAO reported this week.

Armed Services Committee members in both chambers, when apprised of the unmet goal, said it exemplifies an inadequate Pentagon focus on a continuing scourge.

“For the DoD to come to Capitol Hill and promise the public and Congress that they have zero tolerance for sexual harassment and assault, all the while knowing that they have failed to take even these common-sense steps to prevent this kind of toxic rot for nearly a decade after GAO outlined the actions, is infuriating and unacceptable,” Rep. Jackie Speier, a California Democrat who chairs the Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, said in a statement to CQ Roll Call.

“Had these policies been adopted in 2011, who knows how much progress in the overall effort. GAO reported this week that, as of January 2020, the Pentagon was still coordinating implementation of the recommendations.

The Pentagon had not provided a response this week to a query about the matter.

Brenda Farrell, GAO’s director of defense capabilities and management, said in a statement to CQ Roll Call on Tuesday that the recommendations in question are important.

“First, for individuals in positions of leadership, support for DOD’s sexual harassment policies and programs must be unequivocal — those who do not take the issue of sexual harassment seriously or who do not address incidents when they occur can undermine the department’s efforts,” Farrell said.

“Second,” she said, “the absence of an oversight framework including performance goals, objectives, milestones, and metrics — limits the ability of decision makers, including Congress and DOD, to assess the effectiveness of the department’s policies and programs for addressing incidents of sexual harassment.”

In recent years, the prevalence of unwanted sexual contact between Defense Department personnel, both military and civilian, has increasingly been the subject of public and congressional

Lawmakers in both parties have tried to stem sexual offenses within the military for more than a decade, inserting dozens of provisions into the annual Pentagon policy bill aimed at changing military culture and the handling of these crimes.

Military leaders have spoken out more and more about the importance of tackling the problem. To deal with it, the Defense Department has launched a bevy of surveys and reports and has created new organizations and oversight mechanisms.

Still, the progress is mixed at best, experts said.

An October 2019 report on the Pentagon’s top management challenges from the department’s inspector general office included sexual offenses on the list and noted that a substantial portion of them are not prosecuted fully.

The report also noted that a climate that condones sexual offenses is likely to be plagued by other problems. And it said people who are victims of sexual crimes often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder for years afterward.

The number of reported sexual assault and harassment cases in the military rose in each of the last three years for which data is available — from 6,172 in fiscal 2016 to 7,825 in fiscal 2019, the report said.

“Too long, sexual harassment in the military has been a systemic problem,” Shaheen said. And the GAO’s Farrell said the Defense Department “has not demonstrated the commitment necessary to effectively address” the problem.

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**Troops in Pacific dream of post-lockdown freedom**

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Beaches, bars and amusement parks beckon for troops, civilians and their families eager to be set free from coronavirus lockdowns in the Far East.

To help slow the virus' spread, commanders have restricted the movement and activities of U.S. personnel since late March in South Korea and early April in Japan. The commander of U.S. Forces Japan on Tuesday extended a public health emergency imposed on U.S. troops other personnel in the country through June 14.

But with case numbers dropping and attractions reopening off base in both nations, service members can dare to dream of the freedom they enjoyed before the pandemic.

**Disneyland and island hopping**

Tokyo, the epicenter of the pandemic in Japan, reported only 10 new coronavirus cases Wednesday. The national government has decided to allow the reopening of parks, museums, libraries and other public facilities and to ease social distancing requirements. Japan reported 80 new infections nationwide Wednesday, bringing the total to 16,024 cases and 668 deaths, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Tokyo Disneyland, which as been shut for two months of its post-lockdown plans. "There's a lot of stuff to explore so I'm keeping an eye out," he said, in between administering temperature checks for patrons outside the Camp Foster. "I love to see the Great Wall of China, Vietnam, Thailand."

Army Sgt. Zak McCartney, 27, of Osan's 51st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, said Wednesday he misses taking his wife out to restaurants and bars. They were supposed to go on vacation this month to Bali, Indonesia.

"Once this whole travel restriction is up, it's like one of the first things that I have on my mind," he said.

Back in Japan, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Aircraft Handler Dennis Gentry said Wednesday he wasn't sure where he'll go once restrictions are lifted at Yokosuka Naval Base. The installation has been on strict lockdown since March 27.

"I can almost guarantee most sailors will be going to the Honch," he said, referring to a popular bar district outside the main gate.

Staff reporters Matthew M. Burke and Aya Ichishashi at Camp Foster, Okinawa; Christian Lopez at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan; and Matthew Keeler at Osan Air Base, South Korea, contributed to this report.

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Unusual itinerary

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The itinerary was a first for a C-130 cargo plane crew from Ramstein: fly to Milan, continue to Rome, back to Milan, then back home to Germany, all in the same day.

The large Italian civilian airports, now desolate and eerily quiet due to the coronavirus pandemic, aren’t typical destinations for the 37th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein. But the route will soon be familiar, as the squadron begins a mission to help Italy through the crisis.

Wednesday’s flight around Italy was the first of a planned series organized by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe to distribute thousands of pounds of medical supplies to hospitals across the country, officials said.

The effort is part of a $100 million relief plan for Italy announced last month by the White House, USAFE officials said. It calls for the Pentagon to transport medical equipment and other humanitarian aid in coordination with the State Department and the Italian government.

NATO’s Rapid Air Mobility initiative, activated in March for coronavirus relief efforts, also contributed to Wednesday’s mission.

Two similar flights from Ramstein to Italy are planned in the coming week, officials said. They will likely continue as long as Italy needs them.

On Wednesday, the C-130J Super Hercules landed at Milan with an empty cargo hold at a near-empty airport.

Milan is close to the epicenter of Italy’s coronavirus outbreak in Lombardy. The normally busy Milan Malpensa Airport looked like an aircraft boneyard, with fleets of idle passenger jets parked everywhere.

“It’s a ghost town,” said Maj. Thomas Morgan, who piloted the flight with 1st Lt. Kane McManus. When the C-130 landed, it was one of only two aircraft taxiing at the sprawling international airport.

The crew picked up six pallets of KN95 masks, surgical gowns and COVID-19 test kits destined for hospitals in Italy’s south, greeting their Italian counterparts with waves or elbow bumps instead of handshakes.

The plane flew on to Rome, where it picked up a smaller shipment of N95 masks and others with protective face shields, destined for hospitals in the north, which meant a return to Milan.

“It feels great … to be able to be part of something bigger than ourselves and help out, especially one as old as Italy,” Morgan said.

With fewer opportunities to fly during the pandemic, McManus said they were eager to “get this one over and able to help out when we can.”

flyover planned to salute Hawaii’s health care workers

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Air Force and Air National Guard aircraft were to conduct a flyover of Hawaii’s major hospitals Thursday in a salute to frontline health care workers coping with the coronavirus.

Fighter jets from the Hawaii Air National Guard and Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were to fly above most of the state’s large hospitals and major metro areas beginning around 11:30 a.m., the Air Force said in a news release Wednesday.

A C-17 Globemaster III, KC-135 Stratotanker and F-22 Raptor fighter jets were to fly at an altitude of about 3,000 feet.

The planes were scheduled to first fly as a group over seven hospitals on the island of Oahu, after which the F-22s would head off to regularly scheduled training.

The C-17 would fly on alone to Kauai, while the KC-135 would head east toward Molokai, Lanai, Hawaii island and Maui.

Flyovers have become common-place across the U.S. mainland in the era of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The Navy’s Blue Angels and Air Force’s Thunderbirds demonstration squadrons have flown over numerous cities on the mainland in recent weeks as a gesture to medical personnel, emergency responders and others dealing daily with the pandemic.

Some have criticized the flyovers as taxpayer funds ill-spent at a time of 15% unemployment and burgeoning federal deficits in the wake of emergency funding for workers, businesses and hospitals.

The Air Force stressed in its news release Wednesday that the aircraft flying over Hawaii were conducting routine training flights.

“Those aircraft were already scheduled for these training flights, so the flyover is at no additional cost to the taxpayer,” the Air Force said.

The flight path was set in coordination with officials with the Federal Aviation Administration and Hawaii, the Air Force said.

“This event will recognize the hard work that everyone in Hawaii has already accomplished to keep Hawaii’s [coronavirus] cases among the lowest in the United States, while also acknowledging the need for continued vigilance, and our obligation to those in our community who will require continued assistance,” said Brig. Gen. Dann S. Carlson, commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard’s 154th Wing. “These flyovers are meant to provide hope and reaffirm confidence in our state and nation while emphasizing the Air Force’s enduring commitment and support to the people of the State of Hawaii.”

Hawaii has had 638 coronavirus cases and 17 deaths as of Wednesday, according to the Hawaii Department of Health.

The Air Force advised people to watch the flyovers from their homes, refraining from travel, in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines in place by order of the governor.

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US immunologist warns of ‘darkest winter’ if virus rebounds

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

WASHINGTON — America faces the “darkest winter in modern history” unless leaders act decisively to prevent a rebound of the coronavirus, a top government health official said Wednesday.

Immunologist Dr. Rick Bright made his sobering prediction in testimony prepared for his appearance Thursday before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. According to his testimony, the United States could have recovered earlier if the nation didn’t “abandon science.”

Bright, who previously worked at the National Institutes of Health, said the nation should have expanded testing and vaccine development. Currently, testing and vaccine development are inadequate, and there are shortages of personal protective equipment like masks.

Bright noted that even with vaccines, herd immunity is not a guarantee. "We’re starting to hear grumblings, and the dollars that are being spread out on science, even as researchers work to develop better treatments and an effective vaccine. The steps include:

■ Establishing a national testing strategy. The White House has urged states to take the lead on testing, even as the federal government pushes to make more tests and better ones widely available. Trump said that the U.S. has "prevailed" on testing through this strategy, but in Congress, Democrats are demanding a federal framework to encompass the whole nation.

■ Doubling down on educating the public about basic safety measures like frequent hand-washing and wearing masks in public places as guidelines indicate.

bright said in a prepared testimony that posted on the House committee website. "If we fail to develop a national coordinated response, based in science, I fear the pandemic will get far worse and be prolonged, causing unprecedented illness and fatalities.”

Bright’s testimony follows this week’s warning by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious disease expert, that a rushed lifting of stay-at-home rules could “turn back the clock,” meaning more suffering and death, and complicating efforts to get the economy rolling again.

President Donald Trump on Thursday dismissed Bright in a tweet as “a disgruntled employee, not liked or respected by people I spoke to and who, with his attitude, should no longer be working for our government!” It’s a sentiment some of the president’s political allies have expressed about Fauci as well.

In his prepared testimony, Bright said, “There is no question that there will be a resurgence of COVID-19 this fall, greatly compounding the challenges of seasonal influenza and putting an unprecedented strain on our health care system.

“Without clear planning and implementation of the steps that I and other experts have outlined, 2020 will be darkest winter in modern history,” Brian wrote.

Bright, who has a doctoral degree in immunology, outlined a path forward that would be based on science, even as researchers work to develop better treatments and an effective vaccine. The steps include:

■ Establishing a national testing strategy. The White House has urged states to take the lead on testing, even as the federal government pushes to make more tests and better ones widely available. Trump said that the U.S. has “prevailed” on testing through this strategy, but in Congress, Democrats are demanding a federal framework to encompass the whole nation.

■ Doubling down on educating the public about basic safety measures like frequent hand-washing and wearing masks in public places as guidelines indicate.

“Frankly, our leaders must lead by modeling the behavior,” said Bright, in a not-too-subtle reference to a president who conspicuously goes maskless.

■ Ramping up production of essential equipment and supplies, from cotton swabs for testing to protective gear for health care workers and essential workers.

■ Setting up a system to fairly distribute equipment and supplies that are scarce and highly sought. Eliminating state vs. state competition would increase efficiency and reduce costs, he wrote.

As part of his whistleblower complaint, Bright is seeking to be reinstated in his old job. HHS, his employer, said that it strongly disagrees with his allegations and that it reassigned him to a high-profile position helping to lead the development of new coronaviruses tests at the National Institutes of Health.
Members of the boogaloo movement, attend a demonstration against the lockdown over concern about COVID-19 at the State House in Concord, N.H., on April 18.

Restrictions fuel anti-government ‘boogaloo’ movement across US

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. — They carry high-powered rifles and wear tactical gear, but their Hawaiian shirts and leis are what stand out in the crowds that have formed at state capital buildings to protest COVID-19 lockdown orders. The signature look for the “boogaloo” anti-government movement is designed to get attention.

The loose movement, which uses an ’80s movie sequel as a code word for a second civil war, is among the extremists using the armed protests against stay-at-home orders as a platform. Like other movements that once largely inhabited corners of the internet, it has seized on the social unrest and economic calamity caused by the pandemic to publicize its violent messages.

In April, armed demonstrators paraded as “Liberty or Boogaloo” fliers at a statehouse protest in Concord, N.H. A leader of the Three Percenters militia movement who organized a rally in Olympia, Wash., last month encouraged rally participants to wear Hawaiian shirts, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Another anti-lockdown rally was planned for Thursday at the state Capitol in Lansing, Mich., site of an angry protest last month that included armed members of the Michigan Liberty Militia. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, has been the target of violent threats on Facebook forums, including a private one called “The Rhet E. Boogie Group.”

One user said Whitmer should be “guillotined” after another suggested another governor should be hanged from a noose, according to a screengrab captured by the Tech Transparency Project research initiative.

The coronavirus pandemic has become a catalyst for the “boogaloo” movement because the stay-at-home orders have “put a straesser on a lot of very unhappy people,” said J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University’s Program on Extremism. MacNab said their rhetoric goes beyond discussions about fighting virus restrictions — which many protesters brand as “tyranny” — to talking about killing FBI agents or police officers “to get the war going.”

“They are far more graphic and far more specific in their threats than I’ve seen in a long time,” he said.

An April 22 report by the Tech Transparency Project, which tracks technology companies, found 125 Facebook “boogaloo”-related groups that had attracted tens of thousands of members in the previous 30 days. The project pointed to coronavirus crisis as a driving factor.

“Some boogaloo supporters see the public health lockdowns and other directives by states and cities across the country as a violation of their rights, and they’re aiming to harness public frustration at such measures to rally and attract new followers to their cause,” the project’s report says.

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The Wisconsin Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered Gov. Tony Evers’ coronavirus stay-at-home order unconstitutional, ruling that his administration overstepped its authority when it extended it for another month without consulting legislators.

The 4-3 decision means the state is now in uncharted legal territory: the court is acting as a legislature, potentially undermining its own constitution by declaring a new law unconstitutional.

The decision let stand language that had closed schools, however, and local governments can still impose their own health restrictions.

The decision could have far-reaching implications in other states where judicial activism is common, potentially allowing judges to close businesses, restrict individual freedoms and specify where people are allowed to work.

Evers, in his counter argument, referred to the Madison, Wisconsin, court’s decision in a March case that struck down his administration’s stay-at-home order.

This court (decision) does not promote people to act in a way that they believe endangers their health,” he said.

Evers first issued a stay-at-home order in March that closed schools and nonessential businesses. The order was supposed to lift April 24, but Palm, an Evers appointee, extended it to May 26.

Trump’s push for opening school clashes with Fauci’s caution

BY KEVIN FREINDING
JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump called on governors across the nation to work to reopen schools that were closed because of the coronavirus, point edly taking issue with Dr. Antho ny Fauci’s caution against moving too quickly in sending students back to class.

The president accused Fauci of wanting “to play all sides of the equation,” a comment that sug gested he is tiring of the nation’s top infectious disease expert.

“l think they should open the schools, absolutely. I think they should do it,” Trump told reporters at the White House, echoing comments he had made in a television interview. “Our country’s got to get back and it’s got to get back as soon as possible. And I don’t consider our country coming back if the schools are closed.”

Fauci had urged caution in testimony before a Senate committee Tuesday, although he made clear that he believes reopening decisions will likely differ from one region to the next.

“We don’t know everything about this virus and we really better be pretty careful, particularly when it comes to children,” Fauci told the committee. At one point, he told members that “the idea of having treatments available or a vaccine to facilitate the re-entry of students into the fall term would be something that would be a bit of a bridge too far.”

Fauci later clarified that he was not implying students should be barred from returning to class until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed. But his comments were nonetheless seized on by conservative commentators, as well as Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who called the notion “kind of ridiculous.”

“l to me, it’s not an acceptable answer,” Trump said of Fauci on Wednesday. He said the coronavirus virus “has had very little impact on young people,” although there is growing concern over cases of a mysterious inflammatory syndrome in young people that is thought to be related to the virus.

Speaking of Fauci, Trump told Maria Bartiromo in an interview for Fox Business Network’s “Mornings with Maria” that “I totally disagree with him on schools.”

In his testimony, Fauci issued a blunt warning that cities and states could “turn back the clock” and see more death and economic damage if they lift stay-at-home orders too quickly — a message that stands in sharp contrast to Trump’s push to reopen the nation as he tries to blunt the economic damage caused by the pandemic during an election year.

“There is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control,” Fauci warned as more than two dozen states have begun to lift their lockdowns.
Some Pa. counties resist after funding threat from governor

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Two days after Gov. Tom Wolf lambasted them as “cowardly” and vowed to withhold funding, several Pennsylvania counties signaled Wednesday that they are moving ahead with plans to defy him by lifting some of their pandemic restrictions. Others, however, backed down under the governor’s threat.

Commissioners in many GOP-controlled counties where the Democratic governor has yet to ease any restrictions have said that they can make COVID-19 re- health impacts of the coronavirus and reopen safely. They said that the shutdown threatens to destroy local economies — especially small businesses — the longer it goes.

In Beaver County, home to a severe nursing home outbreak, said that the mandatory shutdown of a food processing plant, Idaho health officials said Wednesday.

Southwest District Health said that some people infected with the coronavirus work at Fry Foods in Idaho.

Company Human Resources Manager Douglas Arnold Wold said that all of them had attended a family gathering of at least 30 people last weekend in Weiser or nearby areas. He also said that the decision came after consultation with a state team of public health experts.

Health officials were working to contact people who have been in close proximity to those who became infected.

Mississippi

JACKSON — Mississippi legis- lators voted late Wednesday to create grant programs for small businesses hurt by the coronavirus pandemic, using some of the $1.25 billion in relief money that the federal government sent to the state. The total price tag for the grants would be $300 million.

If Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signs the proposal into law, a $60 million program would provide $2,000 grants for businesses that were forced to close by government orders and for child care centers.

The other $240 million would be for grants ranging from $1,500 to $25,000. For the first 21 days, the only applications considered would be from businesses that did not initially receive aid from the federal Paycheck Protection Program. The programs would be for businesses that existed before March 1 and have 50 or fewer employees. Businesses that work in partisan politics or in lobbying are not eligible to apply.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDPUP

Some Pa. counties resist after funding threat from governor

Seth Goldberg has food delivered to his car by a waiter with the Bel Aire Diner on Wednesday in Queens, N.Y. The diner is using its parking lot to host 35 cars for a pop-up drive-in movie theater. The movie shown twice Wednesday was “Dirty Dancing.”

North Carolina

RALEIGH — A judge on Wednesday rejected requests of several offenders and civil rights groups excoriating him to tell North Carolina to remove lead- ers to reduce the prison popul- nation further to protect inmates from COVID-19.

The denials from Superior Court Judge Vince Roxier came after he received an extensive re- quest he demanded last week from prison officials on what wardens are doing to discourage the virus’ spread in the more than 50 pris- ons. The plaintiffs who are serv- ing time behind bars have said in affidavits that they were worried for their health if they remained in prison.

Lawyers for the state argued in court documents to remove lead- ers in the voluntary shutdown of a food processing facility. The information was kept from residents statewide who have tested positive for the coronavirus, and five of them have died. The Depart- ment of Public Safety said that week that more than 500 of them are now deemed to have recovered, based on government health guidelines, and are no lon- ger in medical isolation.

South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS — The head of a Native American tribe Wednesday that it won’t comply with South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem’s要求 that it curtail COVID-19 checkpoints it set up on federal and state highways that run through its reservation.

The programs would be for businesses that existed before March 1 and have 50 or fewer employees. Businesses that work in partisan politics or in lobbying are not eligible to apply.

The Associated Press that he believes the tribe’s sovereignty allows it to operate checkpoints anywhere on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, which is in northern South Dakota. The tribe has said it isn’t interested in protecting the health of the people on the reservation, he said.

The Republican governor de- manded that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Ogala Sioux Tribe remove the checkpoints on federal and state highways, calling them illegal. The tribes began monitoring their borders last month in an effort to stop un- necessary visitors who could be carrying the coronavirus.

Noem on Friday threatened to sue the tribes if they didn’t dis- semble the road checks. But this week, she tried a different tack, checked to try to find out if they would consider limiting the checkpoints only to tribal roads.

Texas

HOUSTON — The hundreds of contact tracers being trained in Texas’ most populous county will help it manage any flare-ups of the coronavirus, but it doesn’t mean that things are back to nor- mal, and residents should still be doing their part to help stop the virus’ spread, officials said Wednesday.

A key part of Texas’ plan as it continues to reopen its economy has been building a team of 4,000 contact tracers, investigators who contact people who test positive for COVID-19, track down their contacts and get them into quar- antine before they can spread the virus.

Harris County, which has more than 4.7 million residents, was expected to be one of the first to start tracers by Friday and another 100 by May 22.

Harris County Judge Lina Hi- dalgo on Wednesday, however, warned residents that the small army of contact tracers being trained locally doesn’t mean residents should let their guard down.
Installing acrylic shields at point of sale and customer service areas.

Disinfecting customer service and sales points multiple times.

Deploying posters, floor decals and other visual reminders for shoppers to keep a safe distance between themselves and others.

Transitioning the school meal program for military schoolchildren overseas to a grab-and-go format.

The Exchange is committed to ensuring Warfighters & families can get critical products while maintaining physical distancing in a safe environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more about Exchange efforts to protect the Force at shopmyexchange.com/community
Ex-judge asked to see if Flynn should be held in contempt

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The judge presiding over Michael Flynn’s criminal case appointed a retired jurist on Wednesday to evaluate whether the former Trump administration national security adviser should be held in criminal contempt.

The judge’s order is the second signal in as many days registering his resistance to swiftly accepting the Justice Department’s motion to dismiss all charges against Flynn.

In his order, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan appointed former federal judge John Gleeson as an amicus to provide input to the court — and asked him to explore whether Sullivan should hold Flynn in “criminal contempt for perjury.”

Flynn pleaded guilty, as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation, to lying to the FBI about conversations with the then-Russian ambassador to the United States during the presidential transition period.

As part of the plea, he had to admit he worked as a campaign worker and the House opened an ethics probe into an allegation that she was involved with a member of her congressional staff, which Hill denied.

Ex-Navy pilot wins Calif. House seat

Mike Garcia

Mike Garcia, 44, a father of two boys whose father is an interior designer, grew up in the same area he will represent, a district that cuts through suburbs and small ranches in northern Los Angeles and eastern Ventura counties.

“I didn’t grow up wanting to be a politician,” Garcia said in a statement. “I have a good feeling about the race because of the🎹️🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻🏻一线城市的教育水平和经济发展水平方面，他坚持认为，重点应放在提高教育质量和促进经济发展上，因为这有助于提升城市的整体竞争力。

Citing the city’s strong cultural heritage and rich history, the mayor repeatedly emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting the city’s unique identity.

The mayor also highlighted the city’s efforts to attract businesses and investors, stressing the importance of creating a business-friendly environment.

In terms of urban development, the mayor announced plans for infrastructure improvements, including the expansion of public transportation and the creation of more green spaces.

Finally, the mayor expressed his commitment to addressing the city’s pressing social issues, such as poverty and inequality, and called for continued collaboration with local organizations and residents to find solutions.
Calls for removal of swastikas from vet cemeteries rejected

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Three German soldiers’ gravestones etched with swastikas will remain in national cemeteries in Texas and Utah, the Department of Veterans Affairs said Wednesday, despite demands from an advocacy group to have them removed.

Two gravestones of the German prisoners of war are in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio and another one is in Fort Douglas Post Cemetery in Salt Lake City. The gravestones are placed among American veterans, some of whom fought against Nazi Germany in World War II.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which attempts to protect religious freedom for service members, said it is demanding the VA remove the symbols, which were discovered recently by a retired colonel visiting his Jewish grandfather’s grave at the Texas cemetery. Mikey Weinstein, founder of the MRFF and a former Air Force officer, said he will not reveal the identity of the retired colonel, who fears reprisal from the VA.

Weinstein said he sent a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie on Monday about the gravestones but only learned of the VA’s response through media coverage.

The VA’s National Cemetery Administration released a statement Wednesday that it “will continue to preserve these headstones, like every past administration has.”

“All of the headstones date back to the 1940s, when the Army approved the inscriptions in question,” according to the statement.

The headstones were in place when the cemeteries were transferred into the VA’s cemetery administration. The Texas cemetery was absorbed into the VA system in 1973 and the Utah cemetery was in 1993.

It’s intolerable,” Weinstein said. “This should not require explaining why this is wrong.”

More so, he argued the headstones also display the phrase, which translated from German, reads: “HE DIED FAR FROM HOME FOR FURHRER, PEOPLE AND FATHERLAND.”

But the VA said in its statement that “the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 assigns stewardship responsibilities to federal agencies, including VA and the Army, to protect historic resources, including those that recognize divisive historical figures or events.” For that reason, the headstones will remain.

These three Germans are not the only POWs buried in American veteran cemeteries. There are 11 other national cemeteries with POWs from World War II interred, though none of the other gravestones include swastikas.

Ex-VA doctor charged in sexual assaults of vets

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A former Department of Veterans Affairs doctor working in West Virginia was indicted on charges of sexually assaulting veterans, the Justice Department said.

Dr. Jonathan Yates, 51, is charged with five counts of depriving veterans of their civil rights and two counts of abusive sexual contact stemming from his 14-month stint at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Beckley, W.Va., according to the Justice Department. The charges are based on a criminal complaint against Yates filed Feb. 20 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Between September 2018 and February 2019, Yates examined six male patients, and sexually molested them during their appointments, according to the court documents. Yates, who served as director of the facility’s Whole Health Clinic from about April 2018 to June 2019, is a doctor of osteopathic medicine and is trained in osteopathic manipulative therapy, which is a hands-on technique similar to ones used by a chiropractor.

If convicted, Yates faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. He was arrested April 2 and later released on a $10,000 bond and placed under house arrest, according to court documents.

#ExVADoctor #SexualAssaults #Veterans

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“Alexa, open Stars and Stripes”

Start your day with the top headlines from Stars and Stripes.
VIRUS OUTBREAK

Japan easing emergency, but not in big cities

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Experts on Japan’s coronavirus task force on Thursday approved a government plan to lift a state of emergency in most areas ahead of schedule except for Tokyo and several other high-risk areas.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said after the task force meeting that the experts approved lifting the emergency in 39 of the country’s 47 prefectures. Emergency measures would remain for eight others, including Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hokkaido, where risks still remain high.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had declared the state of emergency on April 7 for Tokyo and six other urban prefectures and later expanded it to the whole country through May 31. With signs of the infections slowing, Abe is seeking to relax the measure while balancing disease prevention and the economy.

Japan now has more than 16,000 confirmed cases, with about 680 deaths. The number of new cases has significantly decreased nationwide.

Abe will explain details at a news conference later Thursday. Experts are also expected to provide the basis for easing the measure, as well as its possible tightening if there is a resurgence.

France, Germany, Italy vow to provide more economic help

Associated Press

ROME — European governments promised more relief to their citizens on Thursday.

France’s government announced an 18-billion-euro ($19.4 billion) plan to support restaurants, hotels and other tourist facilities that have been closed since early March amid the coronavirus crisis.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe promised the French on Thursday that they will be able to go on vacation in France in July and August, including in French overseas territories, as the country has started lifting its lockdown this week.

Germany’s parliament approved plans to increase the amount paid to people who spend more than 100 hours a month in a government-backed short-time work program during the coronavirus crisis. Companies are making extensive use of the program, which was credited with keeping down unemployment in the financial crisis over a decade ago. It allows them to keep employees on the payroll while they await better times.

Philippe’s announcement came after Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte promised a massive package of tax cuts and other financial aid to help businesses and families.

“Your cry of alarm didn’t escape us,” Conte said late Wednesday. “His government also promised to legalize the status of foreigners, many of them illegal migrants who are crop-pickers, babysitters and caretakers.

Italy is one of the countries worst hit by the coronavirus. But U.S. has the largest coronavirus outbreak in the world by far: 1.39 million infections and over 84,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 4.3 million people and killed some 297,000. Experts say the actual numbers are likely far higher.

The fallout from the pandemic includes heightened political tensions between nations.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, criticized the United States, saying authorities there have failed to effectively fight the global coronavirus pandemic and “abused American people’s trust.”

Zhao appeared to be firing back against accusations from the Trump administration that China mishandled or deliberately delayed releasing information about the outbreak, first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan last December. He said the U.S. should “focus more on fighting the epidemic and safeguarding the lives and health of the American people, and stop playing such a buck-passing game.”

Austria said it will push for an inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus even if it hurts trade relations with China. Prime Minister Scott Morrison had been accused of playing “deputy sheriff” to the U.S. after calling for the inquiry.

Morrison brushed off the criticism, telling reporters: “We have always been independent, we have always pursued our national interests, and we always will.”

In many parts of the world, communities and individuals were finding inventive ways to cope with what many view as a “new normal.” Apartment dwellers in Rio de Janeiro were getting much-needed entertainment from children’s movies projected onto screens set up outside their buildings. In Kyoto, the mayor ordered back to prison. “The (administrative) machinery has started to review the health situation of those who asked to get out” of prison on grounds they were at risk of catching COVID-19, the minister said.

Back to jail for mobsters sent home fearing virus

Associated Press

ROME — Italian convicted mobsters who had been temporarily released from prison to house arrest for fear of coronavirus contagion are being brought back behind bars, the country’s justice minister said Thursday, after their treatment was criticized as unduly lenient.

Alfonso Bonafede came under fire after more than 370 convicted mobsters and drug traffickers successfully urged they needed to be temporarily released to avoid becoming infected with the new coronavirus in prison.

Corriere della Sera daily on Thursday reported that one of the first inmates returned to prison was a convicted Cosa Nostra boss, Antonio Sacco. He won temporary release despite being incarcerated in a cell on his own under strict prison rules for mobsters, which include limited occasions to mingle with other inmates.

Responding to questions on Thursday from members of the Parliament’s Justice Commission, Bonafede confirmed that mobsters were being released “back to prison. “The (administrative) machinery has started to review the health situation of those who asked to get out” of prison on grounds they were at risk of catching COVID-19, the minister said.

Experts and officials have urged people to adopt “new lifestyles” and continue practicing physical distancing measures such as remote-working and avoiding crowded places as long as the state of emergency is lifted.

In China, some residential compounds in Wuhan have begun testing inhabitants for the coronavirus as a program to test everyone in the Chinese city of 11 million people in 10 days got underway.

One compound in the city’s Qiaokou district said several hundred people had been tested since Wednesday. Another compound in the same district said Thursday it was registering residents before starting. The city ordered local communities to test everyone after six new cases surfaced last weekend, the first infections there in more than a month. Wuhan, where the virus was first detected last December, was the hardest-hit city in China with 3,869 reported deaths. China reported three new cases nationwide for 82,929 total in. in the Chinese city.
Facial fashion
Masks have become the latest style accessory
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Creating a new normal

How the coronavirus is changing the workplace

BY PRIYA ANAND
Bloomberg

When the headquarters of Mission Bio re-opened in late April, employees found that many of the familiar perks they had enjoyed before Silicon Valley went into lockdown were missing.

Instead of the communal trays of catered lunches served a few times a week, each employee got his or her own heated meal. The snacks will remain free, but the soda machine and tub of almonds will be replaced with canned beverages, bottled water and individually wrapped protein bites. One new benefit: Every two weeks, the startup plans to provide COVID-19 tests onsite to any staff member who wants one.

Mission Bio is returning to the office sooner than most businesses in Northern California. Officials have extended stay-at-home orders through the end of May, and some of the largest technology companies have indicated that they might keep offices closed for longer.

Mission Bio, which develops cellular chemistry technology, said it decided to reopen after consulting local officials who determined that the startup’s cancer research qualifies as essential. “Cancer doesn’t work from home,” said Nigel Beard, the chief technology officer.

The startup’s preparations for a return to the office opened a window into the unique challenges of adapting the Silicon Valley workspace to a pandemic. Mission Bio’s desks are arranged in an open-floor plan, a mainstay of the tech office that’s entirely incompatible with social distancing guidelines.

The company will keep the office open seven days a week and ask employees to select shifts, so that only a third of staff are present at a time.

The biggest tech companies are taking similar steps for when they finally return to campus. Apple intends to stagger the introduction of employees back to the office, conduct temperature checks, keep employees apart and create some kind of health checklist, Tim Cook, the chief executive officer, told employees in a virtual meeting last month. He said the Cupertino, Calif., headquarters will reopen unremittingly until at least June, although the company expects to make changes to its open-office design before staff return, said a person familiar with the preparations.

One book is less likely to populate the open-floor plan but is no luxury to return because most employees can do their jobs from home, David DeWener, the chief financial officer, said. Amazon.com told corporate staff across the world that if they are able to work effectively from home, they can stay there until at least October. Those who come in will be given face coverings.

The overall company is still pushing to go back, the first change many will notice is on their morning commute. The shuttle buses provided by larger companies may not operate at full capacity, and some employees might encourage people to drive to avoid public transportation. Upon arrival, employees will find redesigned lobbies. To funnel thousands of workers into companies, companies may use design tricks like stickers on the floor or carefully placed furniture to create barriers, said Primo Orpilla, co-founder of the San Francisco-based interior design company Studio O+A, whose clients include Microsoft, Slack Technologies and Uber.

Tech companies are particularly concerned with keeping their community spaces — the kind of places where people naturally congregate — from becoming unhealthy. Orpilla said, referring to the creator of the “Hope” Obama campaign posters. In a change that would please George Costanza of “Seinfeld,” some clients are considering rebuilding bathroom stalls so they extend from the floor to the ceiling, he said.

Sales of workstations for the home office — once considered forward-thinking for the way a lack of separation between workers fosters cooperation — is unsustainable. “Maybe that was innovative,” said Andrew Holmes, the director of marketing at Loftwall, a Dallas, Texas-based maker of room dividers and desk partitions. “Now it just feels like a way to get people to run wild in the private office.”

Sales of Loftwall dividers have at least doubled since the coronavirus outbreak. Apple, Google, Microsoft and Tesla Inc. are among the companies that have placed furniture to create barriers, said Primo Orpilla, co-founder of the San Francisco-based interior design company Studio O+A, whose clients include Microsoft, Slack Technologies and Uber.

Orpilla, co-founder of the San Francisco-based design firm that specializes in “curated aesthetic,” said Microsoft, Slack Technologies and Uber.

The company would pack three or four employees apart from one another inside a small, noisy vehicle. The founder, Marc Piette, is trying to deter-
Movie-related toys and merchandise still hitting stores despite film delays

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.
Associated Press

Hollywood pressed pause on releasing most major films in theaters to combat the coronavirus outbreak, but that hasn’t necessarily been the case for toys and merchandise related to those movies. Despite film delays, toy production and gaming companies are often staying on schedule, releasing a variety of products tied to major titles from “Black Widow” to “Minions: The Rise of Gru” in hopes of weathering the pandemic. That happened with Pixar’s “Onward,” which played in theaters for weeks before it was forced onto a digital platform, making more sense for toy companies to continue to release their product to coincide with the animated film.

Marvel’s “Black Widow” has been postponed until November, but products related to the film including toys and books along with characters from the film highlighted on a free-to-play mobile game. A collection of dolls are at retail stores for the live-action remake of the animated classic “Mulan,” which was delayed until July 24.

Mattel said products for “Top Gun: Maverick,” which had an original July release, will begin rolling out this summer and continue to launch throughout the fall leading up to the new release date on Dec. 23.

Films such as “Minions: The Rise of Gru” and “F9” from the Fast and Furious saga have been postponed for a full year, and “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” was delayed by several months. But products for those films can be found online.

LEGO has a particular plan in place for next year’s “Minions” movie. “We recently launched two LEGO Minions building sets that are inspired by the property and characters, but we are holding back the rest of the collection that is directly linked to the upcoming film to coincide with the new premiere date,” said Mike Ilacqua, head of U.S. marketing for LEGO Group.

Zahn said the early release of products could be damaging for “F9” and “Minions.” He also said there’s a risk that the emotional connection could be harmed for the child or adult if they are unable to see the actual film. He calls the movie “a commercial for the product,” especially for characters being introduced in the new films such as Taskmaster and Red Guardian in “Black Widow.”

In many cases, viewers of the film may want to act out what they’ve seen. “Certain characters may become peg warmers, as they call it, where kids are buying the Black Widow, but they’re not buying the other characters that they’re just not familiar with on a collector standpoint,” he said.

Teiko Duplessis, a mother of two, agrees to a certain extent. “If you grew up watching Marvel movies, it’s a win-win to purchase the merchandise, especially if you can’t see the movie,” said Duplessis, an Illinois resident who bought a Scooby Doo T-shirt while store shopping for her daughter. The shirt was tied to the Warner Bros. film “Scoob!”, which will go straight to digital on May 15.
Fashion always finds a way. Human beings are undaunted in their search for ways to stand out, to communicate, to thrive in a treacherous environment. And so the face mask — once purely functional, once perceived as an exotic accessory — has evolved at breakneck speed into something more.

It’s more essential because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that Americans wear a mask when interacting with others. It’s more aesthetically pleasing. It’s also a more complicated cultural proposition. And, of course, the face mask is political because both the president and the vice president have refused to wear one on highly public occasions and because some protesters have insinuated that masks are un-American.

As the country moves toward reopening, masks are assuredly part of our future. And in some ways, their evolution is the perfect encapsulation of how much life has changed in a blink of an eye — and how challenging, both intellectually and emotionally, it will be for us to go forward.

“The question about face masks is, how will they morally change us? To some extent, the answer depends on our motivation for wearing them,” says Liz Bucar, a professor of religion at Northeastern University. “If you are wearing a mask to protect yourself from others, you are forming a habit of fear. Every time you put a mask on, every time you see someone else wearing one, you will reinforce this fear.

“But if you are wearing the mask to protect others, wearing it will create a feeling of connection to those in your community,” she says. “You’ll see others wearing masks as a sartorial sign that they are willing to sacrifice some freedom and comfort for the common good. “The meaning we give to these masks matters.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
Designers in the beginning, which is to say in March, our experts said that healthy civilians didn’t need to wear face masks. A nonmedical mask was superfluous because it could not protect the wearer from the microscopic on which the virus traveled. The only purpose was to prevent the wearer from coughing and sneezing the infection on others — and if one was displaying those sorts of symp- toms, you really shouldn’t be out in the world.

In Paris, crowded international fashion shows were still unfurled as designers offered guests disposable masks — presented on a tasteful tray held by a handsome young usher at the entrance, the way a waiter might offer a glass of champagne. Unlike with bubbly, there were few takers. Those who did slip on a mask were rarely American and most often from Asia, where wearing a mask isn’t a matter of fear or paranoia, but consideration for others. Yet even in Paris, the center of the fashion universe, the masks were basic. White. Black. (Surely you didn’t think they’d be as lavish as an insult more like a deliberate act.) By early April, a good Samaritan army of fashion industry workers was stitching up masks for first responders. They too were straightforward, generic. It didn’t matter who was creating the masks — it was notLKvenomaintecemonnianapeenearthieninsethigayttagghard-to-wear-than-thrown into the Maytag. Others are covered in sequins. Some masks look to be so dense that they’d impede breathing; nonetheless, they’re stunning.

Almost all of them come with a promise of a charitable donation or a reassurance that no one is profiting too much. Designer Christian Siriano was using a pattern issued by the New York governor’s office, and Fashion Girls for Humanity — a nonprofit organization founded in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake in Japan — offered downloadable patterns and construction information gathered from medical professionals.

Soon, however, function met form. That same month, the CDC changed course and advised everyone to wear a mask in public. The industry was committed to the effort. If a shopper goes to Etsy, there are — at last count — 250 pages of colorful, patterned nonmedical masks to click through. Neighborhood blogs are filled with offers from home sewers willing to stitch up distinctive masks for locals.

There are masks for every taste and budget. Some are printed with Edward Monkton’s endangered species. Goth masks mimic skeletal jaws. Disney is offering a preorder on four-packs of masks featuring its signature characters. High-end versions made from fine Italian fabrics that really should be hand-washed rather than thrown into the Maytag. Others are covered in sequins. Some masks look to be so dense that they’d impede breathing; nonetheless, they’re stunning.

Almost all of them come with a promise of a charitable donation or a reassurance that no one is profiting too much. That’s the unwritten rule, so far. Ronald van der Kemp unveiled one-of-a-kind masks in Amsterdam to benefit refugees. Some of them are fantastical, all-encompassing millinery than mere masks, as they were resplendent with gold chains, pearl-like beads and flowers. A designer is allowed to recoup expenses — materials and labor.

But there was a social media firestorm when images showed masks from Off-White, the coveted men’s street-style brand, selling online for as high as $1,205. (The masks were subsequently removed for price gouging.) Before the pandemic, Off-White’s fashion masks were selling to its style-forward customers for about $100, which is still quite expensive for two rectangles of cloth about the size of a pocket paperback.

But fashion pricing has never been based on actual value. It’s calculated based on perceived value, which is driven by desire, status and rarity. Nonmedical masks have worth because of their function. We’re not yearning for them. As a culture, we are just edging our way out of denial about what the near future holds and minding our way to acceptance. And perhaps, the more stylish the masks become, the more willing people will be to put them on.

“I see people wearing masks for a while,” predicts New York designer Eugenia Kim. And if people do wear them, if they have to have this piece of cloth front and center on their face, why not make the best of the situation? “They’re obviously functional, but I think they can be uplifting.” She compares these fashion masks to T-shirts. Useful and common, yet endlessly variable. And enduring.

Kim is a milliner. The addition of masks to her collection took less than a week from concept to e-commerce. And after about a week selling online, she’s moved about 1,000 masks, with the most favored version a sequined one for $20.

“It used to be that we really only saw tourists wearing them,” Kim says, referring to visitors from Asia. “Now, we are those people.”

There may be no other piece of clothing that has had a trajectory like face masks — something that began as purely protective transforming into a fashion statement in no time at all.

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” says Patricia Mears, deputy director of the Museum at FIT.

The closest comparison that comes to mind is the parka. What began as lifesaving covering in Inuit culture took thousands of years to evolve into what is now a staple of winter life. Masks in various forms have also been around for centuries, but we’ve been drawn mostly to admiring their aesthetics or exploring their magical connotations. Pure, physical function didn’t transfer to the masses. We didn’t use masks.

The modern surgical mask — essentially multiple layers of gauze — dates to the late 1800s. For generations, masks have been common on streets in Japan and China, worn during cold and flu season as or protection from pollution and allergens, and gaining ground during the SARS outbreak.

Street-influenced menswear incorporated face masks into its vocabulary more than a decade ago. In the spring 2002 Raf Simons collection, presented not long after the 9/11 terror attacks, models stalked the darkened runway wearing face coverings that left little but their eyes visible. The masks referred to rebellion, to defying the establishment.

‘The meaning we give to these masks matters.’

The early fashion masks were a way to stand apart from a logo-driven, flashy society. They used anonymity as style statement.

Just after the presidential inauguration in 2017, menswear designers in New York incorporated face masks into their collections as part of a uniform of liberal protest of the Trump administration and its targeting of immigrants, minorities, women and the LGBTQ community. More recently, face masks have symbolized the dangers of climate change.

Masks, part of the larger universe of face coverings, stir up long-held stereotypes that frame the person behind the mask as dangerous or suspicious. We are leery of what we cannot see. The enduring image of bandits shapes that perception. But so do Islamophobia and racism.

Some black men have expressed their fear of being mistaken for an assailant if they enter a store wearing a mask, particularly a homemade one. They’d rather risk COVID-19 than an unpredictable encounter with police. And Asian Americans have faced verbal and physical abuse from those who blame them for a virus that first appeared in Wuhan, China.

“We’ve policed face coverings,” says Bucar, the religion professor, who’s the author of “Pious Fashion: How Muslim Women Dress.” “It’s ‘other- ers’ us to wear one.”

But they are not likely to be discarded soon. “We’ve started thinking about how we’ll deal with these masks on campus,” Bucar says. “Will my kid use one in seventh grade? Will police officers?”

Already, masks are standard attire for grocery clerks and customers, delivery folks, Uber drivers, pharmacists and baristas. It’s not a leap to envision visitors strolling through museums wearing masks, or music lovers attending an outdoor concert wearing one.

If masks become common, they can serve as a personal reminder of how one should behave in public. That’s the power of a particular form of attire. It connects us. It’s an expression of solidarity.

In Houston, designer Priscilla Von Sorella pulled Italian fabrics from her archive and stitched up masks from silk, velvet and metallic brocade. Are these little bits of sparkle lighting up the future? Expounding some of the fear?

“I thought, ‘Why don’t we bring a little bit of normalcy to our lives and express ourselves?’ ” Von Sorella says. “You would treat this like a high-end garment.”

From top: An embroidered mask in Italian velvet from Priscilla Von Sorella; a sequin face mask by Eugenia Kim; A mask by Kiki Pedro-Hall made from a recycled dust cover; a silk mask by Priscilla Von Sorella.
In Other Waters takes players on a journey through an alien ocean

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD
Special to The Washington Post

Perhaps it was when I unspooled tape from an old reel-to-reel player and created a beast out of its ribbons, or maybe it was when I saw a tree sprout hot air balloons. It also could have been when I watched an elephant lead a menagerie in an underwater processional. Each is among the possibilities for the moment I decided that Paper Beast should be counted among the handful of truly great games available on PlayStation VR. Developed by Eric Chahi, creator of the renowned early '90s adventure game Another World, Paper Beast throws players into a hallucinatory cyberscape running on a quantum computer—a place that visually evokes the work of the surrealist painters Dalí and Magritte.

I’m reluctant to say much about the ensuing journey because one of the elements I most appreciated about Paper Beast was that I had no idea what to expect from one moment to the next—something I seldom experience in video games. That said, I don’t think it’s ruinous to say that the game involves observing the different paper beasts you encounter. You learn their goals and motivations and can then manipulate them for what are, generally, mutually beneficial ends.

Although ultimately innocuous, some of the solutions to the game’s puzzles are still deliciously twisted. For example, one puzzle requires players to dangle the young offspring of a family of crabs out of their reach, prompting the adult crabs (inadvertently) to leave it. (From now until who knows when, expect to see more cultural objects that succintly meld themes of climate change and economic inequality.)

Assuming the role of the AI system responsible for overseeing Vas’ explorations, players spend the majority of their time poring over a nautical chart, lining up points for Vas to travel between (which appear as little triangles on the map) and operating the diving suit’s various subsystems that handle tasks such as sample collection, propulsion, obstacle clearance and drone retrieval, i.e. fast travel back to your base.

Speaking as someone who is not exactly at home in cartography, I found it fascinating how, over time, I invested more and more meaning into those on-screen dots and squiggles that represent the various kinds of phenomena that Vas encounters. At a certain point, I had no trouble seeing a canopy of stalks in a series of dots spread fan-like over the screen.

I was able to find beauty in such abstractions through the lens of Vas’ descriptions of her surroundings. So evocative are her observations that I couldn’t help but read them with David Attenborough’s voice in my head. For example, here is a description of the predatory Saare Veils: “Wide, delicate silken panels of bioluminescent cells, they work in unison to entrap and digest creatures which come too close.” The edge of their veil is described as, “Here, the tangle is receding, a few of the trailing veils hanging still in the dark water like the poised limbs of a dancer.”

As Vas explores the exploration of the planet, she trips over other mysteries that challenge her fundamental assumptions and make her rethink her relationship to the medium of games and the planet she barely knows.

In Other Waters is a game where observation becomes an end in itself. Its simple gameplay mechanics are supported by a quiet, overtly narrative that works to put players into the mind of a working scientist. If you’re not put off by its low-key, text-centered nature, you may well find it to be one of the more serene games to have recently pulled into port.

Platforms: Mac, Nintendo Switch, PC
Online: jumpovertheaeg.com
Nuremberg Toy Museum explores change through our toys

By Erik Slavin
Stars and Stripes

Playtime for the average middle-class kid once meant preparation for work as an adult. Dolls made in 19th-century Germany were exquisitely crafted, but they were probably also the inspiration for at least four different Hollywood horror films. By the early 20th century, the dolls displayed at the Nuremberg Toy Museum were ironing clothes and doing baby laundry. I guess the fun never stopped for girls.

Then again, I’m looking at it through a modern lens—maybe it made the girls happy to do what Mom did when that’s what was expected, while the boys played with vast armies of tin and lead soldiers. The museum’s display of toys spanning the centuries says a lot about the times they were made in, from those early figurines and doll houses to the trains, cars, robots and foosball tables produced when a lot of today’s adults were kids.

To be fair, it wasn’t all drudgery in the olden days. Optical toys were the whiz-bang tech marvels of the 19th century. Museum guests can look at the 3D stereoscopic shows that made images move well before anyone had a night out at the movies.

The toys get more familiar as the 20th century rolls on, with sleek cars, plush toys and movie franchise collectibles. Toys and politics sometimes collided during the Cold War, as evident in a display of toys and propaganda from divided Germany.

The museum also has some dedicated displays, such as a replica of Omaha’s Union Station. I’m not a train fanatic, but it was impressive. If you’ve got a zoom lens or great eyesight, check out the fine details. One of the miniature brick walls includes an 1832 quote from Abraham Lincoln praising the railways, years before he became president.

Kids may spend some of the time wondering when they get to actually play with toys instead of mostly looking at them. The payoff comes upstairs, with plenty to do for mostly younger children, and a few things for tweeners and adults with some kid left in them.

Normally, they have even more to play with in a large outdoor area from April 1 through October, though it’s unclear if that area will reopen as coronavirus restrictions are eased. There are lots of classic games, funhouse mirrors and a hedge labyrinth. The museum also opens a courtyard café.

The toy museum, like all other museums, has been closed since March. But as Germany slowly opens back up again, if your comfort level is high enough to venture out, the museum is a nice way to spend a few hours while exploring the historic city.

-- Erik Slavin

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS
Address: Karlstrasse 13-15, 90463 Nuremberg
Tram line 4, Hallertor stop; Bus line 36, Weintraubengasse stop; U-bahn, U1/U11 to Lorenzkirche stop, take Hauptmarkt exit.

TIMES
Closed recently due to coronavirus measures; check website for updates. Normally Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends and holidays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Monday except during the Christmas Market.

COSTS
6 euros for one adult, 12.50 euros for two adults and up to three children under 18.

INFORMATION
Phone: +49 (0)911 231-3164; Online: museums.nuernberg.de/toy-museum

The Nuremberg Toy Museum features displays of toys made over the centuries, along with a few to play with.
Amsterdam enjoying respite from crowds

By Tim Igor Sniders Special to The Washington Post

Amsterdam's historic Red Light District is rife with English-language signs admonishing tourists: “Don’t pee in the street”; “No alcohol in public spaces”; “Put your trash in the bin”; “Fine: 140 euros.”

But the cartoonish black-and-red warnings on the 17th-century canals look strangely out of place these days. There are no visitors to heed them.

Beginning in mid-March, when the Netherlands went into semi-lockdown to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism vanished from Amsterdam almost overnight. A social and economic crisis has hit the country and its capital has become a city of over 820,000 residents of Amsterdam's historic city center, there is a clear silver lining: temporary relief from the burden of overtourism.

Nowhere is the difference more clear than in the now-deserted alleys of the red-light district. It is a major tourist draw, famous for the sight of sex workers sitting from behind their windows and the many coffee shops where tourists to heed them.

“Before the corona crisis, tourism here has become too expensive as the traveling middle classes of Europe and the United States were joined by those in Asia. From the 21st century on, the balance in the inner city was definitively skewed toward visitors. Hotel rooms multiplied, streets felt permanently overcrowded. The canal cityscape became the domain of tours, ticket offices and souvenir shops. And perhaps the biggest difference to locals: The ever-multiplying sellers of ice cream and waffles sauced with Nutella chocolate, now the dreaded symbol of a monocultural tourism industry.

Last year, 9 million tourists, mostly foreigners, visited Amsterdam, a city of 820,000 people. “This is such an opportunity to reflect on where we go from here,” says Els Iping, spokeswoman for VVAB, an organization that protects cultural heritage in the inner city and has been a vocal advocate of restoring the balance in favor of residents. “We are proud of our city, and we like to see others enjoy it. But the superficial type of tourism that has people pay pocket change to fly out here has to stop.”

Follow Romans through the Rhineland-Palatinate region

The German state of Rhineland-Palatinate is a post-WWII entity created in 1946 from the territory of historically separate regions. Some 2,000 years before it came into being, that same land was claimed by invaders from the south, the Romans who came and constructed their military bases and cities there. Andernach, Boppard, Koblenz, Mainz, Speyer, Trier and Worms are all and have been the Roman locational with an extensive Roman heritage.

Exploring the traces of what the Romans left behind could make an interesting theme for not-so-far-from-home travelers for the tens of thousands of Americans stationed in this part of Germany. Here are some sights to incorporate on your Roman-themed tour:

**TRIER**

Karen Bradbury

Visitors can see the remains of its subterranean service passages, and those who climb to its top are rewarded with a view revealing the size of the original imperial palace district.

Other must-sees on a trip to Trier include the Romanesque Landesmuseum Trier archaeological museum, St. Barbara Roman Baths, Thermen am Viehhof, amphitheater, and, of outside of town, the Seifert Saalee pillor tomb and the Villa Otrang, a well-preserved country estate with mosaic floors. Another highlight is the Romanbrunnen, the oldest standing bridge in the country, which serves traffic crossing the Moselle River to this day.

Mainz came to an end around 406 A.D. Roman amphitheater: Behind the Romanesque Theater train station, the remains of a vast theater uncovered during construction work initiated in 1914 can be seen. A glass wall alongside the station’s furthest platform allows today’s travelers a glimpse into these long-ago times. Better yet, hike up the hill for an unencumbered view.

Museum of Ancient Seafaring: During work in preparation for the construction of a Hilton Hotel back in 1961, the remains of seven Roman ships dating back to the fourth century A.D. were uncovered. These remains, along with two reconstructed gallies from the Roman Rhine fleet, and other original artifacts are displayed at this free-entry museum.

Other traces of Roman settlement in Mainz include the Cenotaph stone marker honoring Nero Claudius Drusus, stepson of Emperor Augustus and a general who led campaigns that stretched as far as the Elbe River to the north; the remains of a Roman aqueduct, and the foundations of a temple for the worship of Isis in what’s now the Eifel Volcanic Province shopping center.

Online: tinyurl.com/y9uyulpc

**LIMES**

The “Limes” represents the border of the Roman Empire at its most extensive during the 2nd century A.D. Along part of its 3,000-mile distance is the Limes Germanicus, the border of what runs through Rhineland-Palatinate. The traces of walls, ditches, watchtowers and fortresses that reveal its presence are inscribed on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage sites. The Roemerwelt am Caput Limitus in Rheinbrohl serves as the official Limes information point for the state.

Online: roemer-welt.de

**Roman Mine at Meurin:** This museum in the Eifel Volcanic Province illustrates how the Romans mined for turf, a stone of volcanic ash well suited to their building projects. This award-winning museum shows off not only the site itself but the extraction techniques employed at the time. The mine is located in the town of Kerz, and makes up part of the East Eifel Volcano park. Online: roemerbergwerk.de

**Roman Wine Press in Piesport:** On the western outskirts of this charming town by the Moselle, traces of a building with more than 10 rooms and seven large tubs is evidence of an ambitious Roman wine-processing operation.

At Piesport’s annual Roman Wine Pressing Festival, town residents dressed in tunics and sandals employ the old methods on the present year’s harvest of grapes, transporting spectators about 1,700 years back in time. The event is scheduled to take place Oct. 2-4 in 2020. Online: tinyurl.com/y3vqv7w7

**Trier, Germany, is known for its well-preserved Roman and medieval buildings.**
Theme-park munchies

Enjoy the taste of Disney at home

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

I'm a former resident of Florida and was a frequent visitor to the state's many fantastic theme parks. I missed those parks long before the coronavirus closed their gates, and I miss them even more intensely now. The experience of theme parks will doubtless change after the pandemic, and I'd rather it not change at all.

It's impossible to re-create the theme park experience under quarantine, but it's possible to indulge in some adjacent nostalgia. My family and I have extracted maximum value from our Disney Plus subscription, watching bizarre vintage films like "The Three Caballeros" and modern Pixar offerings like "Inside Out." Recently, my wife and I expanded this project by trying out a couple of recipes made famous at Disney theme parks and published this spring on the Disney Parks Blog.

We started by preparing cookie fries (recipe online at tinyurl.com/y9j2rwrc), a popular dessert served at Beaches & Cream Soda Shop at Disney's Beach Club Resort. The official version is vegan, but I found only regular Egg Beaters and Hershey's conventional chocolate chips at the commissary, so we couldn't replicate that aspect. We created the dough easily, put it in the refrigerator to chill and moved on to the main event.

Our entree was the Grilled Three-Cheese Sandwich (recipe online at tinyurl.com/yaovjt69) served at Woody's Lunch Box in the Toy Story area of Disney's Hollywood Studios. Grilled cheese is one of the few things I can competently cook, so I approached this recipe with confidence. But it proved a lot more complex than my usual sandwich.

This grilled cheese is made in three parts. First is a cream cheese spread to complement the cheese inside the sandwich. Next is a mayonnaise-based garlic spread for the outside of the bread. With the condiments made, the final step is to assemble the sandwich.

Again, we were prevented from following the recipe exactly, but this recipe seems pliable enough for some minor substitutions. We used shredded Colby Jack cheese in place of shredded cheddar and were forced to chop up a block of cheddar in the absence of sliced cheddar. Most egregiously, we scrapped the suggested artisanal bread for a loaf of decidedly nonartisanal Wonder Bread Texas Toast.

With assembly complete, we formed the chilled cookie dough into fry-shaped cylinders, popped dessert into the oven and started grilling one sandwich at a time in a frying pan.

The end result was an excellent lunch. The grilled cheese was so flavorful that I'll likely never return to my plain grilled cheese again without raiding the spice rack. I was initially skeptical about the intrusion of anything but cheese, bacon or ham inside a grilled cheese, but that cream cheese spread proved me wrong. The cookie fries came out plumper than the picture — more like cookie steak fries. But they were quite good, and the fact that my wife and I baked them from scratch made them more satisfying than the processed snacks with which we'd packed our quarantine kitchen.

Who knows when it will be possible to walk around a bustling theme park again and get the authentic version of these treats, along with maybe a giant turkey leg and some churros? Until then, we'll do what we can. And in a time that demands comfort food, a tasty grilled cheese and chocolate chip cookies are about as good as it gets.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes
How did we end up here? That’s a question I ask almost every morning while I’m pacing my cell. This was supposed to be our last trip as a family before my oldest son left for graduate school. I had planned a yearlong adventure to show the kids the Europe I grew up in. I wanted them to hike the Alps with me, to see the Colosseum in Rome, to eat a krapfen at my favorite Kaffeehaus in Vienna. I could keep writing and since my kids are home-schooled, they could continue their education while we were abroad.

And for the first two months in Lisbon and Porto, it worked. But then, on the train from Barcelona to Marseille, we learned that Italy had closed. I made a snap decision to reroute to the Cote d’Azur and rented an apartment on Vrbo for the rest of the month.

In Nice, the museums closed shortly after we checked in. The next week, bars and restaurants shut down. Then the mayor tested positive for COVID-19. And within a few days, the city went from a vibrant Mediterranean tourist destination to a police state.

France is one of Europe’s coronavirus hot spots, with more than 177,000 cases. You can’t leave your apartment without an attestation — a signed form that states you are buying groceries, exercising or going to work. You can print the form, write the information on a piece of paper or create an electronic document on your phone. If authorities catch you more than a kilometer away from your residence when you’re out walking, you’re looking at a fine of between 38 and 135 euros, or about $41-$146 in U.S. dollars.

“…”
FROM PAGE 26

French troops patrol the streets of Nice during the coronavirus lockdown. The military was deployed as part of Operation Sentinelle after the 2015 terrorist attacks; they have stepped up their presence during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Christopher Elliott/The Washington Post

_Germany_ Directory

**Restaurants**

**Kaiserslautern**

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Nice is France’s second most visited city, after Paris. But its hotels, restaurants and tour operators are closed indefinitely, and there are almost no signs of life.

“We have never faced anything like this,” says Denis Coppolino, president of Nice’s hotel and restaurant association.

The tour operators and hotels are closed and sometimes boarded up. There’s some scaffolding at the Radisson Blu Hotel near the beach, but it’s hard to tell whether it’s still being used. A crew is working on the roof at the Hôtel Luciano in the Thiers part of town.

Otherwise, all is quiet.

“Everything is dead,” says Caroline Conner, a sommelier who used to run wine tours from Lyon, France. “I loved my business and my customers, and I will return to them once tourism wakes up again. But many of my fellow tour operators won’t be able to survive that long.” Her survival strategy: shifting to online wine education on her website, winedinecaroline.com.

One of Nice’s resident wine scholars, Viktorija Todorovska, has also embraced virtual wine education to get her through this dry spell. On her site, sipstasteshare.com, she’s started to post videos with tips on everything from wine buying (“Don’t buy a wine based on the label”) to storing wine (“Always in the refrigerator, even red wine”).

There are some positive signs. The Tour de France, though postponed, is still scheduled to start in Nice this summer. It will be a long way back to a booming tourist industry for Nice, as it will for the rest of the world.

— Christopher Elliott
WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Magical thinking

Some fans eagerly await parks reopening; others will stay away

BY DEWAYNE BEVIL
Orlando Sentinel

Fans of Orlando’s theme parks are anticipating the reopening of attractions, and they’re forming their first-day-back strategies. Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando have not revealed details or return dates from their coronavirus-imposed lockdown.

But enthusiasts are weighing their pent-up desires to go back to Central Florida attractions against their health concerns and fears of big crowds.

“I miss everything. I have so many great friends that I only see at the parks, so I definitely want to go on the first day or definitely within the first week,” said Michael Muldoon, who lives in Lakeland, Fla. “I’m going to follow the safety measures. Even my mom wants me to go because she can see how bored I am.”

But anxiety is winning over entertainment for Kristen Pettineo, who has visited Disney World every summer since she was a child. Now she has her own 3-year-old daughter who’s obsessed with “Frozen.”

“For me, personally, I don’t plan on visiting until there’s either a vaccine or a cure,” Pettineo said.

Exeuctive and experts have had possible changes in store for theme parks worldwide. Among the considerations are limiting the number of people allowed inside, date-specific tickets, virtual queuing, intensified sanitation procedures, face-covering requirements, temperature checks and an emphasis on the six feet of separation between people that’s suggested by the Centers for Disease Control.

Some of those measures and others were in place when Shanghai Disneyland reopened more of its resort on Monday.

The modifications also discourage Pettineo, who lives in Austin, Texas.

“If I’m going to be wearing a face mask, if I’m not going to be able to meet characters, if I’m not going to be able to ride all the rides and experience the parades ... I just don’t know if that’s even worth it,” she said.

Danny Bogue, a Disney World annual passholder from Orlando, agrees.

“Putting all health issues aside, I just don’t even understand why people would want to go,” he said. “I feel like if I were to hold out for the old normal, it’s going to be ... a long time before I get to go to a theme park.”

He’s looking for more government action, testing and public buy-in for the safety suggestions.

“My stance is that once I start to feel more comfortable about going to Publix every week, then maybe I’ll start to consider Disney,” Bogue said. “I know there are people out there ... that just are more or less throwing caution to the wind.”

Sharon Rudolph, who lives in Sarasota, Fla., and has annual passes to Disney World and Universal, has canceled two outings to Orlando, including one with her family set to toss beads during the Mardi Gras parade at Universal Studios.

“It was a life experience. We were going to go on the floats. I was so excited. We had packed,” she said. But concern about her Type 2 diabetes status and because she lives with her 76-year-old mother caused her to reconsider even before the parks shut down. She thinks it will be six months to a year before she ventures back.

One reason: She thinks visitors won’t play by the rules.

“I’m absolutely sure, 100% confident, that people won’t follow them. Because, as evidence, ‘Please don’t flash photography’. ... ‘Please select a row and move all the way to the end of that row’. ... They’re not following the rules that Disney puts into play now,” she said.

Even with limited park capacity, she wonders about the six-foot clearance between strangers.

“Where are people going to go? There’s not enough physical land space for everybody to maintain six feet at all times,” she said.

Inram Siddiqui and his family make many trips a year from Bee Cave, Texas, to Orlando’s theme parks. His wife is a frontline physician in a COVID-19 unit in a South Florida hospital, and their strategy is to visit sooner rather than later.

“I think we’re going to be among the earliest people there because we think the park will be the cleanest. We think the staff will be the most vigilant and then we think the public will be the most vigilant,” he said.

He expects a surge of coronavirus cases in the fall, but he also expects Disney and other theme-park companies to follow effective procedures.

“This can’t go sideways,” Siddiqui said. “They have to do this right.”

Still, there are elements of the attractions he will avoid, he said.

“I think we wouldn’t do enclosed spaces with any strangers,” he said. He mentioned the Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run attraction at Disney’s Hollywood Studios, the monorail that runs to Magic Kingdom and Epcot along with other slow-moving rides.

Park visitors are re-evaluating once-innocuous circumstances that now raise questions. They wonder how parks will handle hands-on attractions such as Men in Black: Alien Attack at Universal Studios and Toy Story Mania at Hollywood Studios, or the small pre-show areas for the Antarctica attraction at SeaWorld and Haunted Mansion at Magic Kingdom as well as tightly designed spaces of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal’s theme parks.

Park operations and logistics interest Brian Baker, a Disney annual passholder who lives in Altamonte Springs, Fla. He plans to go on the first day the parks are open.

“I’m interested in ... what changes security has made in regards to touching people’s personal items because that’s now going to be a huge thing,” he said. “I mean, it was huge before the closure but even more when they reopen, whenever that is.”

He also wonders about the resort’s transportation system.

“That doesn’t mean I’m going to be on a bus,” he said. “I just means that I’m going to be observing whether they’re letting people on buses.”

Baker says he’s safety-conscious.

“But I don’t also think that you should be scared of Disney World for the next six months, either,” he said.

Bernard Pettiford, a passholder from Orlando, says his wish list includes lower park capacity and a lot of hand sanitizer.

“I am definitely dying to go,” he said. He recently had a short staycation in a hotel near Disney.

“I was literally maybe five minutes from the park, and it just made me sick knowing that I couldn’t even really drive over there because there’s nothing to see,” he said. Also on his wish list is a ride on Hagrid’s Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure, a roller coaster at Universal’s Islands of Adventure. Although his favorite park is Disney’s Animal Kingdom, his next stop is Magic Kingdom, Pettiford says.

“Me, going back there first is going to make Disney feel real again,” he said.
Don’t pick up those scissors without first learning from these experts

**By Treva Lind**
The Spokesman-Review

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quarantine hair, DO CARE

...especially hair that’s thicker or kind of off a little if necessary, Brazil said.

Don’t pick up those scissors without first learning from these experts

**WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE**

Some local pros are offering tips to help in the interim. Mostly they suggest to use styling tricks to tame unruly hair—or to trim a tiny bit—as you wait it out.

A lot of hair can be very forgiving, because of the coronavirus pandemic, and it’s uncertain when “quarantine hair” will end.

Some local pros are offering tips to help in the interim. Mostly they suggest to use styling tricks to tame unruly hair—or to trim a tiny bit—as you wait it out.

“Of course, were you to try trimming a tiny bit—as you wait it out. I would recommend mostly to hold off if you can—there are always fashion-able hair clips or tucking hair behind your ear,” said Tammy Brewer, stylist at Creative Hair Design in Spokane Valley, Wash. “Of course, were you to try cutting your hair, I’d recommend only cutting your bangs and only cutting them dry. There is a little trick where you grab bangs and twist them up together, then trim off a little bit. It makes it look more layered, not cut straight across.”

That avoids bangs in a straight line — the bowl cut of youth — unless you want a blunt look. For the whole mop, messy buns or a ponytail can work. And then there’s always baseball caps.

“Try styling techniques first, like if you have bangs, try to push them over to the side and use different styling products or techniques,” said Terri Brazil, stylist and owner of Salon Nouveau in Spokane, Wash.

Some local salons have posted tips on social media, including Salon Nouveau, with a recent Facebook series for styling bangs while growing them out.

“Learning to cut hair is visual, so search for videos by styling professionals. Take off a little if necessary, Brazil said.

“A lot of hair can be very forgiving, especially hair that’s thicker or kind of has a curl to it,” she said. “Fine hair, not so much.”

**Trimming tools**

Consider your hair’s texture and length. Is your hair wavy or fine?

Then go slow. If you can, get help from a quarantine mate. Gather up salon-style scissors or clippers, a comb and a towel to wrap around one’s shoulders. You can use hair clips to separate manageable sections.

“Maybe get the old Flowbee out,” joked barber Mike Lester. He’s taking over operations at Tom’s Barber Shop in Spokane Valley, and self-remodeling it until it can reopen.

Flowbee, a 1980s hybrid of vacuum with hair clippers, has enjoyed a resurgence. People also are buying clippers or finding ones in storage.

“They’re into buzzing their hair off pretty much by the time they’re done,” Lester said. “The phone has been ringing all day long at the barbershop. They’re saying, ‘What do I do with the clippers? Do I need a size 2 or 3?’”

He knows it’s been challenging to keep shorter trims for men. Some firefighters, law enforcement officers and military members seek “flat top” haircuts every two weeks for a style that’s tight on the sides and faded up into a “landing strip,” Lester said.

“I say, ‘Just have the wife use the clippers,’ he said. “Fade it up with a 2 and be sure to go straight up and not too far into the top where it’s rounded.’”

For better use with clippers, hair can be a little drier. After trimming the sides, use a flat-top comb and carefully go across the top with a smaller blade leaving a quarter inch, or half inch on top, he said. Some people also leave the top hair fuller toward the front.

For longer trims, use a No. 2 with a light touch straight up on the sides, too, then maybe use scissors for the top and corners to blend. To avoid nicks to the ear, “Hold the ear down and carefully go around the ear,” Lester said.

Jennifer Turner cuts hair for women and men at Tom’s Barber Shop. She’s fielded calls about home haircuts, and it’s more complicated than people realize, she said.

“I tell them there is a YouTube video that shows you how to buzz cut your hair,” she said.

**Hairstyles and bangs**

Turner tries to convince her female customers to let their hair grow out for now.

“When someone tries to cut long hair, it turns out uneven,” she said.

If a trim is a must, find videos.

“You have to be super careful, because curly hair is just naturally in different layers.”

Inexperienced cuts can get uneven fast, said Stephanie Tullos with New Beginnings Hair Salon, in Spokane.

“You’ll have a lot of layers you don’t want,” Tullos said. “I cut women and children’s hair, and there are so many nationalities and different textures of hair. With curly hair you have to be super careful, because curly hair is just naturally in different layers.”

Back to the bangs, try just a quarter-inch trim to avoid overdoing. Those fringes can shrink up or get jagged fast. If you use a comb to cut, be careful not to stretch the bangs.

A cowlick might require leaving a section slightly longer to blend.

“AVoid going too short with wavy hair,” Lester said. “You might get Mamie Eisenhower bangs.”

Brazil still supports using styling products and techniques first for bangs, but using tricks if you must cut.

“One thing is, try to look straight ahead and not look up at your hair, because you’ll end up with way shorter bangs. I’d definitely cut it dry,” Brazil said. “Do little tiny increments. Start in the middle and work out to the sides.”

For kids, it’s better to wet hair down so you can get a good line on the back for the length and around the ears, Lester said, adding that it’s fine to use scissors.

Brewer said guys and little boys might just need a trim at their sideburns and around their ears. With summer coming, let it grow, “as long as it’s clean and brushed.”

**Those roots**

Some of Brewer’s customers get hair color every three weeks. She’s had the desperate calls.

She said root touch-up products can help, versus hair color kits.

“No highlight home kits,” Brewer said. “Those are always the best to fix.”

“We use the professional mix with the correct hues, so you can have a natural look,” she added. “Many of the box blondes are touchy. They can go orange.”

Brazil also suggested root sprays: “You can even use eye shadow to touch it up.”

**Hair condition**

Stay-home time offers hair self-care time.

“Once a week, do a conditioning treatment,” Tullos said. “You also can do a protein treatment, which is right in your refrigerator — eggs or mayonnaise. I’d do that once a month, put on a plastic cap, leave that on for 30 or 40 minutes, then wash it out and your hair will have a really healthy sheen.”

Take care of your hair and hold on, Brewer said: “Just don’t get crazy; we’ll be back to work soon.”
T

ink about your first day in quarantine. Does it feel like a lifetime ago? Or does it feel like yesterday?

Many people staying at home as a result of the coronavirus crisis are noticing time pass more strangely than usual. While some complain of days dragging on and on, others have taken to social media, explaining they feel the past several weeks have flown by eerily quickly.

Turns out, science can provide some insight into why our perception of time is a little wonkier than normal while in quarantine.

Here's what the experts say:

Why does it feel like time is passing more quickly?

“Time does seem to be going really fast,” agrees Claudia Hammond, author of “Time Warped: Unlocking the Mysteries of Time Perception,” noting that it’s our perception of time that feels unusual, separate from the way time actually works. In our minds, “time can warp very easily,” she says. But why does this happen?

For those staying at home during the pandemic, it has a lot to do with our worlds shrinking to the bare minimum — staying at home for the vast majority of the day, with trips outside only for exercise or a visit to the grocery store. For the most part, we are not taking part in particularly memorable activities, like getting drinks with a friend, going to a sporting event or traveling, says Marc Wittmann, an author and research fellow at the Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health in Freiburg, Germany. Now, there are fewer signals differentiating a Sunday from a Monday.

And if you’re doing the same thing every day — the new normal for many in quarantine — there’s no need to remember each day specifically. Even if time passes slowly in the moment, it’s likely that nothing will stand out upon looking back, causing you to perceive time has passed by quickly in the long run, Wittmann explains.

“The more emotional a memory, the longer perception of time duration.”

This is why a weekend vacation will often feel longer than a weekend spent at home. And right now, many in quarantine are experiencing the opposite of a vacation, Hammond notes. “We’re not making loads of new memories now, so we don’t think lots of time has passed.”

James Broadway, an instructor of psychology at Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois, who has studied the brain’s perception of time, notes a similar phenomenon occurs when we age. The older we get, the fewer novel events we experience, which causes time to feel as if it’s going by faster than it did earlier in our lives. Hammond points out that a similar phenomenon can happen to people who are sick or incarcerated. Time will pass slowly as it’s experienced, but then feel as if it’s gone by quickly in retrospect.

However, if you’ve felt as though time has taken a long time to pass during the pandemic, even retrospectively, you’re not alone. Adrian Bejan, a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science at Duke University, believes it’s possible the novelty of the quarantine experience could actually explain why weeks may feel like they’re dragging to some.

“The brain remembers the unusual,” he explains, and if our new routines are suddenly different, our brains would be bombarded with images worth remembering. This would then result in the perception that time is moving slowly over the quarantine experience, though it’s likely time will feel as though it’s speeding up again as the quarantine becomes more familiar.

It’s also important to note not everyone has the relative luxury of feeling bored while in quarantine. Many people are busier than ever, whether they’re working in a hospital on the front lines or at home balancing a full work schedule while trying to homeschool their children. It’s possible people who are busier than ever during the coronavirus crisis will look back and feel as though this period of their lives lasted longer than normal, Hammond suggests.

“When they look back, it will be the other way around,” she says.

What can we do about it?

Our altered perspective of time can be useful during quarantine. Normally, when we’re bored, we have a plethora of options in front of us, like going to the gym or meeting up with friends. Now, we’re being challenged to spend time alone or with others in our household.

“This could be a chance to learn how to cope with boredom and isolation,” Wittmann explains. “Learn to be at ease with being with yourself.”

If you’re feeling anxious and have difficulty coping with being alone, it’s helpful to have a goal, he says. Whether you’re aiming to exercise more or clean your apartment regularly, having a physical task to complete may help assuage feelings of stress and take your focus off the passage of time.

Take advantage of having more time at your disposal to do new things, Bejan says.

Finding events to look forward to can be similarly helpful in passing the time, Hammond notes. Though we can’t look forward to vacations or physical outings with friends, she suggests re-creating the feeling of having plans by scheduling a virtual happy hour on Friday night or creating a Sunday afternoon film club, which you’re able to look forward to all week long.

“Make the weekends different from the weekdays,” recommends Hammond.

Meditation may also be soothing for those suffering from anxiety in quarantine, Broadway suggests, saying, “It’s a really good opportunity to embrace doing nothing.” If all else fails, Bejan suggests those in quarantine “get into the habit of looking at things you were previously overlooking.” Focus on minute details — the way the trees look on your street, the way the steam floats off your tea. After a few minutes of taking your mind off the passage of time, you might be surprised to find time has a funny way of speeding up after all.

Are the days flying by? Are they dragging? Or has only our perception changed?
**NEW ON DVD**

“Onward”: Tribune News Service film critic Katie Walsh says this animated adventure from Disney/Pixar finally brings mainstream representation to the fantasy-obsessed metalhead. Chris Pratt voices older bro Barley, a burly chap in a battle vest with an affinity for all things Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering, or rather, the generically branded versions. In his trusty steed Guinevere, an old purple van airbrushed with a mighty Pegasus, Barley blasts sweet heavy metal tunes about wizards and beasts and magic.

This isn’t Barley’s story, though he’s an integral part. This is the story of his younger brother, Ian (Tom Holland), a shy young elf who discovers that he does, indeed, have a little magic in him.

Walsh writes that “Onward” contains potentially the most morbid example of the Disney dead parents trope, which they’ve relied on for decades. Dead parents have been the easy shortcut right to emotional stakes for the young characters. But “Onward” literally embodies this ever-present longing for a lost loved one, as Ian and Barley drag their father’s sentient legs around with them on their quest.

Despite that, Walsh says “Onward” “sticks with the right heartstrings to produce many laughs and many tears.”


**Unraveling the mystery**

**By Brooke Jefferts**

*Associated Press*

The character Beverly Goldberg on ABC’s hit comedy “The Goldbergs” can elicit laughter before she even speaks, thanks to the over-the-top outfits that are a love letter to the mother of the show’s creator and to 1980s fashion.

“No dialogue necessary,” laughs “Goldbergs” star Wendi McLendon-Covey, who plays the overbearing but lovable Beverly on the show.

The tops always start with the shoulder pads, then the embellishments. Details range from hanging beads, flashy sequins, ribbons, fringe and ruffles, to phrases like “What’s shakin’ bacon?” and “I’m so flappy!”

The wig McLendon-Covey wears — blond bangs and feathered layers that flip out like wings — also helps inform her character of Beverly, who can be tough and opinionated, smothering and meddling, but also loving.

“I’ve got my armor on, my helmet and shoulder pads and then I’m good to go. I understand my mood for the day based on what I open my closet and find,” McClen- don-Covey told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Costume designer Keri Smith creates the signature looks for the fictional Beverly, who is inspired by creator Adam Goldberg’s real-life mother, also named Beverly. The character has a wardrobe his mother would have envied back in the day, with a mini-mum of five costume changes per episode, each a one-of-a-kind work of ’80s nostalgia.

When the show first started in 2013, the real Beverly shipped boxes of sweaters and accessories she’d saved for decades to Smith. Many have made appearances on the show, which airs its season finale Friday on AFN-Pulse.

“It was amazing and it helped me grasp who she was,” Smith told the AP. “And that was important for Wendi, too ... to know that she was actually legitimately wearing something that Beverly Goldberg wore.”

Smith and her team of costumers also shop at vintage stores and on eBay and Etsy for Beverly’s sweaters, but most need extra bedazzling for maximum scene stealing.

“If I know that Beverly Goldberg is on a mission and she is trying to do something for her son at the school, she’s going for it. She’s either in full bedazzle, or (the sweater) has, like, lions or tigers on it,” Smith said.

Since fans are often looking out for Bev’s wacky garb, Smith and the writers have had to up their sweater game.

“There was once a sweater that was made up of a bunch of different little teeny sweaters that spelled out ‘sweater.’ Try sourcing that,” McClendon-Covey said.

“Onward” star Chris Pratt voices older brother, Ian (Tom Holland), a shy young elf who discovers that he does, indeed, have a little magic in him. The sweaters made of cloth — but Goldberg told her to start over and find actual knitted sweaters. With only one day to get it done, Smith found a way.

“This woman knits little tiny sweaters, like as ornaments, on Etsy, and I was able to contact her,” Smith explained. “She Fed-Exed them over night. We made little hang-ers out of paperclips. And then you look at it and it’s ... 500 times better than my first one. He’s right. That’s what it was supposed to be — little tiny actual knit sweaters. Genius!”

The outfits have become such a key part of the show that fans regularly mail sweaters to Smith:

“If a fan sends something in, I am using it for sure. And they all have good taste,” Smith said.

“And then we let them know when it’s airing. And it’s just wonderful. It’s like everyone gets to feel involved.”

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Facebook’s ‘10 albums’ challenge climbs the charts during quarantine

By Chris Riemenschneider
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

For diehard music lovers, there’s nothing like compiling a top 10 albums list to while away a few hours — or to get into heated debates with a few of your equally nerdy friends.

This popular pastime has taken on new heights — and maybe greater meaning during the coronavirus quarantine. One version of it, in particular, has become increasingly popular as a welcome distraction in recent weeks, to the point where many of us aren’t seeing much else on our Facebook feeds:

“I have been nominated by [insert friend’s name here] and given the task to choose 10 albums that greatly influenced my taste in music,” goes the post. “One album per day for 10 consecutive days. No explanations, no reviews, just album covers.”

In what amounts to a Facebook version of a chain letter, participants then post one record every day and tag another of their friends each time to follow the same challenge. And so on.

The results have sometimes been surprising (i.e., “I didn’t know you were old enough to be a Leo Sayer fan”), aggravating (“How could you possibly think ‘The Black Album’ is one of Metallica’s better ones?!”), insightful (“That Danzig record may explain your anger management issues”) and touching (“I love you more for loving Anita Baker”).

“I was asked to do an ‘essential’ 10, and that’s extremely difficult,” said Christy Costello, a Twin Cities rock musician with Butcher’s Union and the Von Bondies, bar booker at Dusty’s and a gigging DJ.

“I’m thinking back at the different points in my life and what music was transforming me then, and if it still reaches me the same way now.”

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WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

Shelby Lynne

Shelby Lynne (Thirty Tigers)

There's hardly a song among the 11 on Shelby Lynne's first solo record since 2015 that fails to mention love, and even the exceptions stay on theme. The self-titled album is in part the soundtrack to an unreleased film she stars in, "When We Kill the Creators," and some of the songs were recorded live on set.

Though many of the lyrics are from Cynthia Mort, the film's screenwriter and director, it is Lynne's name on the cover and it still sounds like one of her most personal collections.

Lynne, who often acts here as her own backing band, once again travels the fine line between happiness and heartbreak, making both feel necessary.

Love and relationships are presented in many phases and guises — celebratory ("I Got You"), nostalgic ("Weather"), yearning ("My Mind's Riot," which includes a Lynne sax solo) and resilient ("Here I Am"), among others.

Though there are some notable guest like Benmont Tench on a few songs, most of the arrangements are translucently elementary, and it's Lynne voice that carries the emotional weight.

Even with highlights throughout, there's a definite mid-album peak with "Revolving Broken Heart," "Off My Mind" and "Don't Even Believe in Love."

The first is one of those hushed cries of despondency Lynne excels at. It's followed by a slice of southern soul in the Aretha Franklin mold, with Lynne playing all the instruments. Finally, comes a sleek tale of inevitability, one of the few tracks with a full band behind her.

Lynne, who with sister Allison Moorer released an album of covers stretching from Merle Haggard to Nirvana in 2017, makes this album one of the purest in her canon and makes one curious about the film.

— Pablo Gorondi

Associated Press

FROM PAGE 32

With her list still coming together at this writing, Costello thinks she's going to keep naming albums past the allotted 10, if only for the much-needed fun of it: "No parents, no rules" when you're enjoying something in a quarantine," she quipped.

Asked why he participated, Mambo's Combo and Greazy Meal singer July Cameron admitted, "I never do the Facebook challenges. But I am indeed bored."

Collins compiled one of the more surprising and varied lists out there, including everything from R&B pioneers Rufus' "Rags to Rufus" to folk duo the Indigo Girls' self-titled 1989 album and jazz-fusion band Weather Report's "Heavy Weather."

Some participants make a point of choosing less obvious picks to tell a little more about themselves, since naming "Thriller," "Sgt. Pepper's" and "Nevermind" doesn't really reveal unique tastes.

Veteran record-store operator Ryan Cameron of Let It Be Records could have gone way more obscure than most participants with his picks, like the lesser-known Ornette Coleman LP on his list ("Dancing in Your Head"). But he also chose "Meet the Beatles."

"I pretty much had to," said Cameron, who now operates primarily as an online seller. "Not only did I pick a Beatles name for my store, but my musical exploration as a kid pretty much started with the Beatles."

Cameron's idea to make his list more focused — and thus easier to compile — was to "mostly stick with albums that were big in my youth."

"Otherwise, 10 is clearly way too few a number for folks like us to name our essential albums," he said, pointing to his brother-in-law's own list as one he was particularly interested in seeing.

"We've talked music a lot, but I didn't really know a lot of his earlier influences. It's a good way to get to know a little more about people."

Costello joked that sometimes she has found out things about people she didn't really want to know, based on their picks in the challenge. "Every once in a while I'm taken by surprise. You know: 'I thought we were friends! Sheesh!'"

More often, though, the Facebook exercise has helped respark her passion for music while she's sidelined from live gigs.

"It's inspired me to look up records I haven't seen for a while," she said. "I've found some treasure along the way."
A baseball card-fueled road trip

‘The Wax Pack’ author traveled the US to meet 1980s athletes, learn their stories

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

Brad Balukjian

Bad Balukjian tore open a pack of 1986 Topps baseball cards, chewed the stale, brittle bubble-gum and then planned a road trip most sports fans could only dream about.

The college biology professor set out to meet every player whose image appeared on those old pieces of cardboard — from Gary Carter to Roberto Clemente to Carlston Fisk — and see what life after baseball has been like.

Whether it’s musicians or artists or television writers, I’m just fascinated by baseball players, Balukjian said. “I think the novelty of that idea is gone and that’s OK. ... I get asked this question a lot, but I’m like, hey, man, if anyone out there wants to write about another wax pack, like you could franchise this and do it for other sports and other years, and I would gladly read someone else’s book.”

He also weaved aspects of his own personal life into the book, including his struggles with obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety, briefly reuniting with a lost love and reliving moments of his childhood.

“One of the most important of characteristics in the most unlikeliest of places, a lasting friendship can be found in the most unlikeliest of places, and celebrity. If our hearts and minds are open to the blessing, the true meaning of being a man,” Balukjian wrote. “I learned how cruel and to others. And probably most important of all, I learned never to back down on a cause you truly believe in, no matter what the odds against you might be. These are important things for a boy to know while growing up, and I will always cherish those memories and recall the beauty of a friendship between a man and a boy.”

Pen pal helps keep baseball great’s story alive

BY PAMELA HUET
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

On April 15 every year, players from the American and National leagues — all wearing No. 42 — line up on the baselines as a tribute to one of the greatest baseball players of all time, Jack Roosevelt Robinson.

It didn’t happen this year because baseball has been sidelined with all the other sports.

But Jackie was not forgotten, especially in the heart of one of Ron Rabinovitz, of St. Louis Park, Minn., who has spent his life honoring the legacy of the player who broke baseball’s color line on April 15, 1947.

Young Ronnie of Sheboygan, Wis., became the unlikely pen pal and then friend of the Brooklyn Dodgers infielder in the 1950s. In later years, Rabinovitz has spoken to classes across the Twin Cities and at Target Field, where schoolchildren take tours of the Minnesota Twins’ home field. He was featured in an MLB documentary about No. 42, and the Minnesota History Theatre produced a play about the Wax Pack author.

Rabinovitz has co-written a few books, including a children’s book, “The Wax Pack: On the Open Road in Search of Baseball’s Afterlife,” which tells the story of how author Brad Balukjian, pictured left with former mayor league outfielder Lee Mazzilli in Rye, N.Y., in 2015, tried to track down all the players in a single pack of 1986 Topps baseball cards on a road trip across the U.S.

“The Wax Pack” journey began in 2014 when Balukjian was sitting in the upper deck of Oakland Coliseum watching an Athletic game, and rode home on the train, he wasn’t as familiar with the players on the field as he once was. As a kid growing up in Rhode Island, he followed the game religiously and baseball cards — boxes of them — provided easy links to his heroes on the field.

So, Balukjian ordered a few unopened packs of Topps cards on eBay from 1986, the first year he recalls collecting. The 15-card pack he picked included a mix of names: Steve Carlton (Dwight Gooden and Vince Coleman), solid players Lee Mazzilli, Steve Yeager, Gary Pettis and Rich Renteria and non-stars — called “common” cards in the hobby — such as Rance Mullins, Randy Ready, Jaime C thenover, Lou Piniella and Mike Al Oliver.

There were a few players Balukjian didn’t link up with, but he managed to turn those setbacks into entertaining chapters.

He also created a checklist of personal successes and failures, including visiting a zoo with Carman, getting a hugging lesson from Mullins, watching kung fu movies with Templeton, lifting weights with Ready and desperately trying to chase down Fisk.

“Whether it’s musicians or artists or television writers, I’m just fascinated by baseball players, Balukjian said. “I think the novelty of that idea is gone and that’s OK. ... I get asked this question a lot, but I’m like, hey, man, if anyone out there wants to write about another wax pack, like you could franchise this and do it for other sports and other years, and I would gladly read someone else’s book.”

Pen pal helps keep baseball great’s story alive
Author Octavia Butler poses near some of her novels in 2004 at University Book Store in Seattle. Butler, considered the first black woman to gain national prominence as a science fiction writer, died in 2006, at age 58.

Foretelling the future
14 years after her death, Butler’s novels seem more relevant

BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

Novelist N.K. Jemisin was a teenager the first time she read Octavia Butler, and nothing had prepared her for it. It was the 1980s, and the book was called “Dawn,” the story of a black woman who awakens 250 years after a nuclear holocaust.

“I remember just kind of being stunned that a black woman existed in the future, because science fiction had not done that before,” said Jemisin, whose science fiction had not done that before, “simpler’ time. Now does not suit him. Religious tolerance does not suit him,” Butler wrote. “There was never such a time in this country. But these days when more than half the people in the country can’t read at all, history is just one more vast unknown to them.”

Jarret’s campaign theme: “Help us to make America great again.”

“She (Butler) seems to have seen the real future coming in a way few other writers did,” said Gerry Caravan, an associate professor at Marquette University who is co-editing Butler’s work for the Library of America. “It’s hard not to read the books and think ‘How did she know?’”

Butler’s own life trained her work. Grand Central Publishing is reissuing many of her novels this year, and the Library of America welcomes her to the canon in 2021 with a volume of her fiction.

A generation of younger writers cite her as an influence, from Jemisin and Tochi Onyebuchi to Marlon James and Nnedi Okorafor, currently working on a screenplay for the Butler novel “Wild Seed” for the production company run by Davis and her husband, Julius Tennon.

Davis, in a recent interview with The Associated Press, said she began reading Butler while attending the Juilliard school 30 years ago. “I felt included in the narrative in a way I had never felt reading anything before,” said Davis, who has a deal with Amazon Studios. “There is something about seeing yourself in the imagination’s playground that opens up your world.”

Alys Eve Weinbaum, a professor of English at the University of Washington, said Butler broke open a genre “dominated by white men and white readers.” She is now praised as a visionary who anticipated many of the issues in the news today, from the coronavirus to climate change to the election of President Donald Trump. In her 1998 novel “Parable of the Talents,” the right-wing Andrew Steele Jarret runs for president in 2032 with a message familiar to current readers.

“Jarret insists on being a throwback to some earlier, ‘simpler’ time. Now does not suit him. Religious tolerance does not suit him,” Butler wrote. “There was never such a time in this country. But these days when more than half the people in the country can’t read at all, history is just one more vast unknown to them.”

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Butler’s own life trained her work. Grand Central Publishing is reissuing many of her novels this year, and the Library of America welcomes her to the canon in 2021 with a volume of her fiction. Her first novel, “Patternmaster,” came out in 1976, although it took her years to be able to support herself and for the industry to catch up to her.

Jemisin and others remember that the original cover for “Dawn” featured a white woman, making Jemisin all the more surprised when she read the book and realized the protagonist was black.

Through the 1980s and ’90s, her readership and reputation grew. She became the first science fiction author to receive a MacArthur “genius grant” and her literary honors included Nebula Awards for “Bloodchild” and “Parable of the Talents.” She was shy and often reclusive and would describe herself as “A pes-simist if I’m not careful, a feminist, a Black, a former Baptist, an oil-and-water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty, and drive.”

Some admirers have personal memories of Butler. Not long before she died, in 2006, she was the keynote speaker at the Gwendolyn Brooks Conference on Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University. Okorafor was among hundreds in the audience. She had known Butler for years, dating back to a writers workshop where she first read Butler and sought her advice, beginning with a phone conversation.

“She was really kind and she was funny, and I just remember the conversation being really nurturing. She was very down to earth, but it was also like talking to someone who was way up there,” Okorafor said. “At the Gwendolyn Brooks conference, I remember how surprised she was at the turnout. The room is packed, this big room with so much love. I just wish she were here now to see how much more she is being honored.”
How far is enough for social distancing to be effective?

By Catherine Marfin  
The Dallas Morning News

By now, we’re familiar with the rule: Stay 6 feet away from other people for your best chance of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even as some states — and countries — begin to reopen more businesses, social distancing is still being emphasized. But some officials’ guidelines for how much space to keep between yourself and others has varied.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended at least a 6-foot gap. The World Health Organization has recommended half that distance — and only when people are coughing or sneezing. However, other health experts have said even more space may be needed in some situations.

So how much social distancing is enough? Here’s what you need to know:

Where does the 6-foot rule come from?

Health experts have said the recommendation for 6 feet of social distancing comes from studies of diseases in the 1930s and 1940s, mainly the work of William F. Wells, who studied tuberculosis.

COVID-19 is believed to be spread mainly through large respiratory droplets produced when people cough or sneeze. The droplets typically traveled 3 to 6 feet.

Health experts say that because the droplets are larger and can usually be seen with the naked eye, gravity will cause them to fall to the ground within that distance.

Why are some concerned about the 6-foot rule?

There are questions about whether the virus can be transmitted through microscopic droplets, called aerosols, which linger in the air.

Health experts have pointed to studies and incidents that suggest there’s a risk the virus can linger. One study in the New England Journal of Medicine suggested COVID-19 can live in the air as long as three hours in the right conditions.

Experts also expressed concern about aerosol transmission after about 60 choir members gathered for a practice in Mount Vernon, Wash., and dozens of them contracted the virus. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in late March found that droplets that were produced when someone coughs or sneezes can travel up to 27 feet. The study wasn’t conducted on the COVID-19 virus specifically, however, and droplets survive and fall at different rates depending on their size and factors such as temperature, humidity and air currents.

The study could have implications for the novel coronavirus, but there’s still a lot that isn’t known about the disease, such as how much of the virus survives in smaller particles and how much of a living virus it takes to make someone sick, health experts say. Even if the virus lingers in respiratory droplets in the air, health experts still can’t say whether the droplets hold enough of the virus to cause concern.

“The question is not how far the germs can travel, but how far can they travel before they’re no longer a threat,” Dr. Paul Pottinger, an infectious disease professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine told USA TODAY. “The smaller the germ particles, the lower the risk that they might infect somebody who would breathe them in or get them stuck in their nose or their mouth.”

What about social distancing when you exercise?

Because of the varying theories about aerosol transmission, questions have been raised about safe social distances outdoors.

Some experts say the risk of transmission outside is low because air flow dilutes any expelled air. Generally, health experts say you’re safer engaging in outdoor activities than indoor ones, where air flow can be restricted, people are closer together and frequently touched items are abundant.

“Usually there’s a lot more social distancing outside,” Dr. Kevin Winthrop, a professor of infectious diseases in epidemiology and public health at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, told National Public Radio. “And environmental factors like wind and UV make it less likely you’re going to come in contact with viral particles.”

But one recent study found that when people walk briskly or run, their bodies create wakes of air that can carry respiratory droplets up to 15 feet.

The study hasn’t been peer-reviewed or published, and it has significant limitations. For example, it didn’t focus on the risk of infection or the COVID-19 virus specifically.

“The results look reasonable,” Linsey Marr, a professor at Virginia Tech who studies air flow, told The New York Times. “Common sense and this study suggest that if someone is walking or running, we need to allow for more space around them.”

Other health experts say allowing more space makes sense because people breathe heavier and harder when they’re exercising.

“The mnemonic I like to use is double your distance,” Dr. Ben Levine, a professor of medicine and cardiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, told NPR. “The greater volume and rate of breathing that occurs during exercise has the risk of spreading droplets farther ... I think it’s reasonable (to increase distance) based on the known changes in breathing during exercise.”

So, is 6 feet enough?

Many health experts say 6 feet of distance is a good minimum to aim for, based on what is known about the virus’ main method of transmission.

Health experts also recommend taking personal factors into account, such as how vulnerable an individual is and how well air is flowing.

“Everything is about probability,” said Dr. Harvey Fineberg of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. “Three feet is better than nothing. Six feet is better than 3 feet. At that point, the larger drops have pretty much fallen down. Maybe if you’re out of spitting range, that could be even safer, but 6 feet is a pretty good number.”

Wearing a face mask will keep you and others safer when you have to leave the house. That’s the good news.

The bad news is that you now realize you suffer from halitosis. More than 80 million people suffer from chronic halitosis, or bad breath, according to Know Your Teeth.

Although bad breath can happen because of a medical infection, diabetes, kidney failure or a liver malfunction, the most common reason is poor oral hygiene. When food particles are left on your teeth or tongue, the bacteria cause odors in your mouth.

Here are five ways to combat bad breath and make wearing a mask a more pleasant experience:

Avoid certain foods

Onions and garlic add flavor to many foods but also add odors not easily brushed away.

“The substances that cause their bad smells make their way into your bloodstream and travel to your lungs, where you breathe them out,” dentist Richard Price, a spokesman for the American Dental Association, told WebMD.

The best way to avoid the problem is to avoid the foods.

Stop smoking

Tobacco products adversely affect your health in ways other than causing cancer, like damaging your gums, staining your teeth and causing bad breath. Isolation might be a good time to break the smoking habit. Nicotine patches or gum can help, or make an appointment with a doctor, WebMD recommends.

Avoid dry mouth

“Saliva is the key ingredient in four mouth that helps keep the odor under control because it helps wash away food particles and bacteria,” according to Know Your Teeth. If you aren’t producing much saliva, try drinking water or chewing sugar-free gum.

Brush and floss

WebMD recommends you brush your teeth at least twice a day and floss at least once daily to reduce plaque. The sticky buildup on your teeth collects bacteria that cause bad breath, and trapped food adds to the problem.

Don’t overlook things, though, the experts warn. If you brush too hard you can wear down your teeth, making them vulnerable to decay.

Scrape/brush your tongue

Bacteria don’t just live on your teeth. To rid your tongue of other-causing bacteria, remember to brush it when you clean your teeth. If your toothbrush is too soft to reach the back of your tongue, buy a scraper.

Scrapers are “designed specifically to remove trapped food and debris from the grooves across the surface of the tongue area. This removes bacteria, food debris and dead cells that bacteria can feed on and thrive,” said hygienist Pamela L. Quiñones, past president of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, told WebMD.

— Nancy Clanton

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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Bad breath? What to do now that you’ve found it

Stay 6 feet away from other people when you’re exercising. Here’s what you need to know:

Quentin Heyward, a flight attendant and purser at Delta Air Lines, left, and the Rev. Martini Shaw, right, an Episcopal priest at the Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, walk together, but apart, March 26 to maintain about a 6-foot distance at the Race Street Pier in Philadelphia. Heyward and Shaw are friends who worked out at the same gym prior to the coronavirus.

Jessica Griffin, the Philadelphia Inquirer/7NS
Raising grandkids

Seniors who currently are sole caregivers face unique stresses

BY SAMANTHA MELAMED
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The Philadelphia Inquirer

The lone grandfather in the group — who is run by the Support Older Women’s Network, and normally meets at the 11th Street Health Center in North Philadelphia — knew feeling well.

They’re among more than 13,000 grandparents and great-grandparents in the city who are serving as primary caregivers for children. The Philadelphia Corporation for the Aging estimates.

When parents muddling through the coronavirus pandemic, they are straining under the weight of 24- to 36-hour a-day custody, care-taking and home-schooling.

The grandparents, though, are grappling with layers of additional complications. There are technological anxieties (many don’t have smartphones and have never had home internet) and financial challenges.

There are financial constraints (some were scraping by on Social Security, Food Stamps and home internet) and literacy challenges (many don’t have computers or learned to use them).

And even though basketball courts are locked up and hoops removed, it’s still nearly impossible to keep kids isolated. Some grandparents say having just one or two friends over is an allowance they have to make.

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“Thats’s their favorite words: Can I go? Can I go?” said Saundra Atwell, 72, whose granddaughter, Chaylah Jones, is 7 and a high-school junior.

Chaylah is already questioning whether she’ll get to walk at graduation, already recalibrating her ambitions from a state university to community college.

Lackey, who lives in Logan, saw her grandson, who has a learning disability, struggling in class of 36 people. Now, she sees him lagging further behind, academically and socially, and she doesn’t know how to help. When a box of sixth-grade math assignments arrive, both she and her grandson were mystified as to where to begin.

“This is very serious in that it’s a continued gap in an education that was already full of gaps. How will that be addressed?”

Sometimes, Lawrence will put a mask on and say he’s going out. All Lackey can do is explain the dangers and harp on him to wash his hands. “I don’t think he quite understands, or he doesn’t accept it.”

Organizations that serve grandparents have been patching together supports as best they can.

The nonprofit Grand Central has recruited about 10 families whose kids are in college to mentor the younger ones, tutoring online or just playing games to give their grandparents a break.

Chartan Nelson, who now runs the office solo, tried early on to move her biweekly support groups online, but hardly any of the grandparents were able to log in. Instead, she has been spending her days as a sort of remote help desk, connecting people with food deliveries, providing tech support, sitting on the line for hours during three-way calls with the grandparents and Comcast to try to get home internet installed.

One grandmother was told to set up her granddaughter on Zoom for therapy, “So she called me to find out what Zoom is, or how to get Zoom,” Nelson said.

After six weeks of work, about 90% of her families now have home internet. For the rest, “the next plan is to get the mobile hot spots. What I’m saying to those families is to continue to do the packets they get initially, even if it means doing them over and over again.”

At the older women’s network “Thursday morning group, the grandparents are helping one another, at least with moral support. But it’s hard to not worry: At least one member is already fighting off the virus, her coughing so violent she had to leave the call.”

Arlene Segal, coordinator for Philly Families Connect, is trying to at least maintain the familiar routines. Back at the health center, she said, they would close by holding hands in a circle and reciting the Serenity Prayer.

“We would look to the person on our right, and say may you continue to be blessed. And we always have a rousing ending. We say, ‘As grandparents, we are a force to be reckoned with!’ and raise our arms into the air,” Segal said. “It is quite wonderful.”

Rooting for a pretty pastime

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Yong Kim, the Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SHIFTING SOUNDS
BY BEN ZIMMER AND BRENDAN EMMETT OUGLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- 1 Smashing
- 6 Wide-eyed in wonder
- 10 Woolen output
- 14 Casual vodka order
- 19 Bubbling
- 20 Pissery
- 21 Alma mater of Grant and Lieb, Abe!
- 22 Board-game piece
- 23 Dog’s order at a malt shop
- 25 The “day” in “pique the day”
- 26 “Arrival” visitor
- 27 You can see right through it
- 28 Part of H.M.S.
- 29 “Game of Thrones” patriarch has difficulties?
- 32 Zora Neale Hurston’s ——- Bessie Were Watching God”
- 34 Stand-up comic
- 35 Drum head in taga music
- 36 Creator of Christopher Robin
- 38 Beat out by a hair
- 40 Big name in ratings
- 44 Male sailors
- 45 Words of affirmation
- 47 Upscale
- 48 Androju alternative
- 49 ——— Malal
- 51 Kind of dirt
- 53 Chest muscle, informally
- 54 The “S” of 44-Across
- 55 Advised a chess player to attack the
- 56 Spanish unit of time with a title
- 57 Yoda, to Luke
- 58 Shows as an encore presentation
- 59 A fingerprint can leave one
- 60 Cell no., say
- 61 Stage of weapons
- 62 Coming from two speakers
- 63 Frequent choice for maid of honor
- 64 Deg. for an aspiring attorney abroad
- 65 Part of Disney’s advertising budget?
- 66 How some pranks might go
- 67 Constellation with a persistently name
- 68 Scan syllable for Shamus
- 69 40a to loop
- 66 Academy Award winner for “Moonlight” and “Green Book”
- 67 Dr. Seuss character who becomes “King of the Mud”
- 69 Sushi condiment
- 95 Birds that can recognize themselves in mirrors
- 99 Beyond old or beyond happy
- 101 Some piercing spots
- 102 Categorically rated
- 103 Indubitably
- 105 Bellybutton stuff
- 106 Bordeaux wine region
- 107 Decidentally defeat a cabinet department?
- 111 Musical knock
- 112 Share on social media
- 115 Like a realist fan base
- 116 School attended by 20 piano ministers
- 117 Feeling one gets under anesthesia at the dentist?
- 120 Rat in “Ratatouille”
- 121 Word before or after after run
- 122 Memo heading
- 123 Prize for a dive, maybe
- 124 Rock a fiddle in
- 125 Weapon with a bell guard
- 126 Lodzovna person
- 127 Indira Gandhi’s father

DOWN
- 1 Comedian Mort
- 2 Instrument from the French for “high wood”
- 3 Bad shot by Dracula?
- 4 Affinity
- 5 Lack of originality
- 6 Fellow
- 7 Prepare, with “up”
- 8 Symbol of madness
- 9 launches
- 10 Close pals
- 11 “Yeah, right!”
- 12 Process, as are
- 13 Language with only 14 native letters
- 14 He made his final cameo in “Avengers: Endgame”
- 15 Spilled one’s soul
- 16 Yes migrant
- 17 Unwelcome look
- 18 Places to exchange dollars for quarters
- 24 Stood out from the crowd
- 30 Little bits of energy
- 31 Composer of “Hail to the Chief”
- 33 Tree that lines the Central Park Mall
- 34 Dubai single for both Jimi Hendrix and Patti Smith
- 36 Flows and all
- 37 Short for 44-Across
- 38 Put off for another day
- 41 Building caretakers
- 42 High-ups in a hierarchy
- 43 Part of a guitar
- 46 One on the road in “On the Road”
- 50 Maker of lunatic posters and H-Speed Toeic
- 52 Laws of “Marriage Story”
- 60 Does some bronc-breaking, e.g.
- 62 Accusation (s)
- 79 Broadband device
- 79 Loozen, in a way
- 66 Barsman display of camaraderie
- 69 Conductor Georg with
- 71 Grammys
- 72 Passed out in Vegas
- 77 Plane-ticket info
- 78 Comfy sealing at a carnival
- 80 Downwind, at sea
- 81 New England art inst.
- 83 Shot served with salt and lime
- 84 Clean
- 85 Lexicographer
- 89 Partridge
- 91 and a 2016 No. 1 album
- 92 Will you allow me to demonstrate?
- 93 Ever to slightly
- 94 Park from work
- 95 Text who animated Bugs Bunny
- 97 Diploma equivalent, in brief
- 98 Make an engaging offer?
- 100 British psy Christoper in 2016 news
- 111 Legal prohibit
- 112 Persian equivalent of “mosh” or “mouy”
- 113 Increase, with “up”
- 114 Stage prize since 1956
- 117 Distinguishes meaning in many East Asian languages
- 118 Pitch of Abercrombie & Fitch
- 119 Red carpet interviewee
- 120 Traffic-sign word
- 121 Card-game call

GUNSTON STREET

“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zavinski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

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Messages of hope

‘Ghostbusters’ actor Ernie Hudson reaching out to housebound fans

BY ROHAN PRESTON
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Sequestered in Minneapolis after Hollywood shut down, charismatic actor Ernie Hudson sometimes dons his old ‘Ghostbusters’ jumpsuit and records messages to cheer up fans. Or he may sing happy birthday to a kid stricken with cancer.

Hudson is doing his part to bring light and joy to the populace during the pandemic.

“I’m thankful that we’re OK, but I really feel for people and what they’re going through,” Hudson said. “If you don’t have the virus, are you going to be hit with a crazy bill? And if you’re already in financial crisis, is there still going up? It’s a rough time with everybody getting cabin fever or worrying about money.”

Hudson decamped from the West Coast in March just as California was about to shut down. He had been working on two shows that were to be shot at a hotel — Carl Weber’s “The Family Business,” a crime family series that started on BET and is now on its streaming service, and “LA’s Finest,” the “Bad Boys” spinoff headed by Gabrielle Union and Jessica Alba.

Just before jetting to Minnesota, Hudson, 74, had a close call with the novel coronavirus.

A cast member on “The Family Business” tested positive for COVID-19 in the waning days of filming, Hudson had close contact with the actor.

“The last scene we shot was a shootout where the guy jumps out, gets shot and the wife cradles him,” Hudson said. “I go pick him up and put him in the car. Well, that (actor) ends up with coronavirus. Totally freaked me out. He’s recovered now, but I had to check myself for weeks.”

At first, Hudson welcomed the breather that the shutdown provided. “Usually, necessity drives you, and you’re just running, running,” he said. “All those gotta-go, gotta-do things are on hold.”

Then he wanted to get ambitious — to do something big to remember the pandemic by. “People are always talking about all the things they would do if they had more time,” he said. “Well, for me, that excuse doesn’t apply. We don’t have TV or anything on,” Hudson said. “I go pick him up and put him in the car. Well, that excuse doesn’t apply. We don’t have TV or anything on,”

Hudson garnered some inspiration from Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd, who he said “have been trying to do something big to remember the pandemic by.”

“Generally, it’s people celebrating anniversaries, welcoming new babies and things like that,” said Hudson, who records about a dozen messages a week.

“Do you want to do that on your phone — it doesn’t take a lot of time and it feels very connected and positive,” he said. “If someone picks me out, it’s personal. They’re a fan of something I’ve done.”

The release date for “Ghostbusters: Afterlife,” where Hudson reunites with costars Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd, has been pushed back from July to March 2021.

“Ghostbusters’” star Ernie Hudson — and Slimer — record an uplifting video message for a fan through the Cameo app. He creates about a dozen messages a week.

The messages that Hudson records for fans are through the Cameo app, where celebrities do such gestures for a nominal fee. Actor Marla Maples is on it for $72 for a pop. Debra Messing of “Will and Grace” fame will set you back $300.

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Quaranchella’ lets locked-down neighbors loosen up

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

For 15 years, Adam Chester has subbed for Elton John, performing John’s parts in rehearsals with the rocker’s band. But with John sitting out the pandemic, Chester had to find another gig.

And he did: weekly, socially distant concerts in his suburban Los Angeles cul-de-sac.

Which is how Chester has come to serenade a few dozen of his face-to-face neighbors with songs of one neighbor’s dying father.

“It’s been an incredible experience,” said Chester’s wife, Maria, who serves as his road crew along with their two teenage sons. “It’s been a way for us to help and reach out to people and what they’re going through — it doesn’t take a lot of time and it feels very connected and positive,” he said. “If someone picks me out, it’s personal. They’re a fan of something I’ve done.”

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Police stun suspect in firing of officer’s gun

BALTIMORE — Baltimore police stunned a suspect accused of grabbing and firing an officer’s gun Monday, the department said.

Officers responding to a disorderly conduct call in North Baltimore encountered the suspect, The Baltimore Sun reported, citing police. An officer and the suspect began to struggle, and the suspect grabbed the officer’s department-issued weapon and fired off a single round, police said. The suspect was then stunned and taken into custody.

A department spokeswoman did not identify the suspect or say whether they were charged, the newspaper said.

9-year-old boy catches 80-pound sturgeon

HENDERSONVILLE — A 9-year-old boy in Tennessee became the third child in his family to catch a monster fish, reeling in an 80-pound sturgeon that outweighed him by far.

Coye Price was eager to catch something big after his 11-year-old sister Caitlin hooked a 58-pound blue catfish a while back, the Tennessee Wildlife and Resource Agency said Tuesday in a Facebook post.

Coye, who weighs just 55 pounds, was targeting catfish in Old Hickory Lake before he hooked the sturgeon. It took him 15 minutes to get the fish in the hook.

Price’s father, Michael Skinner, responded to calls Monday.

On edge during the pandemic

A skateboarder completes a jump in an open skate park during the coronavirus pandemic in Castle Rock, Colo., on Tuesday.

The conviction would have been erased from the Baca County judge’s record if she completed two years of probation, but Gun- nel was arrested for driving while drunk in Kansas in August. Gunkel’s probation was revoked after the charge was filed.

The number of acres that burned in a wildfire Florida officials say was caused by a man who set up an illegal burn barrel on his property. Allen Smith, 58, was arrested Tuesday and charged with misdemeanor counts of reckless burning of lands, violating open burning require- ments and burning of illegal materials, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said in a news release. Smith had been burning prohibited materials in a barrel behind his Santa Rosa Beach home on May 5 and didn’t fully extinguish the illegal fire before leaving it unattended, investigators said.

Injured manatee gives birth at SeaWorld

ORLANDO — A manatee rescued by divers from a Tampa Bay area marine labora- tory and taken to SeaWorld in Orlando for treatment, officials said in a news release.

The manatee gave birth to a calf Tuesday at SeaWorld, the statement said.

Regulators might cut US catch of bluefish

PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island man who fled police custody in January out of Rhode Island to avoid extradition to Rhode Island to face several charges, including committing a crime of violence while in possession of a weapon, breaking and entering, conspira- cy and escape.

Marroquin also had two outstanding bench warrants issued in January out of Rhode Island Superior Court for failing to appear for a bail violation hearing.

THE CENSUS

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The remaining hot materials escaped into the surrounding dry vegetation and caused it to ignite and damage or destroy about 59 homes, officials said.

US attorney: Man sold cocaine, left it on deck

NORTH CONCORD — A man pleaded guilty in New Hampshire federal court to dis- tributing cocaine, once leaving the drug for pickup on his back deck, the U.S. attorney’s office said.

According to court documents, Michael Baez, 39, of Pelham, sold cocaine to a cooperating individ- ual on a number of occasions last year. Baez sold over 420 grams of cocaine, the documents said.

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Fugitive who escaped restraints is caught

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Regulators might cut US catch of bluefish

BOSTON — Federal regulators are consider- ing reducing the East Coast’s harvest of bluefish to prevent overfishing.

Bluefish are popular gamefish that are also harvested commercially for food. The Na- tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the catch of the fish would be reduced by 25%, to about 28 million pounds, under the current plan.

The recreational harvest would be cut by nearly 40% to a little less than 9.5 million pounds. The federal bluefish recreational daily bag limit would also be reduced.

Fishermen seek bluefish from Maine to Florida, with North Carolina accounting for the largest share of the harvest in 2018.

From wire reports
**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Picture puzzle
6. Red wine
12. Film on metal
13. Have a cocktail (or two)
14. Novelist Allende
15. Spoil, as one's parade
16. Towering
17. Morales of "Jericho"
19. Barbie's companion
20. Otherwise
22. Caustic solution
24. Cava flier
27. Sea predator
29. Author Ferber
32. Fruit-filled desserts
35. A good example
36. Father (Fr.)
37. "Unh-unh"
38. Hockey's Bobby
40. "Toodle-oo!"
42. Mess up
44. Org.
46. Mark Harmon
50. Winning gestures
52. Swiss metropolis
54. Online icon
55. Chopin pieces
56. Divides
57. Tennis star

**DOWN**
1. Tabula —
2. And others (Lat.)
3. Sacred text
4. French article
5. Worker on commission
6. Actress Sorvino
7. Cybermessage
8. Slugger's stat
9. Online networking website
10. Bassoon's kin
11. Nashville's state
12. Trench
18. Classified data
21. High tennis shot
23. "Uh-huh"
24. Small ammo
25. Pub pint
26. Learning aid
28. Puts in order
31. Fire sign?
33. Corn spike
34. Still
39. Rushed toward
41. Make invalid
42. Peron and Longoria
43. Answer an invite
45. Former polit. divisions
47. Yield
48. Currier's partner
49. Airline to Sweden
51. Volkswagon model
53. Paris summer

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

**PUWSA. Y NVYIT NVKR ZWUHH**

**UDKW NU NVK UNNKW HYAK.**

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU STOPPED COMBING A LINE INTO SOMEBODY'S HAIR TOO SOON, I GUESS YOU DID IT HALF-PARTEDLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals S
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**OPINION**

**FORCED QUARANTINES ARE NOT THE AMERICAN WAY**

By Tyler Cowen
Bloomberg Opinion

There has been surprisingly little debate in America about one strategy often cited as crucial for containing the spread of COVID-19: coercive isolation and quarantine, even for mild cases. China, Korea, and South Korea have all seen low infection and death rates from their families if they test positive, typically sending them to dorms, makeshift hospitals or hotels. Vietnam and Hong Kong have further restricted the close contacts of patients. I am here to tell you that those practices are not right for the U.S. They are a form of detention without due process, contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and the rights of individual Americans. Yes, those who test positive should have greater options for self-isolation than they currently do. But if a family refuses to serve as a source of protection for each other, it is not the province of the government to tell them otherwise.

It is true that such practices very likely save lives, sometimes many lives. A recent working paper from three economists noted that “a policy that uses testing to guarantee infection test results in no new contacts, and allows contact tracing to continue” saves many lives. One reason the pandemic has been so deadly in Italy, for example, is the higher rate of family transmission outside the northern part of the country.

So it is possible that tens or hundreds of thousands of American lives could be saved simply by persuading Americans to protect their homes. Still, it would not be the right thing to do.

Consider the scale and scope of the coercion that could be required. The situation could suddenly improve, but a common estimate is that 40 to 60% of the American public might end up infected. It is an open question how many other authorities will catch, or if the virus could be shut down altogether. Nevertheless, at least 150 million Americans could be subject to a form of quarantine.

And since family members may wish to care for the sick, any coerced quarantine alike will cause an adoration against more than just that person. Given America’s dismal record with nursing-home fatalities, does anyone think a family may wish to keep a distant relative in a care facility or temporary hospital facilities will be such great places for caregiving? Forcible quarantines might save many lives in the future — but only by imposing a de facto death sentence on some people now.

Furthermore, all tests have false positives, not just medically but administratively. (One else who has experienced the government making mistakes on your tax returns.) Fortunately, current COVID-19 tests do not have a high rate of false positives. But even a 1% false positive rate would mean — in a world where all Americans have been infected — that more than 1 million innocent, non-Sick Americans are forcibly detained and exposed to further COVID-19.

When exactly do these people get to return to their families? No one currently knows how long the risk of contagion lasts.

And it’s not just the violation of individual rights. A policy of forcible detainment would cost Americans money as well. It would reinforce the view that all Americans should own guns and be ready for taking on a heavy burden of self-defense. Forcible detaining would compound polarization, encourage belief in pseudo-science and all but guarantee that millions of Americans will avoid COVID-19 testing altogether.

Coercive containment was tried during one recent pandemic — in Castro’s Cuba, from 1986 to 1994, for those with HIV/AIDS. It is not generally a policy that is endorsed by anyone. And not because everyone is such an expert in Cuban public health data and epidemiological calculations. People oppose the policy because it was made up.

And what about uncertainty? Is it really a safe bet that America’s quarantine policy is going to be executed successfully and save many lives? What if scientists are on the verge of discovering a cure or treatment that will lower the COVID-19 death rate significantly? The situation means we are giving up on America’s curious policy of coerced quarantine.

In the meantime, in judging pandemic policies, there is another cost of containment that is not just lives saved and effect on GDP. The most important is a strong and defensible notion of right and wrong.

By Leana S. Wen
Special to The Washington Post

Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, has warned of “needless suffering and death” if reopening occurs prematurely. No state has met the White House’s guidelines, with reporters recently finding more than 40 of them have loosened or are loosening social distancing restrictions. So here’s the question I would have asked Fauci and his witnesses at Tuesday’s Senate coronavirus hearing: Have we formally retreated from a goal of containing COVID-19 to one of harm reduction?

At the beginning of the outbreak, the United States had a chance to contain the virus by identifying each person bringing the infection into the country and stopping it before it spread in the community. We failed, with a lack of testing largely to blame. Instead of individual-level containment, which would have had minimal effect on the economy, we had to employ societal-level lockdowns to slow the explosive spread of the virus and buy us time until we developed the capacity to rein it in. The idea was that restrictions would be lifted once we were able to contain the virus. I’m afraid that is far enough and built enough up the public health infrastructure needed to find new positive cases, make contacts and quarantine those exposed.

Unfortunately, due to a late start, inconsistent state actions and a lack of federal direction, most states have yet to see a consistent decline in cases, much less reduced them to low enough levels for this to work. No state has achieved sufficient testing and contact tracing. Reopening under these circumstances means we are giving up on containing COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

What’s next, then? The administration has yet to use these words, but it appears that we’re adopting a strategy that I recognize as “individual harm reduction” — this disease risk being managed by an individual through better hygiene, wearing masks, ed to wear masks, work six feet apart and keep a contact diary?

The administration’s own top doc- tor, Dr. Deborah Birx, tells us that we should adopt a strategy that I recognize as “individual harm reduction” — this disease risk being managed by an individual through better hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, that we’re adopting a strategy that I recognize as “individual harm reduction” — this disease risk being managed by an individual through better hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, and getting vaccinated when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.

And this seems to me where we are with the Trump administration’s own top doctor, Dr. Deborah Birx, tells us that we should adopt a strategy that I recognize as “individual harm reduction” — this disease risk being managed by an individual through better hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, and getting vaccinated when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. What’s next, then? The administration has yet to use these words, but it appears that we’re adopting a strategy that I recognize as “individual harm reduction” — this disease risk being managed by an individual through better hygiene, wearing masks, social distancing, and getting vaccinated when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.”
For everyone's safety, Musk must get his ducks in a row

Elon Musk is a billionaire who will, on occasion, tweet ridiculous things, act impulsively, display a prodigious ego and act more like a child than an adult. And now he's throwing a tantrum that threatens the state's ability to move safely and smartly out of the pandemic.

It would be great if we could just ignore Musk as he broadcasts his sometimes trenchant, sometimes bizarre musings to 34 million followers — leaving almost all physical possessions. Will own no house.) But he's also the leader of Tesla and SpaceX, which employ thousands of people.

On Monday, Musk defied Alameda County's stay-at-home order with his reopened Tesla's electric car manufacturing plant in Fremont, tweeting Monday afternoon that the county's call to make, not Musk's.

Even that, Alameda County hasn't signed off on that plan. Instead, county health officials have said they’d like to see Tesla delay the reopening a few days until they see results from the county's first steps to ease its shelter-in-place order. That delay seems reasonable, given how volatile the pandemic has been. Nevertheless, it was too much for Musk; on Saturday, he tweeted that he was “moving Tesla's headquarters and SpaceX's rocket assembly to Texas” precisely in the November elections.

The huge measure has no chance of passing the Republican Senate and therefore part political statement, part opening bid in inevitable negotiations with the GOP Republicans are balking, both because they insist on their own policy priorities, such as lawsuit protection for reopening businesses, and because they believe there’s “too much” (President Donald Trump's phrase) to tee up more spending before the money already approved has had a chance to work. Indeed, only about a $1.4 trillion of Congress's total $3.6 trillion in COVID-19-related spending and tax relief had actually hit the economy as of May 8, according to Powell, Powell said.

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**On the fringe**

**By Doug Ferguson**
Associated Press

The next few weeks might resemble a return to the silly season.

Except this is serious business.

Besides, this isn’t the cash grab from the old “silly season” days of the Skins Game, the Skills Challenge and the Diner’s Club Matches. In two notable events, televised golf returns Sunday in South Florida with an exhibition match at Seminole to fund COVID-19 relief efforts.

Two of golf’s biggest talents, Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, take on Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff, who are linked by their time spent a decade apart at Oklahoma State. The winner of them linked by endorsement deals will trade TaylorMade, the title sponsor of the match.

The following Sunday, some of the biggest names in golf and in the NFL get together for a $50 million charity match. Tiger Woods has Peyton Manning as a partner against Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady.

It doesn’t really matter who wins.

This is about bringing entertainment to a sporting world devoid of live golf for the last two months and raising no small sum of money for coronavirus relief funds.

And in some respects, it’s a glimpse into golf not looking exactly the same when the real thing returns.

For the matches, there will be no caddies, no spectators and media outside a very limited number to provide still photos and live commentary for a television audience that will have fewer cameras. Some of the commentary Sunday will be done off property. Mike Tirico will be home in Michigan.

With no caddies for the Seminole match, laser measuring devices are likely. There won’t be any rakes alongside bunkers, though the sand will be raked by someone, perhaps a rules official.

All state and local mandates are in effect, and they are a month or more away from resuming.

“O ur goal is to minimize risk as much as possible,” said Andy Levinson, senior vice president of operations and a chief of operations.

And the tournament won’t shut down if someone tests positive. Such a player would be at the PGA Championship this week.

PGA Tour-sanctioned events have been shut down for two months because of the pandemic, and they are a month or more away from resuming.

The Scottsdale Open suddenly has more than a dozen players with PGA Tour experience, a list that includes Rocket Mortgage Classic winner Nate Lashley, short-time tour winner Kevin Streelman and Joel Dahmen, who at No. 70 is the highest-ranked player in the field.

In a normal year, they would be at the PGA Championship this week.

The Scottsdale field is 162 players, and it even had a waiting list. Scott Harrington, a PGA Tour rookie, got in at the last minute. They are competing for a guaranteed purse of $130,000, which is a set for first tournament pay for someone like Dahmen. He earned $330,000 in the last tournament he played, a tie for fifth at Bay Hill.

Dahmen was installed as the 5-1 favorite, and for good reason.

The last time he played was in a group of six at Mesa Country Club that included Ian Higgins and Kyle Schwartz of the Chicago Cubs. There were drinks and laughs, and then Dahmen recalls it getting quiet on the 19th hole with TaylorMade. Only after he made a 20-foot eagle putt did he realize he shot 58.

“I didn’t have any idea,” said Dahmen, who shot 26 on the back nine. “If I did, I would have choked.”

Dahmen also is a past champion at the Scottsdale Open. That was in 2017, his rookie year.

“I had a lot of time on my hands, and I needed something to play in,” he said.

That’s kind of how it is now.
Source: Virtual workouts extended through May

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

The NFL has extended its virtual offseason workouts through the end of May, a person familiar with the move said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision to bar in-person gatherings beyond the previous deadline of May 15 has not been announced publicly.

NFL teams normally would be holding Organized Team Activities (OTAs) during May, followed by June minicamps. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, such activities have been done remotely.

Coaching and training staffs have worked with the players by conducting classroom instruction and on-field activities through digital applications instead of at team facilities, which have been closed since late March. Those virtual meetings can occur for four hours per day, four days per week.

Teams can send up to $1,500 to each player to purchase equipment.

All 32 teams must submit plans for reopening their facilities to the league by Friday, though no dates for such reopenings are set. Offseason workouts (OTAs and minicamps) must end by June 26, a week or so later than usual. That, of course, could change depending on developments with the pandemic.

According to a memo to teams, the league will inform them promptly about how to proceed with on-field activities “in the event club facilities reopen at some point in June.” The league said it would work with medical advisers to establish protocols for reopening facilities.

For nearly three months, the NFL has kept to its offseason schedule of conducting the scouting combine, free agency, the draft, and the release of the regular-season schedule. While it is making contingency plans for both preseason and regular-season games in the event that the pandemic makes it necessary to play games without fans or at different sites, the league has publicly said it expects to play a full schedule beginning Sept. 10 with Houston at Super Bowl champion Kansas City.

High-tech devices help teams keep players training safely

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Darius Leonard works relentlessly at his rural South Carolina home to prepare for another football season. He’s also wary of pushing too hard, knowing a minor injury could become a major setback given the dearth of medical experts in his area.

So when in doubt, the Indianapolis Colts star conference co-hosts with his coaches, who are creating safer, more efficient individual workout programs based on data collected the past few weeks.

It’s all part of a changing NFL world: high-tech devices supplanting old-school creativity.

“We are getting a ton done,” Colts coach Frank Reich says. “With the technology today, they all have heart-rate monitors, so they do their workouts, it’s all logged, it all kind of shoots to our system. This isn’t, ‘Hey, I’m watching you.’ This is, ‘Hey, I’m interested in you.’ I’m a little bit of a numbers guy, so I like to see these charts. Then I’ll show them to the team.”

Players also can voluntarily wear monitors to track their workouts. Teams can send up to $1,500 to each player to purchase equipment.

Not everyone has followed the same script. New Orleans canceled its offseason program. But the Colts are taking advantage of their allotted time. Reich estimates Indy spends half its time in meetings and the rest monitoring workouts.

Technological advances are helping everyone cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. “I understand a lot more about the NFL now than I did 10 years ago,” new Dallas Cowboys backup quarterback Andy Dalton said, comparing the difficulty he faced during the 2011 lockout with today’s circumstances. “So I guess the advantage now is there’s still these virtual meetings, so you’re able to connect and talk through the offense and talk through different things, stuff that I didn’t have my rookie year during the lockout.”

Social media also plays a part.

Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia recently reminded running back Ty Johnson about training safely — after watching a video of Johnson pulling a Jeep while wearing a helmet.

Companies such as WHOOP and Myzone could become a part of teams’ training even after things return to normal.

WHOOP, an online fitness company, partners with the NFLPA to provide wearable monitors for players. Nearly 1,000 players have used the service over the past three years as well as teams from Major League Baseball, the NBA, NFL and Major League Soccer.

The waterproof device can be worn around the wrist or bicep and tracks heart rate and strain during workouts and recovery periods.

In addition to measuring heart rate variability, resting heart rate and respiratory rate, it provides information about sleep performance to give coaches the necessary information to ensure safe, efficient workout plans that won’t overstress the body.

Lavish W. Va. resort is potential training site

By Anthony Izaguirre
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Several NFL teams are eying a resort owned by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice as a potential training facility during the coronavirus pandemic, a spokesman for the retreat said Wednesday.

The Greenbrier, a lavish resort in southern West Virginia, has previously hosted training camps for New Orleans Saints and the Houston Texans. Although several teams have contacted the resort, no franchise has officially signed on to practice there this year, hotel spokesman Cam Huffman said.

Justice, a Republican billionaire thought to be the state’s richest man, bought the resort out of bankruptcy in 2009. The Greenbrier has been closed since March 19 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Built for the Saints, The Greenbrier’s practice facility includes two natural grass practice fields, a synthetic field, and a 55,000-square-foot building with kitchen and dining facilities, meeting rooms, weight and locker rooms, training and physical therapy accommodations. At an elevation of 2,000 feet, the location offers a cooler climate than some NFL teams’ training camps in the summer.

The Arizona Cardinals practiced there for a three-day stretch in 2015, though some players warned of some uninvited guests: ghosts.

Tony Jefferson, then a Cardinals safety, said he heard “a little voice, it was like a little girl’s voice” on his first night at The Greenbrier. Cornerback Patrick Peterson said some players were so spooked that they began traveling in groups.

“I haven’t seen anything, but I do hear some weird noises at night, but I don’t pay no mind to it. I fall right to sleep,” Peterson said.

The NFL continues to plan for a preseason and regular season as scheduled, with the season beginning Sept. 10 with Houston at Super Bowl champion Kansas City. The league is conducting its offseason program virtually with training facilities closed because of the pandemic.

An annual PGA Tour event at The Greenbrier was scrapped last month when the tour released its new, virus-altered schedule. ‘Turner Cup’ for the tournament had lagged and federal prosecutors targeted the facility in an investigation that subpoenaed Justice’s administration for documents about the resort, the tournament, the team’s nonprofit financial arm and Justice’s tax records.

The governor’s personal lawyer warned of some uninvited guests: ghosts.
No. 4: ‘Caddyshack’

A Cinderella story, definitely not at Augusta

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. It tells all the time. Someone will pull up to the big metal gate in Front of the clubhouse, press the intercom button and ask to see Bushwood Country Club. Or they’ll start dancing on the 12th fairway. Or they’ll inquire if the striped fedora for sale in the pro shop comes with a complimentary bowl of soup.

Caddyshack fans understand. The film that sparked countless off-repeated quotes, most of them made up on the fly by comic geniuses Bill Murray, Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield and Ted Knight, has been out for 40 years and hasn’t lost one bit of its popularity. Caddyshack was selected as the No. 4 — here — film in The Associated Press’ list of all-time top sports movies.

“As a kid, I lived and died by that movie,” said Ryan Sundberg, now the director of golf at Grande Oaks Golf Club. “To be the pro at Bushwood, I think it’s pretty cool. Once people learn about it, they think it’s the greatest thing ever.”

Grande Oaks, a private club in Davie, Fla., is the course where Caddyshack was filmed in 1979; hence, Sundberg gets to say that he’s the pro at Bushwood.

The club embraces its place in film history and there are more than a few reminders of Caddyshack there — the hat that Knight’s character, Judge Elihu Smalls, was wearing when it was mocked by Dangerfield’s loud-mouthed character Al Czervik, who once cranked up a stereo in his golf bag for a little dancing during play on the 12th fairway — is for sale.

“You buy a hat like this, I bet you get a free bowl of soup, huh?” Czervik says as he sees the hat, then turns to see it atop Smalls’ head.

Smalls sneers a bit, then Czervik says, “Oh, looks good on you, though.”

“The star power ... it was magi-cal, it was funny and the movie lives on,” said Bill Archambault, an extra who appeared in 17 scenes.

Grande Oaks markets itself as the “home of Caddyshack,” and the infamous golfer that terrorists the course is now depicted in a head cover that remains wildly popular. And plenty of golfers know probably every line of the movie — ones that even PGA Tour players hear from galleries from time to time.

Actors Bill Murray celebrates as his final putt drops in on the 18th green during the John Deere Classic Pro-Am in Silvis, Ill., on July 8, 2015.

At the Phoenix Open in 2002, Chris DiMarco was standing over a 3-foot hole when someone yelled “Noonan!” from the gallery. It was a reference to what onlookers were shouting to disrupt caddie Danny Noonan, played by Michael O’Keefe, in the movie as he tried to make a putt to win the caddie tournament. Noonan made the putt and won. DiMarco did the same thing.

Same goes for Justin Thomas at the BMW Championship last year. On his way to winning that event, he put his ball down for a putt and heard someone yell “Noonan.”

“I was like, ‘Man, does this guy hate me?’ I just was terrified that he was going to do something,” Thomas said. “Luckily, he didn’t, and I made it. So, obviously I was in a great state of mind on that putt.”

Even Tiger Woods has embraced it, making a commercial for American Express years ago modeled after how greenskeeper Carl Spackler — played by Murray — resorted to using plastic explosives with hopes of ridding Bushwood of gophers. The gophers survived; all the bombs did was blow up some of the course, and no, the course’s owners in 1979 were not pleased that a fireball was set off on their property. A pilot approaching nearby Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport reported that he thought a plane had crashed when he saw the enormous flames.

Murray and his five brothers are in the Caddie Hall of Fame. They grew up working at a private club near Chicago, part of the inspiration for the story that became Caddyshack.

“Caddyshack was a great thing,” Murray said. “There were some extraordinary people in it.”

It was Cindy Morgan’s film debut and her favorite scene wasn’t even supposed to be a scene. She thought she and Chase were just goofing off as they sat together at a piano, under the auspices of him singing her a made-up love song.

And then she saw the camera was rolling. Turns out, it wasn’t Morgan and Chase sitting there. It was Lacey Underall and Ty Webb, the characters they were playing, her not even knowing that one of the movie’s many iconic moments was happening.

“If you watch that scene again, you can see just about exactly where I realized that we’re filming the scene. I didn’t know,” Morgan said. “There was no script, there was no rehearsal, there wasn’t even a discussion. But we start, and out of the corner of my right eye I see the damn camera light on.”

Morgan happened to have a mouthful of gum at the time. She blew a bubble, a little act of defiance because nobody told her she was creating a scene. They left it in the movie.

“Some of the most remarkable emails and letters I’ve gotten and comments I’ve gotten are from people in the military, first responders,” Morgan said. “I got a letter from a commander who said he shows Caddyshack once a week for his guys, because he wants them to know when they’re in a place with no hope there’s something like this waiting for them back home.”

It was the Animal House story for golf, a mix of partying and sex and hijinks, set in a different time and place.

Morgan has a theory as to why.

“It was one of the first R-rated VHs tapes to be released,” Morgan said. “And it was in every father’s library.”

A Cinderella story, indeed.

About the film

Year: 1980  
Screenwriters: Douglas Kenney, Harold Ramis, Brian Doyle-Murray  
Director: Ramis  
Starring: Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight, Bill Murray  
Plot: A brash new member of the Bushwood Country Club, press the intercom button and ask to see Bushwood Country Club. Or they’ll start dancing on the 12th fairway. Or they’ll inquire if the striped fedora for sale in the pro shop comes with a complimentary bowl of soup.

Caddyshack fans understand. The film that sparked countless off-repeated quotes, most of them made up on the fly by comic geniuses Bill Murray, Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield and Ted Knight, has been out for 40 years and hasn’t lost one bit of its popularity. Caddyshack was selected as the No. 4 — here — film in The Associated Press’ list of all-time top sports movies.

“As a kid, I lived and died by that movie,” said Ryan Sundberg, now the director of golf at Grande Oaks Golf Club. “To be the pro at Bushwood, I think it’s pretty cool. Once people learn about it, they think it’s the greatest thing ever.”

Grande Oaks, a private club in Davie, Fla., is the course where Caddyshack was filmed in 1979; hence, Sundberg gets to say that he’s the pro at Bushwood.

The club embraces its place in film history and there are more than a few reminders of Caddyshack there — the hat that Knight’s character, Judge Elihu Smalls, was wearing when it was mocked by Dangerfield’s loud-mouthed character Al Czervik, who once cranked up a stereo in his golf bag for a little dancing during play on the 12th fairway — is for sale.

“You buy a hat like this, I bet you get a free bowl of soup, huh?” Czervik says as he sees the hat, then turns to see it atop Smalls’ head.

Smalls sneers a bit, then Czervik says, “Oh, looks good on you, though.”

“The star power ... it was magical, it was funny and the movie lives on,” said Bill Archambault, an extra who appeared in 17 scenes.

Grande Oaks markets itself as the “home of Caddyshack,” and the infamous golfer that terrorized the course is now depicted in a head cover that remains wildly popular. And plenty of golfers know probably every line of the movie — ones that even PGA Tour players hear from galleries from time to time.

Actors Bill Murray celebrates as his final putt drops in on the 18th green during the John Deere Classic Pro-Am in Silvis, Ill., on July 8, 2015.

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Editor’s note: Recently, the Associated Press revealed its Top 25 of sports movies, as voted on by 70 writers and editors around the world. After compiling the list, the AP assigned writers to present stories examining the Top 10 from unique perspectives. This is the seventh in the series, a look at the impact of the film that was voted fourth, “Caddyshack.”
Fox calling race from the studio

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jeff Gordon thought his wife, a former model, was joking when she asked the NASCAR Hall of Famer to color her graying roots. He realized she was serious after the third request. Face/Timed her regular stylist and took a crash course in mixing color.

"Those are the types of things we do when we are quarantined," Gordon said Wednesday. "There are things that you do to keep the glue together, to keep everybody healthy and sane. So if having gray hair stresses her out, then I am happy to contribute."

The adjustments will continue Sunday when NASCAR resumes its schedule at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. Gordon, now in his fifth season as part of Fox Sports' broadcast team, will not be at the track. He and Mike Joy will call the race from a studio in Charlotte and Robert Smith will be the only at-track reporter for the broadcast team, working the pits. Larry McReynolds, an analyst, will also work from the Charlotte studio.

NASCAR is limiting the number of people at the track to only those essential to compete and broadcast the race, so Fox will have a dramatically reduced roster and use a high-speed custom-built drone that can offer more perspectives than usual since fans won't be in the stands. The Fox Sports broadcast team is finalizing its approach, but expects to use instant messaging with crews to glean the critical information Gordon and Joy need to properly call a race.

Gordon and Joy spent the last two months calling iRacing events from a studio, so they have a feel for how it will look through broadcasting remotely. Still, they will be winging some things as they adapt to watching the race on monitors instead of describing what's unfolding in front of them.

"I'm just excited that the opportunity is there for NASCAR and motorsports," Gordon told The Associated Press. "We are always comparing our sport to others but now we really get to really talk about the uniqueness of our sport and showcase that, because that is what is giving us this opportunity when other sports are going to be more delayed."

"Motorsports is fortunate to have this opportunity. I am more excited to see that in action, but I think everybody is nervous. Normally in a broadcast we have practice, we have qualifying, we get to work some things. This is going to be 'Boom,' just like the drivers are going to be "Boom". They are going to try to hit the flag and drop the green flag and it is on, and for us it is going to be the same thing."

NASCAR's return will be conducted in just one day, with qualifying and practices canceled for a consolidated schedule. A random draw will be used to help set the field at Darlington — positions 1-12 will be set by a random draw from teams in those positions in owner points, followed by a draw for teams ranked between 13th and 25th, and a final random draw for teams ranked between 25th and 36th. The final four slots will go to non-chartered teams based on owner points.

The field will be frozen for a competition caution on Lap 30 and the top 20 cars will be allowed to pit on that lap. The other 20 cars will pit on the next lap.

Gordon, a four-time NASCAR champion ranked third in all-time victories, applauded the new approaches the sanctioning body is taking as it attempts to restart the season. There are at least two Wednesday night races coming up, with the field May 20 at Darlington set by the finishing order of Sunday's race with a two-tiered system. The top 20 finishers Sunday will be inverted for Wednesday's starting lineup.

"With so much happening and NASCAR being the first major sports league with a nationally televised event, Gordon recognizes the responsibility he and Joy have to set the racetrack into a driver's seat and drop the green flag and it is on, for us it is going to be the same thing."

NASCAR says it wants to have a "Boom" — with a twist: The top 20 finishers Sunday will be allowed to pit on that lap. The other 20 cars will pit on the next lap.

"I think the league is still at a stage, from what I understand, where this particular idea is going to look like what it's going to look like and are trying to get feedback from teams about as to what it is going to look like," DeSantis said. "I think people that are used to the normal cy or normalcy or what life is going to be like after this and what it is going to look like over the next year. If a sport- ing event like this can happen, then, what's the next step?"


d Fox Sports broadcasters Adam Alexander, left, Jeff Gordon, center, and Darrell Waltrip are shown on pit row before a NASCAR Cup series race last year at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. NASCAR's broadcast team for Fox will not travel to Darlington Raceway this weekend, and instead will call the race from a studio in Charlotte.

**Racing: NASCAR getting back on track after shutdown**

**FROM BACK PAGE**

you want and we also heard through the teleconference we had with NASCAR about the protocols," said Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin. "Obviously there will be a huge microscope on how we're doing things, making sure it's done in a safe manner. For all of us, it's just the unknown of making sure we're doing it the right way."

"Mach has changed since Joey Logano scored his second victory of the season — which has so far consisted of just four Cup races at Phoenix, Las Vegas, Infield and New Hampshire. Harvick is still the points leader and Hamlin, Logano and Alex Bowman are locked into the playoffs as race winners. Ryan Newman will be back in the field Sunday after his horrific crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500. He suffered a head injury that took him out of his RoufsFenway Racing Ford, but the long pause in the season gave him enough time to heal and receive medical clearance to race again."

Matt Kenseth has come out of retirement to drive for Chip Ganassi Racing, which fired Kyle Larson during the shutdown for using a racial slur during an on-track race. NASCAR is not running any practices or qualifying before Sunday's race, so Kenseth will be cold when he climbs into a stock car for the first time since the 2018 season finale. At 48, he will be the oldest driver in the lineup.

NASCAR had hoped to announce a revamp to its schedule for April that included midweek races, more short tracks and race courses, and efforts to shake things up. Those plans have been delayed as completing the 2020 hurricane puzzle is now the priority; NASCAR said last week it won't race this year as scheduled at Chicagoland Speedway or on the road course in Sonoma, Calif.

The spring race in Richmond, Va., also will not be rescheduled.

The series, which has seen attendance and ratings drops for several years, is desperate to get going and not just for the sake of its hard-hit teams. NASCAR has issued two rounds of layoffs during the pandemic — cuts last week decimated staffing at many race tracks — and those still employed took pay cuts, furloughs or forced vacation.

NASCAR last fall closed its $2 billion purchase of International Speedway Corp. to consolidate control of 12 tracks that include Daytona, Talladega and Homestead-Miami Speedway.

The move gives the France family almost total autonomy of the largest racing series in the United States and flexibility to make its own plan to survive the pandemic.

"Still, making money means being on the track even if the full 36-race Cup Series schedule isn't possible, NASCAR said it wants to run at least seven Cup races within driving distance for the teams before it ventures outside the South.

For now, Hamlin said drivers have faith in NASCAR's process.

"I'm pretty certain that no matter what, we're in an advantage because we're not a contact sport, especially with the players themselves," Hamlin said. "I'm confident that we can go from our street car that we drive to the racetrack into a race car (and) not be within six feet of anyone, except for the person that is on the window net."

"We're going to be able to do this and it should be pretty effective."
Baseball head pitches MLB on Olympics, again

**By Andrew Dampf**
Associated Press

ROME — Baseball. In Japan. At the Olympics.

For World Baseball Softball Confederation president Riccardo Fraccari, it seems like such a sure home run that he can’t even imagine why anyone wouldn’t want to be involved.

No wonder the refusal of Major League Baseball and its players’ association to send top stars to the Tokyo Games has frustrated Fraccari for years.

Now, with the Olympics postponed for a full year because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the current MLB season on hold, Fraccari has the unexpected opportunity to make one final pitch to the sport’s biggest league.

“Considering the damage from the coronavirus, baseball needs the Olympics now more than ever to boost the sport’s globalization, expansion and mass appeal,” Fraccari said in a recent interview.

“We need to make sure our sport doesn’t get trampled over by other sports that are becoming more popular with younger audiences,” Fraccari said from Switzerland. “The coronavirus is going to make us understand how important the Olympics are for baseball and softball.”

The only MLB players permitted to play in the Premier12 tournament last year were those not on 40-man rosters. Not surprisingly considering the rules, the United States finished fourth and failed at its first chance to qualify for the Olympics.

MLB, the union and USA Baseball changed the rule in February and said players not on 26-man active rosters or injured lists would be eligible for America’s qualifying tournament that had been scheduled for Arizona in March before being postponed indefinitely because of the virus.

But teams that want to block players have claimed in the past they are unavailable because of nagging injuries. In addition, MLB teams imposed pitch limits on their players who went to the Premier12.

While Fraccari wasn’t interested in debating whether MLB is unfairly preventing players qualifying, he noted that “it won’t be good” for the sport if the U.S. team doesn’t make it to Tokyo. He added that he is waiting for the “right moment” before talking to MLB.

And Fraccari isn’t alone: Former National League MVP Bryce Harper recently called it a “travelers” that MLB refuses to send its top players to the Olympics.

“You’re going to grow the game as much as possible and you’re not going to let us play in the Olympics because you don’t want to (lose) out on money for a two-week period,” Harper said on the Barstool Sports podcast. “OK, that’s dumb.”

With the World Baseball Classic pushed back from 2021 to 2023, the Tokyo Games represent the sport’s only major international competition for several years.

“Why does soccer want to be in the Olympics? It’s obvious because the Olympics — despite everything — is still the biggest event on the planet,” Fraccari said. “(The Olympics) is going to help revive the profile of baseball worldwide.”

The 2008 Beijing Games marked the last time that men’s baseball and women’s softball were contested at the Olympics, after the IOC voted in 2005 to remove them.

As separate bids, the two sports failed to return for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

A move promoted by Fraccari to consolidate baseball and softball into one confederation in 2013 helped achieve reinstatement for the Tokyo Games as one of five additional sports.

With baseball Japan’s most popular team game, ticket demand for the Olympic tournament was unprecedented — at least until the games were postponed to 2021.

With the Olympics postponed for a year, and the MLB season on hold, World Baseball Softball Confederation president Riccardo Fraccari has the opportunity to make a final pitch to the sport’s biggest league to compete in the Olympics.

**By Noah Trister**
Associated Press

Home team: For some, training is barely disrupted by shutdown

Less than a month after Nikhil Kumar qualified for the Olympics in table tennis, the Tokyo Games were postponed until 2021. Like so many other athletes, he is now trying to stay sharp and in shape.

“What’s different for our players compared to the rest of the Olympics is that we have to be creative as they try to continue their training,” Kumar said.

For my sport, a little lucky that we’re able to have everything indoors, and it’s not taking up too much space and everything,” Kumar said. “Not many sports are as lucky as ours is right now, to be able to have the opportunity to continue playing on a daily basis.”

The coronavirus crisis has forced many athletes to be creative as they try to continue their training, but in some Olympic sports, working from home is fairly routine. Kumar has been able to practice with a robot that shoots balls at him. Weightlifter Kate Nye trains in her garage. Everyone is facing challenges during this pandemic, but some competitors have been fortunate.

“When everything kind of started shutting down, it obviously affected our lives in other ways — but weightlifting wasn’t one of them,” Nye said. “I’ve kind of just been going as scheduled.”

Kumar’s challenge is pretty mundane. He recently upgraded his device that shoots table tennis balls at him in rapid succession.

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For my sport, a little lucky.
OLYMPICS

Tip of the spear
Javelin thrower loves home set-up

BY PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

The renovated home of three-time Olympic javelin thrower Kara Winger now has all the training amenities she needs, including cable.

No premium channels available on this cable, though. It’s just a basic wire she and her husband installed in the backyard to help her work on her technique. She throws a metal pipe along the angled cable to simulate javelin tosses.

For Winger, there’s really no place like her Colorado Springs, Colo., home when it comes to working on ways to stay sharp amid the coronavirus pandemic that’s pushed the Tokyo Games to 2021.

The 34-year-old invents drills that can be conducted on her deck and has a workout partner staying with her in national champion Ariana Ince. There’s also Winger’s yellow lab, Maddie, who has a workout partner stay at her house to a back fence post. The wire extends about 30 feet from the second story of the house to a back fence post. The metal tube used for throwing is actually repurposed from a cupcake stand her husband built for their wedding. It’s thicker than a javelin and slightly heavier.

She takes one step and lets it zip.

The system is at an angle that’s shallower than she’s used to and the point end of the javelin.

Enter her husband, who had their version operational in no time. The wire extends about 30 feet from the second story of the house to a back fence post. The metal tube used for throwing is actually repurposed from a cupcake stand her husband built for their wedding. It’s thicker than a javelin and slightly heavier.

She takes one step and lets it zip.

The system is at an angle that’s shallower than she’s used to and the point end of the javelin.

Another drill is one she de-scribes as “throwing javelins on the moon.”

Envision this: Winger leaning off her patio while hanging on with her left hand to a harness. She tries to keep her left arm long with a three-pound weight in her right hand. It’s an exercise designed to put the focus on her non-throwing arm and to drive the hips.

“Then tiny moment of your throw can make all the difference in distance,” explained Winger, whose American record of 218 feet, 8 inches was set in 2010.

For actual javelin throwing, she heads to a park with plenty of space. It hasn’t been crowded, either, which is always good given the distance thrown and the pointed end of the javelin.

Sometimes, her javelin workouts do lead to conversations.

“There was a lady who was walking her dog one day and she said, ‘Be careful. Don’t hit any puppies,’ ” Winger recounted. “I was like, ‘I would never do that!’ ”

The training partner

Ince is one of Winger’s biggest rivals — and closest friends. They’re routinely roommates on the road for big competitions, including in Doha, Qatar, for the world championships last fall and at the Pan American Games in August when they brought home gold (Winger) and bronze (Ince) from Lima, Peru.

When Ince’s access to training in Chula Vista, Calif., was shut down due to the outbreak, Winger extended an invitation to stay with her and her husband.

First, though, a quarantine. Ince isolated herself for 14 days in her studio apartment in Southern California, before embarking on a 16-hour, rarely stopping drive to Colorado Springs in her Toyota RAV4.

Now, they watch movies together (“Big Fish” the other night, cook together (ork-kimchi tacos for Cinco de Mayo) and above all train together.

“Our friendship is based on way more than javelin,” said Ince, who edged Winger for the title at the U.S. championships last summer. “But it’s really cool to have your really good friend do the same, weird event as you and understand training is like.”

Count Ince as a big fan of Winger’s homemade facility.

“It has everything we need,” she said.

Including Maddie.

Maddie the dog

A familiar sight while they train is Maddie, a 3-year-old playful purebred who’s always bringing Winger and Ince one of her toys to be tossed.

“It’s even better with Ari here, because Maddie gets way more repetitions,” Winger laughed.

Ince estimates she throws about 30 times a week — 130 if tosses to Maddie are factored in.

Maddie was adopted by the Wingers four years ago. It was Maddie’s third home after being labeled as “stubborn” and “high energy.”

Winger has another label for her: Perfect.

“To be gifted with this adorable animal who needed me as much as I needed her was so much more rewarding than I ever thought,” Winger said. “She’s just as valuable to my mental health right now as she was back then.”

Winger trains outside her home in Colorado Springs, Colo. There’s a flat section of land near a dog park she uses for throwing practice. It hasn’t been crowded, either. That’s always a good thing given the distance thrown and the sharp tip of the javelin.
By Pat Graham
Associated Press

Music was always a bond Shiffrin shared with her late father, Jeff, who died on Feb. 2 after an accident at his home in Edwards, Colo. "Just more time with the people that you love," Shiffrin said, "that she was able to be home with my dad a little bit more." Less than four months later, Shiffrin traveled home from Europe to Colorado in order to be able to be home with her dad a little bit more. "Honestly, it’s a way to essentially not think about anything," said Shiffrin, who announced a partnership Tuesday with Madison Keys as she joined the tennis standout in their lineup of "Champions" for "Kindness Wins," a platform with the mission of spreading good will. "I’m a skier. I’m not a musician. But I love it." Growing up, her father played the piano, guitar, French horn and trumpet. He enjoyed anything by Jimmy Buffett or the Beach Boys. Their favorite song? Paul Simon’s “You Can Call Me Al." Shiffrin posted part of the lyrics from the tune on her Instagram account on April 2: “If you’ll be my bodyguard, I can be your long account on April 2: "If you’ll be my bodyguard, I can be your long...

Shiffrin lost her grandmother in October. Pauline Mary Condron was 98. That was a reason why she wrote, "I’m grateful," Shiffrin said, "that she was able to be home with my dad a little bit more."

For races, she gets fired up by listening to a particular song (like Eminem’s "Guts Over Fear" featuring Sia). The musical routine has served her well as she’s won two Olympic gold medals, five world championship titles and 66 World Cup races. That's within striking distance of Lindsey Vonn's 82 victories, which is the all-time mark among female ski racers.

Like most sports, the upcoming World Cup season could be affected by the pandemic (the calendar is set to be confirmed next week). Traditionally, the season starts with men’s and women’s giant slalom races in Soelden, Austria, in late October. Whenever it starts, her mom/coach, Eileen, supports me in every way that a mother possibly can — and more. It’s still really, really overwhelming." Music has long been her get-away. She writes her own lyrics, including a song inspired by the factory workers at Barilla (her sponsor) in Italy and dedicated to frontline workers. She performs, too. Last month, Shiffrin opened an online concert for "Goggles for Docs," a program that provides ski goggles to healthcare workers. Shiffrin performed Winehouse’s version of "Valerie" before turning the screen over to musician KT Tunstall. Shiffrin is constantly experimenting with sound. She will post guitar riffs from such songs as Guns N’ Roses’ “Sweet Child O’ Mine" or try out a version of Billy Joel’s "Vienna" on the keyboard. "Music is supposed to make people feel good," said Shiffrin, whose mom also is into music. "I’m not Lady Gaga, but if it puts a smile on their face, that’s the whole point." Right along with nurturing her passion for songs and the slopes, her father instilled an important credo: To be nice. Always. Shiffrin is putting that axiom into action through "Kindness Wins," an organization that started earlier this year and acts as an umbrella for kindness initiatives. The foundation recently featured "Kindness In Crisis," an online auction led by Keys, Shiffrin, cross-country skier Jessie Diggins and mountain bike racer Kate Courtney. They raised money for COVID-19 relief through signed hats, uniforms and other memorabilia. "Being kind to people," Shiffrin said, "that’s something that doesn’t go out of style."
One-third of NBA teams hold individual workouts

**By Tim Reynolds**

Associated Press

MIAMI — The NBA is now one-third of the way back, at least in terms of voluntary workouts. With Miami re-opening its doors Wednesday, 10 of the league’s 30 teams have progressed forward with on-court individual workouts — the first permitted sessions since the league ordered teams to close their training facilities as part of the coronavirus pandemic response about two months ago.

Besides the Heat, the other teams that have opened so far are Portland, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Denver, Atlanta, Indiana, Sacramento, Toronto and Utah. More are expected in the coming days; among them, Orlando is close, and the Los Angeles Lakers are targeting Saturday.

And while there still is no decision about whether the season can resume — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, has told the league’s players he expects to make that call by mid-June at the latest — getting back to some semblance of work is generally being considered a positive step.

“We’re kind of just feeling it out, playing it by ear, taking it day by day,” said Toronto assistant coach Britni Donaldson, who was in the gym with Raptors wing Malcolm Miller when the reigning NBA champions opened their facility again Monday. “Hopefully, you know, in a week we can start ramping it up a little more. But to start we’re just keeping it very basic, very simple.”

The league has very strict rules about these workouts; no head coaches can be involved, no more than four players can be in the facility at a time — the Raptors are limiting it to one player — and intense safety precautions must be taken before, during and after the sessions. When Donaldson was throwing passes to Miller, she did so while wearing a mask and gloves.

Heat captain Udonis Haslem was one of Miami’s players to report back to work on Day 1 at their facility, though it wasn’t his top priority. He was sporting a customized mask with the team’s logo earlier Wednesday when he appeared at a food distribution drive that he helped organize near downtown Miami.

“This is first,” Haslem said at the food drive. “Safety is number one, obviously.”

Haslem said the workout started well, then he began to fade a bit toward the end. Like most NBA players, he’s been doing individual workouts during the league’s hiatus but said nothing replicates what it takes to get through an on-court workout.

Meanwhile, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis let professional leagues know that the Sunshine State is ready to welcome them all if needed.

With Orlando often mentioned as a potential centralized site if the NBA resumes play, and it was one of the sites Silver told players late last week that is under consideration, DeSantis said Wednesday that the state is putting a premium on the value of professional sports.

“Professional sports are going to be welcome in Florida,” DeSantis said. “That may not be the case in every other state in this country, as we’ve seen. And so what I would tell commissioners of leagues is, if you have a team in an area where they just won’t let them operate, we’ll find a place for you here in the state of Florida, because we think it’s important and we know that it can be done safely.”

Associated Press Writer Ian Harrison in Toronto contributed.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

As of Wednesday, 10 of the NBA’s 30 teams have begun on-court individual workouts.

The teams are: Miami, Portland, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Denver, Atlanta, Indiana, Sacramento, Toronto and Utah.

**SOURCE:** Associated Press

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**Glover Teixeira’s upset win highlights UFC show**

**Associated Press**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Glover Teixeira dominated Anthony Smith and finally stopped him with punches early in the fifth round Wednesday night, earning an upset victory to cap the UFC’s second show since returning to action amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Heavyweight veteran Ben Rothwell grabbed an entertaining split-decision victory over Ovince Saint Preux, and Drew Dober stopped fellow lightweight contender Alexander Hernandez with a second-round submission.

The promotion returned to action last Saturday with UFC 249 after an eight-week hiatus. The UFC established extensive protocols for health and safety in its return, and veteran fighter Jacare Souza was pulled off last weekend’s show after he tested positive for COVID-19 along with two cornermen.

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The second show went off without a positive COVID-19 test, and more masks were visible on UFC personnel inside and outside the cage Wednesday. Middleweight Karl Roberson’s bout with Marvin Vettori was scrapped when Roberson was hospitalized overnight after he fell ill, but the illness was related to his weight cut and not coronavirus, according to the UFC.

The UFC’s third show in Jacksonville is Saturday night on ESPN Plus, headlined by veteran heavyweights Alistair Overeem and Walt Harris.

The UFC hopes to begin holding fight cards back home in Las Vegas later this month, but is waiting for clearance from the Nevada Athletic Commission.

Gaviatt said the NCAA will work with the National Association of Basketball Coaches to ensure the change “supports a player’s decision-making process” on the draft while also allowing them to retain their college eligibility.

The NBA announced May 1 that it was postponing the draft lottery and combine scheduled for Chicago this month.

The 41-year-old Arlovski, the UFC’s 41-year-old career leader in heavyweight victories, won a decision over Philip Lins for his second victory in seven fights.

Earlier, Ricky Simon picked up the biggest win of his UFC career with a split-decision victory over veteran Ray Borg. The flyweights punctuated their lively fight with plenty of good-natured trash talk, which was audible on the television broadcast from the otherwise quiet arena.
Faced with many of its teams falling into financial ruin, NASCAR is waving the green flag on a plan it believes allows the series to safely return to racing. Only essential personnel will be permitted into the infield with strict guidelines on social distancing, access and protective clothing.

There will be no one to boo reigning series champion Kyle Busch, no pre-race concert, no pomp and probably no flyover.

The seven races so far announced in May are at Darlington and Charlotte Motor Speedway, tracks within driving distance from teams’ North Carolina bases. Four are in the elite Cup Series and the other three are lower-tier Xfinity and Truck Series races.

NASCAR hasn’t raced since March 8 so Wednesday night events at Darlington and Charlotte are the only way to cram in some of the missed events.

These races will be nothing close to the weekly traveling circus NASCAR typically stages and participants will be figuring out a new normal when they pull up to the gate at Darlington.

“Just the unknowns about the procedures — you can read about them all obviously there will be a huge microscope on how we’re doing things, making sure it’s done in a safe manner.”

Denny Hamlin
Daytona 500 winner

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NASCAR will have a much different feel when it resumes this weekend. There will be no fans in the stands at Darlington Raceway, and the Fox broadcast team will not travel to South Carolina, instead calling the race from a studio in Charlotte.

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.