Nuclear forces, combat troops prioritized in military testing

By Missy Ryan
The Washington Post

The U.S. military on Wednesday announced plans to roll out expanded testing for COVID-19 beginning with nuclear forces and troops engaged in combat, a process that would be widened to include other service members as more diagnostic materials become available.

Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that Defense Secretary Mark Esper had recently approved a plan to allocate the force into four tiers that would govern prioritization of coronavirus testing.

Officials said the first tier would include troops involved in “critical national capabilities,” such as nuclear forces and at least some Special Operations forces; the second would include troops assigned to combat zones and those involved in the domestic virus response; the third would be troops located overseas on priority missions and those being brought back to the U.S. following deployments; all remaining troops would make up the last tier.

Hyten said testing would be completed this month for “tier one” troops, “focusing our supplies and efforts on these critical forces like our strategic deterrent, making sure that they’re always full-up, always ready to go.”

“To get to the entire force, the 1.4 million active duty and the entire [National] Guard and Reserve, is going to take us into the summer, but I think we’ll get to the deploying, redeploying forces, the forces engaged, all of the tier one forces next month,” Hyten said.

SEE TESTING ON PAGE 5

Job crisis continues

26 million in US have sought unemployment benefits since virus hit

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Page 5

Air Force making plans for long-term ‘new abnormal’
Page 6

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**EUROPE GAS PRICES**

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For the week of April 24-30

**EXCHANGE RATES**

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**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

**FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

- **Baghdad**: 86°F/68°F
- **Djibouti**: 88°F/80°F
- **Riyadh**: 97°F/71°F
- **Kuwait**: 86°F/68°F

**FRIDAY IN EUROPE**

- **Brussels**: 65°F/45°F
- **Stuttgart**: 66°F/46°F
- **Vicenza**: 66°F/45°F
- **Ramstein**: 66°F/41°F

**SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

- **Tokyo**: 61°F/41°F
- **Kantoshu**: 61°F/50°F
- **Souda Bay**: 58°F/46°F

**INTEREST RATES**

- Prime rate: 3.25%
- Discount rate: 0.25%
- Federal funds market rate: 0.25%
- 3-month bill: 0.11%
- 30-year bond: 2.25%

The weather is provided by the 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. and the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Hyten: Orders needed to execute Iran tweet

By Caitlin M. Kenney Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Pentagon leaders must now develop orders for troops that match President Donald Trump’s tweet instructing the Navy to shoot at harassing Iranian ships, Gen. John Hyten, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday.

“The president made a clear statement. I think the Iranians understand that, I think the American people understand that, how we as the military have to apply that clear direction from the commander in chief into lawful orders that we execute,” the Air Force general told a Pentagon news conference that he conducted with Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist.

Trump tweeted earlier Wednesday that he had “instructed the United States Navy to shoot down and destroy any and all Iranian gunboats if they harass our ships at sea.”

On April 15, 11 boats identified as Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy vessels “repeatedly conducted dangerous and harassing approaches” of six U.S. ships in the northern Persian Gulf, according to the U.S. Navy.

Images posted by the 5th Fleet of the incident show what look like speed boats conducting close passes and tight turns around the U.S. ships. The American sailors in February, February, Hindus to the Iranian ships through bridge-to-bridge radio, five short horn blasts and “long-range acoustic noise marker devices,” for an hour before the vessels eventually responded to radio messages and moved away, the Navy said.

“What’s been going on right now is that you can’t let a boat, a fast boat, get into a position where they can threaten your ship,” Hyten said.

Tensions between Iran and the United States have increased during the past few years, resulting in several violent and deadly incidents. Iran was accused by the United States last summer of placing limpet mines on the sides of ships in the Gulf of Oman forcing the Pentagon to send personell and equipment to the region to try to deter Iranian activities.

In January, Trump ordered a drone strike to kill Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Quds Force, following a deadly rocket attack on an Iraqi base in Kirkuk and attempts to storm the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad by Iranian-backed militia. Iran retaliated days later by firing 11 missiles at Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops, injuring more than 100 service members.

In March, the Iranian-backed militia Kataeb Hezbollah was blamed for a rocket attack on Camp Tagi north of Baghdad, killing two American service members and a British Army reservist.

On Wednesday, Hyten said the U.S. military has a right to respond to “hostile intent” and has specific guidance on how to use lethal force.

“I go back to what the president said sends a great message to Iran. That’s perfect. We know how to translate that into our rules of engagement,” Hyten said. “We don’t talk about rules of engagement in public, but they’re based on the inherent right of self-defense.”

Norquist said the intent behind Trump’s words was a “very clear message” to Iran about their behavior.

“I think it was very useful thing that he put out and I think it’s an important thing for other people to understand and take very seriously,” he said about Trump’s tweet.

B-1 sortie showcases Air Force’s new model

By Wyatt Olson Stars and Stripes

A B-1B Lancer bomber flew on Wednesday from the continental United States to Guam, where it teamed up with 15 Japanese fighter jets to demonstrate the Air Force’s recent shift to a more unpredictable global strategic bomber presence.

The Lancer flew 30 hours round-trip from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., to Misawa Air Base, meeting up with seven Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2s and eight F-15s, the Air Force said in a news release Wednesday.

That group was joined by six Misawa-based F-16 Fighting Falcons.

The aircraft crews trained over Draughon Range near Misawa as part of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Strategic Command joint bomber task force, the release said.

Last week, five B-52H bombers flew from Guam to their home station in Minot Air Force Base, N.D., ending the Air Force’s six-month rotation of bombers through the island that had been taking place since 2004.

The Air Force’s new “dynamic force employment model” embraces the U.S. National Defense Strategy’s objectives of “strategic predictability and operational unpredictability,” the release said.

The new model enables strategic bombers to operate in the Indo-Pacific region from a broader array of locations, both on the continental U.S. and overseas, the release said.

Wednesday’s operation showcased America’s “unwavering commitment to the security and stability” of the Pacific region, Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Charles Brown Jr. said in the news release.

“From confronting invisible threats of a global pandemic to addressing military aggression and coercive activities, we remain a lethal, innovative and interoperable force focused on a shared vision of upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Brown said.

This is the second time this year that a U.S.-based bomber trained with the JSDF.

In February, two B-52s integrated with more than 45 Japanese fighter jets near Misawa. Those bombers flew from Andersen Air Base on Guam and Minot.

A B-1 bomber last flew in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility in January 2018, at the end of a six-month rotation at Andersen. The bomber that flew to Japan on Wednesday is assigned to the 28th Bomb Wing.

“arly mission is a demonstration to our friends throughout the region: We will continue to remain fully predictable in our commitment to ensuring peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific,” Brown said.

But some said the rules should change.

“There’s no longer a reason to deny service members the same protections as the civilians they defend,” Christensen said. “We don’t need King George’s justice system.”

Military lawyers disagreed whether the Supreme Court decision would lead to a subsequent litigation that could force the military to require unanimous verdicts, or whether it was a matter only Congress could decide.

But some said the rules should change.

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The courts have repeatedly found that the Constitution gives Congress power to “make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces,” including a military justice system dedicated to good order and discipline. As such, some protections for civilian defendants don’t apply to service members, the courts have held.

“If there’s no right to a jury, there’s no right to a unanimous jury,” said Don Christensen, a former Air Force prosecutor.

Military defendants are not judged by juries of their peers but by courts-martial “panels” composed of higher-ranking troops selected by commanders.

Criminal felony trials require 12 jurors. Until last year, the size of courts-martial panels varied, and a two-thirds majority was required to convict. Now, eight members compose a general court-martial panel, with six needed to convict.

Panel members discuss the case but vote only once, after the highest-ranking officer decides to do so.

“As with many procedures in the military, the goal is speed and efficiency,” said Michael Lyons, a former Air Force attorney now practicing in the Washington, D.C. area. “Not requiring all members to agree as to guilt or innocence eliminates the deadlocked juries and mistrials that occur in civilian courts when the jury is not unanimous.”

MILITARY
FAKE VIRUS NEWS AIMED AT US AND NATO IN EUROPE

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Disinformation aimed at undermining the U.S. and NATO forces has surged in Europe as adversaries seize on the coronavirus pandemic in their attempts to create instability, Lithuania’s Defense Ministry said in a new report.

There have been 807 cases of false or misleading information about the virus, much of it focused on Lithuania, since February, according to an analysis by the Lithuanian military’s strategic communication department.

“Alas, the coronavirus crisis has not only not reduced security threats in Europe but created conditions for the threats to grow,” Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis said in a statement Wednesday.

The most recent incident occurred Tuesday when Karoblis received a false email purportedly from NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stating that all forces were pulling out of Lithuania, where NATO forces have been deployed for the last several years as a deterrent to potential Russian aggression.

Similar emails were sent to Lithuanian media and NATO headquarters in Brussels, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said.

“It is one in a series of attempts to turn the pandemic crisis into a security crisis,” Karoblis said in the statement. “Fake news like this piece are aimed at sowing distrust in our Alliance partners and NATO unity.”

About two-thirds of the disinformation comes out in Russian, the ministry said. Lithuania, like other Baltic states, has a large Russian-speaking population.

One of the phony messages involved a claim that a U.S. soldier deployed to Lithuania was infected with the coronavirus. Other disinformation narratives have centered on supposed failures of European countries to handle the coronavirus outbreak, as well as bad behavior of allied troops in the Baltics.

“The narrative also claims that NATO finances nuclear weapon instead of fighting COVID-19, which puts European, including Lithuanian, citizens at risk,” NATO is also blamed for ‘anti-Russian rhetoric,’ the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said.

While Russia wasn’t singled out as the culprit for the various disinformation attacks, allies have been increasingly concerned about Moscow’s attempts to create confusion regarding the role of NATO and U.S. forces in Europe.

Last week, NATO’s supreme allied commander in Europe, Gen. Tod Wolters, said during a teleconference with reporters that it’s imperative for allies to call out disinformation.

“Number one, recognize when you have malign influencers and they’re telling falsehoods and point those out and correct that to 100%,” Wolters said. “And number two, taking the time to talk about your operations, your activities, your investments, what you’re doing from a health perspective to positively influence the good outcome of all your forces.”

BY NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — It still takes a lot of time and tape to keep an F-16 from having its electronics scrambled while running it through a wash, but less than it used to after a simple innovation that 31st Fighter Wing airmen came up within the hangar bay.

The 3D-printed reusable wash covers they developed to protect sensitive parts are among 58 Army innovation entries in the Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner Innovation Madness contest, which will net the winner a $50,000 top prize through U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, the contest sponsor.

Aviano, a base in rural northeast Italy situated along the Dolomite Mountains, is trying to win for the first time since the annual competition began in 2015. The 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath in England won last year and in 2016, while the nearby 100th Refueling Wing at Mildenhall won in 2018. Other past winners include Ramstein’s 86th Airlift Wing and Spangdahlem’s 52nd Fighter Wing in Germany.

This year, Aviano is counting on a slew of innovations or upgrades that saved the base about $2.8 million, or about 75% more than a similar improvement process saved last year, said Brad Hebing, the 31st Fighter Wing’s process manager.

The changes also saved a lot of time, particularly for the airmen washing the fighter jets. Previously, every sensitive component had to be individually taped.

“This process placed a heavy demand on crew chief manpower along with generating a significant waste of barrier material,” said Master Sgt. Katherine S. Garneau, of the 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The reusable covers reduced taping time from eight hours to three hours, Garneau said.

In other cases, research and smart shopping helped. The 31st Security Forces Squadron needed new vehicle barriers and rejected several options that would have meant more time spent by airmen standing at the gates.

The new barriers they’ve since installed “were easy to set up, take down and eliminated having to station personnel at each entry control point,” said Master Sgt. Brett Rosebrook, the installation security noncommissioned officer in charge.

Aviano also replaced its obsolete parachute simulator with a more realistic model, which aids airmen learning how to survive and evade an enemy after ejecting from an aircraft. The simulator saves about 300 hours per year due to more efficient training, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Rutland, of the 31st Operations Support Squadron.

Medical care also got a little easier at Aviano after the wing acquired a mobile MRI system. The acquisition means that the base clinic no longer waits up to 30 days to get off-base MRI results, said Lt. Col. Valerie Hostetler, a doctor at the clinic.

The Innovation Madness winner will be announced later this year after participants compete in three rounds. The overall winner takes $150,000, while second place earns $50,000, third place gets $25,000 and fourth place wins $10,000. Other cash prizes will be awarded throughout the competition.

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON— About 10,000 more sailors are now eligible for a reenlistment bonus as part of the Navy’s effort to retain needed personnel.

The selective reenlistment bonus update allows all sailors to reenlist a full year before the end of their active-service obligation to receive the bonus instead of waiting to be within 270 days of the end of their hitch.

“By expanding the eligibility window, more sailors are now eligible to reenlist at any given time,” Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for the chief of naval personnel, said in a statement.

Sailors can receive up to a $100,000 reenlistment bonus, with the amount calculated based on job, time in service, and the Navy’s retention needs.

The Navy is updating its 2020 selective reenlistment bonus program as part of its regular adjustments that are based on which sailors are leaving the service. Some jobs might need more financial incentives right now to keep those sailors, whereas other jobs are doing better with retention.

The Navy has also included an additional 27 “skillssets” to the bonus eligibility list, meaning sailors with specific time in service and with certain qualifications are now able to apply.
US, NATO provide medical supplies to Afghanistan

By J.P. Lawrence
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan provided medicine and protective equipment to Afghan troops and police, including 45,000 face masks, officials said this week.

Afghan security forces, who are grappling with both the coronavirus pandemic and persistent Taliban violence, were shown opening boxes of medical supplies in photos that NATO’s Resolute Support posted on social media.

There are more than 1,092 confirmed coronavirus cases and 38 deaths in the country, a World Health Organization report said Wednesday, but experts believe that the low levels of testing are obscuring a much higher rate of infection.

Though the Taliban had pledged to aid efforts to slow the virus’s spread by offering safe passage to health workers and aid organizations, and suspending fighting in areas with confirmed infections, the militants continue to conduct attacks. Up to 30 security forces members were killed in Taliban attacks in just two days this week, military and police officials confirmed Thursday.

U.S. officials have continued to call for calm since signing the Feb. 29 deal meant to usher in an Afghan-led peace process after more than 18 years of war.

Resolute Support commander Gen. Scott Miller, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the Trump administration diplomat leading negotiations, have stressed the need for quarantines for 14 to 21 days.

And in a phone call Wednesday, President Donald Trump spoke with Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani about the Taliban needing to reduce violence in Afghanistan, the White House said in a statement provided to Reuters.

Meanwhile, coalition and NATO officials have issued several recent statements on efforts to supply Afghan forces for the COVID-19 fight, including the following:

• Nearly 35,000 vitamin and medicine tablets, some 20,000 masks and over 200 sets of gloves and protective eyewear sent to the Afghan army’s 205th Corps in the country’s restive southern provinces;

• About 7,000 masks and cleaning supplies provided to police in Parwan province, home to the U.S. military’s Bagram Airfield, and neighboring Panjshir province;

• Infrared thermometers, 13,000 masks, 13,000 units of hand sanitizer, disinfectants and soap, as well as 1,000 pairs of gloves and protective eyewear for Afghan troops in the western provinces of Herat and Nimroz, which border pandemic-wracked Iran. Police in Nimroz on Monday received an additional 5,000 masks and 500 pairs of protective glasses, NATO said Thursday.

Preventing the virus’s spread “is difficult under even normal circumstances,” Miller told PBS NewsHour in an interview that aired Monday, “but almost impossible if we have violence.”

Afghan police receive medical supplies provided by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan to help with efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic in Panjshir and Parwan provinces.

“(Preventing the virus’s spread) is difficult under even normal circumstances, but almost impossible if we have violence.”

Gen. Scott Miller
NATO Resolute Support commander

**Testing:** Military intends to keep ramping up capacity

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

Officials said that the Pentagon would, at the same time, prioritize testing according to movements, such as submarine and aircraft carrier deployments and basic-training arrivals. Since the U.S. virus outbreak accelerated, the military has taken steps to adjust and even pause training recruits.

“So we’re moving quickly. It is a supply issue right now, which is causing us not to be able to go down the full spectrum of all of the forces,” Hyten said. “That’s why we came up with the tiered approach.”

While the military has been testing troops for weeks, focused on the sites of known outbreaks, including the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, a national shortage of supplies, restrictive testing policies and several other factors have limited testing.

More than 3,500 uniformed service members have tested positive to date. Two have died — a relatively low number that officials attribute to the overall youth and fitness of the force.

The plan outlined by Hyten and Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist provides the most detailed glimpse to date of how the Pentagon plans to expand preventive testing across the force in an attempt to avoid disruption of its core security mission.

Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has publicly laid out an objective of being able to conduct 60,000 tests per day in the next month or so. When asked about that goal, however, Norquist seemed to suggest that the department would initially have a much lower target of about 50,000 per week.

The Pentagon has issued department-wide guidelines on social distancing, the use of masks, increased cleaning and other precautions. Close to a million employees are teleworking.

Norquist said that the department would take several steps for troops who cannot maintain physical distance, including recreation and personnel in close quarters on ships. They include quarantines for 14 to 21 days.

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Air Force preparing for long-term ‘new abnormal’

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force’s top general said that he believes the coronavirus will impart a long-term “new abnormal” on the U.S. military, as the outbreak is unlikely to subside totally until a vaccine is widely available.

Gen. David Goldfein told reporters Wednesday that he has ordered an Air Force-wide “reset” for June 1, which he wants the service to find ways to increase operations temporarily slowed by the pandemic. The Air Force chief of staff said that he would like to see plans to increase the number of recruits coming into the service, that he’s worried about airmen flying. “We’re probably not going to be able to get to 100% until the protocols change, but if we can get to 50 to 60% right off, that’s certainly be helpful.”

The smaller number of new airmen coming into the service has not yet created major holes in the Air Force units, but Goldfein said that he is worried it could if he cannot find a way to boost basic training. He said, “It’s not surprising with the economy being in a challenging state,”

The service has taken a similar approach with its nuclear forces, which have also seen a confirmed case of the virus among the airmen who fly nuclear-capable bombers or staff the service’s intercontinental ballistic missiles platforms.

The Air Force has downsized its incoming classes of recruits from about 700 per week to about 460 as it has implemented social distancing and other guidelines issued by federal health officials in an attempt to curb the virus,

In total, the Air Force has reported 337 cases of the coronavirus among its active-duty and Reserve forces. Military-wide, attendees for the 2020 graduation ceremony for the Air Force Academy,”

Elite flight teams to thank health care workers with flyovers

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The Pentagon is planning a multicity tour of the U.S. military’s top demonstration teams to “champion national unity” amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to senior U.S. officials and a memo obtained by The Washington Post.

The Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds, the Air Force’s demonstration teams, will fly over cities in the coming weeks to “thank first responders and medical personnel for their vital contributions to public health and safety,” the memo said.

The Air Force announced the tour of the 13 other cities, including Miami, Tampa, Tallahassee and Jackson- ville in Florida, and Norfolk and Virginia Beach in Virginia. Other Blue Angels destinations include Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Nashville and New Orleans, as well as Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Thunderbirds, meanwhile, plan to fly their red, white and blue F/A-18 Hornets separately over at least 13 other cities, including Miami, Tampa, Tallahassee and Jackson- ville in Florida, and Norfolk and Virginia Beach in Virginia.

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Wiesbaden volunteers make hundreds of masks

By David Edge
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Volunteers in Wiesbaden have made more than 500 face masks that they’ve been giving away since one of them saw commissary workers using scarves and bags as protective coverings against the coronavirus.

“I just thought that we could do better,” said Angelin Nicholson, one of the volunteers from the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center, located on Clay Kaserne, who have been sewing face masks since April 1. “Now, whenever I go to the commissary, I hand out 10 or 20 masks to whoever needs one.”

Most of the masks that the volunteers are making go to base workers who come into close contact with others as part of their jobs, such as those who work in Child Youth Services and military lodging. Others are donated to the Red Cross, said Erik Kraemer, the manager of the Arts and Crafts Center.

The center has also filled a paid order for 200 face masks for the 522nd Military Intelligence Battalion, and a smaller order for a business on base, although those masks were not made by volunteers.

The masks allow the Wiesbaden military community to meet Defense Department guidance that calls on people on military property to wear “cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers.”

Wearing masks like the ones being made from household materials by the Wiesbaden volunteers can help by preventing asymptomatic people from spreading the coronavirus when they cough or sneeze, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

The masks Nicholson and other volunteers are sewing and giving away to base workers are made from cotton, with a slot where filters — made from a fabric similar to dryer sheets — can be inserted. The filters can be removed and replaced, allowing the masks to be washed and reused.

With no let up in demand for masks, the volunteers are facing a supply crunch for the raw materials needed to make them, Kraemer said.

“What we need is tightly woven, 100% cotton fabric and nonwoven interweaving,” the fabric from which the filters are made, he said. “Some of the volunteers are using their own supplies, but we are very quickly running out of supplies to make the masks.”

To volunteer Nicole Sewell, having to delve into her own material to make masks is not an issue.

“I knew that I had the means and the know-how to help, so it became very important to me to use my own supplies to make masks for the local community,” she said.

All of Germany’s states in recent days have passed legislation that makes wearing masks while shopping or taking public transportation mandatory. In Hesse, where Wiesbaden is located, the law will take effect Monday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Wiesbaden volunteers make hundreds of masks

Angelin Nicholson, a volunteer at the Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center at Clay Kaserne in Germany, sews a face mask in her home Tuesday.

Troops to Teachers is a military career transition program that helps eligible members of the armed forces begin new careers as K-12 school teachers in public, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. Skills acquired in the military like leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity, and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment are a natural fit for the classroom.

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Contact us at texasroopstoteachers.org or 800-810-5484.
26 ships have infected sailors

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Sailors on 26 Navy ships have the coronavirus now and 14 other ships have had confirmed cases of illness, though crew members have recovered, a Navy official said Wednesday.

All the ships are in port and none of the 90 ships at sea have cases of the virus, according to the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The Navy has 297 warships.

The Navy official would not say which ships had cases of the virus or how many sailors were infected, only that it was small number.

“The Navy has been the hardest hit of the military services by the coronavirus with 997 cases now,” said the official.

In total, 1,298 sailors have been infected by the virus.

Most of the Navy’s cases are among the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which locked down in Guam on March 27 due to an outbreak among its sailors, which number about 4,800. As of Wednesday, 777 sail- ors have tested positive, of which 63 have recovered. Six Roosevelt sailors are hospitalized now at a Navy hospital in Guam. One Roosevelt sailor, Chief Petty Of- ficer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 from the virus.

The virus has caused the hardest

Pandemic threatens to delay

By Andrew Clevenger
CQ Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The De- fense Department expects the global coronavirus outbreak will delay its major weapons pro- grams by about three months, the Pentagon’s top weapons buyer said Monday.

Ellen Lord, the Defense un- dersecretary for acquisitions and sustainment, did not name spe- cific programs or companies but suggested the delays would be widespread.

“Domestically, we are seeing the greatest impacts in the aviation supply chain, shipbuilding and small space launch,” Lord said.

The Pentagon has tried keep- ing its industrial base solvent and working during the pandemic, including increasing reimburse- ments for work that is not yet complete.

The change, Lord said, will start this week and provide $3 bil- lion in increased cash flow to the industry. Lord praised defense giants Lockheed Martin Corp. and Boeing Co. for committing to give back contract funds to their smaller suppliers and said she hoped other major primes would follow suit.

The Pentagon also wants ad- ditional relief from Congress to help companies pay salaries and keep their specialized workforces intact even where the pandemic has forced production lines to shut down or in other dis- ruptions. Lord did not specify how much.

By and large, the defense sec- tor has kept working during the COVID-19 crisis, thanks in large part to its workforce being de-emed essential services in their neigh- borhoods. No one affiliated with the World Health Organization warned in a statement April 14 that the virus may remain active in asymptomatic individuals longer than pre- viously thought.

The memo called a halt to “out- testing” for those in quarantine and holding their release until further evaluation could be com- pleted, Politico reported.

A second video posted on the Task Force 75 Facebook page this week showed service members writing and reading whiteboard messages to the crew to remain “TIR strong” and “hold fast.”

Yet Huerta said that the show of grati- tude from the isolated crew “has been probably the most gratify- ing thing I’ve done in the Marine Corps.”

AAFES: Alcohol sales at exchange stores surged by 50% in March

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — With many clubs and restau- rants on military bases closed and civilian establishments limits thanks to the coronavirus, retail alcohol sales on U.S. bases worldwide soared by 50% the week of March 8 compared to the same period last year, Ward said.

“AAFES worldwide sales during this same timeframe were slightly below with the broader industry trend, reflecting an increase of 50% vs. prior year,” he said.

During the first half of April, however, AAFES worldwide alco- holic beverage sales of its stores has increased more than 10% on the same period last year, Ward said.

The Navy Exchange Service Com- mander did not respond to re-quests about sales at its stores.

A mask-wearing Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean McDonald, 29, of Seattle, pulled a six-pack of lager from a convenience store refriger- erator Wednesday evening at Yo- kota, home to U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo.

“It’s my daughter’s birthday and we’re going to celebrate,” he said but added that he doesn’t think he’s drinking more than usual despite restrictions in place at Yokota since March 26.

“I’m a competitive bodybuild- er,” McDonald said. “We don’t go out drinking very frequently.”

To curb the spread of the coro- navirus, 37th Air Lift Wing com- mander Col. Otis Jones requires those living and working on Yoko- ta to restrict their movements to the base and its immediate vicin- ity. Off-base residents are limited to a beeline to and from Yokota or essential services in their neighborhoods. No one affiliated with the base may patronize bars and restaurants other than take-out and drive-thru restaurants.

Another customer buying alco- hol at the base convenience store, Marie Wolf, 40 of Dayton, Ohio, stocked up on a couple of bottles of pinot grigio and a carton of beer but said she’s not drinking more than usual.

“I’ve got three kids at home,” she said.

The World Health Organization warned in a statement April 14 that alcohol use, responsible for 3 million deaths a year worldwide, compromises the body’s immune system.

“People should minimize their alcohol consumption at any time, and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic,” the orga- nization said in its statement, re- ferring to the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Ward said exchange stores also saw a spike in cigarette carton sales when shoppers were uncertain whether stores would remain open.

Since the initial increased demand, business had been reduced, cigarette sales quickly returned to historic norms,” he said. “Demand for tobacco products at Exchange Facili- ties has declined significantly as unit sales have decreased 30% to 40% year-over-year.”

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Roosevelt sailors show gratitude for Marines aiding them on Guam

By Chad Garland
Stars and Stripes

USS Theodore Roosevelt sail- ors on Guam went to their bal- conies and cheered the Marines supporting them at civilian hotels, where they are in 14-day med- ical isolation after an outbreak of the coronavirus on the aircraft carrier.

The sailors have also expressed their gratitude in letters and notes for the Marines, said Capt. Vi- cente Huerta of the 3rd Law En- forcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Informa- tion Group, in a video posted on the Commander Navy Task Force 75 Facebook page.

“My Marines just started mak- ing sure that all of the sailors here receive everything that they need,” Huerta said. “As the sailors started seeing that, we just started getting flooded with a bunch of letters and them show- ing their appreciation.”

The cheers and applause from the hotel balconies gave Huerta goosebumps, he said.

“Okay, this is a different type of deployment,” he said.

Earlier this month, videos showing hundreds of crew mem- bers cheering and applauding the ship’s skipper, Capt. Brett E. Cro- zier, captured headlines after the Navy fired him over the leak of a memo, in which he urged more rapid evacuation of personnel.

Days later, acting Navy Secre- tary Thomas Modly traveled to Guam where he briefly visited the ship and criticized Crozier in remarks to the crew, leading to Modly’s resignation when audio of the address also leaked.

As of Thursday, some 4,200 of the ship’s crew members had been moved ashore, and 840 had tested positive for the disease, with 100% of the crew having been tested and only a small number of results still pending. Of the infected sailors, 88 had re- covered and one, Chief Petty Of- ficer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, died April 13 from the virus.

Six were still being treated at Naval Hospital Guam, though none were in intensive care, the Navy said.

The ship has undergone thorough cleaning, but sailors may not be getting out of isolation at the end of the prescribed 14 days, Politico reported Tuesday, citing an internal memo in which Navy officials indicated that the virus may remain active in asymptomatic individuals longer than pre- viously thought.

The memo called a halt to “out- testing” for those in quarantine and holding their release until further evaluation could be com- pleted, Politico reported.

A second video posted on the Task Force 75 Facebook page this week showed service members writing and reading whiteboard messages to the crew to remain “TIR strong” and “hold fast.”

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Facebook/CTF 75
Legislators adding to lockdown backlash

BY GRIFF WITTE
The Washington Post

With hundreds arrayed before him, standing shoulder to shoulder, the retired Army colonel vented his fury from the steps of Pennsylvania's capitol building.

The governor's orders to shut down businesses in the face of a pandemic, he railed to a crowd of protesters this week, amounted to “tyranny.” He had battled overseas to defend freedom. Now, with the governor telling healthy people like him to stay home — “What the heck is going on here? I’m not sick!” — the fight had come to America’s shores.

“It’s time to rise up!” he exhorted as the crowd roared.

Then Doug Mastriano walked inside the soaring, green-domed home of the Pennsylvania legislature and began his day job: as a Republican state senator.

With a backlash against coronavirus restrictions generating demonstrations at state capitol buildings nationwide, organizers have framed the protests as organic and grassroots.

The push among legislators is adding to the pressure on governors who have resisted Trump’s wish to see states open up again as soon as possible. Both parties have eagerly announced an easing of restrictions, most have not cited, guidance from medical experts that a premature opening could cost lives.

But governors who stay the course with stay-at-home orders are taking a political hit. In an interview, he said, “You’re doing it to save the economy. An economic depression is nearly one-third of all the employees in Pennsylvania’s largest city, Philadelphia, and the surrounding suburbs — almost all Democratic strongholds.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases have been concentrated in Pennsylvania’s largest city, confirmed COVID-19 cases have been concentrated in Pennsylvania’s largest city, in Pennsylvania, where schools, universities, and nonessential services have all been shut down or banned. Although backing for stay-at-home measures has been relatively robust — in Pennsylvania, and nationwide — there is a stark political divide, with Republicans significantly less likely to be supportive.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released Thursday found that 80% of respondents said they would continue to operate. A category that is made up of data that did not exist only weeks ago. One of them, Pennsylvanians Against Excessive Quarantine, was created by a trio of brokers — Ben, Christopher and Aaron Dorr — who are longtime gun-rights activists.

Links from Facebook pages promoting the rally generated more than 10,000, according to police, to emerge mostly with a message, speaking at home and fruits on the side as speaker upon speaker demanded an end to the statewide shutdown.

“We’re going to make some noise and show the elected officials know we’re here!” Aaron Bernstine announced as he took his turn at the mic.

Bernstine, like most of those who addressed the crowd, is himself an elected official: a Republican state representative whose relatively rural district hogs the Ohio border. As an elected official, he said, “You’re doing it to save the economy. An economic depression is nearly one-third of all the employees in Pennsylvania’s largest city, Philadelphia, and the surrounding suburbs — almost all Democratic strongholds.

In an interview, he said, “You’re doing it to save the economy. An economic depression is nearly one-third of all the employees in Pennsylvania’s largest city, Philadelphia, and the surrounding suburbs — almost all Democratic strongholds.

In Pennsylvania, attitudes about whether to stay closed or open have been driven both by partisanship and geography. Most of the state’s approximately 36,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been concentrated in Pennsylvania’s largest city, Philadelphia, and the surrounding suburbs — almost all Democratic strongholds. Rather than judge whether businesses can be run safely. And individuals, he said, should be given more authority to make that determination — a theme repeated by many of the protesters.

“We don’t need our lives micromanaged,” Russ Diamond, a fellow Republican state representative, told the crowd. “I trust you!”

Public health experts, however, said the rally was not necessarily confidence-inspiring, according to a survey by The Associated Press/NORC Center for Public Affairs, and believe it won’t be safe to lift social distancing guidelines anytime soon. And there are likely more layoffs to come from many small businesses that have tried but failed to receive loans from a federal aid program.

The number of people who have received unemployment benefits has reached a record 16 million, surpassing a previous high of 12 million set in 2010, just after the 2008-09 recession ended. This figure reflects people who have managed to navigate the online or telephone application systems in their states, have been approved for benefits and are actually receiving checks.

In Michigan, 17% of the state’s workforce is now receiving unemployment aid, the largest proportion in the county. It is followed by Rhode Island at 15%, Nevada at 15.7%, and Georgia at 16.6%.

Just about every major industry has absorbed sudden and severe layoffs. Economists at the Federal Reserve estimate that hotels and restaurants have shed the most jobs — 4 million since Feb. 15. That is nearly one-third of all the employees in that industry.

Construction has shed more than 9% of its jobs. So has a category that includes retail, shipping and utilities, the Fed estimated. A category that is made up of data processing and online publishing has cut 4.7%).

When the government issues the April jobs report on May 8, economists expect it to show breathtaking losses. Economists at JP Morgan are predicting a loss of 5 million jobs. That would be nearly triple the total lost during the entire Great Depression.

A $2 trillion-plus federal relief package that was signed into law last month made millions of gig workers, contractors and self-employed people newly eligible for unemployment aid. But most states have yet to approve unemployment applications from workers who are now finding they’re not getting what they need to cover their expenses. And many people who have lost jobs or incomes aren’t being counted as laid-off because their applications for unemployment aid haven’t been processed.
Strict warnings for Ramadan as shutdowns ease

**Associated Press**

BANGKOK — The world indeled toward a new phase in the coronavirus crisis on Thursday, as some countries like Vietnam and New Zealand with few new cases moved toward ending their pandemic shutdowns while others like Singapore and Japan were doubling down on measures to prevent a surge in infections.

Like the U.S., many countries are moving from crisis mode to figuring out how to live with the virus by modifying pre-pandemic routines with precautions, more testing and containment of flare-ups, mindful of the potential for future waves of the virus.

Authorities in the capital of Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim majority nation, extended to May 22 strict disease-fighting restrictions with the approach of the month-long Ramadan fasting season, which begins with the new moon this week.

With traditional, communal meals for the poor, large fast-breaking dinners with family and friends and cultural events after sunset canceled, the world’s 1.8 billion Muslims find themselves cut off from much of what makes the month special as authorities fight the pandemic.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Muslims to “focus on our common enemy — the virus,” and repeated an earlier appeal for an immediate cease-fire for all conflicts. In a separate message, he urged countries to provide equitable help to vulnerable communities in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East, parts of Asia and Latin America.

While some parts of the world are just beginning to grapple with the pandemic, in China authorities reported the total cost and just 10 new cases on Thursday. The number of people hospitalized dropped to 959, with 63 considered serious cases.

As new cases drop close to zero, China has re-opened many businesses. Middle and high school seniors preparing for exams are returning to classes. But a ban on foreign arrivals and strict antine measures remain in place to prevent an influx of new cases from abroad or fresh infections among those thought to have recovered or who had no symptoms but could still be spreading the virus.

Neighboring Vietnam, which moved quickly to close its borders and lock down coronavirus cases, has reported no new cases in the past three days and is preparing to do away with restrictions.

New Zealand, which announced just three new cases of the coronavirus on Thursday, remained on strict lockdown, with 1,451 confirmed cases and 16 deaths, but was preparing to ease limits next month.

But the virus continues to pop up unexpectedly.

Singapore has been reporting hundreds of new cases each day, many traced to crowded migrant worker dormitories.

Japanese officials said Thursday that 14 more crew members on an Italian-operated cruise ship docked in southern Japan tested positive for the coronavirus, raising the breakout on board to 48. The Costa Atlantica has been docked in Nagasaki with 623 crew members and no passengers since late January for repairs and maintenance.

Other infected crew members are quarantined in single rooms, and officials planned to test all by Friday. Officials are investigating how the virus could have got on board after discovering the first known case in a crew member who tested positive after developing a cough and fever.

An earlier outbreak aboard the U.S.-operated Diamond Princess cruise ship, which was quarantined offshore of Yokohama for weeks, resulted in more than 700 cases among its 3,700 passengers and crew. Separately, Japan has about 12,000 cases, with 300 deaths.

The global outbreak of coronavirus has infected more than 2.6 million people and killed about 183,000, including more than 45,000 in the United States, according to a tally compiled by John Hopkins University from official government figures.

The true numbers are believed to be far higher, and most people infected suffer from only mild or moderate symptoms and survive.

But the crushing death toll of the pandemic has left many people understandably cautious and it will likely take weeks, even months, for people to regain confidence and resume normal activities. Future waves of outbreaks could reverse any gains in the interim, Dr. Robert Blendon, a Harvard professor of health policy and political analysis said.

As President Donald Trump shifts to what White House officials call a new chapter in the response, officials face a challenge in reassuring the public while ensuring enough precautions are taken as communities emerge from shutdowns to prevent fresh onslaughts of cases.

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**House expected to send 4th bipartisan aid bill to Trump**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The House is reassembling to send President Donald Trump a fourth bipartisan bill to help businesses crushed by the coronavirus, an almost $500 billion measure that many lawmakers are already looking beyond.

Anchoring the latest bill is a request by the Trump administration to replenish a fund to help small- and medium-sized businesses with payroll, rent and other expenses.

Supporters are already warning that more money will be needed almost imme-diately for the business-backed Paycheck Protection Program. Battle lines are form-ing over the next measure amid growing demands to extend the program, the Postal Service and first responders.

Thursday’s vote in the House would bring the total cost of the four bipartisan bills to respond to various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to about $2.5 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill started two weeks ago as a simple Trump-sought $250 billion replenish-ment of the oversubscribed payroll subsidy program and grew from there. The payroll program provides forgivable loans so businesses can continue paying workers while forced to stay closed for social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

It also contains $100 billion demanded by Democrats for hospitals and a nationwide testing program, along with a $60 billion set-aside for small banks and an alter-na-tive network of community development banks that focus on development in urban neighborhoods and rural areas ignored by many lenders. There’s also $60 billion for small-business loans and grants delivered through the Small Business Administra-tion’s existing disaster aid program.

Republicans say the delays likely forced some businesses waiting for the payroll subsidies to close. But they are nonetheless sure to back the measure by a wide margin.

The legislation swept through the Senate on Tuesday by voice vote barely hours after being first circulated.

The House, however, will conduct a roll-call vote in which lawmakers will vote in turns taken under social distancing rules.
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As people stay home, Earth gets cleaner  

BY SETH BORENSTEIN  

An unplanned grand experiment is changing Earth. As people across the globe stay home to stop the spread of the coronavirus, the air has cleaned up, albeit temporarily. Smog stopped choking New Delhi, one of the most polluted cities in the world, and India’s getting views of sights not visible in decades. Nitrogen dioxide pollution in the northeastern United States is down 30%. Rome air pollution levels from mid-March to mid-April were down 49% from a year ago. Stars seem more visible at night.

People are also noticing animals in places and at times they don’t usually. Coyotes have meandered along downtown Chicago’s Michigan Avenue and near San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. A puma roamed the streets of Santiago, Chile. Goats took over a town in Wales. In India, daring wildlife has already become bold, with hungry monkeys entering homes and opening refrigerators to look for food.

“It is giving us this quite extraordinary insight into just how much of a mess we humans are making of our beautiful planet,” says conservation scientist Stuart Pimm of Duke University. “This is giving us an opportunity to magically see how much better it can be.”

Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, assembled scientists to assess the ecological changes happening with so much of humanity housebound. Scientists, stuck at home like the rest of us, have said that they are eager to get cleaner air, bringing nature’s return, even if it’s a small window into how humans make Earth a better place.

“Many ways, we kind of whacked the Earth system with a sledgehammer and now we see what Earth’s response is,” Field says.

Researchers are tracking dramatic drops in traditional air pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide, smog and tiny particles. These types of pollution kill up to 7 million people a year worldwide, according to NASA measurements.

“We’re getting a glimpse of what might happen if we start switching to non-polluting cars,” Lefer said. Cleaner air has been more noticeable in India and China. On April 3, residents of Jalandhar, a city in north India’s Punjab, woke up to a view not seen for decades: snow-capped Himalayan peaks more than 100 miles away.

The greenhouse gases that trap heat and cause climate change stay in the atmosphere for 100 years or more, so the pandemic shutdown is unlikely to affect global warming, said Breakthrough Institute climate scientist Zeke Hafstahfer. Carbon dioxide levels are still rising, but not as fast as last year.

Aerosol pollution, which doesn’t stay airborne long, is also dropping. But aerosols cool the planet, so NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt is investigating whether their falling levels may be warming local temperatures for now.

Field said that he’s most intrigued by increased urban sightings of coyotes, pumas and other wildlife that are becoming video social media staples. Boar-like javelinas congregated outside of an Arizona shopping center. Even New York City birds seem hungrier and bolder.

In Adelaide, Australia, police shared a video of a kangaroo hopping around a mostly empty downtown, and a pack of jackals occupied an urban park in Tel Aviv, Israel.

“We’re not being invaded. The wildlife has always been there, but many animals are shy, Duke’s Pimm says. They come out when humans stay home.

For sea turtles across the globe, humans have made it difficult to nest on sandy beaches. The turtles need to be undisturbed and emerging hatchlings get confused by beachfront lights, said David Godfrey, executive director of the Sea Turtle Conservancy.

But with lights and people away, this year’s sea turtle nesting season far seems much better from India to Costa Rica to Florida, Godfrey said.

“There’s some silver lining for wildlife in what otherwise is a fairly catastrophic time for humans,” he says.
Where do states stand on plans to reopen?

More governors are reopening their economies by the day as the patchwork of stay-at-home orders and other business restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic. Some mayors are looking to reopen, like Georgia, Oklahoma and Montana, where the governors have allowed a variety of settings to reopen with varying green light to schools to open back up in early May. Other states such as New Hampshire are considering extending stay-at-home orders, like Wyoming and South Dakota, never instituted a stay-at-home order.

Here’s a look at where states stand on reopening:

**Making moves**

- **MONTANA**: Montana could allow schools to hold services on Sunday, and restaurants, bars and casinos can close with five days notice. Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte said he will allow more businesses to reopen on Tuesday. Students may return to their schools on May 25 to take final exams. Bullock. The schools have the option to return to in-person learning on May 18.

- **GEORGIA**: Republican Gov. Brian Kemp’s call to reopen shuttered businesses lets Georgia official’s simple message: ‘Get back to work. The governor has left it to local officials to open or keep facilities closed, even if businesses want to reopen. No stay-home order will be in place by May 15. Kemp is expected to further extend the state’s mandatory safer-at-home order set to expire next week.

- **NEW YORK**: Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Wednesday that the state’s stay-at-home order will be lifted next week, May 15. The order, put in place in March, is one of the nation’s toughest. New York has the highest number of confirmed cases, more than 320,000.

- **NEW MEXICO**: Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that the state will allow small and medium-sized businesses to reopen May 5. The state’s stay-at-home order expires April 30, and Grisham extended the order for one week with remote learning for students. The governor said that all schools will reopen in August with in-person learning.

- **WYOMING**: Gov. Mark Gordon considers the spread of the virus in his state ‘manageable and under control’ but said he’s not yet ready to announce when he plans to open the state’s economy. The Republican this week announced that Wyoming will not extend its shelter-in-place order past May 9. It’s one of only four states in the nation without some type of stay-at-home order.

- **OREGON**: Gov. Kate Brown announced plans Wednesday to reopen coronavirus testing with new sites opening next week in Louisville and Lexington, the state’s largest cities. The sites will be cashless and free of charge. The Democratic governor also announced that she has extended the state’s stay-at-home order until May 15 because of the pandemic.

- **ILLINOIS**: Gov. J.B. Pritzker said the state’s stay-at-home order will likely still be in place when the state’s economy begins to reopen. The Republican said on his Facebook page that the state will follow a four-phase plan for reopening.

- **CONNECTICUT**: Gov. Ned Lamont said that he is looking toward May 29 as a date when the state may begin to lift its stay-at-home order. A large number of states have already begun to lift some restrictions, but Lamont wants to see a series of guidelines to allow businesses to reopen.

- **KANSAS**: Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, has promised a plan next week for a phased economic reopening. The governor has said she will announce widespread testing and better contact tracing before the state lifts its restrictions. The Republican-controlled Legislature passed a bill last week that would remove the requirement for the state’s Chamber of Commerce, an influential business lobby, to get a majority of its members before the state can start reopening within the next two weeks.

- **HAWAII**: A stay-at-home order imposed by the state in March could be extended. The Democrat’s administration is considering a number of issues, including the length of the stay-at-home order, which is set to end May 15. Kelly has said that she will extend the order if the state has not made progress in reducing the spread of the virus.

- **WASHINGTON**: Gov. Jay Inslee said that the state will begin the stay-at-home order on May 4, but the state’s economy will begin to reopen. The state’s stay-at-home order expires May 4, and while the governor has said that it will be extended. The stay-at-home order is currently in place through May 4.

- **NEW HAMPSHIRE**: Republican Gov. Chris Sununu said the state will begin the process of reopening its economy on May 27. The state has not yet announced a plan for reopening businesses, but the governor has said that he will announce a plan in the coming weeks.

- **MASSACHUSETTS**: Gov. Charlie Baker announced Thursday that the state will begin to reopen on May 18. The state has not yet announced a plan for reopening businesses, but Baker has said that he will announce a plan in the coming weeks.

**No stay-home order**

- **SOUTH DAKOTA**: Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, has resisted calls to shut down businesses and reopen the state’s economy. She has said that she will not extend the stay-at-home order set to expire April 30. Noem has said that she will provide limited reopening of certain sectors of the economy, such as retail and restaurants, but she has not given a specific date.

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**Not anytime soon**

- **NEW YORK**: The epicenter of the outbreak in the U.S. is still in the midst of crisis and may not be ready to begin reopening soon, the Democrat said Wednesday. The state has reported more than 300,000 cases and more than 24,000 deaths.

- **NEW JERSEY**: The coronavirus hot spot in the Northeast is still struggling with the outbreak. The state’s economy is shuttered and businesses are struggling. The state’s stay-at-home order is set to expire May 15, and the governor has said that he will extend the order.

- **WYOMING**: Gov. Mark Gordon considers the spread of the virus in his state ‘manageable and under control’ but said he’s not yet ready to announce when he plans to open the state’s economy. The Republican this week announced that Wyoming will not extend its shelter-in-place order past May 9. It’s one of only four states in the nation without some type of stay-at-home order.
**Severe weather sweeps through the South**

Associated Press

MADILL, Okla. — Severe weather was moving through the South on Thursday after at least six people died in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana, including a factory worker whose body was found a quarter-mile away after an apparent tornado struck his workplace and severely damaged the town nearby.

More than 100,000 customers from Texas to Mississippi were without power Thursday as the severe weather moved through, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

Tornado warnings sent residents taking cover in southern Mississippi and Alabama. Trees and power lines were toppled in parts of west Alabama. No injuries or major damage were reported immediately.

The factory worker was killed when a suspected twister hit just as the workforce was leaving for the day from J&K Manufacturing in southern Oklahoma, Marshall County Emergency Management Director Robert Chaney said. The worker’s body was found about a fourth of a mile from the factory, Chaney said.

That apparent tornado also caused widespread damage in Mansfield, near the Red River, said Donny Raley, the city’s emergency manager.

A Louisiana man was found dead after a witness saw him try to retrieve a trash can from water near a drainage ditch. He lost his footing and was swept away by floodwaters, DeSoto Parish Sheriff Jayson Richardson told The Shreveport Times.

“There was some pretty extreme flooding here in Mansfield. Water like I’ve never seen in many, many years, if ever,” the sheriff told the newspaper. “Basically the water rose really fast and we had to rescue some people out of homes. I think we had about 20 or so homes that people were flooded in.”

A woman was killed on a bridge in Woodworth, La., 15 miles south of Alexandria, due to the severe weather, Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office told KALB-TV. The sheriff’s office did not provide any details on how she died.

At least three people were killed when an apparent tornado touched down in central Texas about 6 p.m. Wednesday near Onalaska, about 75 miles north of Houston, the Polk County Emergency Management System said in a statement. The storm also caused severe damage to homes and other structures in Seven Oaks, said Carrie Miller, a spokeswoman for Polk County Judge Sydney Murphy.

Charles Stephens of Onalaska told the Houston Chronicle that he and his wife were holed up in their bathroom when a large pine tree fell through their roof during the storms Wednesday night.

“It took me 45 minutes to climb through the roof to get out,” Stephens said, adding that he had to use a hatchet to get his wife out of the debris.

The Alexandria campus of Louisiana State University also saw some damage from the storm. The university tweeted, “All resident students safe. There is damage to DeWitt Livestock building and a camper flipped over.” The campus was also left without power.

A National Weather Service team will be dispatched to survey damage and to confirm whether the storms were tornadoes.

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US adds cameras at Mexico border despite drop in crossings

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration has been quietly adding surveillance cameras at the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the coronavirus pandemic, though fewer people appear to be crossing illegally.

It’s the latest move as operations at the U.S.-Mexico border have become increasingly militarized and secretive.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show the Department of Homeland Security, at the request of the Department of Homeland Security, sent 60 mobile surveillance cameras and 540 additional troops to the southwest border this month. The documents are unclassified but for official use only and were part of PowerPoint slides created last week to brief Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Army North, the primary unit overseeing military operations at the border.

The cameras are manned by the military and will be removed after the pandemic has ended, said Matthew Dyman, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, which is under the Department of Homeland Security.

The request for cameras was not “based on border flow numbers,” but on rising coronavirus cases in Mexico, he said.

“Each person that avoids arrest and entry into the United States has the potential to be carrying the COVID-19 virus and puts American lives at risk,” Dyman said.

Apprehensions of people crossing illegally have declined by 77% since May, according to Customs and Border Protection. April figures have not been released yet but are expected to be even lower.

The cameras were set up days before President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday placing a 60-day pause on issuing green cards in an effort to limit competition for jobs in a U.S. economy weakened by the coronavirus.

Trump has used emergency powers during the pandemic to implement an aggressive border crackdown that has included turning away or immediately deporting asylum-seekers, including minors.

The military help means more Border Patrol agents can focus on apprehending people who cross illegally or expelling foreigners under a rarely used public health law that the Trump administration tapped amid the pandemic, Dyman said.

The addition of the mobile cameras, which are mounted in the back of trucks, brings the total to 192, according to the documents.

Southern border expert David Shirk sees no justification for adding cameras and troops. He pointed out that Mexico so far has a fraction of the number of COVID-19 cases that have been confirmed in the United States, while deportees flown back from the U.S. have introduced cases in their home countries.

“There is no evidence that suggests there are borders of COVID-19 patients lined up along the border,” said Shirk, an associate political science professor at University of San Diego. “And there is no evidence that COVID-19 is even contributing to a surge in people trying to cross the border.”

The government’s own numbers show the opposite. Apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border have been declining for nine straight months.

As of Sunday, the 60 added mobile surveillance cameras planned to be manned and operational, according to the documents. That day, the six Mexican states bordering the U.S. reported a total of about 125 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to Mexico’s health secretary. By comparison, the four U.S. states that border Mexico — California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — reported about 55,000 infections as of Sunday.

Pentagon officials as recently as August were considering a request from the Department of Homeland Security to send reconnaissance planes and military drones designed for battlefield use in Afghanistan and Iraq to the border.

Administration officials have declined to say whether that plan, first reported by Newsweek on Aug. 9, is still in the works. In December, Richardson, the U.S. Army North commander, ordered historically unclassified documents and daily briefings on the U.S.-Mexico border to be moved to a classified system to prevent further leaks.

With the additional troops, about 3,000 active-duty service members are on the border and 2,500 National Guard troops are stationed there. Barred from law enforcement duties, they have kept a low profile and are largely doing on-the-ground surveillance.

The border mission — marking one of the longest deployments of active-duty troops to the border in U.S. history — has cost more than $500 million since October 2017.

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**Above:** This image made from video provided by Thomas Marcum shows a tornado seen from State Highway 48 in Durant, Okla., Wednesday. Left: People embrace after an apparent tornado touched down Wednesday in Onalaska, Texas. The storm caused severe damage to homes and other structures, but there were no immediate reports of deaths or serious injuries, officials said.

AP photos
Intimidated by video games? Use your enforced staycation to try a title — or an entire pastime — you’ve passed up until now.

Suggestions on Pages 18-19
The villain becomes a hero
‘Screen time’ has gone from sin to survival tool

By Geoffrey A. Fowler and Heather Kelly
The Washington Post

We’re on Zoom calls six hours per day. The kids have gotten their own iPads. And no need to keep asking, Netflix — we’re definitely still watching.

But we should stop being hard on ourselves for staring at screens and start embracing how they’re helping us survive. And in this extraordinary moment, that’s just what the doctor ordered.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, Brett Vergara abided by the trendy advice that excessive “screen time” was as bad as smoking, but for your screen, he would put his phone or tablet in a mode at work to make its screen less alluring. Then last month, New York forced him to stay at home with his children. Now he believes the coronavirus has made a “true screen use” friend.

Vergara joked he was “personally victimized” by a recent notification from Apple that his screen use had surged to 10 hours per day. “What do you expect from me? Get out of here, iPhone.”

A few weeks in, America’s great self-quarantine is prompting a rethink of one of the great villains of modern life. Now your devices are portals to employment and education, ways to keep you inside and build community, and virtual reminders that you’re not alone. The old concerns aren’t gone, but they look different when people are just trying to get by.

Before our normal, screen time concerns had spawned an industry of screen “addiction” experts, books and detox events. Researchers have linked excessive screen time to depression and obesity. In 2016, the American Academy of Pediatrics decreed that kids aged 2 to 5 should have no more than one hour of screen time per day. In 2018, facing criticism from lawmakers and even some investors, Apple and Google added controls to their software to, theoretically, encourage people to use their devices less.

Now many experts are reframing the issue, at least temporarily, and rejecting screen shame. Last week, the World Health Organization officially encouraged people to play video games as a way to get us to stay at home. And the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended people “call, video chat, or stay connected using social media.”

These screens are doing important jobs. They’re a way to keep kids distracted while parents working from home try to balance nonstop video meetings and Slack notifications. With seniors confined to their rooms for safety, nursing homes have replaced daily activities with family video calls. Shows like Netflix’s top-ranked “Tiger King” are escapes to even-crazier realities.

For millions of Americans now struggling with isolation or depression, screens are a path for healing. Every day at 9 p.m., New York comedian Kelly Bachman hops on a video chat with complete strangers from around the world to read “Harry Potter” aloud. The connection is a “joyful constant,” she said. “We are trying to find light in dark places as Dumbledore would.”

Unsurprising to anyone sheltered in place alone or home schooling kids, Americans fortunate enough to have home broadband have never used it more. Comcast says its peak network traffic is up as much as 60% in some regions. Verizon says overall network traffic for video games is up 102%. Half of Americans think a home internet outage would be a “very big” problem right now, according to the Pew Research Center.

What we heard from most other doctors and therapists is that it’s OK to have more screen time now — just try to focus on the quality kind.

“I don’t want parents to beat themselves up about anything,” said Nusheen Ameenuddin, a Mayo Clinic doctor and chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics council on communications and media. “These are really extraordinary, unusual circumstances and we don’t expect anyone — even before COVID-19 — to follow rules one hundred percent.”

Now, staying at home should become couch potatoes. Sleep, fresh air and exercise improve your mental health and build your immune system. And all of the nasty problems we discovered with technology use have gone away, from misinformation about the novel coronavirus pandemic to teen angst over how technology affects my mission.

“Consider picking one day per week where you just put the phone down. Tiffany Shlain, author of the book 24/6,” said her family has been unplugging for the Sabbath, and she finds the practice even more useful under stay-at-home orders where everyone’s daily use of screens has skyrocketed.

“We’re going through an extraordinary period in human history. And I want people to reflect,” said Shlain. “I feel like I’m just on and responding and connecting all this stuff and it’s too much.”

GADGET WATCH

Light, portable replacement for ordinary spiral notebook

By Gregg Ellman
Tribune News Service

I’ve always been one to go lighter, smaller and as portable as possible. The Rocketbook Core reusable notebook is a nice addition to my mission.

My school years were during the heyday of paper and pen. I can only imagine how handy this product would have been during those days of stay-at-home orders. While I would normally have Post-it Notes covered with chores and shopping lists everywhere, but the Rocketbook Core simplifies everything and even lets me save and upload the content of PDFs or JPEGs to cloud services such as Google Drive, iCloud, email and Dropbox.

To put my schoolwork theory to the test, I enlisted a college student to give the product a try. Within a few days she gave it an A+ and especially enjoyed the cloud upload with the reusable notebook. She also pointed out that for some classes a laptop or tablet aren’t needed, making the Rocketbook Core lighter and easier to tote around campuses whenever college students actually return to campuses.

At first glance, the Rocketbook Core looks like a traditional spiral notebook. Instead of paper, it makes use of patented reusable technology consisting of synthetic paper, which you write on. Once you’re done, the page wipes clean with a damp cloth for the next use.

Before erasing, uploading the content is pretty simple. With the Rocketbook app on your smart phone or tablet, the pages can be scanned for the cloud storage.

Writing is done using a gel pen from the Pilot FriXion line of markers or highlighters.

The cost-friendly Rocketbook Core is available in letter size (8.5-by-11 inches) with 32 pages for $34, and the executive is 6-by-8.5 inches with 26 pages for $32. Both are also available with a dot grid pattern or lined.

You have eight choices of cover colors, a microfiber cleaning cloth and one Pilot FriXion pen included with each.

Online: getrocketbook.com

Some smart home systems are more complex than others, but overall, most are really easy to set up and devices in your home. Sure, adding a light on or off manually is easy. But setting it up to do so on a schedule can go easier on your energy consumption and electric bill.

Setting a smart device to turn on or off at a specific time is easier than having to click through a web interface to change a light setting. And all of the nasty problems we discovered with smart home technology supports my well-being — and how it resonates in the time of the coronavirus. Having smart technology can actually give us some clarity about how we interact with technology.

This isn’t the time to say all screens are bad,” said Tracy Dennis-Tiwary, a psychology professor at Hunter College in New York City. “This is the time to say, ‘What am I noticing about how technology supports my well-being — and how it can go easier on your energy consumption and electric bill?’

I’d recommend it for first-time smart home users or for those who have existing devices and want to control of them from one place. The Atom also works with smart home assistants, Alexa, Google Assistant and Apple shortcuts.

Online: getvera.com; $29.95

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Disaster degustation

A coronavirus food and film pairing guide

Diner dash

**Movie:** “Miracle Mile”

This 1988 flick by writer-director Steve De Jarnatt features a lovely young couple, played by Anthony Edwards and Mare Winningham, who meet and fall in love at the La Brea Tar Pits — because gazing upon a drowning mammoth is just the sort of thing to bestir hot pangs of desire. Their blossoming union, however, is cut short when Edwards picks up a ringing pay phone outside of Johnie’s Coffee Shop on Fairfax, and learns that a nuclear attack is imminent. Then it becomes a race against time to get out of L.A. before the bombs hit.

The terrible haircuts and the scenes of the Miracle Mile in the ‘80s make this a must-see for anyone who considers themselves an Angeleno. And of course, there’s the dialogue: as riots consume Wilshire Boulevard, Winningham declares: “Hell, I’ll write an article about all this for Esquire. Someone will probably make a TV movie out of it.”

Or maybe a full feature film.

**Food pairing:** Grilled ham and cheese sandwich.

Since much of the action is set around a diner, it’s only right to eat diner-y food. Pancakes, burgers and watery coffee are all good options. I went with what I had on hand: ham and American cheese, the sort of cheese that will survive any end-of-the-world scenario.

**Preparation tip:** In grilling your sandwich, use all the butter you can. American cheese may survive a nuclear attack, but the butter definitely will not.

1970s cheese

**Movie:** “The Andromeda Strain”

Based on the book by Michael Crichton, the plot revolves around a deadly microbe, with crash-landed from Earth aboard a satellite, and turns human innards to dust. A team of scientists take to a secret underground bunker to study the rapidly multiplying organism so they can develop a cure. It’s a race against time, and a U.S. president who isn’t big into science.

And it’s totally worth it for the rudimentary technology, 1970s sets and Kate Reid as the lone female scientist, a saucy lady with a sensual haircut who chainsmokes and utters lines like, “I never liked red lights. It reminds me of my years in a bordello.”

**Food pairing:** Kraft macaroni and cheese and steamed broccoli, accompanied by a glass of Campari and soda.

This pairing is all about aesthetics: the film’s unnatural palette — those ‘70s reds, greens and oranges — begs for food and drink of an equally unnatural color. Kraft, with its nuclear shade of orange, and its undertones of milk protein concentrate, is just the sort of thing you might eat in an underground bunker. Campari adds color, as well as the bitter taste of certain annihilation.

**Preparation tip:** This Kraft recipe calls for 1/4 cup milk and 4 tablespoons of butter. Change that to 2 tablespoons of milk and 5 tablespoons of butter and you’ve got creamier mac. Refill your Campari as needed.

Eggs and a side of apocalypse

**Movie:** “This Is the End”

I thought the end of the world was going to be super-Mad Max. Instead, it’s a tedium of Zoom video conference calls and celebrbities singing “Imagine.” Which is why I deeply appreciate the lowbrow humor of “This Is the End,” the stoner-bro comedy directed by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, that captures the banalities and fragile egos of a pack of callow actors as they muddle through a biblical apocalypse.

Plus, there’s Emma Watson fighting off a bunch of dudes with an ax, Channing Tatum as a BDMS slave, and a cameo by the Backstreet Boys. It’s the end of days — as written by People magazine.

**Food pairing:** Fried eggs and bacon with toast.

If the devil is about to consume your soul, you might as well eat all your protein in one go — like the unrepentant Danny McBride, in a key scene in the movie.

**Preparation tip:** Fry the eggs in the bacon grease. We can’t see your too-tight pants on Zoom. Hell, we can’t tell if you’re wearing pants at all.

Instant soup’s on

**Movie:** “Flu”

When it comes to flu flicks, I am incredibly partial to South Korean director Sung-su Kim’s 2013 thriller, which features all the right teeth-gritting plot lines: a fast-moving, fatal virus and a single mom who is laboring to find a cure in a race against time and an official from the World Health Organization with an itchy trigger finger.

**Food pairing:** Nongshim instant ramen.

It may seem glib to suggest Korean instant ramen for a Korean movie, but it’s a match made in disaster heaven. One, because Nongshim instant ramen is featured in a scene that takes place inside a quarantine camp. Also, because Nongshim ramen is good. Two of my preferred flavors are Spicy Seafood Ramyun and the Shin Ramyun Noodle Soup in Gourmet Spicy flavor.

**Preparation tip:** Prepare as directed, then add whatever toppings you can scrounge up. My favorites include canned or frozen corn (we’re in a pandemic; don’t judge), mushrooms, an egg and a pat of butter. Scallions, chopped cilantro and leftover bits of chicken or beef are also great.

PHOTOS BY CAROLINA A. MIRANDA/Los Angeles Times

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3/17/2020

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD

BY CAROLINA A. MIRANDA
Los Angeles Times

I’ve twisted myself into a yoga pretzel on Zoom. I’ve downloaded the meditation apps. I’ve watched koala bear naps on the San Diego Zoo’s koala cam. (OMG, the baby.) All of it has helped soothe my simmering corona anxiety to some degree, though none quite as much as streaming a film festival’s worth of disaster flicks and diving into a pile of snacks.

“Armageddon.” “The Towering Inferno.” “San Andreas.” “28 Days Later.” If it in some way features the end of humanity — or a piece of humanity — I will watch it. And I will find it relaxing. Mainly because nothing makes me feel better about my station in life than knowing that at least a bunch of zombies aren’t gnawing at my dangling entrails.

Naturally, whenever I watch, I always — always — prepare a plate, since impending doom builds an appetite. Here, I outline five very simple dishes that can be made from just about any stock of disaster rats and pair them with five of my favorite disaster films.

PHOTOS BY CAROLINA A. MIRANDA/Los Angeles Times

Grilled cheese and ham and a dazed Anthony Edwards in “Miracle Mile.”
WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Challenge accepted!

So you want to be a gamer? Here’s why right now is a good time to get started

Consider buying a Nintendo Switch (or another console)

If you’re new to gaming, there are three great options for beginners, and chances are you already own one or two of them: a smartphone or PC. To expand your options, we recommend getting a Nintendo Switch.

Games made in house by Nintendo (called “first-party” games, as opposed to other “third-party” studios) are very deliberately and laboriously designed to appeal to players of all levels. It’s been Nintendo’s mission since the 1980s to design games and hardware that expands the gaming audience.

If you’re someone who hasn’t touched a video game since the Mario or Tetris days, you’ll be pleased to know that the newer versions of those games are even more inviting than ever before, and most, if not all, of them are on the Switch. And for a $20 Nintendo Online subscription, you can play old Nintendo and Super Nintendo games via a free app on the Switch. Check to see if your favorites are already available.

When it comes to choosing the regular Switch or the Switch Lite, we’re going to recommend the regular Switch outright. The Lite is great if you’re going to play alone, but gives you little-to-no options to play with your family or friends.

Making the most of mobile gaming

If you have an iOS or Android device, you already have the most popular gaming platform. Even if you have an iPhone 6 or older iPad, you’ve got a perfectly capable gaming device.

The only thing you might consider getting is a controller. You can game using the touch screen controls, but for more complicated, engaging games like the ones we’ll recommend, you should consider either the Xbox One controller or the cheaper PlayStation DualShock 4. Both pair perfectly well via Bluetooth with either smartphone system, and it’s a cheap way to get a console-like experience. If you opt for an Xbox One controller, make sure it’s a recent one with Bluetooth support.

It’s probably best to avoid PCs for now

If you have a PC running Windows, check your system specifications, and then check the PC requirements for your chosen game. But given all the variables and complications that go into PC setups (consistently changing hardware requirements for new games, driver updates, etc.), we can’t recommend PC gaming until you get your feet wet otherwise. Consoles are (usually) cheaper than most gaming PCs, and are definitely simpler to use and maintain.

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Now we’re going to recommend a few games based off categories of Yee’s motivations. These aren’t all the newest games, but they’re popular, acclaimed titles mostly designed to minimize any prohibitive learning curves.

Social/community

Video games offer opportunities to make new friends. Contrary to popular stereotypes, many gamer communities are often welcoming and eager to help you ease your way into a game’s systems and rules. We recommend you find a forum or message board, such as Facebook Group or Reddit subreddit that focuses entirely on your game of choice. (This advice holds for every category, by the way.)

Don’t ask questions under YouTube videos unless it’s a comment thread like Twitter. It’s a waste of time. It’s important that you find communities that are specifically focused on your game of choice. That’s where you’ll find the best information.

It’s also important to note that most gaming platforms have a voice chat function. Each game and console have their own rules, so Google is your best friend in tracking them down. But if you want to keep things quiet and reduce trolling to zero, muting everyone is your best bet.

Minicraft (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows): There’s probably no better “modern game as training wheels.” It’s Minecraft minus the popular game for several reasons. It’s incredibly easy to run on any device, including just about any PC. It’s Oregon Trail for the 21st century. And most importantly, it gives new players a low-stress, low-environment to get used to moving in a 3-D space. Once you’re acclimated with Minecraft, you could graduate to other games. Or you could join millions of others on altservers to keep playing and find your community.

Sky (iOS): An award-winning indie developer, thatgamecompany is known for its beautiful, easy-to-play games that are meant to stir universal emotions like curiosity and wonder. Sky is an atmospheric adventure meant to emphasize the smallness of our existence, and the wonder and curiosity that comes with living in a larger, scarier world.

Achievement/power growth

You don’t just love collecting and competition, you want it all and you want to be the best. This is a great category for perfectionists and overachievers.

Pokémon Let’s Go Pikachu/Let’s Go Eevee (Nintendo Switch): At their core, Pokémon games are simply “rock, paper, scissors” with a few more rules. While Pokémon beats fire Pokémon, fire Pokémon burns grass, grass defeats water, and so on. There are more iterations of this, but it rarely gets more complicated. Plus, the Pokémon story might feed your competitive spirit since the games are all about “catching them all” and advancing as a Pokémon trainer. While Pokémon Sword and Shield are the newer games, the Let’s Go titles of 2018 are instead of the ’90s originals, which introduced an entire generation to the role-playing game concept. There’s no better place to start.

Mario Kart 8 Deluxe (Nintendo Switch): Even if you have a driver’s license, it’s sometimes tough to stay on the road in racing games. The latest Mario Kart on the Switch fixes this by offering “Smart Steering,” which ensures you never fall or hit an obstacle on the road. This feature is the perfect training wheels system to get you started on competitive racing games.

Mastery/strategy/decision-making

Consider these games if you’re a person who thinks in the long term. This type of gamer might keep a cool head to think clearly and plan strategically, finding fun not just in making decisions, but seeing the results play out.

Tetris 99 (Nintendo Switch): It’s mostly the game you remember, and it’s free. You do play by yourself for the most part, but there is a competitive twist. You’re also competing with 98 other players to see how long you can keep your screen free of blocks. It’s another layer of pressure, but Tetris has never been an easygoing game. It gives you a taste of online competition in a game where almost anyone can immediately grasp the rules.

Story/immersion

You want to become someone else, feel as if you’re somewhere else. For you, the narrative, the characters and plot are what keeps you interested and playing. Like watching a good HBO show, you can’t wait to see what happens next.

Journey (iOS, PlayStation 4, PC): Also made by thatgamecompany, Journey is an arresting adventure meant to emphasize the smallness of our existence, and the wonder and curiosity that comes with living in a larger, scarier world. Like Sky, it’s a game primarily about moving through beautiful environments.

The Walking Dead, Season 1 (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows/MacOS): The Walking Dead game is often considered a better written story than its namesake TV show. You play as a felon who takes a little girl under his wing to survive the zombie apocalypse.

Action/excitement

This is the stereotypical video game genre. You want to be thrilled, and you want something more fast-paced, with just a little bit of mayhem in the mix. These are good for people who enjoy the stereotypical archetypes for beginners, but there are still plenty of options to ease your way in.

New Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe (Nintendo Switch): It’s the same 2D Mario game you know and love, and it’s one of the best-selling games of the past two decades. It’s a life simulator, job simulator and home builder all in one, all free of any prohibitive mechanics.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons (Nintendo Switch): “It’s the “it” game of the current pandemic, and for good reason. The game is simple in how it controls and simulates a busy day of errands and work. The game’s objectives are as simple as “collecting fruit” or “chopping down trees,” largely done with just two buttons. But the real reward is customizing your town (or in this case, island) and character. There’s a lot of freedom in how the appearances of buildings, streets, environments and your own home to your exact aesthetic.

The Sims 4 (PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows/MacOS): If you want a life simulator more grounded in reality, The Sims has been an introduction to gaming for the past two decades. It’s a life simulator, job simulator and home builder all in one, all free of any prohibitive mechanics.

And the topic is massive to grasp since it deals with modern day-to-day issues like getting up, going to school, going to work, grocery run to even raising a family.

LEGO Marvel Super Heroes (iOS/Android, all consoles, Windows/MacOS): The LEGO brand action games are perfect for inexperienced players, since there’s no real way to lose in them. If your LEGO Spider-Man “dies,” you simply pick up and keep going. Any LEGO-branded action game will do, but the Marvel character (Nick Fury) is a good place to start.

Creativity/discovery

Do you call yourself a creative? This is your category. Each of these games offer literally millions of ways to express yourself through art, fashion and personality.

The LEGO brand action games are perfect for inexperienced players, since there’s no real way to lose in them. If your LEGO Spider-Man “dies,” you simply pick up and keep going. Any LEGO-branded action game will do, but the Marvel character (Nick Fury) is a good place to start.
I’m typically numb to the cultural fixation with zombies. One can see only so many instances of brain munching and exposed entrails before the power to shock begins to dim. That said, when the Resident Evil series is at its best I can ignore how cliche the whole zombie-killing enterprise is.

Capcom has recently been on a remake kick. The recent release of Resident Evil 3 comes a little more than a year after the release of its numerical predecessor. Surprisingly, I’ve found it to be my favorite of the past three games because of its brisk pacing and the ways in which it varies the tempo of the action.

Resident Evil 3 wastes no time establishing its zombie apocalypse scenario. At the start, special agent Jill Valentine, who works for the Raccoon City police department, awakens from a zombie-tinted nightmare only to find herself terrorized by a monstrous assassin — a hulking “bioweapon,” code-named Nemesis, who is dedicated to exterminating any member of the Special Tactics and Rescue Service (S.T.A.R.S.). Following a frantic escape from her apartment, Jill finds herself on the zombie-overrun streets of Raccoon City where she eventually runs into Carlos Oliveira, a mercenary who works for the Umbrella Corporation.

Carlos’ employer was responsible for the manufacture of the biological agent that turns people into zombies. Carlos, however, is a genial dupe who understands his mission to be a humanitarian one. Although Jill takes an initial dislike to him, the two work together to try to restore Raccoon City’s subway system to help evacuate civilians.

Players alternate between Jill and Carlos over the length of the campaign. Jill’s sections hew closer to the survival horror template of Resident Evil 2. For most of the first half of the game, Jill must rely on a handgun and shotgun to put down the various types of hellish creatures that cross her path. On the standard difficulty level, ammo isn’t plentiful but it isn’t vexingly scarce either. Enemy placement and resources are carefully distributed throughout the map to tease players with the possibility that they might run out of ammo. By contrast, Carlos’ sections are more action-oriented. Because he’s armed with an assault rifle, the developers can throw more foes in his direction. Save for an intense shootout at a hospital, Carlos’ missions feel more forgiving.

Progress unfolds by scurrying back and forth across levels, finding an item here that can be used over there. Much of the game’s tension arises from the fear of wondering if you’ll make it back to a save point with the item you need to open another branch of the map. I appreciate how well the level design works to play off the sense of frustration that comes from smacking into locked doors, and the corresponding delight that comes from finally opening them. The intricate level design is purpose-built for generating waves of tension.

One of my problems with most horror games is that repeated encounters with the same enemy types diminish their possibility to unnerve. On that score, Resident Evil 3 does a decent job of introducing new enemies and presenting different variations of Jill’s arch foe, Nemesis. Though I can’t say I found the game to be that scary, I did hope that the game’s monstrous bugs, which like to jump on people and inject a colony of parasitical maggots down their throats, wouldn’t crop up in my dreams.

The true star of Resident Evil 3, though, is the superb RE graphics engine, which debuted in 2017’s Resident Evil 7: Biohazard. Environments in the game are dramatically lit and brimming with details. As I made my way through the campaign, I couldn’t help but wonder how the engine will scale after the release of the next-generation consoles. Parts of the game, such as the opening in Jill’s apartment, look positively cinematic — so textured and atmospheric that one can almost imagine video games drawing near the end of the uncanny valley in our lifetimes. If and when that should occur, I hope that Capcom will have found another horror template than zombies.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One
Online: residentevil.com/re3
Getting back to normal

Is a second wave of infections avoidable?

O ur unprecedented stay-home orders to check the deadly coronavirus’ spread are showing signs of success, but they can’t last forever, and health officials are scrambling to figure out when and how they might ease the restrictions without unleashing a surge of new infections.

When they let us go out again, will we still be expected to wear masks? Will they be checking our temperatures at schools or our COVID-19 status to enter restaurants, stores and workplaces? Will there still be sneeze shields and six-foot spacing markers at the grocery checkouts?

Health officials in California’s Bay Area are just starting to build consensus around what sorts of benchmarks might signal it’s safe to begin lifting rigid social-distancing restrictions and how to go about it. They are keeping an eye overseas, as China just lifted its strict quarantine of Wuhan, the city where the outbreak originated, after 76 days.

“There’s a lot to consider if we’re going to make this work and not fall backwards and have to do this all over again,” said former California Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith, who has been a lead adviser to Santa Clara County’s health officer. “As far as I know, nobody has a plan. A lot of people have ideas.”

Since the Bay Area announced the nation’s first stay-home orders March 16 — and Gov. Gavin Newsom soon followed with a similar statewide decree — the rate of new infections has slowed, a sign of what epidemiologists call “flattening the curve” of new cases. But the virus has ravaged states that acted later, like New York. Now, whether the Bay Area leads the way in reversing the lockdown remains to be seen. Local officials and Newsom have made clear it won’t happen soon.

“We’re working really hard thinking about what would the signals be in order to relax a little bit,” Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. “It’s going to take a while to figure that out.”

The timelines tend to be longer than we’d like. There’s only one time a vaccine was developed fast enough to interrupt an outbreak, and that was in Hollywood in the movie ‘Contagion.’

By John Woolfolk
The Mercury News

Widespread availability of tests that could confirm that someone has unknowingly been infected and recovered from the disease — many get only mild symptoms more like the flu or influenza and don’t get tested — will also be helpful.

“If you’re immune, you can go back to work,” Luby said. “Maybe that’s who you can have at a front line health worker, a waiter at your table. We’re not there, but that’s much sooner, likely in weeks or months.”

Luby said it would make sense to start lifting restrictions for people by age group because the disease hits harder with age.

“We are going to have to go back to work — the first thing we could do is let young people go back,” Luby said. “The data are so clear it is older people who are more at risk.”

That, too, would come with a major trade-off: Infected people without symptoms are still capable of spreading the virus.

Smith envisions a gradual reversal of the stay-home orders, likely starting at the statewide level and then regionally as local health officials gain confidence that sustained levels of new cases have dropped to a level where they can handle a new cluster of infections.

“Each community is going to have to respond to their local conditions,” said Smith, who expects the Bay Area to act together as one community.

Shelter-in-place will gradually give way to allowing more types of businesses to open and permission for progressively larger public gatherings, with concerts, parades and sporting events the last to come back, Smith said.

Experts envision repeated, smaller infection spikes along the way.

“It will come in waves, maybe three waves, four waves,” said Dr. Robyn Gershon, clinical professor at New York University School of Global Public Health.

And many of the markers of life with the coronavirus — keeping six feet apart from each other, wearing face masks in public — are likely to continue as restrictions ease. “I think people will get used to masking in public,” Smith said.

With health departments already stretched thin, they will need help to effectively monitor the newly infected and those who have recovered.

“A roadmap to reopening” by the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank, said it would need the capability to test 750,000 people a week. There have been 2.4 million tested in the U.S. to date, according to the COVID Tracking project.

Aggressive testing, tracing and monitoring of people who were in contact with the infected is what helped Asian countries hit earlier in the outbreak ramp down infection rates and limit public restrictions.

Before we get to that next phase, Smith said that local officials will be looking to see that new hospitalization admissions — which they consider a more reliable indicator of both the extent and impact of infections — subside for at least two weeks to a level where hospitals have the capacity to handle new case clusters. That will vary from place to place.

“We want to first and foremost be sure to have adequate hospital capacity,” Smith said. “And we have to test. We won’t find cases if we’re not testing and able to identify outbreaks. The timelines tend to be longer than we’d like. There’s only one time a vaccine was developed fast enough to interrupt an outbreak, and that was in Hollywood in the movie ‘Contagion.’”

Dr. Stephen Luby
Epidemiologist and professor of medicine at Stanford University

The technology wouldn’t be used to enforce restrictions like in China and some other Asian countries, Smith said, but more as a means of staying in contact with the infected or exposed.

“We just want to be continuously in contact with people, find out each day how they’re doing, what symptoms they have,” Smith said.

But while health officials are wary of removing restrictions too soon, they also worry the public will lose patience.

“The longer this goes on,” Smith said, “the harder it is to tell people you have to keep interrupting your life.”

The Merced news

Friday, April 24, 2020
There’s much to see, say about lovely lake bordering 3 countries

Above: In Bregenz, a stage on the lake is prepared for Giuseppe Verdi’s Rigoletto. If the opera goes on, its dates are scheduled for July 23-Aug 23. under enter free. Follow adorable animal antics on the Affenberg Salem specialty. Wash it down with a nicely chilled Mueller-Thurgau, the local white wine.

A giant peacock made of flowers greets visitors on Mainau, the so-called “Flower Island” on Lake Constance, or the Bodensee.

Year-round fun

Once the world returns to relative normalcy and regular events resume, annual highlights of the Lake Constance area include the vast cross-border flea market in Konstanz, Germany, and Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, in late June; the Seenachtfest, an open-air festival crowned with fireworks, in Konstanz in early August; a Middle Ages Market in Meersburg in early October and the Harbor Christmas market in Lindau, held right by the waterfront and overlooked by snow-capped Alpine peaks.

The bregenzerfestspiele.com

The opera goes on, its dates are scheduled for July 23-Aug. 23.

For a virtual tour, see pfahlbauten.de/museum/virtueller-rundgang.html.

A giant peacock made of flowers greets visitors on Mainau, the so-called “Flower Island” on Lake Constance, or the Bodensee.

Centuries-old Meersburg Castle remains in excellent condition. Its restored rooms are full of artifacts of daily life from long ago.

Just down the road and slightly inland, Affenberg Salem affords visitors the chance to edge up close to roughly 200 Barbary Apes. Their habitat here is similar to that of the species’ original home in northern Africa. In May, the sight of the baby macaques will melt your heart. Other animals to see at close range include storks and fallow deer. Adult entry costs 10 euros, ages 5-15 pay 5 euros, and ages 4 and under enter free. For a virtual tour, see pfahlbauten.de/museum/virtueller-rundgang.html.

For our last stop on our three-country tour, we’re skipping clear across the lake to the charming medieval town of Stein am Rhein. This Swiss beauty fascinates with a street plan that’s remained intact for centuries and its pedestrianized inner core, the perfect place from which to gaze up at the astonishingly pretty and detailed frescoes painted upon the houses.

The Swiss town of Stein am Rhein dates back to the 15th century and is famous for the picturesque murals that decorate the houses.

The butterfli house is a high-

Sequoia trees, a Teutonic castle
dahlias take their final bows.
a sea of roses. In autumn, the
plant and trees that stage a hot
vehicles brims with flowers,
this private, family-owned
nicknamed the “Flower Island.”
foot high statue rotates around
Island closed to motorized
This statue commemorates the
Konstanz’s best asset must be
proximity to the lake. Start
your tour in the harbor, where
photo ops in front of the im-
pressively Imperial statue.
This statue commemorates the
Council of Constace, held by the
Roman Catholic Church from
1414 to 1418 to resolve the schism
that had left the church with three
popes instead of one. And yes,
she did just move. The 30-
foot high statue rotates around
her axis every four minutes.
Our next stop is Mainau,
nicknamed the “Flower Island.”
This private, family-owned
island closed to motorized
vehicles brims with flowers,
plants and trees that stage a hot
horticulural show during the
warm months of the year. First,
tulips and rhododendrons spring
like hope eternal, followed by
a sea of roses. In autumn, the
dahlias take their final bows.
Sequoia trees, a Teutonic castle
and the St. Marien church can be
enjoyed whatever the season.
The butterfly house is a high-
light for all ages, while kids
will enjoy the adventure playgrounds.
Admission costs 22 euros for
adults while kids 12 and under
are free; to escape the worst of
the crowds, enter after 3 p.m.
when tickets go for half price.
See mainau.de or visit virtually
via the Insel Mainau channel on
YouTube.

By means of the Konstanz-
Meersburg ferry, we set sail to
the opposite shore of the lake
to visit the Pfahlbauten (Pile
Dwellings) Museum in Unter-
huidingen. This UNESCO-listed
site shows us 23 reconstructed
dwellings of Stone and Bronze
Age societies, who lived an
ecologically sustainable lifestyle
in harmony with their great
lake between 4000 and 850 B.C.
By building their dwellings on
stilts, they protected themselves
from flooding while remaining
close to the rich fishing grounds
that helped to sustain them. The
archaeological open-air museum
can only be explored by means
of a guided tour led in German,
but info boards in English help
decipher the experience. Adult
entry costs 10 euros, ages 5-15
pay 5 euros, and ages 4 and
under enter free. For a virtual
tour, see pfahlbauten.de/museum/virtueller-
rundgang.html.

As a giant peacock made of flowers greets visitors on Mainau, it’s easy to understand why this town’s nickname is the “Flower Island.”

Karen Bradbury

WEEKEND: TRAVEL
A little outdoor therapy

Head to the Rheinsteig trail for a refreshing cure for cabin fever

BY DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

While many of the attractions near Wiesbaden remain closed due to the coronavirus, it remains a great jumping-off point for spring hiking.

Just a quick 25-minute drive from Hainerberg is the Rheinsteig hiking trail, which runs along the banks of the east Rhine River. The trail route stretches 200 miles from Bonn to Wiesbaden.

There are 21 stages of the Rheinsteig that offer hikers a wide range of views and experiences. The trails run through hillside forest, narrow valleys, up mountains, through vineyards and along the river itself, which provides a cool respite on a hot day.

I chose to hike the part of the Rheinsteig that’s on the hillside near my home. Once I arrived at my starting point, I was immediately struck by how vividly green the forest is this time of year. As I followed the trail deeper, I noticed a babbling brook that ran beside the trail. It reminded me of my days as a wild child, running and playing in the woods in Maryland.

About two miles into my hike, the forest opened into a clear view of a vineyard. During my five-mile roundtrip, there were a few other hikers, but for the most part it was just me and nature.

Another popular route includes the Baroque-style Biebrich Palace in Wiesbaden. From Wiesbaden-Biebrich train station, follow the path leading to the Rheinsteig to the castle grounds, which takes about 30 minutes.

For hardy hikers, a 10-mile trek will then take you through the Frauenstein vineyard district, give you a view of two castles and into the Erlenbach Valley, where an ascent to the Monstrazenbaum, or “monster tree” in English, awaits after a moderate ascent.

This trail is one of Germany’s most scenic and beautiful trails. If you’re going a little stir crazy, it might just help.

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A babbling brook on the Rheinsteig trail in Eltville, Germany.

Shady trees line the path of the Rheinsteig trail in Eltville, Germany, near the banks of the Rhine River.

A Vineyard along the Rheinsteig in Eltville, Germany. The hiking trail runs along the east banks of the Rhine River.

A farmhouse on the Rheinsteig trail, which stretches about 200 miles along the Rhine, from Bonn to Wiesbaden.

Photos by David Edge/Stars and Stripes

DIRECTIONS

The trail can be accessed from many locations. To reach the Eltville portion from Wiesbaden, take the A66 ramp toward Rudesheim/Bingen for 12 km until you see the Eltville exit. Turn right onto Hauptstrasse and follow for 200 meters, than take the third exit at the roundabout. After 1.5 km, turn right onto Wiesweg and follow to a dead end at the Rheinsteig.

— David Edge
NEIL’S PUB
Location: Hauptstrasse 18, Mackenbach 67686
Hours: Takeout only from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, due to coronavirus restrictions
Prices: Burgers start at 6.50 euros; fries are an extra 2.50 euros. Larger burgers, such as the Brexitburger and Burtonburger, are 11 euros and 9 euros, respectively. The price of the Brexitburger includes onion rings. Small pizzas are 6.50 euros, large pizzas are 8 euros. Salads start at 8 euros.

English menu: Yes
Clientele: Germans and Americans
Information: To place an order, call or WhatsApp at 0176-8777-6702. For PayPal, use burt72@sky.com; contactless cash payments are available. On Facebook, search for Neil’s Pub.

— Jennifer H. Svan

Pub grub at home

Neil’s Pub in Mackenbach is open for takeout

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The former Mack Du’s on the east side of Ramstein Air Base in Mackenbach is now Neil’s Pub, but customers might not have noticed the name change. Current owner Neil Burton and his family had planned a party for the end of March to celebrate the new name and the one-year anniversary since taking over the pub, but then the coronavirus hit.

The party was put on hold, but a new sign is up while Burton keeps the pub open for a few hours each evening for takeout. “We almost made it to the one-year anniversary,” Burton said, while working the takeout window at the back of the pub on a recent weekday night.

“It’s been tough,” he said of the restrictions imposed on restaurants as a result of the virus, “and I don’t know when this will finish.”

Despite the limitations, pub fare works well as takeout and the restaurant is still able to offer a full menu, including its lineup of hearty burgers with their own names: the Mackenburger, the Burtonburger and the Brexitburger.

You can’t go wrong with any of these, as long as you’re pretty hungry. The Mackenburger has beef, bacon, jalapenos, onion, pickles, tomato, mozzarella cheese and a special sauce, while the Burton packs two beef patties, English cheddar and pepper jack cheese, bacon and a spicy sauce.

The Brexit takes it to the next level, with a beef patty and crispy chicken breast with pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions and spicy ranch dressing.

We devoured all three, as well as the fries we ordered as sides. The Brexitburger comes with onion rings. There’s also a schnitzel burger, with pork, of course, and pizza.

The pub also this month brought back its salads, including the crispy chicken, Italian and Neil’s salad — the last includes ham, gouda and feta cheeses, jalapeno and a house ranch. The restaurant also offers various specials for takeout, such as pasta with homemade spicy bell pepper and cheese sauce.

Some of the pub’s English ciders, such as Thatchers Katy, can be purchased by the bottle at the takeout window.

Burton said he’s looking forward to opening the pub up again, whenever that time comes. Inside, the bar and tables are empty, and no one’s used the jukebox, pool table and darts for some time. The restaurant hosts occasional whisky tastings — Burton says he has about 16 different Scottish whisky varietals — and he hopes to have them again, along with a gin-tasting night and special events in the beer garden he’s improved.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
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A Burtonburger from Neil’s Pub in Mackenbach, Germany, available for takeout in the evenings from Tuesday through Saturday, comes with two beef patties and generous toppings.
Industry leaders are presaging that the face of the travel industry, as well as the ways in which people choose to travel, will be forever changed once we’ve reached the other side of the COVID-19 health crisis. Opinions and forecasts cite several, sometimes disparate, sentiments believed to be brewing among the public while people remain confined to their homes under self-isolation orders.

Unsurprisingly, safety and a solid sense of security are assumed to be top-of-mind as travelers begin to venture out into the world again, post-coronavirus. Some suppose that travelers may “test the water” cautiously, while others predict that, coming out of this lengthy isolation, people’s desire to shake off cabin fever will spur them to spring for more adventurous, bucket-list-type getaways.

“We’re already beginning to see new trends take shape. For example, travelers will be wary of public transportation and plane travel, choosing to drive via their own cars to explore nearby destinations,” said Lisa Burns, executive director of the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council. “We also predict there will be a larger emphasis on outdoor, open-air attractions and destinations as social distancing phases out slowly.”

Dan Yates, managing director of Pitchup.com, agreed, “Even if the government gives the green light before summer, many will be reticent to travel and will choose remote, domestic locations like campgrounds over densely populated areas, certainly avoiding transport hubs like international airports.”

Yates added, “We also anticipate an increased interest in low-cost travel given the economic impact coronavirus has inflicted on so many.”

Despite these near-term trend forecasts, Ramer also predicts that people will be also eager to set things in motion for trips in the further-off future. “After being cooped up, people will start to put plans in place for destinations that have always been on their bucket list,” she said, “and they may even be more apt to try adventure-filled experiences with their renewed sense of freedom.”

Those who do travel internationally are expected to take steps to avoid crowds, opting for off-the-beaten-path locales and also booking during shoulder season. Tomohiro Murakami and Mika White, founders of Tourism Exchange Japan, said that they expect Japan-bound travelers to seek out smaller, lesser-known prefectures, rather than spending the majority of their stays in overpopulated cities such as Tokyo and Osaka.

Reflecting upon the effects that our collective, pent-up wanderlust is having on society in lockdown, Paul McGowan, founder of Study Hotels, said, “Above all, we must remember that travel is an antidote to all this: providing positive, aspirational feelings in the wake of our current confinement.”

— Laurie Baratti
TravelPulse/TNS

What will travel look like after COVID-19?
How do you say...?

Use your time in isolation to learn a new language

by Andrea Sachs

The Washington Post

J e suis un chat. Clearly, I am not a cat, but to fill my self-quarantined time, I have been repeating this French phrase over and over again. With the encouragement of Duolingo, a foreign language app, I have also been Paul and un chien (a dog).

To learn another country’s language in these circumstances, I had to accept the new reality. At this point, we have no idea when we will be able to travel abroad again. But we don’t need to be idle. We can keep our travel muscles limber with foreign language classes. Then, once we can roam the globe again, we can gleefully jump right into conversations with locals — and their pets.

Linguist experts and educators say the best way to learn a new language is to converse directly with the instructor or native speaker, ideally in the same physical space. However, with schools and “shelter-in-place” language centers closed, we have to take our lessons indoors, online and in isolation. In response, a few organizations, such as the International Center for Language Studies and the Global Language Network, both in Washington, D.C., have shifted with learning institutions around the country.

“Language studies and the Global Language Network have forced us in a corner, and we are making the best of a challenging situation,” Andrew Brown, founder and executive director of Global Language Network, said.

“When it comes to learning a language, nothing compares to the in-person experience. However, the circumstances of the global pandemic have forced us in a corner, and we are making the best of a challenging situation.”

If your schedule, budget or unruly nest of hair prevents you from pursuing a course of this semipublic nature, try tapping into the trove of resources and tools online.

Angelika Kraemer, director of the Language Resource Center at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., recommends the free programs associated with libraries, such as Mango Languages, which has partnerships with learning institutions around the country.

Kraemer also suggests BBC Languages, which is run by the British public broadcasting company. The multimedia lessons cover about 40 languages, and instruction varies depending on the country.

For similarly creative lessons, Per Urlaub, associate dean of the Language School at Middlebury College in Vermont, directs aspiring speakers to the Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning at the University of Texas, one of 16 national centers funded by the Department of Education. The site posts materials for more than 20 languages.

Urlaub also recommends foreign publications, such as France’s Le Monde and Italy’s La Repubblica, as a means to improve your reading skills and gain a different perspective of world events. He said to choose a familiar subject, such as breaking news about the coronavirus, and then graduate to the opinion pages, which contain more challenging linguistic features and cultural viewpoints.

“If I were hunkered down, I would focus on reading proficiency,” he said. “Reading skills come first and go last.”

The pandemic has driven a lot of us into the arms of Netflix. The marathon watch-fests are escape hatches, but they can also have educational value. Language Learning with Netflix is a free extension available through the Google Chrome Web store that features a catalog of international movie and TV series. In addition to hearing dialogue in the native tongue, you can read subtitles in two languages, which helps with translation, and look up words in a pop-up dictionary, among other tools.

“You don’t interact with the language in a natural way, but you can improve your listening comprehension skills and vocabulary,” Urlaub said. “But you won’t gain oral fluency.”

Apps have also stepped into this vacuum and are ideal for people ready to cut their apron strings with Google Translate. But educators warn users to approach the programs with realistic expectations.

“Apps give people who have not had a lot of exposure to the language the illusion that they have learned quite a lot,” Urlaub said. “Instead of engaging with real people, we are interacting with a static system.” However, Urlaub admits that he has used Duolingo to refresh his French and that “in a weird way, it’s fun.”

During my own self-quarantine, I hoped to awaken my French, which has been in a deep Sleeping Beauty slumber since college. I asked the college professors for advice on navigating the app landscape. Kraemer said to look at the app developers: Are they professionals familiar with the process of learning a new language, or a “tech whiz sitting in an office”? She also approves of apps that resemble video games with competitive goals, ascending levels of success and an ego-boosting award system.

“The game aspect of unlocking the next badge keeps you going back for more, she said.”

Other worthwhile attributes: a visually appealing design and lessons organized in digestible blocks of time. I decided to view some smelling salts under the nose of my French. I started with Duolingo, because even though I was learning alone in my apartment, I was not alone in the wider Duolingo universe. Michaela Kron, a company spokesperson, said the app boasts 30 million active monthly users and recorded a 91% rise in participants in the United States between the weeks of March 9 and 16. (The app is free, but the upgraded ad-free version ranges from $7 per month to $13 per month, depending on the plan.)

I chose a goal of 10 minutes per day and took a placement test that kicked me back to my first day of French in high school. I cycled through lessons that tested me on a handful of pre-K words, such as cat, dog, horse and woman, in a variety of challenges, such as translating phrases, speaking a word into my phone’s microphone and writing a phrase underlined in French. I earned gems that I could spend in the Duolingo store and little “sant” into my phone. Kron later warned me that students should stick to their goal time or they could sabotage their memory retention and, in my case, get a little obsessed. If I stick with Duolingo, the lessons will grow more difficult, plus I can expand my curriculum with such features as Duolingo Stories and the Duolingo French podcast. In addition, once we are allowed to leave our homes, I can meet up with other students at community events — maybe over an extra pizza and un croissant. (Nailed it.)

Babbel, which has noticed a more than 50% jump in subscriptions since the virus outbreak, lets people sample the goods with its free preview.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27
**Food of ‘the encounter’**

Book explores American taco’s evolution

BY RUSSELL CONTRERAS  
Associated Press

You can eat one with carne asada and corn tortillas in East Los Angeles, or one with flour and pit-grilled pork known as al pastor in Dallas. Travelers can pick a few up outside of Berlin’s Schonefeld Airport before boarding a flight, or grab one with albondigas and collard greens in Memphis, Tenn. In each place, you can taste the social and global evolution of the taco, according to Jose R. Ralat.

Some tacos incorporate the influence of Asian or Jewish cuisine. Others do their best to stay true to traditional taco orthodoxy — although no one can agree on what that is.

Ralat, the new Taco Editor at Texas Monthly (yes, that’s his title), has written a new book exploring how this simple dish with Mexican origins has spread and been transformed, from San Antonio to Tokyo, gaining fans and sparking some outrage among purists.

A lifelong project, “American Tacos: A History and Guide” comes from Ralat’s travels throughout the United States and examines a dish that has come to transcend borders, barriers and bullets.

“No one owns the taco,” Ralat said in an interview with The Associated Press. “It’s a living food, and I wanted to see how it is changing as we change.”

Born in what is now Mexico, the taco is a creation of “the encounter” — the meeting of Spanish and indigenous peoples in the Americas. That meeting eventually led to the corn tortilla coming together with meats, beans and greens.

After the U.S-Mexico War of 1848, the United States grabbed nearly a third of Mexico’s northern territory, turning some ethnic Mexicans into Mexican Americans and creating a new southwestern border. The taco north of the line was now on its own, evolving for generations based on the available resources of its consumers.

As Los Angeles Times writer Gustavo Arellano outlined in his 2012 book, “Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America,” Mexican Americans in Texas were forced to use yellow cheese, giving birth to what we call Tex-Mex. Isolated New Mexico used red and green chiles in their tacos. California’s ever-changing diverse population added its own flavors.

That history is what fascinated Nuyo-Mexican raised Ralat when he began to explore how demographic upheaval and mass migration have changed the taco. He found Indo-Mex, or Desi-Tex, tacos in Houston, with restaurants using aloo tikka, saag paneer and curries. In Oregon and Florida, he stumbled upon K-Mex tacos, which use Asian fusion to introduce Korean Fried chicken or biegeye tuna sashimi. Ralat found kosher tacos in Los Angeles and Brooklyn made with perry barbecue brisket pastrami charred with green salsa. “Deli-Mex” is what some called it, Ralat writes.

But of course, Ralat found the heart of Mexican Americans holding true to and defending taco orthodoxy.

“San Antonio does its best to remain what it calls authentic,” Ralat said. “And one could argue, that’s also needed.”

How could one not enjoy fajitas in a thick flour tortilla with cilantro and onions? (However, some in New Mexico might call this a burrito.)

“Still, what’s authentic to San Antonio might not be so to the people of El Centro, Calif., or even Tucson, Ariz. On social media, taco fans debate. Ralat brushes that aside, however, as a sign of limited experience.

“I always hear people say, ‘well, that’s not the way my grandmother made them,” Ralat said. “You know what? Maybe your grandmother was a bad cook.”

Steven Alvarez, an English professor at St. John’s University in Queens, N.Y., and creator of a “Taco Literacy” course, said Ralat’s book comes as more Latinos are living across the U.S., from Massachusetts to Idaho.

“To understand a people, you have to understand the food,” Alvarez said. “More people are coming together, and so is the food.”

The food is a vehicle to make sense of new encounters.

“If you are searching for the most authentic taco, you will soon find out it is a fruitless search,” Alvarez said. “You’ll never find it.”

Instead, you’ll discover that the taco has moved on, Ralat said.

Today, you can enjoy an English fusion taco in London’s Latino-dominated Elephant and Castle area. You can enjoy tacos at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where members of the Oglala Lakota Nation playfully tell visitors they are bringing the taco back to its indigenous roots. You can savour a Central American-influenced taco in East Boston with Brazilian ingredients.

“The taco is Mexico’s gift to the world,” Ralat said. “And the world is responding.”

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**Jose R. Ralat**
About an hour later, and a glass and a half in, we’re ecstatic to see the image of Brian Allard, direct-to-consumer director with Bouchaine, come on the screen. He’s looking dapper in a bow tie, sitting in front of those pastoral views, now softened by the evening’s golden hour. We’ve never met before, and yet, we talk like old friends — after Neil figures out how to unmute us — about how, if nothing else, the global pandemic is making us all more patient and understanding when it comes to technology issues and unexpected changes.

As Neil and I continue sipping our wine, Allard tells us a bit about the beautiful vineyard that unfolds behind him, and describes how the sea breeze wafts in from the San Francisco Bay to the Carneros district, where the winery is. That cool air is perfect, he says, for growing thin-skin pinot noir grapes and making “ballerina-style” wines, rather than the bold, juicy, “sumo wrestler” kind of cabernet sauvignon that Napa is known for. (He’s right, and the wines are fantastic.)

The conversation turns to virtual tastings — I’ve let Allard know I’m writing about this — and what they offer people in this strange and unsettling time. I tell him that I had selected this offering because of the reasonable price, the promised vineyard views and, honestly, the novelty of talking to someone we’ve never met. Under Illinois’ stay-at-home orders, we’re not encountering many strangers these days.

Allard says that these tastings have taken on a kind of life of their own in recent weeks. While wine geeks are certainly welcome to have a traditional guided tasting, he’s finding more and more that customers are looking to throw virtual parties with their friends. In fact, he’s hosting one soon that involves 11 college friends all living in different parts of the country who purchased the same wine package. The virtual tasting will kick off their reunion, and then Allard says he’ll let the call unfold as the participants wish. “I tell them, ‘You let me know when you want this virtual experience to devolve into a cocktail party for you.’ I’ll just leave and I’ll go in my office or some other part of the tasting room while they talk to each other. Sometimes I’ll come back; sometimes I won’t.”

As April drags on into forever, a little wine-fueled fun is something so many of us could use. A glass of chianti or bordeaux or riesling has always been a way to sample faraway places, and now that we’re hunkered down, wine can still be a way to bring a little adventure and anticipation into our lives. The notion that we can also support independent businesses across the country hit hard by the pandemic? All the better.
BY AMANDA LONG
Special to The Washington Post

I had finally reached that point in my self-quarantine: It was time to clean the kitchen, already. I’m not a slob, but I am someone who doesn’t usually have the time — or, frankly, the desire to spend the time I have — cleaning the greasy cabinet above the stove.

Now, of course, there’s more time than I have ever had. What’s in short supply are supplies. So I asked several experts for advice on making what we need with what we have at home — and to tell me how to save those precious disinfectants and paper towels for the jobs only they can do.

The good news is that you don’t need any supplies. “There are no harsh chemicals required to make DIY disinfectant,” says Lauren Benward, a fifth-generation family member and co-proprietor of the business, that her family is trying to offer moments of levity during a stressful time. “We’re all in this together, and life isn’t homework, or leftovers. “We’re all drinking together and enjoying the wines. Because it’s really all about enjoying the wines.”

In Oregon’s Willamette Valley, Project M Wines put together four virtual tasting packs, each with a different bottle of wine, that range from $10 to $220 (shipping is $15 for the least expensive pack and free for the others) and include a Zoom call with Jerry Murray, the winemaker who owns the business with his wife, Meg. “So if you can’t come to the Willamette Valley now, we can bring the Willamette Valley to you,” Jerry says.

Jerry, who speaks poetically about wine and its history, says that the beverage has long been a source of inspiration for poets, artists and philosophers, bringing people together to enjoy one another’s company and find inspiration. In everyday life, he says, many people have lost sight of the beauty and the story behind different wines, and he hopes that now, as the world changes before our eyes, they can find that appreciation again. “This is a real opportunity for wine to become something more than a beverage, and certainly something more than the details of its production,” he says. “That’s what I’m most excited about — and to be able to interact with people. Hopefully, they come away from the experience thinking about wine you can’t buy.”

East Coast wineries are also joining the virtual party. In the Finger Lakes region of New York State, a winery has kept busy through the shutdown so far thanks to its virtual tasting package that includes offering discounted wine packages that, in April, ranged in price from $25 to $95 for six bottles with $10 flat-rate shipping. Anyone interested can tune in each week to a live event with the winery’s marketing and type comments or questions for Shannon and Paul Brock, who own the winery.

Shannon says the tastings offer an “armchair travel experience” to the property. “Wine is liquid geography,” Shannon says. “That’s very much, but there are flavors that come out of our vineyard that are very distinctive and unique to the Finger Lakes region, and that’s something you can’t find anywhere else.”

And you need what you likely already have or can still get. “For us, this is nothing new,” says Cristian Danas of the Green Mop in Arlington, Virginia. “We have always made our own cleaning products, with a focus on the environment.”

DIY disinfectants

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has guidance for two DIY disinfectants. One uses bleach, the other rubbing alcohol, both effective on high-touch areas: doorknobs, light switches, phones, cabinet handles, etc.

Debbie Sardone, owner of SpeedCleaning.com, follows her “Speed Cleaning Rule of Three” to make the most of DIY disinfectants.

Rule 1: Clean first, then zap. Before you grab the disinfectant, get rid of gunk, grime and crumbs with a regular cleaner or your hands. Now you can zap with a disinfectant.

Rule 2: Spray and stay. After you spray the surface, wait at least 90 seconds for that disinfectant to do its job, Sardone says. (Chlorox advises two minutes on its bleach bottle.)

Rule 3: One and done. By the time you use that wipe on the third doorknob, you’re doing more harm than good. Given the waste of “one and done,” it’s another reason to use a machine-washable microfiber cloths. Those need to be washed after each side has been used, to avoid transferring germs from surface to surface.

Alcohol

There’s “not an ounce of bleach in my house,” says Maker, who prefers the CDC-approved alcohol solutions of at least 70 percent alcohol.

This concentration disqualifies even the fanciest of vodka bars (40 percent), so save the booze for a Zoom happy hour. If you have 70 percent rubbing alcohol, use it straight, no water. Dilute 90 percent alcohol with just a little water.

Phones and computer keyboards are a great place to start (and end) the day with a disinfectant wipe. We’re working, socializing, exercising and learning through our screens and machines, so treat them to frequent wipe-downs, Maker says. (Do take care with touch screens, though, which could be damaged.)

Soap

Everyday cleaners won’t disinfect, but they will lift and remove dirt and grease. “Basic dish soap and water is a very effective cleaner for the majority of things in your house,” Maker says. “Soap is designed to lift dirt and grease — fingerprints, footprints, jam, whatever you cat threw up on a hard surface. Soap and water can take pretty much whatever you throw at it.”

Vinegar

For glass, use vinegar mixed with water in equal parts. Newspaper stacking? Color-free pages can stand in for paper towels, Danas says.

For floors, he uses a solution of 70 percent water and 30 percent vinegar.

Baking soda

Need abrasion for grime, stubborn pots and pans, or soap scum? Behold the humble baking soda. “You can’t find yeast, can’t find flour, but you can find baking soda — and it’s inexpensive!” Maker says. To blend with water, add a tiny amount of soda until you have a thin paste.

If you don’t get enough grit, add more baking soda, Maker says. The mix doesn’t keep well, so just mix just enough for the chore at hand.

Oil

That fridge looking a little worse for all its sudden, unprecendented wear? Danas uses olive oil or baby oil on greasy stainless steel appliances. Wipe down any excess dirt with water, and put a few drops of oil on a microfiber cloth for the first coat. Another wipe with a clean microfiber cloth will get rid of any oil residue.

Kitchen table/schoolroom/ office? Need some love? Danas recommends a few drops of olive oil and lemon juice on a microfiber cloth or rag to give furniture an extra shine.

There are all kinds of hacks and plenty of time to try them out,” Danas says.
O
n the night of Thurs-
day, March 12, just hours after some of the
world’s largest concert
promoters urged a moratorium
on live events due to the spread-
ing coronavirus, 18,000 people
packed into the Pepsi Center
downtown Denver to watch Post
Malone perform. “If I get the
concentration at the bottom of
concert tonight in Denver just
know it was it,” one fan wrote on
Twitter, along with an emoji
expressing tears of joy.

Such blind devotion is not un-
common among admirers of Post
Malone, a 24-year-old Texan
whose real name is Austin Rich-
ard Post. Last year, his music
was listened to more times than
any artist in the U.S., according
to MRC Data, and he generated
more than 1.6 billion views on
YouTube in the U.S., second only
to Louisiana rapper YoungBoy
Never Broke Again.

In Bloomberg’s new Pop Star
Power Rankings, which grade
artists’ earnings ability based on
six criteria across touring, album
sales and social media, Post
Malone debuted at No. 10 for
March, thanks to the continued
sales of his latest album, “Holly-
wood’s Bleeding.” Looking back
at the 2019 data, Post would have
ranked No. 1 for the entire year.

“This guy is never really off
the radar,” said David Bakula,
the head of analytics at MRC
Data. “Every single week he is
streaming like crazy.” Baku-
la has seen the rise and fall of
every pop star over the past
couple of decades. Post is the
first act he’s seen who gets equal
amounts of play on mainstream
radio, alternative rock and
hip-hop stations.

Post even has a following
among fans of country music.
Before Goldenvoice postponed
its annual Stagecoach festival,
which occurs the weekend after
Coachella, it had asked Post to
perform. “We don’t box him into
any genre,” said his agent Cheryl
Paglierani.

The unrelenting rise of Post
Malone kicked off in February
2015 when he released an inde-
pendently produced single titled
“White Iverson” on Soundcloud,
the free audio distribution plat-
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WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

Nina Simone

Fodder On My Wings (Verve/UMe)

Nina Simone’s “Fodder On My Wings” is an album of contrasts and extremes — personal trauma and world sounds, joy and despair, harmony and defiance, the carnal and the spiritual.

Recorded in Paris in 1982, as Simone’s enduring restlessness and creeping mental illness kept her life seemingly barely tethered to anything but her music, it’s a considerable triumph of personality and genius.

The album opens with the gleeful “I Sing Just To Know That I’m Alive,” a horn-filled tune in which Simone bids farewell to the year gone by while fondly recalling Trinidad, one of the many places — Barbados, Liberia, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands among them — where she lived after leaving the U.S. in the early 1970s.

“Fodder In Her Wings” appears to de-personalize the album title, but the references to self are clear and the weariness deeply intimate — “fodder in her wings” and “dust inside her brains” as “she flitted here and there.” With an African-inspired introduction ceding to harp, chord and piano, her worlds appear together but separate. “Oh, how sad” — indeed.

The narrative, direct approach of “Vous etez seuls, ma je desire etre avec vous” — “You are alone, but I want to be with you” — leaves no room for doubt.

“Liberian Calypso” is another sparkling composition recounting a carefree night of dancing, followed in brutal contrast by one of the bonus tracks, a bitter yet stately reworking of Gilbert O’Sullivan’s “Alone Again (Naturally),” more depressing even than the original.

Narrating her father’s agonizing death, it rails against bad but lasting marriages, betrayals and childhood deceptions, yet includes a most understandable lament: “I loved him then and I loved him still / That's why my heart's so broken.”

At the end, the brief “Stop” and the even briefer “They Took My Hand” are in playful, Mose Allison mode, the former undressing the tragedy of “Send In The Clowns” and the latter a rollicking Bob Marley salute.

“Fodder On My Wings” is not an album for casual listeners or day trippers, but one that shows how clearly Simone could fold her inescapable anguish and raw honesty into her art.

— Pablo Gorondi

Associated Press

Jessie Reyez

Before Love Came to Kill Us (FMLY/Island Records)

Jessie Reyez might be petite, but she’s a monster. We didn’t say that. She did, on her official debut album. But she memorably adds a certain expetive before the word “monster.” Reyez is definitely a monster when it comes to music. The Toronto-bred artist who once handed out mixtapes for free has created a stunning full-length calling card with “Before Love Came to Kill Us.”

Before the coronavirus disrupted our lives, Reyez was showing off her music on tour with Bilie Eilish, and that combo of artists on the same bill is genius. Reyez is as unique and undeniable as her musical compatriot.

The 14-track “Before Love Came to Kill Us” shows off multiple sides to Reyez, who isn’t easy to categorize. There’s some hip-hop, dover R&B, arena ballads and pop. Whatever it sounds like, it’s intense.

“If I blow your brains out / I can guarantee that you’d forget her / If I blow your brains out / I can kiss it better,” Reyez sings on the first song, “Do You Love Her,” which casually mentions her Beretta.

She lets her fierce flag fly frequently on the album: “You make me wanna jump off the roof,” she sings in one song. “My love is ruthless,” she sings on another: “I ain’t a killa / I’ll let you breathe,” Reyez reassures on a third. She may rely on co-writers, but the lyrics are usually all hers and she shows her passion and her scars.

Reyez can modify her voice to be childlike or witty, her tone from Irish duo The Lost Brothers, has a transcendent focus, while its sister track, “Heaven’s Nail and Hammer,” echoes the atmosphere of the Cowboy Junkies at their most delicate. “Coyote Mary’s Traveling Show” sounds like the result of a fragile Sun Records session.

Completed “Migration of Souls,” with striking vocals, tuning our satellite radio to the Soothing “continental shake” and “the final tidal wave,” has alternating looks through grounded telescopes and microscopic orbit.

“Unreal City,” referencing a dream about a mended singer, is a dull “continental shake” and “the final tidal wave,” has alternating looks through grounded telescopes and microscopic orbit.

The relaxed pacing, Ward’s intimate vocals and perhaps the cap to Hank Williams, Elvis Presley and the sounds of the West give the album a decidedly nighttime atmosphere, a drizzle of starlight that settles gently on the ears and the mind.

— Pablo Gorondi

Associated Press

M. Ward

Migration Stories (Anti-Records)

The borders delineating M. Ward’s “Migration Stories” come in terrestrial and celestial forms, with songs inspired by his grandfather’s journey from Mexico and California earthquakes, as well as family reunions taking place in other dimensions.

Recorded principally in Quebec with members and collaborators of Arcade Fire, the collection began as largely instrumental ballads, mostly hushed moods occasionally linked by similar themes or visions.

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Remembering the mischief

Film adaptation of 2018 book explores evolution of the Beastie Boys

BY MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

"This is nice, just hanging out with you guys," Spike Jonze says. "I'm in Hawaii." Adam Horovitz is in his garage, and Michael Diamond is in his bedroom, both in greater Los Angeles. It's late March, not long after the coronavirus prompted shelter-at-home orders, and the three of them are on a video conference call ostensibly for an interview about their collaboration on the new film "Beastie Boys Story."

Originally scheduled to have its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival — canceled because of the global pandemic — the movie hits Apple TV Plus on Friday. Though they are promoting the film — directed by Jonze as an adaptation of a stage show performed by Horovitz and Diamond, better known by their respective Beastie Boys monikers "Ad-Rock" and "Mike D" — the trio would rather just bump up, share inside jokes, playfully razz one another and think about anything besides the thing everyone can stop thinking about. "This is crazy," Horovitz says at one point. "I got no plans to do anything except try not to die. Straight up."

There are running gags about how Diamond cannot get the camera on his computer to work — "Hold on, I'm going to crash the firewall," Jonze says — or their common reverence for "leather bad boys," the type of couches ubiquitous to recording studios, or a digression about learning three-dimensional breathing techniques. More than anything, they seem to want to make one another laugh, each disappointed when a joke doesn't work. Horovitz says, "It's a good opportunity to be able to rewrite history, right?" Horovitz says. "You can write whatever you want; you can write how amazing you were, and you can blame other people for this, that and the other, whatever. And so I feel like we tried to just sort of tell it like it was."

"Good example: Russell Simmons," Horovitz continues. "We had great times with Russell Simmons. He was really important to our band. Same with Rick Rubin, right? I'm not friends with either of them, but it was an amazing time that we had together. So that will remain. What does it do to yourself to pretend or to just block that out of your life?"

"I think that's part of being fortunate," Diamond says. "We actually got to be around long enough to comment on the dumb stuff" that we went through. "I feel like a lot of times, people just don't get that moment of actually still having a voice or still having some relevance to be like, 'Hold on, let's rewind here for a minute and let's look at what we did and sort of be able to live through that again.'"

Before Jonze can answer about his part in the process of making the stage show and the film, Horovitz interrupts — "Can we go back to the walk that you and Mike had on the beach?"

Jonze is now an Oscar-winning filmmaker. In the early 1990s, he was transitioning from making skateboard videos to being one of the era's most influential music video directors. He directed the video for the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage," an uproarious parody of '70s cop shows shot around Los Angeles that became a defining artifact of the mid-'90s. He drove a car in a demolition derby at a California conservation rally for the Beastie Boys' short-lived magazine Grand Royal. Their mutual sensibilities of mischievous creativity seemed perfectly aligned.

"Well, I loved everything they did before I met them, so I kind of already had a relationship with them, in my head," Jonze says. "And I think in meeting them, they were even cooler than I imagined. They were more fun than I could have possibly hoped. And it felt very easy to make stuff with them."

"But then I also really liked that," Diamond says. "I think that's part of being a tough crowd, it's a good opportunity to be able to rewrite history, right?"

"And it was kind of like that, this nice thing where we literally had no idea what we're doing, but it seemed to kind of work, and it felt good to walk with Spike one day. And that's before we even did our very first show, and I was like, 'Adam and I are trying to figure out what to do. Pretend like we're actual authors, wear Harriss tweed blazers with suede patches and act professorial at bookstores?'"

"And we talked about, well what if we picked the stories we like and made it a little more theatrical?" Diamond continues. "And it was kind of like that, this nice thing where we literally had no idea what we're doing, but it seemed to kind of work, and it felt good to walk with Spike one day. And that's before we even did our very first show, and I was like, 'Adam and I are trying to figure out what to do. Pretend like we're actual authors, wear Harriss tweed blazers with suede patches and act professorial at bookstores?'"

They performed in several cities and filmed three nights in April 2019 at Brooklyn's Kings Theater for the movie. "I think it's definitely our intent to have each thing sort of be its own thing," Diamond says of the evolution from book to audiobook to stage show to movie. "But then I also really liked that it was kind of this continuous arc. Like I remember how we finished the book and I was going for a beach walk with Spike one day. And that's before we even did our very first show, and I was like, 'Adam and I are trying to figure out what to do. Pretend like we're actual authors, wear Harriss tweed blazers with suede patches and act professorial at bookstores?'

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Not ‘business as usual’

Don’t monkey around when the pandemic ends, Jane Goodall says

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

E ven though the planet has reaped the benefits of a cleaner environment from society shutting down during the coronavirus outbreak, Jane Goodall worries about human behavior resorting back to a “business as usual” mindset after the pandemic is over.

The famed primatologist wants people to grow wiser and live an enjoyable life without harming the environment and the animals that live within it.

“We have to learn how to deal with less,” said Goodall, who began her lauded career as a pioneering researcher of chimpanzees in Africa more than 50 years ago. She’s worked for decades on conservation, animal welfare and environmental issues.

Since 1991, Goodall has encouraged young people to become stewards in their communities through her Roots & Shoots program, which operates in 60 countries. She normally travels 300 days per year to advocate her endeavors, but these days she’s been staying busy inside her family home in Bournemouth, England, to practice social distancing. She calls it more “exhausting than traveling.”

In a recent interview, Goodall, 86, shared her thoughts on the coronavirus, wild animal poaching and her new documentary “Jane Goodall: The Hope,” which premiered April 22 on National Geographic and Nat Geo WILD, and is streaming on Disney Plus and Hulu.

The two-hour documentary focuses on her lauded career of transforming the way people interact with people and nature.

AP: How would you like for the world to react when the pandemic is over?

Goodall: Hopefully we should emerge wiser. I think there will be greater awareness of how we brought this pandemic on ourselves and that people will change. I want there to be a groundswell of enough millions of people who’ve never before breathed clean air in cities, who’ve never been able to look up at night and see a clear sky with twinkling stars. I hope that there will be enough of them to eventually force big business and politicians to...stop carrying on with business as usual. But the fear is that so many leaders now around the world don’t seem to care about future generations, don’t seem to care about the health of the planet.

What’s the solution? We need a different way of thinking about things. We need to realize that unlimited economic development on a world with finite natural resources and growing human populations won’t work. Already, in some cases, we’re using up natural resources before nature can replenish them. So we cannot expect to survive very far into the future unless we make some change...We have to learn to do with less in the wealthier sections of society. Most of us have far more than we actually need.

How has animal poaching still been an issue during this pandemic?

It’s the animal trafficking that’s so bad. Shooting the mother to take the infant and sell to be pets and trained for entertainment. Some go to bad zoos. It’s animal trafficking that’s worth so many billions of dollars a year. This is one of the biggest problems we are going through with this pandemic. As tourism stops in different parts of Africa and other countries, poaching goes up partly because people have lost their jobs and they rely on wildlife for food. The tours give them added protection. It’s a huge worry.

Did you expect this career path?

When I began, my dream since the age of 10 was to go to Africa, live with wild animals and write books about them. I had no thought of being a scientist. Nobody was out there in the fields watching animals. I wanted to be a naturalist. From the start, it wasn’t my aim to go and study chimpanzees and get a Ph.D. I always wanted to help animals all my life. And then naturally that led to ‘If you want to save wild animals, you have to work with local people, find ways for them to live without harming the environment and then getting worried about children and what future they could have if we go on as business as usual.’

What do you want people to take away from your documentary?

I hope that they take away a feeling that their lives are important. That it’s very, very crucial to think about the health of the planet as it relates to future generations.

Above all, to understand that each day they live, they can make an impact and think about the consequences of the little choices they make like, ‘What did we buy? Where did it come from? How was it made?’ I hope that there will be enough of them to eventually force big business and politicians to...stop carrying on with business as usual. But the fear is that so many leaders now around the world don’t seem to care about future generations, don’t seem to care about the health of the planet.

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In defense of idle hands

Author says quarantine gives us a rare chance to slow down, reassess our lives.

By Erica Pearson

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Caned plans and stay-at-home orders have many (especially teenagers) singing the latest TikTok anthem: “Bored in the House.”

Journalist Celeste Headlee, however, sees the silver lining in being forced to slow down. In her new book, “Do Nothing: How to Break Away From Overworking, Overdoing, and Underliving,” Headlee writes that we need to relearn how to appreciate idleness and leisure and rethink our relationship with work and productivity.

Being constantly busy and always striving for efficiency has caused us to cut out “expressions of our basic humanity,” such as long, undirected phone conversations, chatting with neighbors, personal hobbies — even being bored.

We talked to Headlee, who lives in Washington, D.C., about the toxic side to being busy, why texting isn’t an authentic social connection and why being bored can be a very good thing.

**Star Tribune: What do you say to all the kids (and adults) who are complaining about being bored?**

**Headlee:** Frankly, that is music to my ears. When I think about how many times I complained to my mother about being bored and she threw me outside the house and let me have a blank something to do. And that’s not true anymore. We’ve engineered our way out of boredom. We just hand the kids (and adults) singing the latest TikTok song.

**So being bored during quarantine can be a good thing?**

There is the side of this which is serious, and tragic and life-threatening. But for those of us who are keeping others safe by staying at home, there might be some benefits. We are forced to slow down now. And we are forced to find things to do that are unconnected to our jobs.

**Is that a plus?**

I think that a lot of people have started to realize how much of their life was wrapped up in their job, how much of their identity was wrapped up in their job. That may be a real eye-opener for people. That may not be what you wanted — to have your whole life be structured around going to work. And so maybe this is an opportunity.

My goal with the book was to create a global conversation and convince people to rethink their relationship with work. And I think that’s happening right now.

**What should we be focusing on instead?**

Authentic social connections. Everyone has a limited amount of social energy. Let’s completely hypothetically say you have 100 watts of social energy every day. We’re spending 90 of those watts on social media, on Facebook and Instagram and Twitter. The problem is that social media does not fulfill your needs.

It’s really important right now that people understand that digitally mediated conversations — email, texting and social media — do not fulfill your innate need for social connection.

**What else could we learn from your research?**

One of the lessons is that our own toxic obsession with hustle culture and concentrated activity is part of the reason this (slowing down) is a struggle for us.

I mention in the book that most management has a 19th-century mind-set in a 21st-century world. Meaning, they still think that you should reward people who work really long, hard hours.

That’s not true anymore. We can do our jobs in much less time than it used to take, and yet that attitude toward slaving at your desk for 16 hours a day, it’s still hanging around.

**Do you think we can change?**

One of the reasons I wanted to delve so deeply into history is to remind us that Homo sapiens have been around for 300,000 years and change. These toxic habits have only been around for 200 or 300 years. It’s a blink in the long stair of evolution. It’s bad for us, and it’s time for us to recognize that our habits right now are anti-human and to go back to the habits that are pro-human.

**How can we go back to pro-human habits?**

Normally I make people keep account of their hours, because they can really see how they spend their time. People don’t realize how much time they’re spending on things. But right now, here’s what I would say. If you are one of the people working from home, it is extremely important that you set boundaries. I don’t mean just mental boundaries. I mean, you need to set up physical boundaries.

Choose one place in your living space where you work. When you’re in that space, you’re working. And when you leave it, you’re not working anymore. You need your brain to understand that home is a place for not just work.

You also need to choose a quitting time. That’s up to you, when that time is. But at that point, when the bell rings, you are done working. You don’t check that email anymore. And you leave that workspace and you get back to your regular life, which is connected from work.

**What’s the goal?**

To find out who you are when you’re not working. Most people don’t know anymore.
I just can’t do this!
Trying to home school kids leaves parents flustered

BY Gillian Flaccus and Jocelyn Gecker
Associated Press

Frustration is mounting as more families across the U.S. enter their second or even third week of distance learning — and some overwhelmed parents say it will be their last. Amid the barrage of learning apps, video meet-ups and emailed assignments that pass as pandemic home school, some frustrated and exhausted parents are choosing to disconnect entirely for the rest of the academic year. Others are cramming all their children’s school work into the weekend or taking days off work to help their kids with a week’s worth of assignments in one day.

“I decided to make it work the first week. We put together a schedule, and what we found is that forcing a child who is that young into a fake teaching situation is really, really hard,” said Alexandra Nicholson, whose son is in kindergarten in a town outside Boston. “I’d rather have him watch classic Godzilla movies and play in the yard and pretend to be a Jedi rather than figure out basic math.”

That stress is only compounded for families with multiple children in different grades, or when parents work long hours outside the home. In some cases, older siblings must watch younger ones during the day, leaving no time for schoolwork.

Those with older children may be faring better, but parents still must keep track of timing for video chats with teachers and make sure all the assignments are completed.

Sarah Karpanty, 44, a mother of two middle-schoolers in Roanoke, Va., said the reality kicked in last week when spring break ended and home learning began.

“I wanted to get into a fetal position and hide out,” said Karpanty, a professor of wildlife biology at Virginia Tech who is also teaching her own students online. “My boys, aged 12 and 13, are independent but still need guidance navigating the new technology. Their transition to a new job while working from home. “I was feeling like a failure. I thought, ‘I just can’t do this.’”

She posted a message on a private Parent Teacher Organization group on Facebook, asking: “Is anyone else having a hard time keeping up with all of this?”

She added: “My entire Facebook feed is nothing but photos of happy, organized families, sitting together at the kitchen table doing classwork and I CAN’T relate.”

When this all started we were all like, “Thank God kids aren’t affected.” But we have to be honest, the kids are not OK."

Sarah Karpanty
Roanoke, Va. mother of two

12 Google livestreams, and her own worries as she transitioned to a new job while working from home. “I was feeling like a failure. I thought, ‘I just can’t do this.’”

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The post immediately got more than 70 replies, most of them supportive, and earned her a call from a slightly irritated school principal, she said. Within days, the district told teachers to no longer assign work with a daily deadline.

“It’s just a terrible situation and we’re all trying to adapt and survive,” Illig said.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE
Lisa Smith Molinari

Family discoveries under a quarantine microscope

Our family members are the people we know best. Living together makes us intimately familiar with each other’s personalities, likes, dislikes, quirks and habits. We know intuitively what the other person is thinking or feeling, without a single spoken word.

I believed all that gibberish — hook, line and sinker — for a month with my family in quarantine. Now I’m wondering, who are these people?

Sheltering in place has revealed minute details we never noticed before. Manerisms, sensitivities, idiosyncrasies, temperaments, peculiarities, flaws, tendencies, imperfections, weaknesses and obsessions are brought into excruciating focus under the unavoidable microscope of being in other’s space for weeks on end.

The person who I’m learning the most about is my Navy veteran husband of 27 years. If you’d asked me a month ago to describe Francis, I’d give the same comical commentary I’ve given for years. I’d mention his keen sense of humor, his unapologetic lack of mechanical skills, his hilarious self-centeredness, his charming charisma, his Italian temper, his penchant for unmanly things like candles and pastel sweaters, and his iron-clad ego. To summarize, I’d jest that Francis is “our lovable narcissist.”

However, I never really knew Francis. Ever since the coronavirus crisis locked us into this unending house arrest, I realize that, for 27 years, I was too distracted by the minutia of our daily lives to see the far corners of my husband’s unique personality.

It all came into focus one day last week, when Francis gathered our daughters, Anna and Lily, and me for an announcement. He sat at the head of the table, cleared his throat and began, “Ladies, I’ve made a decision. You’ve all been good during the coronavirus shutdown, so you deserve a treat. Macy’s is having an online sale today, so go to their website and get whatever you want.”

“Each you get fifty dollars for your shopping spree,” he said with a self-approving nod, “because you deserve it.”

“Only fifty bucks!” I thought, but didn’t spoil the fun. Like many older, broke-college-kid face beamed with delight, and Anna, the 22-year-old fashionista, got to the serious business of shopping on a budget.

At the end of the day, Lily, who had inherited my sickness for buying things just because they’re on sale, had put 13 clearance items into the Macy’s online shopping cart. Anna, on the other hand, carefully selected one pair of pricey designer track pants. I picked a $20 set of cloth napkins, hoping that Daddy Warbucks would be happy that his little orphans came in under budget.

But I noticed that the Macy’s online shopping cart total was more than $300. How had that happened? It was no surprise that our lovable narcissist had ordered himself a jacket for $50. But a $170 porch rocking chair?

Francis was embarrassed that he hadn’t thought to order two rocking chairs. “I’d rather have him watch classic Godzilla movies and play in the yard and pretend to be a Jedi rather than figure out basic math.”

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Alexandra Nicholson’s son, Henry Martinsen, on his computer April 6 in Quincy, Mass.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

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BARISTA TRAINING DAY
BY JOEL FAGLIANO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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32 Root cell 74 Lifesavers
35 1999 Oscars (R.S. 75 Make-up artist
Fina) 76 Adult
37 Company with a 127 Critics’ awards
Gigafactory 79 Down
39 The cartoon leaked 80 Mikes fit
miil everywhere when 81 Get nasty
another tracker accidentally
82 Headed up 83 Source of hay leaves
83 “Oh, so that’s how it’s 84 Offering in the Google
going to be’” Play store
84 Comfort 85 Lake musk
85 To make matters 86 Premier League
worse, the espresso 87 Really stand out
machine… 88 Online label for
88 Some TVs and 89 Auroral band
camera… 90 Album
90 Home to many 90 Would you mean me?”
92 “Surely you don’t 92 The other one
93 They worried about 93 “See you later”
their jobs—those 94 They gave a boost
95 Those mistakes were… 94 Kind of deer
96 Tracks that line the 95 Exploring Prince de
97 The West’s director 96 Nail polish brand
98 National Mall 97 Trees that line the
99 Asian city with a 98 Got takeaway, say
100 Monument to John McColl
101 Get concerned with
102 Cash, for short
103 Man in Italian
104 More nifty
105 Part of a cash register
106 Destination in the
107 “Odyssey” 108 Render ineffective
108 Custom auto
109 “One,” in texts
110 Escape from Miss
111 Spy things
112 Spell the wrong way?
113 Small fry
114 Lead into a long
115 Stitches

DOWN
1 Makes fit 110 Escapes from Miss
2 Got nasty 113 N.C. shopping
3 Source of hay leaves 114 N.Y.C.
4 Offering in the Google 115 Optical illusion
5 Lake musk 116 Slowy feather
6 Premier League 117 Snail
7 Really stand out 118 Bungee
8 Online label for 119 “To be called”
90 Auroral band 120 N.Y.C.
90 Album 121 “The greatest winner
90 Would you mean me?” in the history of
91 “Surely you don’t 122 Christmas
92 The other one 123 “See you later”
93 They gave a boost 124 “One,” in texts
94 Kind of deer 125 Stitches
95 Exploring Prince de
96 Nail polish brand
97 Trees that line the
National Mall
98 Got takeaway, say
99 Get concerned with
100 Cash, for short
101 Man in Italian
102 Spy things
103 Small fry
104 Lead into a long
105 Part of a cash register
106 Destination in the
“Odyssey” 107 Render ineffective
108 Custom auto
109 “One,” in texts

GUNSTON STREET

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

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

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Over 100 pages of stunning images and stories from the front lines.
The coronavirus pandemic almost upended a new podcast about the hit TV series “The Sopranos” before it even started. But hosts and series actors Michael Imperioli and Steve Schirripa said fans pleaded with them to find a way to do it.

They did, and watchers of the award-winning HBO series will be overjoyed that the two “Sopranos” stars are providing insight into the show while listeners are stuck in their homes.

Imperioli said fans had been watching the show during shelter-in-place orders and were hungry for the podcasts. “So Steve and I had a long talk and we thought about it and we found a way to do it remotely,” Imperioli said.

Even a series regular like Schirripa is learning things about the series. “Michael tells me things that I never even knew,” he said. “So it’s pretty amazing.”

One thing listeners have discovered is that there were three final actors vying for the role of Tony Soprano. One was Bruce Springsteen collaborator Steven Van Zandt.

Obviously, James Gandolfini got the part of Soprano, but show creator David Chase found a spot for Van Zandt. “They wrote in that character, Silvio, for him. There was no Silvio in the original script,” Imperioli said.

And what about the third actor? “Michael Rispoli was the third finalist and he played Jackie Aprile Sr.,” Schirripa said.

New episodes of “Talking Sopranos” are available every Monday on various podcast apps or at Simplecast.

While many fans regard “The Sopranos” as one of the best shows ever on television, Michael Imperioli, who played Christopher Moltisanti, wasn’t initially sure the mob series would succeed.

While Imperioli was confused at first, it didn’t take long for him to realize that the show that David Chase created was something magical.

“We got these scripts every two weeks. They kept getting more interesting and more strange and more bizarre and more intricate and more unique,” he said.

And along the way, the two hosts share love and admiration for the late Gandolfini and how he led the ensemble cast by example.

“Jim was like the captain. He wasn’t the boss. He wasn’t the star. The Sopranos was a team both behind the camera and in front of the camera. And I haven’t had that experience again, really,” Imperioli said.

While Gandolfini often becomes a topic of the weekly conversation, an episode focusing solely on his contributions to the series is not out of the question.

“I was thinking about — maybe I should be bringing it up with you, Steve. There are such surreal times,” she said.

“I look forward to hearing how everybody’s feeling and thinking. How do we navigate the uncertainty of this moment? As unsettling as this is, I believe we’ll make it through.”

**Film chronicling Whitney Houston’s life in the works**

A feature film about Whitney Houston’s life is in the works from the screenwriter of “Bohemian Rhapsody.” The biopic is being shepherded by the Whitney Houston Estate, music producer Clive Davis and Primary Wave Music, the partners said Wednesday.

“I Wanna Dance with Somebody” will follow Houston from obscurity to pop stardom and promises to be “frank about the price that superstardom exacted,” according to the announcement.

Stella Meghie is in “advanced talks” to direct. Meghie most recently directed “The Photograph” with Issa Rae and LaKeith Stanfield. The project does not have a studio or distribution yet.

**People historic anniversary cover features Hawn, Hudson**

Three generations will grace the cover of People magazine’s 30th anniversary “Beauty Issue.”

Goldie Hawn, her daughter Kate Hudson and granddaughter Rani Rose Fujikawa will appear on the cover of the issue, released Friday. It’s the first time three generations will be the cover feature in the 30-year history of the “Beauty Issue.”

The cover story touches on several topics, including Hawn and Hudson’s style choices to parenting.

Hawn and Hudson talked about their family’s unbreakable bond, even during the lockdown prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Hawn, 74, said she has been getting through the coronavirus pandemic with her partner of 37 years, Kurt Russell with “meditation, nurturing, loving kindness for all in my heart and staying safe inside.”

**Gayle King starts call-in show to hear coronavirus stories**

CBS News’ Gayle King says she’s starting a temporary satellite radio program because she wants to hear how Americans are coping with lockdowns and social distancing measures.

She’s been broadcasting her “CBS This Morning” show from her Manhattan home and talked about the isolation caused by the pandemic. She wants to hear the stories of others dealing with loneliness, the stress of home schooling and managing stress.

“There are such surreal times,” she said.

“I look forward to hearing how everybody’s feeling and thinking. How do we navigate the uncertainty of this moment? As unsettling as this is, I believe we’ll make it through.”

**A24 to auction paraphernalia to benefit NYC charities**

How does an indie film shop give back to its hometown in this crisis? If you’re A24, you start by mining your prop, wardrobe and set departments.

The studio behind films like “Midsommar” and “Uncut Gems” said Wednesday that it is auctioning off some of its most famous movie paraphernalia, from the flowery May Queen dress that Florence Pugh wore in “Midsommar” to Kevin Garnett’s Boston Celtics jersey from “Uncut Gems.”

All proceeds from A24 Auctions will go to one of four charities helping frontline workers and hard-hit communities: The FDNY Foundation; The Food Bank For NYC; NYC Health + Hospitals; and the Queens Community House.
How to avoid a pandemic Patriot Act

By David Ignatius
Washington Post Writers Group

T
he last time America faced a big, hard-to-tackle problem, we ended up with the Patriot Act and a mass-surveillance program that still Rankines. This time, how do we use technology to our advantage without creating a police state?

Technology ought to be our best weapon in managing the coronavirus. In the early weeks, the U.S. and other countries saw a surge in cases that threatened to overwhelm their care systems. Technology can help identify infected persons quickly.

Contact tracing can help limit the spread of the virus. However, to make public health systems work, we need robust cell phone data from those who test positive. How can we do it without creating a police state?

The challenge, in the coming back-to-work transition, will be creating an environment that restores jobs and keeps people safe without crossing privacy red lines. As technologist Marc Andreessen put it in a recent essay, “the problem is inertia.” Rather than continuing the blame game, the country needs to unite around the idea that “it’s time to build.”

Let’s start with the first step back, which is Congress. In the U.S., does what President Donald Trump calls the “invasive enemy” without creating a “Patriot Act”? Will it create a surveillance state?

What’s needed is a trusted national intermediary that can coordinate public and private efforts better than this administration seems able or willing to do. One could be Veterans Affairs, which has the trust, self-confidence and leadership — all fixable, if we get serious about recovery.

Supporting veterans during the pandemic

By Mark Graham
Special to Stars and Stripes

The coronavirus pandemic brings an unprecedented time in our history and personal experience. Among the veteran community, there are unprecedented stresses and isolation.

The Ombudsman also responds to concerns from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted at email.ombudsman@stripes.com.

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What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Looking ahead 10 years after Deepwater Horizon explosion

The Advocate

The trauma and legacy of the explosion and massive oil spill ensuing off the coast of Louisiana 10 years ago are hardly forgotten. Most of all, of course, the families of 11 men killed working on the Deepwater Horizon platform — another 17 were injured — were forever altered in that moment of horror.

Those were not the only families affected. The massive oil spill damaged the coast of our state. Then-Gov. Bobby Jindal mobilized a major operation to try to protect the coastline and wildlife. Thousands of workers and volunteers arrived to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The images of birds coated in oil made an indelible impression upon the American public and that of the rest of the world, as did video of oil still spewing out many days later.

The economic impact on our region was serious, particularly in a coastline that supports seven people curtailing purchases of seafood.

Afterward, there was the inevitable consequence of things going very badly: a government reorganization.

A new bureau in the U.S. Department of the Interior was created, safety procedures changed, a moratorium on offshore production was declared by the Obama administration. And just as inevitably, there were debates over the debate: Workers in the Gulf oil regions felt they were being penalized by BP's mistakes, companies criticized revisions in safety procedures.

And as we continue to fight the coronavirus, the Trump administration has further eroded the complex safety rules that underlie oil and gas production in the Gulf.

For those with short memories, the way the oil disaster is most frequently seen is in the payoffs for billions of dollars to governments as well as nonprofits in civil and criminal penalties levied on BP and other responsible companies.

Workers have paid a price in last, in that the pay are large.

Those payments have been and will fund coastal protection and restoration efforts for some years to come.

That may be a lasting legacy of the events of a decade ago, although benefits that were purchased at the cost of lives and huge environmental and economic consequences.

Louisiana remains at the epicenter of oil and gas operations, and there is a critical need for EPA to oversee override for those commodities to low not seen in decades.

And Louisiana's coastline continues to be a rich and varied economic and environmental asset for fisheries and tourism, even if recent events involving coronavirus outbreaks have also sharply diminished those activities as well.

We see two permanent lessons.

One is that economic progress, while important, should not override safety for human beings or for the environment we hold in trust for future generations.

Another is that Louisiana's coast and its heritage is worth saving, and while the BP settlement pays for a lot, it's not enough.

America paid attention 10 years ago.

Let's hope the U.S. government continues to help, a lot, in future years.

Listen to protesters, but don't incite reckless behavior

The Washington Post

Public fatigue with stay-at-home orders to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic is inevitable and understandable. Not understandable, nor forgivable, is the president of the United States inciting disrespect for his own government's guidelines, which are unquestionably essential for the public health.

Relatively small protests have broken out in the United States in recent days against the strictures designed to slow the spreading virus. People have a right to protest, if they conduct themselves without endangering others. But leaders have an obligation to point out that the behavior the protest is inciting could regret the virus and cost lives.

Tens of millions of Americans in recent weeks have willingly complied with stay-at-home guidelines put out by President Donald Trump and by governors, a commendable showing of cohesion and collective judgment. But the president has raised a steep personal sacrifice. Next will be hard choices about reopening.

Doing so too soon risks reigniting a firestorm that has already cost more than 168,000 lives globally. Opening must be done with special protections, testing and data, as Mr. Trump's own phased-out guidelines would suggest.

The protesters carried signs such as “Live Free or Die in Lockdown” and “Re-Open Now.” Some of them set a bad example, without masks or social distancing. But what was most concerning was the message that somehow all this sacrifice can be quickly abandoned in the name of liberty and rights. This is wrong.

The pursuit of liberty does not mean a license to endanger the lives of others.

Mr. Trump was exceedingly reckless to incite protests with three tweets on Friday saying “LIBERATE” Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia, all of which have Democratic governors.

He undermined his own published public health guidelines and his own reopening plan. His message threatens to destroy broader public confidence in the reasons for the social distancing and mitigation strategies. His comments could inspire additional disobedience and spark new outbreaks and another round of restrictions that would be even harder to impose.

Such a cycle must be avoided. There is no arguing with the facts: The virus jumps from person to person and can kill. A responsible leader would express empathy with the millions of Americans who have followed the rules, reinforce why they are necessary and offer reasonable expectations about what comes next. To fail at this is to fail at a central function of the presidency.

Some protests may reflect a genuine cry for help from long-term hunger, desperation and fear. These voices must be listened to, and their needs addressed as fast and far as possible.

A president, our fate in this pandemic will be determined by what we do now, in the months or more before a vaccine. We must accept strategies that are working to keep as many people alive as possible.

Shouting “liberate” invites disaster.

OSHA should force employers to protect essential workers

The New York Times

Shelter-in-place orders are an effective means to slowing the spread of the coronavirus, yet workers have no choice but to leave home to go to work every day. Deemed essential for their jobs in manufacturing, grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, they face daily risks by working alongside colleagues and customers who may be carriers of the coronavirus.

At grocery stores and sprawling warehouse-restaurants, workers say not enough is being done to protect them from exposure. Walmart employees, for instance, say they lack sufficient sanitizing supplies and protective gear and are forced to congregate in spaces that put them within a six-foot radius of co-workers.

At meat processing plants, where production lines often require working shoulder to shoulder, the risks are particularly acute. And mass-transit workers say they haven't been provided masks or personal cleaning supplies.

When their shifts end, they go home to their families, putting more people at risk. But they have no choice but to leave home to go to work. The president is on the record that “OSHA does not have any jurisdiction on enforcing a vaccine,” though the problem is acute.

The agency's COVID-19 guidance for employers, however, acknowledges upfront it is not aimed at creating legal obligations.

In the meantime, OSHA offices are fielding thousands of coronavirus complaints but don't have the wherewithal to investigate them. In Oregon alone, by early this month the local OSHA office had received 2,747 complaints about workplace conditions but had issued zero citations, the local top administrator told The Portland Tribune.

OSHA's COVID-19 guidance is not alone in underestimating the coronavirus, says an Illinois Walmart worker who died after contracting the coronavirus last fall. OSHA “does not have any jurisdiction on enforcing a vaccine,” though the problem is acute.

The agency's COVID-19 guidance for employees, however, acknowledges upfront it is not aimed at creating legal obligations.

A president, our fate in this pandemic will be determined by what we do now, in the months or more before a vaccine. We must accept strategies that are working to keep as many people alive as possible.

OSHA should take the lead in enforcing the guidelines for essential workers. But it is not the only solution.

Instead, a patchwork of rules — led primarily by governors in New York, Washington and California — serve as an unsatisfactory substitute by mandating mask wearing and social distancing, but the use of other protective measures. But these haven't been aimed specifically at workplaces, many of which need more guidance.

OSHA said its prior rules for worker safety apply during the pandemic, though the agency later gave companies a way to investigate coronavirus claims so long as they were confined to health care facilities and nursing homes.

In a statement to The New York Times, OSHA said that “employers are, and will continue to be, responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace and it is their responsibility to follow the guidance.”

The agency's COVID-19 guidance for employees, however, acknowledges upfront it is not aimed at creating legal obligations.

OSHA can and should go beyond CDC guidelines to require measures such as staggered shifts and lunch breaks and construction of barriers to protect employees in jobs like manufacturing and meat-packing that require close quarters.

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Search on for possible escaped exotic cat

NM RIO RANCHO — New Mexico officials are searching for a possible escaped exotic cat in an Albuquerque suburb.

KRQE-TV reported New Mexico Department of Game and Fish said it’s investigating reports of an escaped serval from a Rio Rancho home.

Animal control reportedly captured a cat said to be a Savannah cat — a cross between a serval and another breed. But it’s unclear if it is the same feline officials sought.

Game and Fish officials say they are still investigating.

Track to adopt out dogs after ending racing

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama race course will need to find homes for more than 500 dogs after discontinuing live greyhound racing at the venue, officials said.

The Jefferson County Racing Association announced that it would no longer hold live greyhound races at the Birmingham Race Course, citing declining revenue and interest in the event, WVTM-TV reported.

While some of the greyhounds could go on to race at other tracks, Kip Keefrer with the racing association said officials would be initiating a “massive” adoption and placement effort in the coming months to try and find homes for about 550 dogs that would remain.

Office, senior citizens treated for bee stings

AZ MES A — A Mesa police officer was among four people treated for multiple bee stings at a senior living facility, authorities said.

Mesa Fire Department officials said crew members were called to Fellowship Square after a report of a bee attack.

They said three senior citizens were taken to a hospital for treatment while the police officer was treated at the scene.

Residents of the facility were asked to shelter in place while a pest elimination crew removed the bees.

Firm ‘devastated’ by fire at large egg farm

OH CROTON — Authorities said a five-alarm fire at a large egg farm in Ohio destroyed one large building and also killed hens in other buildings.

The blaze reported at the Trillium Farms facility in Croton sent flames shooting high into the sky.

Chief Mike Richardson of the Hartford Volunteer Fire Department told the Newark Advocate that the flames destroyed one building that was about 300 feet long and damaged another. He said all chickens were lost in one building and some chickens were lost in two other buildings due to exposure.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Earth Day display

People walk past an Earth sculpture Tuesday at Thea’s Park in Tacoma, Wash., with the WestRock Paper Mill in the background. Wednesday marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an observance that helped spur activism against air and water pollution and disappearing plants and animals.

Meeting ‘Zoom-bombed’ with child abuse images

CT NEW HAVEN — A Connecticut city’s public Zoom meeting was interrupted by a person showing material depicting child abuse, throwing council members into a fit about how to secure meetings going forward.

Participants in the videoconference before the New Haven Board of Alders were stunned and disgusted by the display, the New Haven Register reported.

The Register added that anonymous users disruption meetings with vulgar displays have been dubbed “Zoom-bombers.”

Police arrest 30 for soliciting minors

VA FAIRFAX — An online sting operation in northern Virginia resulted in the arrests of 30 men charged with trolling the internet to solicit sex from minors, authorities said.

Fairfax County Police called the sting Operation COVID Crackdown. They said school closures and stay-at-home orders to combat the coronavirus have increased children’s online presence and their vulnerability to exploitation along with it.

Police said the men who were arrested went online to initiate explicit conversations and solicit sex from police officers posing as children. Each of the suspects agreed to meet their targets in person at specified locations.

Detectives arrested the men when they showed up.

The men ranged in age from 20 to 74, and are facing a combined 68 felonies.

Stellar sea lion to give birth at sea life center

AK KENAI — A female Steller sea lion at the Alaska SeaLife Center is pregnant and expected to give birth within months, officials said.

The sea lion named Mara would be the only second of her species to give birth at the center in Seward, The Peninsula Clarion reported.

Mara will not be used to breed again because she is now 17 and most Steller sea lions normally live to their early 20’s in captivity. SeaLife Center Husbandry Director Lisa Hartman said.

The father is a 10-year-old at the center named Pilot.

The SeaLife Center, one of three aquariums in North America housing Steller sea lions, previously hosted four other births, all from a female named Eden that now resides at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

Man charged in robbery of drive-thru

WA VANCOUVER — A Vancouver man was arrested for hiring two men to beat up his estranged wife after she had him served with a no-contact order.

The man was stymied when the men tipped her off, documents said. Edgar Gonzalez-Gomez appeared in Clark County Superior Court on suspicion of criminal solicitation, The Columbian reported.

The woman served Gonzalez-Gomez with a no-contact order April 7. One week later, she was sitting in her car when she saw an unknown man walk by several times before tapping on her window, asking her name and then telling her about the plan, saying he wouldn’t do it, a probable cause affidavit said.

He then let her hear a recording of Gonzalez-Gomez describing in Spanish what he wanted done to her, according to court records.

THE CENSUS

The grade point average of Craig McFarland, who was accepted to all eight Ivy League schools. McFarland, a student at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Fla., isn’t sure which university he’ll attend. He heard from Yale first. Then the other acceptance letters poured in: Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Dartmouth and Cornell. McFarland plans to study medicine or law.

4.98

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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1. PC alternative
4. Baseball stats
8. Pizzazz
12. Punk rock offshoot
13. Roughly
14. Utah ski resort
15. Parrot variety
17. FBI guy
18. Grade sch.
19. Easy goals
20. “Thor” actor Elba
22. Swiss artist Paul
24. Hardy lass
25. Relaxed
29. Tempe sch.
30. Tender spots
31. Feathery necklace
32. Anti-chapping sticks
34. Addict
36. Jazzy Fitzgerald
36. Valerie Harper sitcom
37. Lose a starring contest
40. Tart
41. Protracted
42. Kid’s meal carrier
46. Start of a spell
47. Author Dinesen
48. Rock’s Brian
49. Cad
50. Pooches
51. “Cook-a-doodle—""

DOWN
1. Actor Gibson
2. “I love…"
3. Conceals, as a crime
4. Judicial garb
5. Edge
6. Leb. neighbor
7. Turf
8. Capital of Croatia
9. Ticklish Muppet
10. Sports figure?
11. Catches some rays
12. Yale students
19. Turner and
20. Stunted type (Abbrev.)
21. He loved Lucy
22. Fate
23. Fibs
25. Lounge
26. Engrossed
27. Not single-sex
28. Supergirl’s first name
30. Polio vaccine
31. Discoverer
33. Tiger type
34. “Nopol”
36. Boulders
37. Humdrum
38. Earring site
39. Concerning
40. Unforeseen problem
42. Cover
43. Mil. morale booster
44. Lennon’s love
45. Tic-tac-toe loser

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M E L T B U N I S L A
O M A R I A T S K I N
M M I A R B A Y E S
S T A N D S L A B
K E T T L E C O A N
S U R E R R I C C E R
F I S H M A S E F E S T
F L U G E L H O R N
R I P P A S E I S E S
N E A T P R A Y E R
B O Z O T E N T O R E
R U E D D E E I W I N
R I L E S O D O L C E O

4-24

CRYPTOQUIP

M X E V B S W K S Q X N
I B K Z W J A W K I W Z S L X S
I B A N E H B N N B U U L W K X
E D A F F W D J A Q S Z X M X K E :
D W - V W D I A Z Z Q B K Z .

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: THAT EVEN-TEMPERED GUY REALLY LONGS FOR MORE PRESSURE IN HIS LIFE. HE IS STARVED FOR TENSION.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

48 51 54 57 59
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

ACROSS
1 Toulse
5 Mast
9 Anderson Cooper’s channel
12 Vivacity, in music
13 Unnamed
14 Nonclerical
15 1946 song “— in Calico
16 Actor Omar
17 Paris summer
18 Big rig
19 Botanist Gray
20 Booty
21 “Spring ahead” hrs.
23 Hit CBS series
25 Dust particles
28 Find not guilty
32 “—-Like It”
33 Pound fraction
34 Spanish dish
36 Moved effortlessly
37 World Cup cheer
38 Toss in
39 Scoff
42 “Smoking or ——?”
44 Leak out slowly
48 Squid squirt
49 Look after
50 Shoppe description
51 Russian jet
52 Indy event
53 Pend growth
54 TV spots
55 —— friendly
56 Remits
58 Berate
59 Tree fluid
60 Unpaid Tar tv ad
61 Needle hole
29 German conjunction
30 “Rocks”
31 Slugger
Williams
35 Dido’s lover
36 Male goose
39 Iwo —
40 Oklahoma city
41 Heart charts (Abbr.)
43 “Measure twice, cut ——
45 Jazzy
46 Fitzgerald alliance
47 Carrots’ mates
49 Capote
22 Cranium nickname

DOWN
1 Many corp. recruits
2 Desire
3 Thainland, once
4 Single-toned, as wallpaper
5 Workout wear
6 Gladys Knight’s backup
7 Llama’s cousin
8 Hwys.
9 Nile queen, familiarly
10 Post-WWII alliance
11 Russian refusal
20 Bottled dish cleaner
40 Oklahoma city
41 Heart charts (Abbr.)
43 “Measure twice, cut ——
45 Jazzy
46 Fitzgerald alliance
47 Carrots’ mates
49 Capote
22 Cranium nickname

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CRYPTOQUIP

K Z D WQLDENMAT VMDU
WDFME D WQLF ZKLKEV D
NMUKQOE JYVAM, KN’ E RMML
UQLM RT ZQAJM QZ DRRQNJ.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: BAD POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD FOLLOW WHEN A DRUMMER QUITS A BAND: RE-PERCUSSIONS.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M
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The most at-risk sport of starting up again, in my opinion, is collegiate athletics," said A.J. Maestas, the CEO of Navigate Research, which consults with professional sports leagues and college conferences. "There is less of an incentive and less alignment with the ultimate mission of the entity they work at, live at, that fund them."

The commissioners of the 10 Bowl Subdivision conferences made it clear to Vice President Mike Pence last week: There cannot be college sports played if campuses are not open. If university leaders do not deem it safe for students to return to classrooms and dorms, locker rooms and practice fields will also remain closed. As big as the business of college sports is, it is dwarfed by the business of higher education overall. That's why the University of Alabama's budget in fiscal 2018 was $1.03 billion. Its athletic budget in 2018-19 was $164 million.

"You think of all the stakeholders and constituents in the collegiate space and all the missions they're meant to serve in. This sports thing is like 3% of their budget," Maestas said.

Colleges and universities, for the most part, have been quicker than governments in enacting measures to slow the spread of the virus. They sent students home, extended spring breaks and shifted to online classes weeks before widespread bans of large gatherings and stay-at-home orders by governors and mayors.

Even before the NCAA canceled its basketball tournaments and spring sports March 12, schools were shuttering campuses. Fast forward to the fall, when the hope is many businesses and routine parts of daily life will be operating again, even if not back to business as usual. That doesn't mean colleges will be rushing to get students on campus. If they were first to shut down, they could also be among the last to reopen and it will be university presidents, not the NCAA, making those decisions.

Schools would take a significant financial hit by continuing to operate online only, but balance that against the legal and ethical liability they could face by being the catalyst for reigniting an outbreak.

"They think they have to be conservative in how they approach this," said attorney Tim Nevius, a former college baseball player and NCAA investigator who now represents and advocates for college athletes.

If, come September, the students are physically going back to school, even then there will be hurdles to clear for football to start.

"Large gatherings of people are going to be the last thing we check off the box," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said last week when asked about Ohio State football games. "So play without fans? It isn't appropriate for us to play college football without fans. If that were the case, it would mean there would be major reservations about group gatherings," Northwestern athletic director Jim Phillips said on the Paul Finebaum Show, echoing a sentiment that is also becoming popular among administrators.

Commissioners and athletic directors have stressed the importance of collaboration across conferences and starting any season at once. But the public health crisis is not playing out the same everywhere. Within 24 hours this week the president of the University of Connecticut said he was personally pessimistic about the return of fall sports while the University of Missouri System president Mun Choi said he expects football to start.

Within 24 hours this week the president of the University of Connecticut said he was personally pessimistic about the return of fall sports while the University of Missouri System president Mun Choi said he expects football to start.

"That is not always the case with the big business of college sports," Nevius added.

Later this week, the NCAA is scheduled to reveal some details of a plan to begin allowing college athletes to be compensated for use of their names, images and likenesses. The earliest it would go into effect is 2021-22.

"Yes, college football players with professional aspirations have much to gain by playing. But not paychecks. And their scholarships are good whether they play or not. "College sports are theoretically intended to exist to enhance that academic experience of its athletes," Nevius said. "And the NCAA repeatedly says that publicly and in defense of lawsuits as well. We've seen over time decisions made that completely contradict that. This is another test with respect to that philosophy."
Davis, US boxers remain committed

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Keyshawn Davis took several weeks to choose his path to boxing stardom after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed. Thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, the top professional prospect on the U.S. Olympic qualification team was suddenly facing nearly a year without an amateur fight that mattered.

He could wait 16 months for his shot at gold in Tokyo, or he could accept one of several lucrative offers to begin his professional career immediately.

When Davis began his deliberation, the 21-year-old lightweight was leaning toward the pros. After speaking to family, coaches and his fellow fighters, he decided to keep his Olympic flame burning. “It’s just hard to say no to the Olympics. That’s like passing up a deal right in front of your face that makes a lot of sense.”

Keyshawn Davis
U.S. boxer, on passing up an opportunity to turn pro

Every member of the U.S. team agrees so far. Even with an extra year to wait, Davis and his 12 teammates are all still focused on Tokyo and the rewards of the Olympic experience.

The Olympic postponement could have caused upheaval for many Western nations’ teams in an amateur sport that frequently loses its brightest talents to the pros, even in normal Olympic cycles. But U.S. head coach Billy Walsh has managed to keep his whole team together for 2021 by selling his boxers on the promise of brighter pro futures if they show a little patience.

“We’ve always had that challenge,” said Walsh, the Irish coach who has restored the fractured U.S. program to respectability in his five years in charge. “Since I came here, we’ve turned that around a piece. We’ve given the guys the vision of first becoming an Olympic champion, as all the greats did back in the day, and using that for a platform to launch your professional career.”

After decades of the pro game’s predation and innumerable scandals, amateur boxing is no longer the marquee Olympic event that catapulted Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay), Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar De La Hoya to athletic superstardom.

Yet Olympic experience still turns heads within the sport — and it remains an enormously valuable commodity to boxing promoters, who pay higher prices for fighters they can promote with “Olympian” perpetually affixed to them like a new first name.

And if a boxer manages to come home with gold, the game changes even more. Just ask two-time gold medalists Vasyl Lomachenko or Claressa Shields, who established thriving pro careers and claimed world title belts within months of their Olympic triumphs.

“You can go now, and you’re going to have to take 20-odd fights to fight for a world title,” Walsh told his fighters recently. “You go get an Olympic gold, or if you have those Olympic rings on your shoulder, that will fast-track you to world title fights. You’re a name. You’re known. You’re an Olympian.”

It’s no easy task. “Almost like building a skate park — you can really mess it up if you don’t know what you’re doing,” said Sam Kendricks, who finished second to Katerina Stefanidi of Greece at the 2016 Rio Olympics. The entire endeavor took about three weeks and cost around $4,000 (not counting the landing mat, which usually runs around $30,000 but was loaned to her). There’s a rubber surface covering the runway for better traction, too. No concrete was used so it can be moved (although, not easily).

The blueprint was provided by Scott Kendricks, the father of two-time world pole vaulting champion Sam Kendricks. The Kendricks family built a similar setup years ago in Mississippi (they’ve since switched to a fabricated runway).
Identifying and developing intangibles in QBs

Evaluating ‘it’ might be biggest challenge scouts, coaches face

By Ralph D. Russo

Associated Press

Sam Howell has been a quarterback since first grade.

His father told him then that to play the position he needed to be the leader of the team, and that more would be expected of him than other players, both on the field and off.

Howell, coming off a record-breaking freshman season at North Carolina, has come to think of quarterback as a lifestyle.

“I know everyone’s looking at me,” Howell said.

Evaluating and projecting quarterbacks at any level is probably the most challenging part of building a football team. More so than any other position, what makes a quarterback successful is almost impossible to measure or quantify. That mysterious and ill-defined “It Factor”

“I don’t think there is a substitute for it,” said Ohio State coach Ryan Day, who spent two seasons as a quarterback coach in the NFL under Chip Kelly before landing in Columbus.

“If there was, I think it would be a lot easier for everybody. I think in 2020 they wouldn’t still be asking what it means.”

Joe Burrow, Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert lead the next batch of quarterbacks set to enter the NFL. They are the consensus top three QBs available this week’s draft, all expected to be selected Thursday night.

Their prodigious skills, prolific production and impressive athleticism are obvious. As are their few physical shortcomings. The rest? Well, there is a reason why they are called intangibles.

In the era of personal quarterback coaches, 7-on-7 summer leagues and scholarship “offers” to eighth graders, the holistic development of quarterbacks begins early.

David Morris is the founder of QB Country and best-known for a college career spent as Eli Manning’s backup at Mississippi. He works with all ages and talent levels of quarterbacks, from tweens aspiring to tryout for the JV team to Daniel Jones, who was selected No. 6 overall by the New York Giants last season.

For Morris there are two aspects to the so-called intangibles.

One is mental capacity: The ability to learn and process football. That can show itself on the whiteboard or film room, breaking down plays and defenses. The hope is that transfers to the field, but not always.

Then there are the players whose mastery of the subject matter doesn’t really shine through until they get between the lines.

For Morris it’s the difference between book smart and street smart. Both can be successful and most good players have at least some of each. There are readily available ways to identify and develop a player’s mental capacity, though projecting its growth potential can be trickier.

The second intangible is more about personality and how it relates to leadership.

One way or another, a quarterback has to be a team leader, whether he is gregarious or reticent, laid back or intense. Some quarterbacks would pick a teammate up with an optimistic ‘atta boy.’ Others get a point across more sternly.

“I’ve seen that many different personalities can get it done,” Morris said. “And so whether he is vocal or dynamic or alpha or more reserved, is he a leader? How does he lead? And then is he confident in his leadership style?”

Confidence is a word that comes up a lot when it comes to elite athletes of all kinds. With quarterbacks, it is especially important because the position comes with such a harsh and unrelenting spotlight.

“You willingly chose to play the most scrutinized position in all of organized athletics,” is a line in the quarterback handbook Oregon offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead gives to his signal-callers.

“Still, there is no word, test or formula that can reliably identify which quarterbacks have ‘it.’

“There’s got to be a little bit of gut feel to it, too,” Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. “Because kids come from different backgrounds. These guys are raised in different parts of the country, in different homes, with different family situations. Different situations at school, different kinds of leadership in their life. And so some of it’s evaluating where they’re at now and some of it’s predicting as best you can where you think they’re headed.”

NFL promotes launch of wheelchair football league at draft

By Barry Wilner

Associated Press

The competitive drive never has left Brad Lang, who hopes to be playing football in the fall.

In the first Wheelchair Football League, which is being launched by Disabled Sports USA.

On Saturday, Lang, a Marine veteran who lost both legs in an explosion while on patrol in Afghanistan in 2011, will announce a draft pick for the Carolina Panthers.

He was selected by the NFL to represent the new league that plans to play in Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Kansas City, Mo.

Asked about that opportunity, even with the draft being conducted digitally.

“It’s definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Lang says.

“Something I never would have had the dream to have the opportunity to do.”

Then, Lang will continue preparation for the wheelchair version of America’s most popular sport. It’s important — make that essential — to participate, he notes.

“I think the best way to describe that is to share my first-hand experience with disabled sports,” Lang said. “After I was injured I came back to Bethesda Naval Hospital and in late November, I was approached by a sports rep who asked would I like to go skiing? I’m thinking that I can’t even walk, how am I going to ski? I grew up in Michigan and was an able-bodied skier, too.

“I went out to a ski spectacular and tried it for the first time and instantly fell in love with it. It was 10 times more enjoyable than able-bodied skiing ever was. It really was the only thing I have found that was better on the other side of the injury.

“It’s similar with football and all the disabled sports I have been able to participate in. It makes you feel like you are on par with everybody else and how you used to be.”

Lang, a Purple Heart recipient, particularly likes the idea of competing in a sport based on teamwork. Games will be played on hard surfaces both indoors and outside, with seven players a side on a field 60 yards long and 22 yards wide.

“There’s the camaraderie that is bred into all military personnel, and the teamwork it takes to complete every mission,” says Lang, who played youth and high school football. “It is something I am always looking for.”

Disabled Sports USA has programs across 50 sports and soon will be expanding beyond that. These sports range from athletics to archery, from mountain biking to bocce. Football is being launched with the aid of funding from the NFL and the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

DSUSA also plays a role in developing athletes for the Paralympics.

“We have an official role as a multisport organization,” says Glenn Merry, DSUSA’s executive director. “In real terms, we are the community-based athlete development pipeline; 81% of USA (disabled) athletes came through one of our chapter programs. And 71% of Summer Paralympics athletes have come through our summer programs.”

“We are not the finishing school, but the open end of the funnel that teaches them the basics of the sport.”

Many of the basics of football must be streamlined for the wheelchair game. With no kickoffs or punts, the ball will be thrown in the air rather than kicked. A one-hand touch on the body above the waist is considered a tackle. Each roster will be balanced through a weighting system based on a player’s disability. On conversion, a run is worth one point, a pass is worth two.

All participants must remain fully seated during play.
Americans playing overseas fear economic fallout of virus

By Ken Maguire
Associated Press

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, Devin Sweetney knew nothing was guaranteed when it came to getting paid for playing overseas. The 32-year-old American said the Greek basketball team he played for this season still owes him “thousands of dollars.” And with sports shut down around the world because of the pandemic, Sweetney is thinking more about his long-term future.

“Now is the time to get your plan together, because you never know,” the 6-foot-6 small forward said. “It’s an eye-opener for everybody.”

American players have been able to earn livings by influencing European basketball teams with scoring and ball handling, but now they’re worried there will be fewer jobs and lower salaries in the economic fallout of the coronavirus.

“You’re going to see some teams fold or not be able to pay as much,” said 25-year-old Mehryn Kraker, who played in Spain this season. “Clubs rely on multiple benefactors and sponsors, so with companies being hit, the funding is going to be affected, especially on the women’s side.”

The United States is far and away the world’s biggest exporter of basketball players, both male and female, and Europe is the top importer. Nearly as many Americans as Germans, for example, played in the men’s Basketball Bundesliga in 2018-19, according to FIBA’s 2019 Migration Report.

Jobs had been on the rise. Americans accounted for one-third of total roster spots in the top men’s leagues of Germany, Greece, Italy, France and Spain, the FIBA report said. That’s up from about one-quarter of roster spots in those leagues in the 2011-12 season.

Further, they typically averaged more points and minutes per game than their teammates, the report added.

“We take on more responsibility,” said 27-year-old Aaryn Ellenberg, whose 15 points per game led her French team, Saint Jeanne. “The role I’ve played on most teams is to come in and score and lift the level of the team.”

The exodus back to the United States followed league stoppages and travel restrictions. It could be a much different landscape when they return. Will Voigt, hired in February to coach Basketes Bonn, said some clubs struggle even in the best of times.

“In all these top leagues, there’s always teams that are right on the brink financially,” said Voigt, who also coaches Angola’s national team.

“That’s true in smaller leagues, too, which is bad news for the hundreds of American players who eke out livings on teams from Iceland to Cyprus. ”

Any way you look at it, it’s not going to be positive for imports,” Voigt said.

Real Madrid, which plays in Spain’s domestic league and the regional EuroLeague, reacted by reducing player salaries by up to 20% for this season. Meanwhile, EuroLeague president Jordi Bertomeu said he is “100% sure” Turkish Airlines will maintain its sponsorship.

Uncertainty is a given for overseas players. They rarely land multiyear contracts, are quickly replaced if injured, and sometimes must go to arbitration for their money. Perks include free housing and the team handles taxes, so pay is net.

Veterans can fetch $10,000 or more per month, but others might accept less than half that amount. There’s no public listing, said Voigt, who has seen huge varia-

tions on the women’s side, from a player earning $800 per month in the Czech Republic to WNBA players getting $15,000 per month in bigger leagues. Shane Larkin reportedly earns $2 million on a men’s team in Turkey.

Chicago general manager Ryan Pace is looking to bounce back from an 8-8 season. The Bears have seven draft selections, but none in the first round.

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By Andrew Seligman
Associated Press

Chicago general manager Ryan Pace is all wired and ready to go for the draft. He thinks the Bears are, too.

Chicago comes in with no first-round picks for the second year in a row, having traded them to Oakland for star linebacker Khalil Mack prior to the 2018 season. But with two second-rounders at numbers 43 and 50 and seven selections in all, the Bears hope to add some key pieces as they try to shake off a disappointing season.

“It puts it on us as evaluators and scouts and coaches to maximize the draft picks we have,” Pace said Tuesday. “Fortunately we have two twos and it is a deep draft, and we’ve just got to capitalize at that point.”

The Bears went 8-8 and missed the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years, a huge letdown after reaching the NFC North, making the most of the challenges that come with the setup.

One benefit? Having dinner every night with his wife, Stephanie, and 10-year-old daughter Cardyn, something he couldn’t remember doing for a month straight.

Pace credits the Bears’ technology staff for a “seamless” transition to working at home. He said the setup “was one of the least productive in the NFL.

Though the Bears have been busy, bringing in pass rusher Robert Quinn to take the load off Mack and former All-Pro tight end Jimmy Graham, they still have some big question marks.

It’s not clear how much Graham has left after getting released by New Orleans’ front office. The Bears need help on the offensive line and more playmakers to go with receiver Allen Robinson. The wish list also includes a cornerback and safety to go with Kyle Fuller and Eddie Jackson.

There’s a different setup to the draft this year, with headquarters off limits because of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of Halas Hall, Pace has been working at home the past month, making the most of the challenges that come with the setup.

Pace also said the team has not decided whether ex-NFL quarterback Mitchel Trubisky’s fifth-year option, with the deadline in May. The Bears acquired former Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles in a trade with Jacksonville to challenge for the starting job after Trubisky struggled in his third season.

“We’ll cross that bridge once we get through this weekend,” Pace said.
Minor league teams, players face lost season

Virus outbreak threatens to wipe out summer slate

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mike Nutter is surrounded by questions everywhere he goes these days. So the longtime president of the Fort Wayne TinCaps is planning for each scenario he can imagine as the prospects for anything resembling a normal minor league season are increasingly bleak.

For minor league communities across the country from Albuquerque to Akron, looking forward to Cheap hot dogs, fuzzy mascots and Elvish-themed nights, it’s a small slice of a depressing picture.

Attendance at minor league games last year was more than 41.5 million, a 2.6% increase over 2018 and the 15th straight year with more than 40 million fans.

Among the most popular teams in the minors is the Durham Bulls. But no club is immune from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The Bulls recently placed more than half of their front-office staff on furlough.

“I’m still holding out hope, but we’re also being realistic that the challenges we face become more severe just because we are so spread out around the country,” Bulls vice president Mike Birling said.

“And we kind of need a perfect storm in terms of all the cities where Triple-A teams are located would need to be OK, which that seems pretty unrealistic right now.”

Nutter tackles each day with a focus on what’s most important to his San Diego Padres affiliate in the Midwest League, knowing full well how many people are dealing with more dire issues in Indiana and beyond. But it’s tough sometimes for a minor league lifer used to the grind of a pocket schedule.

“There’s been times, early on, I was really struggling with it,” Nutter said, “and shared that with some co-workers. I would say stress and anxiety for sure, started to probably broach on the depression. I don’t use any of that lightly, but the point is, like, so much, overwhelming is the right thing.”

The uncertainty also weighs on players. The loss of a minor league season would be a tough blow for prospects, especially those just starting out in professional baseball. While major league organizations have more training possibilities than ever before, there is no substitute for live games.

MLB and its players’ union are aiming for a pocket schedule.

“If it’s kind of fun being creative with it and finding ways to get work,” he said. “It’s probably the best way for me to pass time. There’s nothing else to do right now.”

Looking in the background of the minors’ tenuous situation is intermittent talks with MLB on a new development contract. The current Professional Baseball Agreement expires in September.

“The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the minor league governing body, is prepared to agree to MLB’s proposal to cut the minimum of affiliation from 160 to 120 next year,” Nutter said. “If you’re familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because no announcements were authorized.

“There have been no agreements on contraction or other issues,” the National Association said in a statement, adding it looks forward to continuing the good-faith negotiations with MLB tomorrow.”

FROM BACK PAGE

2017 was unacceptable and I respect and accept the Commissioner’s discipline for my past actions.

The Red Sox upgraded the status of Ron Roenicke, who had been their interim manager pending the outcome of the investigation.

“That interim tag is removed,” Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said. “Ron is now our manager.”

The only member of the Red Sox organization who was penalized was replay system operator J.T. Watkins, who was suspended without pay for a year for violating the prohibition on in-game use of video to identify pitch signals. Watkins, who denied the allegations, was also prohibited from serving as the replay room operator through 2021.

Boston was also stripped of its second-round pick in this year’s amateur draft and played in the 10th round of that year’s amateur draft and played in the Red Sox system until 2015. He declined comment, the Red Sox said.

Watkins compiled advance scouting information, and part of his job was to decode opposing pitchers’ sequences ahead of series. Manfred called him a “key participant” in the 2017 Apple Watch incident, saying he relayed decoded signs from Boston’s replay room to the dugout.

Mike Birling
Durham Bulls vice president
Emotional connections

Why sports movies resonate with us

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

F or now and the foreseeable future, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, there are no live sports to watch — in person, on television, online.

Replays of past events are available, sure, but there’s really much joy in that. After all, one of the primary appeals of sports-in-the-moment is that no one — participant or spectator — knows what’s going to unfold, who’s going to win or lose, how and why it’ll happen or even exactly when.

“I’m tired,” President Donald Trump lamented last week, “of watching baseball games that are 14 years old.”

Somehow, though, movies, no matter how old, are ripe for watching and re-watching. We’re OK with seeing Jimmy Chitwood make that shot ... or Tom Hanks’ character explain there’s no crying in baseball ... over and over and over again. Familiarity with the who, what, where doesn’t necessarily spoil the show.

With all of that in mind, The Associated Press is presenting a one-of-a-kind Top 25 of sports movies, a suggestion of what to put on the screen while stuck at home. This is, of course, what we do at the AP. We rank things. So 70 writers and editors around the world voted on the best in the history of sports cinema.

The AP Top 25 — actually, 26 films made the cut, because there was a three-way tie at No. 24 — was released on April 17, with “Hoosiers” at No. 1, narrowly ahead of “Rocky” and “Bull Durham,” which shared the No. 2 spot. “Caddyshack” and “Slap Shot” were next, followed by “Field of Dreams,” “Raging Bull,” “Major League,” “The Natural” and “A League of Their Own.”

These, and the rest of the rankings, represent movies that we love — and that explain our love of sports.

“Someone once described the challenge of writing a sports film like driving down a road full of potholes of clichés. You’re bound to hit some. You just have to build a vehicle that has a bulletproof shock absorber, so they’re not noticed,” Angelo Pizzo, who wrote “Hoosiers” and another Top 25 selection, “Rudy,” said in a telephone interview.

“When sports films work, they work because the audience connects emotionally to the protagonist,” Pizzo said. “When people talk to me about ‘Rudy’, if that movie works for them, it’s because they see themselves in Rudy. They see themselves as someone who is not appreciated, is not seen, is not valued. And by sheer force of will and belief and faith, they manage to break through. It’s not just about achieving the dream — it’s about going on the journey to achieve the dream.”

Sports help us build communities, create a shared history. They speak to how we yearn to win and how we empathize with those who lose. They are capable of filling us with hope and despair, triumph and disaster — often all within a span of mere minutes.

Movies, meanwhile, can do the very same. They might be profoundly educational or purely entertaining — and, in the best of cases, both.

Whether it’s in their most life-cap-turing form, the documentary, such as “Hoop Dreams” or “When We Were Kings” — both on the AP list, at No. 14 and tied for No. 21 — or on strictly or loosely, real events, such as “Remember the Titans” or “The Pride of the Yankees” — also in the Top 25, tied for No. 18 and tied for No. 21. Or even when created out of whole cloth, such as “Caddyshack,” which was No. 4, or “The Natural,” which tied for No. 8.

Filmmaking, no matter the approach, comes with a license to shade and shape, to imagine, to create, to figure out ways to take the audience wherever it needs to go.

Movies and sports share certain constructs, themes or patterns that emerge over and over.

The hero/hero. The underdog. Good vs. evil. The protagonist’s path. The antagonist’s resistance. Maybe that’s why the overlap of the realms resonates.

Maybe that’s why we watch.

“Hoosiers” shot all the way to No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 of best sports movies, a one-of-a-kind poll from the news organization known for its rankings of college teams.

Released in 1986 and starring Gene Hackman, “Hoosiers” led the tally in results released Friday, receiving 46 votes from a 70-person global panel of sports writers and editors who work for the AP.

“If you put your effort and concentration into playing to your potential, to be the best that you can be, I don’t care what the scoreboard says at the end of the game,” coach Norman Dale, Hackman’s character, says in the top-ranked movie. “In my book, we’re gonna be winners.”

And in this case, they were. Loosely based on an Indiana high school basketball team in the 1950s, “Hoosiers” narrowly edged Academy Award Best Picture honoree “Rocky” — released in 1976, it was the first installment of Sylvester Stallone’s series about an unknown boxer from Philadelphia who gets a shot at the big time — and “Bull Durham” — starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon in 1988, it offered a fictionalized look at characters that populate minor league baseball.

Those two movies tied for second place with 45 votes each.

There was a significant gap between the top three and the rest of the AP Top 25. At No. 4 with 33 votes was “Caddyshack,” the sole golf tale to make the rankings. That was followed closely by “Slap Shot” with 32 votes, and “Field of Dreams” with 31.

“Raging Bull,” “Major League,” “The Natural” and “A League of Their Own” rounded out the poll’s top 10.

Other tidbits from this special AP Top 25:

Double takes
Two screenwriters, Angelo Pizzo and Ron Shelton, each earned two mentions on the list. Pizzo penned top-ranked “Hoosiers” and “Rudy,” which tied for No. 18; Shelton wrote and directed both “Bull Durham” and No. 17 “White Men Can’t Jump.”

Real as can be
Two documentaries made the rankings. “Hoop Dreams” at No. 14 and “When We Were Kings,” tied for No. 21.

Statistics
In all, 117 films got at least one mention in the complete balloting, 69 received at least two votes apiece. Nine sports served as the subjects of the AP Top 25, a group that actually wound up including 26 total movies, because three tied for 24th place.

Most popular sports
The sport represented the most in the list was baseball with 10 entries, followed by football with four. Basketball and boxing each put three selections in the rankings, while hockey earned two. Golf, running, horse racing and cycling each got one mention.

Oscar and Emmy nods
Six of the movies in the poll won at least one Academy Award, led by the five earned by “Chariots of Fire,” which was ranked No. 15. Nine other films were nominated for at least one Oscar. “Bri-sen’s Song,” which tied for No. 24, was the only television movie to make the list and collected five Emmy Awards.

— Howard Fendrich, Associated Press
Bettman: League reviewing options for restarting play

The NHL is leaning against staging regular-season or playoff games in nonleague arenas when it gets clearance to resume operations following its COVID-19-related pause and its options now include bringing teams to compete in two or four NHL cities.

Those sites would be chosen not necessarily on a division-related basis but as “anywhere that isn’t a hot spot and has what we need both in terms of the arena and having practice facilities,” Commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday.

Speaking to Sportsnet’s Ron MacLean in a video posted on Facebook, Bettman reiterated he remains hopeful the season can be completed, perhaps by going late into the summer and with a modified playoff format, and that next season could start late but would be played in its entirety.

Asked the status of the NHL’s back-to-play plan, Bettman replied, “Which one of the plans?”

“We’re modeling. We’re trying to see what our options will be under whatever scenario unfolds. … The decision ultimately will be made by medical people and people who run governments at all different levels, so we’re not going to try to do anything that flies in the face of what we’re being told is appropriate.”

Those scenarios include possibly playing without fans in the building or using precautions to mitigate the spread of the virus. “I think there will be some social distancing for a while. I think there will be masks. There will be Purell,” Bettman said. “There will be lots of things but that’s something that ultimately the medical people and the government leaders will be the best able to tell us.”

He said it’s unlikely games will take place in neutral arenas in Grand Forks, N.D., or Manchester, N.H., a possibility that was floated the past few weeks. “We can’t play in a small college rink in the middle of a smaller community because if we’re going to be centralized, we need the back-of-the-house (amenities) that NHL venues provide, whether it’s multiple locker rooms, whether it’s the technology, the procedures, the boards and glass, the video replay, the broadcasting facilities,” Bettman said.

He also said the league, which paused play on March 12 after playing about 85% of its schedule, has no revenues coming in now. “And that poses an issue not just in terms of how our system works with players but the tens of thousands of people that work for clubs in all sports and how they’re impacted by the fact that sports has no revenue coming in,” he said.

The NHL is expected to resume play in one of its cities by late May.

Scoreboard

BY HELENE ELLIOTT

Los Angeles Times

The NHL is leaning against playing games in nonleague arenas when it gets clearance to resume operations following its COVID-19-related pause and its options now include bringing teams to compete in two or four NHL cities.

Those sites would be chosen not necessarily on a division-related basis but as “anywhere that isn’t a hot spot and has what we need both in terms of the arena and having practice facilities,” Commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday.

Speaking to Sportsnet’s Ron MacLean in a video posted on Facebook, Bettman reiterated he remains hopeful the season can be completed, perhaps by going late into the summer and with a modified playoff format, and that next season could start late but would be played in its entirety. Asked the status of the NHL’s back-to-play plan, Bettman replied, “Which one of the plans?”

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Red Sox lose draft pick, Cora suspended in sign-stealing scams

By Ronald Blum and Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

The Boston Red Sox escaped severe penalties in Major League Baseball’s cheating investigation on Wednesday, with Commissioner Rob Manfred concluding that the 2018 World Series champions’ sign-stealing efforts were less egregious than the Astros’ when they won it all the previous season.

Ex-manager Alex Cora was formally suspended for the coronavirus-delayed 2020 season — but only for his role as Houston’s bench coach; Manfred had held off a penalty for Cora despite fingering him as the ringleader of the Astros’ sign-stealing operation.

In a statement, Cora said he was “relieved” the investigations were finished and that Manfred found he “did not violate any MLB rules as a member of the Red Sox organization in 2018 or 2019.”

“I also take full responsibility for the role I played, along with others, in the Astros’ violations of MLB rules in 2017,” Cora said. “The collective conduct of the Astros organization in

TO OUR READERS 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.