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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Tactical drawdown

As beds go unfilled, states scale back Army Corps makeshift hospitals Page 7

INSIDE: 47 sailors from USS Kidd test positive for virus Page 6



K.C. Wilsey/FEMA

A 1,000-bed medical station under construction at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City to care for patients with special needs is shown March 26.

White House coronavirus coordinator: Social distancing could last months

BY FELICIA SONNEZ, PAIGE WINFIELD CUNNINGHAM AND MERYL KORNFELD

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Some form of social distancing will probably remain in place through the summer, Deborah Birx, the White House's coronavirus task force coordinator, said Sunday — the same day several governors expressed optimism about the course of the virus and outlined their plans for a piecemeal reopening of their economies.



Birx

It was the latest instance of conflicting signals coming not just from state and federal leaders but also from within the Trump administration amid a coronavirus pandemic that so far has claimed the lives of more than 54,000 Americans. Last week, Vice President Mike Pence predicted that “we will largely have this coronavirus epidemic behind us” by Memorial Day weekend in late May.

But on Sunday, Birx said in an interview on NBC News’ “Meet the Press” that “social distancing will be with us through the summer to really

ensure that we protect one another as we move through these phases.” She cited the need for further testing to be developed after a potential scientific “breakthrough.”

The mixed messages come as Americans are entering a confusing and uncertain new phase in the coronavirus crisis. After weeks of being told to simply stay home to halt the spread of the virus, individuals and business owners are now facing more complex decisions about how to proceed in the absence of clear guidance from their leaders.

SEE DISTANCING ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Alaska Girl Scouts to get relief loan for lost sales

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Selling Girl Scout cookies is normally a foolproof business model, but the coronavirus outbreak cooled sales of the treats in Alaska.

The Girl Scouts of Alaska sought assistance, and the organization is expected to receive a federal recovery loan to help compensate for lost cookie sales.

First National Bank Alaska facilitated the federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, The

Anchorage Daily News reported Sunday.

Leslie Ridle, head of one of two Girl Scouts councils in Alaska, said fears of girls becoming infected with COVID-19 forced the organization to cut its six-week sales season in half.

Sales of the famed cookies fund nearly everything the council does, including camps and scholarships for 3,500 girls and wages for 20 full-time employees.

"It was frenzied shopping, and people were hoarding cookies like

they were toilet paper," Ridle said of sales before the state ordered business closures last month.

Now her Anchorage-based council is sitting on about 144,000 unsold boxes filling the homes of scouting families in southern Alaska, Ridle said.

The funding allowed employees to continue working and provide online programs for Girl Scouts stuck at home, like magic trick lessons and flamenco dancing. A new COVID-19 badge emphasizes good hygiene.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (April 28)	\$1.06	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9750
Dollar buys (April 28)	60.8982	Thailand (Baht)	32.446
British pound (April 28)	\$1.21	Turkey (Lira)	6.9913
Japanese yen (April 28)	105.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3779		
British pound	\$1.2426		
Canada (Dollar)	1.4072		
China (Yuan)	7.0847		
Denmark (Krone)	6.8762		
Egypt (Pound)	15.7993		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.0847/0.9219		
Hungary (Forint)	226.86		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5077		
Japan (Yen)	107.10		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3105		
Norway (Krone)	10.5686		
Philippines (Peso)	50.65		
Poland (Zloty)	4.18		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4191		
South Korea (Won)	1,224.52		

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.05
3-month bill	0.11
30-year bond	1.18

WEATHER OUTLOOK

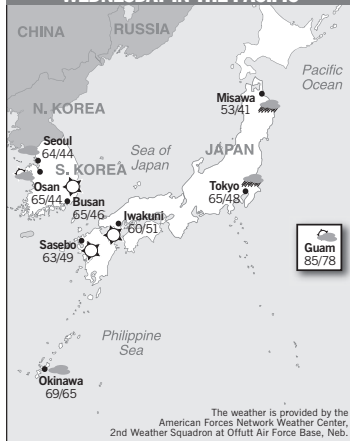
TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Decline in civilian casualties reverses amid Taliban attacks

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Growing violence since the signing of the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement contributed to a first-quarter death toll of over 500 civilians in Afghanistan, the United Nations said Monday.

The deaths highlighted an “urgent need” to protect civilians from the conflict, especially in light of a worsening coronavirus outbreak across the country, the U.N. said in a report.

Overall civilian deaths and injuries in the conflict were down for the first three months of the year, marking the least bloody first quarter since 2012, but that was largely attributed to fewer attacks in weeks leading up to the deal’s signing Feb. 29.

The agreement, which outlined a conditional withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign forces to be completed by mid-2021, was expected to bring markedly less fighting and peace talks between insurgent and government representatives. Instead, the Taliban has resumed attacks against Afghan forces.

“UNAMA is gravely concerned with the acceleration in violence observed in March and the consequent increase in the number of civilian casualties and harm

caused,” the new report said.

From January through March, the U.N.’s Assistance Mission in Afghanistan documented 533 civilians killed and 760 injured in the fighting, a 30% decrease from the same period last year.

But while significantly fewer casualties were attributed to the Taliban in January and February, compared to the same months last year, the group was deemed responsible for 40% of all casualties during the quarter, largely due to the March spike in attacks that exceeded last year’s numbers for the same month, UNAMA said.

Overall, the Taliban and other militant groups like the local Islamic State affiliate were blamed for 55% of all civilian casualties, while Afghan government forces and their allies were said to have caused about one-third of the casualties. The remaining 13% were unattributed.

Ground fighting caused the most civilian casualties — nearly a third of the total — followed by targeted killings and improvised explosive devices other than suicide attacks, UNAMA said. An uptick in assassinations and summary executions brought 20% more deaths attributed to the militants than the same period last year.

More than 400 child casualties, of which over 150 were deaths,



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

A boy plays on an abandoned Soviet tank on the side of a highway east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Feb. 22, the first day of a declared period of reduced violence in the country, Afghanistan in the month afterward saw a surge in violence, a United Nations report said.



RAHMAN GUL/AP

A damaged vehicle is removed from the site of a bomb explosion Monday in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kabul police said a sticky bomb attached to a vehicle detonated but caused no casualties.

were of particular concern to U.N. observers, who blamed the bulk of those deaths and injuries on pro-government forces, largely from airstrikes.

But while the Taliban have ac-

cusced the U.S. of violating February’s deal by conducting “brutal drone attacks and other bombings” in civilian areas in recent weeks, UNAMA found the last civilian death or injury attributed

to international forces during the period was Feb. 17, more than a week before the agreement was signed.

The Taliban accused the U.N. of trying to conceal what it alleged in a statement were Afghan and American crimes.

The U.S. military in Afghanistan didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment, but it routinely rejects UNAMA’s methodology.

The report called on both sides to stop fighting to protect civilians from further conflict and the growing coronavirus outbreak, which has caused more than 40 deaths in the country. More than 1,300 people have tested positive for the disease there.

The Taliban have so far rejected the Afghan government’s appeals for a cease-fire during the pandemic.

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AFRICOM review says Somalia airstrike killed 2 civilians

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A review of civilian casualties connected to its airstrike campaign in Somalia found two non-combatants were killed during a February 2019 attack, U.S. Africa Command said Monday.

The findings were part of AFRICOM’s first quarterly report on civilian casualties, which it says it launched to boost transparency.

AFRICOM said it’s likely that two civilians were unintentionally killed and three were injured as a result of an airstrike on Feb. 23, 2019. The strike also killed two al-Shabab terrorists, who were the intended targets, AFRICOM said.

“While we follow very precise and rigorous standards, in instances where we fail to meet our expectations, we will admit the mistake,” AFRICOM’s Gen. Stephen Townsend said in a statement.

Between February 2019 and March 31,

AFRICOM conducted 91 airstrikes against militants in Somalia and Libya.

During this period, AFRICOM said it received allegations of civilian casualties based on 27 different incidents. There were a total of 90 alleged civilian casualties.

AFRICOM said it has closed its investigation of 20 of the alleged incidents, while the other seven remain under review.

To date, AFRICOM has acknowledged three total civilian deaths connected to airstrikes in Somalia, where the U.S. has

increased pressure in recent years on the al-Shabab militant group.

Last year, Amnesty International issued multiple reports that accused AFRICOM of killing more than a dozen civilians in various strikes in Somalia. AFRICOM has regularly disputed the nonprofit group’s findings, stating that its post-strike analysis includes intelligence methods unavailable to nonmilitary groups.

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Syria reports 4 gunmen, 3 civilians killed in Israeli strike

By BASSEM MROUE AND ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon fired missiles toward areas near Damascus early Monday, killing three civilians, the Syrian military and state media said while a war monitoring group said four Iran-backed fighters were also killed.

The military said Syrian air defenses shot down some of the missiles in the attack, which happened around dawn. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for

Human Rights, a group that tracks the Syrian civil war, said the missiles hit positions belonging to Iran and its regional proxies, killing four fighters and causing damage south of Damascus. It did not give the nationalities of the dead gunman.

The airstrike is the fourth in Syria in less than a month, despite the coronavirus pandemic gripping the region, and comes amid rising tensions between Israel and Lebanon’s militant Hezbollah group in Syria as well as along the Lebanon-Israel border.

The Syrian military statement, carried

by state TV, gave no other details about the attack or what it targeted specifically. Syria’s state SANA news agency said shrapnel from the Israeli missiles hit homes in the Damascus suburbs of Hajira and Adlieh, killing three people there and wounding four. Both areas are close to the Shayda Zeinab suburb that is home to a holy Shiite shrine and Iran-backed fighters have a presence there, according to opposition activists.

Israel did not comment on the Syrian report. In the past, Israel has acknowledged

carrying out scores of airstrikes over the years, most aimed at alleged Iranian weapons shipments believed to be bound for Hezbollah. In recent months, Israeli officials have expressed concern that Hezbollah is trying to establish production facilities to make precision guided missiles.

Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces in Syria are fighting alongside Syrian government forces. Israel frequently violates Lebanon’s airspace to launch attacks on Syria, and regularly flies reconnaissance missions over the Mediterranean country.

MILITARY

Seoul rebuts rumors Kim is ill

By KIM GAMEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is confident that reports suggesting Kim Jong Un is ill are unfounded, a senior official said in one of the firmest rebuttals to a swirl of speculation about why the North Korean leader has made no public appearances in two weeks.

The comments by the South's unification minister, who oversees policy with the North, were made Sunday in a closed-door forum and released on YouTube on Monday.

“Our government has enough intelligence-gathering capabilities that it can say with confidence that there are no unusual trends,” the minister, Kim Yeon-chul, said in dismissing the reports about the North Korean leader's health.

Meanwhile, Kim Jong Un remained out of sight amid concern over potential instability in the region if the leader of the nuclear-armed state is incapacitated.

The North Korean leader expressed his gratitude to workers building a tourist zone in the eastern coastal area of Wonsan, state-run media reported Monday, but no details or photos were published.

Satellite images released by the monitoring website 38 North this weekend showed that Kim's train has been parked in the area, giving credence to earlier claims by South Korean officials that the young

“Our government has enough intelligence-gathering capabilities that it can say with confidence that there are no unusual trends.”

Kim Yeon-chul
South Korea's unification minister

leader was spending time at his palatial, seaside compound.

His last known public appearances were around April 11 when he was shown in photos presiding over a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's political bureau and inspecting an air defense unit in a western part of the country.

Speculation, including unconfirmed reports that he may be “gravely ill” after surgery or was isolated because of the coronavirus pandemic, mounted after he failed to appear at celebrations marking the April 15 birthday of his late grandfather and the North's founder Kim Il Sung, a major holiday.

President Donald Trump and other U.S. officials also have dismissed the reports.

The unification minister called the flood of rumors an “infodemic” and said the government has said “nothing unusual” was afoot in North Korea based on a careful assessment of several sources of information. Kim declined to provide details about the intelligence due to the secret nature of

the work.

He singled out the original report by the online publication Daily NK citing a single source in the country as saying that Kim had undergone heart surgery on April 12 at Hyangsan clinic north of Pyongyang and was recuperating at a nearby villa.

Daily NK has said the clinic was reserved for use for the Kim family in 2014 after the portly, chain-smoking leader began suffering from “medical issues.”

“The Hyangsan clinic is a general health center. It's not a place to perform operations,” the unification minister said, adding that Kim has been absent from the public eye for extended periods before.

South Korean presidential foreign policy adviser Moon Chung-in was also quoted by CNN as saying that “Kim Jong Un is alive and well.”

“He has been staying in the Wonsan area since April 13. No suspicious movements have so far been detected,” Moon said.

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A camera enforces the speed limit on a German roadside. New traffic regulations take effect Tuesday in Germany.

Penalty stiffens in Germany for traffic violations

By MARCUS KLOCKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Exceeding the speed limit in town by just 21 kilometers per hour, or about 13 mph, could cost drivers in Germany a one-month license suspension and a \$5 fine as of Tuesday, when tough new traffic laws take effect.

The suspension and fine would also apply to drivers exceeding the speed limit on the autobahn by 26 kph, or about 16 mph, in Germany, where about 35,000 U.S. service members are stationed.

Fines for double-parking, parking on the sidewalk or in a bike lane, and failing to leave a lane free on the highway for emergency vehicles will also go up under the new rules, many of which Germany's traffic minister Andreas Scheuer said were intended as “protective measures for weaker road users,” namely cyclists.

Even stopping in traffic to let someone in or out of a car could result in a fine of at least 55 euros under the new rules, which were posted on the website of the German auto club ADAC.

Getting caught driving 10 kph, or 6 mph, over the posted limit in town will cost drivers 30 euros, up from 15 euros, as of Tuesday. Fines increase along with higher speeds beyond the limit. On the highway, fines for exceeding the posted speed limit are 10 euros lower than in town, but they start at the same low speed — 10 kph above the limit. Speed limits are in force on around 40% of the highway system in Germany, which is the only country in Europe without a general speed limit.

Drivers who are caught parking their vehicle on sidewalks, in spaces for handicapped people or electric vehicles, or in bike lanes will be fined at least 55 euros. Prior to the rule change, the fines for such parking violations started at 20 euros.

But the sternest punishments are for drivers who fail to leave open a lane on the highway for emergency vehicles, or who drive behind an emergency vehicle as it makes its way down the “rescue lane.” Previously, drivers caught either of those would have cost drivers 200 euros and two points on their license. As of Tuesday, the fine for either is 240 euros, and a one-month license suspension, plus two points.

Motorists' organizations and lawmakers were quick to criticize the new rules.

Roadside assistance provider Mobile in Germany called them a “driver's license destruction machine.” Alliance 90/Greens lawmaker Stefan Gelbhaar said the new rules were “sloppy and incomplete” in places, and Oliver Luksik of the pro-business Free Democratic Party told Der Spiegel magazine that threatening to suspend someone's license for a month if they drive 26 kph above the limit on the highway was “impractical and exaggerated.”

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US still world's biggest military spender

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. continues to drive growth in global military spending, which saw its largest annual increase in a decade as European countries also ramped up expenditures, a new report on defense spending said.

Global military spending rose by 3.6% year-on-year to reach \$1.9 trillion in 2019, the highest level since the 2008 financial crisis gutted many military budgets, said the report released Sunday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Since 2010, global military spending has increased by 7.2%, it said.

The U.S. was by far the biggest spender, with its \$732 billion military budget accounting for more than a third of global military spending last year and marking an increase of 5.3% compared with 2018, the report said.

“The increase in U.S. spending in 2019 alone was equivalent to the entirety of Germany's military expenditure for that year,” it said.

But Germany, which in recent years has faced harsh criticism from President Donald Trump for its lackluster investment in defense, also posted big gains. Spending by Berlin increased by 20% in 2019 to \$49.3 billion — the largest increase among the top 15 military spenders, SIPRI said.

“The growth in German military spending can partly be explained by the perception of an increased threat from Russia, shared by many North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states,” SIPRI researcher Diego Lopes da Silva said in a statement.

There also were sharp increases in countries that made major weapons system acquisitions, such as Bulgaria, where military spending increased by 127%, and Romania, up by 17%.

China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia



ANTONIO GARCIA/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marines participate in an exercise in Sweden in 2019. The U.S. accounted for 38% of global military expenditures last year, a report released Sunday shows.

rounded out the top five behind the U.S. Together, they accounted for nearly two-thirds of global military spending.

China is estimated to have spent \$261 billion on its military in 2019, or 14% of the global total and just over 5% more than in 2018. Compared with 2010, what China spent on its military has increased by 85%, the report said.

A 6.8% increase in India's military spending in 2019 and a 16% decline in Saudi Arabia meant India moved into third place for the first time since SIPRI began tracking global military spending, the re-

port said. SIPRI has been compiling its military spending database since 1949.

Russia's spending increased by 4.5% compared with 2018, also pushing it past Saudi Arabia.

“The drop in military spending in 2019 was unexpected as Saudi Arabia continued its military operations in Yemen and, after a missile attack caused significant damage to its oil industry in September 2019, tensions with Iran increased,” SIPRI said.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Nations, US states each chart own path on reopening

Associated Press

LONDON — A thinner-looking British Prime Minister Boris Johnson returned to work Monday after a bout with the coronavirus and strongly warned against easing the country's lockdown, even as other European countries and U.S. states began lifting restrictions to get their economies going again.

The shutdowns are being eased piecemeal, with governments charting their own path as they seek to reopen for business without triggering a second wave of infections. Hair salons, restaurants and beaches, for example, are opening in some states, while such steps are weeks away elsewhere.

Johnson, recovering from an infection that nearly cost the 55-year-old his life, said that Britain is starting to "turn the tide" on the outbreak, but added that this is "the moment of maximum risk." The country's lockdown runs through at least May 7.

"I refuse to throw away all the effort and the sacrifice of the British people and to risk a second major outbreak and huge loss of life and the overwhelming of the NHS," or National Health Service, he said. "I ask you to contain your impatience."

The official death toll topped 200,000 worldwide, with about 3 million confirmed infections, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The true toll is believed to be much higher, because of inadequate testing, differences in counting the dead

and efforts by some governments to conceal the extent of their outbreaks.

The number of dead in the U.S. reached about 55,000 — close to the 58,000 U.S. troops killed during the Vietnam War. Italy, Britain, Spain and France accounted for more than 20,000 deaths each.

In the state of Georgia, where Republican Gov. Brian Kemp has moved aggressively to get businesses back on track, restaurants received the go-ahead to resume dine-in service on Monday as long as they follow certain restrictions, including keeping tables 6 feet apart.

Technology is likely to play an important role in helping countries ease their restrictions. Many governments are working on mobile virus-tracking apps and other technology, keen for automated solutions to the time-consuming task of tracing an infected person's contacts. The apps can detect when a user comes near someone who is infected.

Activists and researchers worry about the privacy implications. "We can't allow our response to this pandemic to be used as a justification for compromising people's digital safety and security," said Michael Kleinman, director of Amnesty International's Silicon Valley Initiative.

In Australia, which has had about 80 COVID-19 deaths, 1.1 million of the country's 26 million people downloaded a new contact-tracing app within 12 hours of its becoming available. The government said that at least 40%



FRANK AUGSTEN/AP

People talk on a bench and keep their distance in a park in London on Monday.

of the population needs to use the technology for it to be effective.

Australian officials intend to outlaw the use of the collected data for purposes other than tracing potential COVID-19 cases.

Singapore was among the first to launch its contact-tracing app. Other countries, including France, Switzerland and Britain, are also developing their own. Italy has one that will be voluntary.

Seven weeks into Italy's strict lockdown, Premier Giuseppe Conte laid out a long-awaited timetable Sunday for easing restrictions. Factories, construction sites and wholesale supply businesses can resume when they implement safety measures.

Starting May 4, parks and gardens will reopen, funerals will be allowed and people can visit relatives in the same region. Stores and museums reopen May 18 and professional sports teams can re-

sume training the same day, while restaurants, cafes and salons will be back in business on June 1.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will present details for a "de-escalation" of his country's lockdown Tuesday, but said that it will be cautious. His French and Greek counterparts will also unveil their reopening plans the same day.

Spain's easing of restrictions kicked off Sunday when children under 14 were allowed to go outside and play for the first time in six weeks. Health authorities urged parents to be responsible after some beachfronts and city promenades filled up with families.

"The impact in the epidemic can be a step backwards that can be much harder than what we have seen until now," warned Fernando Simon, head of Spain's health emergency coordination center.

The Czech Republic, another country with few COVID-19 deaths, also moved to ease restrictions, opening smaller stores, zoos, botanical parks, fitness centers and driving schools. Public gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed, but social distancing and face masks remain mandatory.

In a boost for the economy, the three Czech plants of Skoda Auto belonging to Germany's Volkswagen renewed production Monday. The company employs some 34,000 people.

In other encouraging signs, Italy on Sunday recorded its lowest 24-hour number of deaths since mid-March, with 260. New York state also registered its fewest since late last month with 367.

In China, state-run media said that hospitals in Wuhan, the pandemic's original epicenter, no longer have any COVID-19 patients.

Distancing: Governors defend decisions to begin reopening their states

FROM FRONT PAGE

In places where restaurant dining rooms are reopening, is it safe to go? Is it a good idea to return to the hair salon for a much-needed trim? And for business owners facing a litany of new guidelines about how to reopen without endangering their workers or customers, are the risks worth it?

Emily Landon, chief infectious disease epidemiologist at University of Chicago Medicine, said that those calculations are tricky for people in states that are beginning to reopen because of the continued lack of widespread testing and the inability to effectively track people who might have been infected.

"It's hard for me to know what I'd do" in one of the states where governors have announced that spas and salons are able to reopen, Landon said. "I wouldn't go,

And I wouldn't recommend that my family went. I would recommend that people stay home."

Landon said that in her view, it's still not safe for states to fully reopen — or for Americans to try to resume their lives as they were before the pandemic hit.

"This is a brand-new virus, and we have to do these things in a measured way," she said. "Without requirements for things like [personal protective equipment], social distancing and really thoughtful policies for how to do these openings, it's not the time to do them."

In its broad guidelines for states to follow as they begin a phased reopening, the White House earlier this month recommended that a number of criteria, such as increasing capacity for testing and contact tracing, should be met before proceeding.

Across the country, however,

some states are already relaxing their social distancing restrictions amid pressure from protesters, business groups and others.

On Sunday, several governors defended their decision to do so, arguing that their states' closures have successfully achieved their goal of building hospital capacity, acquiring personal protective equipment and reducing the spread of the pandemic's growth.

"The facts in our state are: March 30, we peaked in hospitalizations, with 560 across the state," Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican, said on "Fox News Sunday." "Today we have 300 across the state in our hospitals. We think it's time for a measured reopening."

Stitt said that more than 55,000 Oklahomans have been tested and that the positive rate was 6.3%. He also noted that no one is obliged to reopen a business.

"I'm giving guidance," he said. "If a restaurant doesn't feel like they're ready to reopen, they don't have to."

On CNN's "State of the Union," Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, also defended his decision to partially reopen his state, and maintained that he is focused on social distancing measures that are sustainable for the coming weeks and months.

"We've really been laser-focused on figuring out how we can endure and sustain these kinds of social distancing measures," Polis said. "If we can't succeed in doing that, the stay-at-home was for nothing."

Polis said that an apparent spike in coronavirus cases in Colorado was attributable to previous tests which were just confirmed and added to the total, and does not reflect the present situation.

While Pence and President

Donald Trump have, in recent weeks, voiced optimism about the speed with which they expect the country to be able to reopen, Birx and Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have voiced caution.

On "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Birx was asked about Pence's remark to a Cleveland radio station last week that "if you look at the trends today, that I think by Memorial Day weekend we will largely have this coronavirus epidemic behind us."

She appeared to contradict Pence's comment, projecting that social distancing will continue through the summer, and said that the country needs to have a "breakthrough" in testing for antigens — molecules or molecular structures that trigger an immune response — to get on track toward normalcy.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Officials utilize Roosevelt cases to analyze virus

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO—An investigation by the Navy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into the outbreak of the coronavirus on board the San Diego-based aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt could yield data valuable not just to the military, but also to the greater scientific community in the race to better understand the virus, the Navy says.

The Roosevelt has been tied up in Guam for the last month as the virus spread throughout its crew.

More than 17% of the ship's approximately 4,845 sailors have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Chief Petty Officer Charles Thacker, 41, died from the virus this month.

Since Monday, the Navy has been surveying members of the crew as part of its investigation. The Navy and CDC said previously they hoped to survey 1,000 sailors, obtaining saliva and blood tests.

Cmdr. Denver Applehans, a

spokesman for the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, said in an email Friday the service asked 1,400 sailors to participate. The Navy fell well short of that goal.

"We are very thankful to the roughly 400 crewmembers of the USS Theodore Roosevelt who provided specimens for this outbreak investigation," Applehans wrote in an email. "It's worth noting that the USS Theodore Roosevelt's crew has been impacted by this virus harder than any other military unit and there are many competing demands on the crew to get the ship clean and ready to return to sea. We can't overemphasize our appreciation for those who did volunteer."

The goal of the investigation, officials say, is to better understand the behavior of the virus and to apply those lessons to other Navy ships and military units.

The outbreak on the Roosevelt presents an opportunity to understand how the disease spreads in a relatively controlled environment, said Shane Crotty, a virologist and professor in the Vaccine



NICHOLAS V. HUYNH, U.S. NAVY/AP

While the USS Theodore Roosevelt, seen above on March 18, has been docked on Guam for a month, the Navy and CDC have been investigating the outbreak of coronavirus aboard the ship.

Discovery Division at La Jolla Institute for Immunology in San Diego.

"It's really an outstanding opportunity to learn more," Crotty said. "That's the type of scenario — a controlled environment, far fewer variables — it's the kind of situation epidemiologists love because of the minimization of variables. For my side, we're very interested in understanding viral immunology — the response (to the virus). In particular, how that would help vaccine development."

The development of an effective vaccine for the coronavirus

is seen by many as key to getting life around the world back to normal. The La Jolla Institute for Immunology is leading an international effort to collect antibody samples, which are key in vaccine development.

Blood samples from the Roosevelt investigation will be tested at the CDC's laboratory in Atlanta using the agency's new serology test, which can identify antibodies and tell researchers whether a person has been exposed to the virus even if they are showing no symptoms.

On the Roosevelt, Applehans said, the rate of asymptomatic

sailors testing positive for the virus is on the high end of what the CDC says can be expected in the general population.

Among the questions Crotty has is whether asymptomatic people who test positive for the virus develop an immune response — something the CDC's antibody test might reveal.

"From my area in expertise, for us thinking about vaccine development and immunity, one missing piece is: Do asymptomatic cases develop top immune responses or not?" Crotty said. "The blood tests on the sailors should reveal that pretty quickly."

Some vets must file forms to get stimulus aid for dependents

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs said stimulus checks will automatically be sent to veterans who receive VA benefits but don't typically file tax returns. However, those veterans need to fill out an online form to get additional money for dependents.

The deadline for veterans to submit information to the Internal Revenue Service is May 5, the IRS announced Monday. Otherwise, they won't receive the extra \$500 per dependent that the government approved for most Americans.

Lawmakers learned last week that some veterans would be required to send infor-

mation about dependents to the IRS. It applies to disabled or low-income veterans and surviving family members who receive monthly compensation from the VA but didn't file tax returns for 2018 or 2019.

The IRS originally set a deadline of April 22 but extended it after receiving criticism about so little notice. Veterans should go to the IRS website to submit the information.

"We don't want anyone missing out on the full amount they're qualified for," the IRS said in a video message Monday morning.

Soon after Congress approved a \$2 trillion stimulus package in March that included direct payments to Americans, lawmakers and veterans advocates warned that a significant number of disabled veter-

ans may never receive them because they don't typically file annual tax returns.

The VA and Treasury Department worked together to find a method to automatically send those veterans their checks without them having to file additional paperwork. Lawmakers celebrated the effort but learned last week that those veterans would still have to send information about their dependents.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., wrote a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, asking him to find a method to send money for veterans and their dependents without them having to submit information online.

"It is disabled veterans with dependents who will miss out on funds that are owed to them, making it more difficult to support

and care for their families," Takano said.

"I urge VA to do whatever it can to identify veterans with dependents and to ensure that Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service have the information they need to automatically provide full stimulus payments to everyone who is owed them."

As of Monday, the IRS said the amount of money they've owed is to go online. If veterans miss the May 5 deadline, they'll have to wait until 2021 to claim the extra \$500 on a 2020 tax return.

To file for a check for dependents, go to: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

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47 sailors infected aboard the USS Kidd after first case evacuated

By CATLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The coronavirus outbreak aboard the USS Kidd has increased to 47 sailors, as the illness continues to spread among the crew since the first sailor was evacuated from the ship four days ago.

The guided-missile destroyer has had 45% of the crew tested for the coronavirus and two sailors have been medically evacuated

to the United States, the Navy reported Monday.

The ship was operating as part of a counterdrug mission in waters under U.S. Southern Command's responsibility when the outbreak was first reported. The destroyer class that includes the Kidd has a crew of about 330 sailors, according to the Navy.

The USS Makin Island, an amphibious assault ship, is providing medical support for the Kidd while at sea. The Makin Island

has a surgical team, an intensive care unit, and additional testing capability, according to the Navy. The Kidd already has a Navy medical evaluation team aboard the ship to help with the virus outbreak.

Fifteen sailors from the Kidd have been transported to the Makin Island due to persistent symptoms but none of them are in intensive care or on ventilators, according to the Navy.

The sailors on the Kidd are

wearing protective equipment and N95 masks and the ship is heading to port to manage the outbreak and clean the ship.

As of Monday, the Navy has had 1,659 total cases of the coronavirus among its sailors, the highest among the military services.

On Saturday, when it was reported that the cases on the Kidd had increased to 33, Cmdr. Matt Noland, the executive officer of the destroyer, wrote on the ship's official Facebook page that doc-

tors aboard the ship are testing sailors for the coronavirus and caring for the confirmed cases.

"I am an optimist, but make no mistake, Kidd is in a fight right now against [the coronavirus] and against anyone out there who might want to capitalize on what they perceive as a weakness," he wrote. "Your sailors are responding to this like warriors, and we are not weak. We are strong."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

As beds go unfilled, states reduce Army hospitals

BY PAUL SONNE
AND MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has sprung into action in response to COVID-19, fanning out across the country to convert dozens of conference centers, dorms and hotels into makeshift hospitals in a heroic and all effort for American cities.

But as the engineers and contractors take their hammers and hard hats to the front lines of the evolving pandemic, social distancing measures are reducing estimates of hospital overload, raising questions about how many of the facilities constructed as part of the Corps' broader \$1.7 billion COVID-19 response effort will ultimately be used at their own near capacity — or even at all.

The Corps said that it is building at least 32 facilities through contractors, 17 of which the Pentagon said have been completed as of Friday, including at New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The Corps said that it is providing designs for another 52 temporary hospitals that it states are erecting on their own. In total, the sites would add more than 33,000 beds nationwide at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

States are already beginning to scale back. New York has hit the brakes on opening three of the makeshift facilities the Army Corps of Engineers has completed in Westchester County and on Long Island, and has scrapped construction on another four. Virginia paused plans for three large field hospitals in Richmond, Hampton and Fairfax counties that it was planning to build using Army Corps plans. And Michigan downsized a Corps-built facility outside Detroit from 1,110 to 250 beds.

Sites that have opened so far have seen low occupancy rates. The first Corps-built makeshift hospital to come online, at the Javits Center, is about 20% occupied. It has roughly 200 patients

at the moment, down from a little over 400 at its peak, according to a state official. Only about 33 patients have been treated at a 970-bed Army Corps-built facility at the TCF Center, a convention center in Detroit, since it opened on April 10, after hospitals in the area surged their capacity.

"Regarding the convention center beds that the Army Corps of Engineers are building, they are built to those in response to requests from governors in states," Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the No. 2 officer at the Pentagon, said in a briefing Wednesday. "I've been asked, 'Does it bother you when you look at those convention centers and you see that the beds are empty?' For gosh sakes, no. That's what I want to see."

Federal, state and local officials have echoed Hyten. They said the possibility that such facilities will not be fully occupied or even opened should be seen as an indication of success — a testament to the impact of social distancing restrictions, as well as measures that hospitals have taken to free up and add beds, including by pausing elective surgeries.

Some officials also noted that the makeshift hospital sites will now be ready if the nation faces a second wave of COVID-19 infections later in the year, which could stress hospitals even more if it coincides directly with the start of flu season.

The New York state official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly, said that the state can get the Corps-built facilities that stopped short of opening running in 10 to 14 days, and will do so at the first sign the numbers are moving in the wrong direction.

Michigan is also watching the situation closely. "A surge has hit and what we saw was hospitals were in a better position to manage the patient load last week, and so we are continuing to watch the situation closely," said Michelle Grinnell, a



SEAN MADDEN/U.S. Air National Guard

New York Army National Guard soldiers take inventory last month of the initial shipments of a FEMA Field Hospital during setup at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. The center was the first makeshift hospital to come online and is about 20% occupied.

spokeswoman for the alternative care facilities in Michigan. "We want to make sure [we have] the resources and the beds should the need be."

It isn't only overflow facilities the Army Corps of Engineers built that so far have seen low usage.

The military has also deployed two massive hospital ships, the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy, to the East and West coasts, and sent Army field hospitals to the country's hardest-hit areas.

The Comfort, originally sent to treat non-coronavirus patients but later converted to handle those infected with the virus, is expected to leave New York City as early as late April after treating about 180 patients over three weeks. Some of the personnel from the USNS Mercy, currently in Los Angeles, have been reassigned to a skilled nursing facility in California's Orange County.

The Army, after establishing its first COVID-19 field hospital in Seattle earlier this month, shut-

tered that facility without seeing a single patient.

"They were prepared for a situation where they wouldn't have the capacity in their hospitals, and so we built that capacity in record time," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Charles McConville said. "And then when they realized that they had flattened the curve in Washington state, they decided they no longer needed that capability. We basically boxed that hospital back up."

The race to increase the number of hospital beds began in many states in March, when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said that his state, the hardest hit in the nation, would be operating under a "prepare for the worst, hope for the best" approach. New York, according to the state official, set a goal to expand the number of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients in the state to 110,000.

That effort focused primarily on existing facilities. According to the New York state official, the

governor directed hospitals to increase their capacity by 50%, with some medical centers converting cafeterias, lobbies and physical therapy units to spaces that could handle COVID-19 patients. At the same time, hospitals stopped taking elective surgery patients to free up beds. Patients that normally might have been admitted out of caution in some cases stayed home.

All told, New York scaled up to about 90,000 available beds over a few weeks, up from 53,000 initially, the official said. That occurred as the Army Corps of Engineers built alternative facilities such as the one at the Javits Center, initially designed to take non-virus patients as a "relief valve" for local hospitals but later converted to a COVID-19 facility.

Social distancing restrictions began impacting the infection rate, and New York ultimately peaked with about 20,000 COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals. Today, that number is down to about 15,500, the official said.

Italy closes schools through September; DODEA-Europe weighs options

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
AND JENNIFER SVAN
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Italian schools won't reopen until September, a decision that could impact U.S. bases in the country as military officials determine whether to recommend online instruction for the remainder of the school year in Europe.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced the decision during a televised address Monday, along with relaxed coronavirus response measures throughout the country that would allow freedom of movement within regions, restaurant takeout service and parks to reopen beginning May 4.

Although no decisions have been made yet on whether to physically reopen Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Europe this school year, U.S. Army Garrison Italy's schools and child care centers closed when the Italians shuttered theirs Feb. 24.

Michelle Howard-Brahamney, superintendent of DODEA Europe's south district, said Friday in a video posted on Facebook that they would "work closely with our host nation and our military commands about the status of our schools."

She said that officials were developing plans for high school graduation, possibly virtual, and plans for collecting textbooks and computers from students in case

schools don't reopen.

In Germany, the commander of the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base said Monday that he doesn't expect DODEA schools in Europe to reopen this school year.

DODEA leaders in Europe sought recommendations from commanders of installations that host schools on "what is the best decision we can make." Brig. Gen. Mark August said during a virtual town hall meeting.

"For me, I think it's more prudent to keep our kids at home in a virtual environment than it is to get them back into the classroom, which would be a short amount of time," he said.

The last day of school for students is June 9 for DODEA Eu-

rope, but there is discussion on whether the year should end sooner, August said.

Germany said that it would begin to reopen schools on a limited basis May 4, with emphasis on graduating classes and the oldest primary school children. But that plan, which calls for small class sizes and social distancing, has been criticized as unrealistic by some teachers.

Meanwhile, a MoveOn.org petition is circulating to give DODEA parents in Europe the option of withdrawing their kids for the year with full credit on May 12.

Typically, only families leaving their station are allowed to withdraw their children 30 days before the end of the school year with a passing grade.

Jennifer Alexander, an Air Force spouse who organized the petition, lives in the Kaiserslautern area and has found it difficult to help her first grader while also looking after her preschooler.

"When I attempt to split my attention and care for or entertain my preschooler, my older son gets distracted and will not stay on task," she said Monday. "Every day is a struggle for us."

Alexander's petition had just over 300 signatures as of Monday morning. She's hoping to gather 1,000 signatures before submitting her petition to DODEA leadership Friday.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Some restaurants reopen as Georgia trims restrictions

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — With tables wide apart and staff wearing masks, some Georgia restaurants reopened for limited dine-in service Monday as the state loosened more coronavirus restrictions, but many eateries remained closed amid concerns that serving in-house meals could put staff and customers at risk.

The dine-in service and movie screenings resumed after other businesses, including barber-shops, gyms, tattoo shops and nail salons, were allowed to start seeing customers Friday. While many gratefully opened their doors after a monthlong closure, others did not feel ready yet and stayed closed. A similar mixed response played out Monday.

Gov. Brian Kemp announced last week that he would relax restrictions despite health experts' warnings of a potential surge in infections and disapproval from President Donald Trump.

Kemp issued 39 requirements that restaurants must follow if they reopen, including observ-

ing a limit of 10 customers per 500 square feet and ensuring all employees wear face coverings all the time. Movie theater users were ordered to enforce social distancing.

At Plucked Up Chicken & Biscuits in Columbus, eight regulars showed up Monday morning to have coffee and breakfast and "chatted at each other across the room," manager Alesha Webster said.

The restaurant followed the governor's restrictions, including constantly disinfecting and sanitizing, placing tables 6 feet apart and practicing social distancing, Webster said. The restrictions also mean only 10 customers can be inside at a time, rather than the normal capacity of 45.

The outbreak has been brutal on such a small business, even though the restaurant offered to go orders, Webster said. The decision to reopen for dine-in service was difficult, she said.

"You don't want people to bash you because you're just trying to make ends meet," she said.

Georgia-based Waffle House



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Mary Spoto, general manager of Madison Chop House Grille, changes the sign as she and her staff prepare to shift from take out only to dine-in service Monday in Madison, Ga. Some Georgia restaurants reopened for limited dine-in service as more restrictions against the coronavirus are loosened in the state. Movie theaters on Monday can welcome customers and limited in-restaurant dining may resume.

planned to resume limited dine-in service at many of its 400 restaurants across the state. Waffle House spokeswoman Njeri Boss said that 530 of the chain's Georgia restaurants stayed open for takeout orders during the lockdown, and most of them were expected to start serving dine-in customers Monday.

The popular chain is known for being one of the last to close and first to reopen during the hurricanes and floods that affect the region.

Alex Brounstein, the owner

of Atlanta-based burger chain Grindhouse Killer Burgers, said he had no plans to reopen Monday and he questioned how any restaurant can resume dine-in service while maintaining social distance or other precautions to prevent the virus from spreading.

"You're talking about people putting their mouths on things in your restaurant. You now have dirty dishes going back into your kitchen. To me, it's just completely illogical," he said.

Mary Mac's Tea Room, an At-

lanta institution that opened in 1945 and serves up Southern specialties, also planned to remain closed for now, a message on the restaurant's Facebook page said.

"We miss seeing all of your smiling faces and catching up over crispy fried chicken, mac and cheese, and collard greens! We look forward to sharing these times again soon, but only when it is safe to do so," the message said. The restaurant thanked the community for messages of support and shared a recipe for its Augusta Lemonade.

Plan is for Trump to shift the focus to economy, reopening

By ZEKE MILLER AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After two months of frantic response to the coronavirus, the White House is planning to shift President Donald Trump's public focus to burgeoning efforts aimed at reopening the country and easing the economic devastation caused by the pandemic.

Days after he publicly mused that scientists should explore the injection of toxic disinfectants as a potential virus cure, Trump has now rejected the utility of his daily task force briefings, where he has time and again clashed with scientific experts. Trump's aides are aiming to move the president onto more familiar — and safer, they hope — ground: talking up the economy, in tighter controlled settings.

Indeed, the White House was not planning a briefing Monday, according to White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany, who said the president would instead address reporters at an event with retail CEOs. Briefings will be held later in the week, but she said, "They might have a new look to them, a new focus to them."

"We're entering a phase of looking to reopen the country and with that, the president will be focusing a lot on the economy," she said.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been working on sector-specific reopening guidelines that could be released as soon as Monday. Draft guidelines sent by the CDC to Washington include a long list of recommendations for organizations as they begin to reopen after the lifting of coronavirus restrictions, including businesses closing break rooms, schools spacing desks six feet



MORRY GASH/AP

Vice President Mike Pence visits the GE Healthcare manufacturing facility last week in Madison, Wis. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar is at left.

apart, and restaurants considering disposable plates and menus. The draft was obtained by The Associated Press from a federal official.

The draft includes guidelines for at least seven kinds of organizations, including schools, camps, child care centers, religious facilities, mass transit systems, workplaces, and restaurants and bars.

The shift is a political imperative as allies have seen an erosion in support for the president. What had been his greatest asset in the reelection campaign, his ability to blanket news headlines with freewheeling performances, has become a daily liability. At the same time, new Republican Party polling shows Trump's path to a second term depends on the public's perception of how quickly the economy rebounds from the state-by-state shutdowns.

Some states have started to ease closure orders, and Trump is expected to begin to highlight his administration's work in helping businesses and employees.

NY nixes Democratic presidential primary

Associated Press

In an unprecedented move, New York has canceled its Democratic presidential primary that was scheduled for June 23 amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Democratic members of the State's Board of Elections voted Monday to nix the primary. New York will still hold its congressional and state-level primaries on June 23.

Commissioner Andrew Spano said he had pondered at length, reaching a decision just Monday morning. He said he worried about potentially forcing voters and poll workers to choose between their democratic duty and their health. While there will still be other offices on the ballot, Spano reasoned it made sense to give voters an opportunity to choose in contested races but not to "have anyone on the ballot just for the purposes of issues at a convention."

New York Democratic Party chairman Jay Jacobs has said that the cancellation of the state's presidential primary would mean a lower expected turnout and a reduced need for polling places.

Local election officials and voting groups have called on the state to use federal funds to purchase

cleaning supplies and protective gear, and boost staff ahead of 2020 elections.

The state's Democratic Party and Gov. Andrew Cuomo have said they didn't ask election commissioners to make the change, which is allowed, thanks to a little-known provision in the recently passed state budget that allows the New York board of elections to remove names of any candidates who have suspended or terminated their campaign from the ballot.

The decision to cancel a Democratic primary is left up to Democratic state election commissioners.

Bernie Sanders earlier this month suspended his campaign. In a letter obtained by The Wall Street Journal, a lawyer for his campaign asked commissioners not to cancel the primary.

"Senator Sanders has collaborated with state parties, the national party and the [Joe] Biden campaign, to strengthen the Democrats by aligning the party's progressive and moderate wings. His removal from the ballot would hamper those efforts, to the detriment of the party in the general election," the lawyer, Malcolm Seymour, wrote.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

As lockdown eased, Italy contemplates its high death rate

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME — As Italy prepares to emerge from the West's first and most extensive coronavirus lockdown, it is increasingly clear that something went terribly wrong in Lombardy, the hardest-hit region in Europe's hardest-hit country.

Italy had the bad luck of being the first Western nation to be slammed by the outbreak, and its total of 26,600 fatalities lags behind only the U.S. in the global death toll. Italy's first homegrown case was recorded Feb. 21, at a time when the World Health Organization was still insisting the virus was "containable" and not nearly as infectious as the flu.

But there's also evidence that demographics and health care deficiencies combined with political and business interests to expose the 10 million people in the northern Italian region of Lombardy in ways unseen anywhere else, par-

ticularly the most vulnerable in nursing homes.

Virologists and epidemiologists say what went wrong there will be studied for years, given how the outbreak overwhelmed a medical system considered one of Europe's best. In neighboring Veneto, the impact was significantly more controlled.

Prosecutors are deciding whether to lay any criminal blame for the hundreds of dead in nursing homes, many of whom aren't even counted in Lombardy's official death toll of 13,325.

By contrast, Lombardy's frontline doctors and nurses are being hailed as heroes for risking their lives to treat the sick under extraordinary levels of stress, exhaustion, isolation and fear.

Even after Italy registered its first homegrown case, doctors didn't understand the unusual way COVID-19 could present itself, with some patients experiencing a rapid decline in their



ANTONIO CALANNI/AP

Medical staff tend to a patient in the emergency COVID-19 ward at the San Carlo Hospital in Milan, Italy, on April 16. As numbers drop after being one of the hardest-hit countries, Italy wonders what went wrong.

ability to breathe.

"This was clinical information we didn't have," said Dr. Maurizio Marvisi, a pneumologist at the San Camillo private clinic in hard-hit Cremona.

Because Lombardy's intensive care units were filling up within days of Italy's first cases, many primary care physicians tried to treat and monitor their patients at home, even putting them on supplemental oxygen. That strategy proved deadly, since many people died at home or soon after being hospitalized, having waited too

long to call an ambulance.

Italy was forced to rely on home care in part because of its low ICU capacity. After years of budget cuts, Italy went into the emergency with 8.6 ICU beds per 100,000 people, below the average of 15.9 within the developed countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As a result, Italy's primary care physicians became the frontline filter of patients, an army of mostly self-employed general practitioners who work outside

the public hospital system.

Since only those showing strong symptoms were being tested because Lombardy's labs couldn't process any more, these family doctors didn't know if they themselves were positive, much less their patients.

The doctors also had no guidelines on when to admit the sick or refer them to specialists and didn't have the same access to protective equipment as hospitals.

Some 20,000 Italian medical personnel have been infected and 150 doctors have died.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Wuhan hospitals report all virus patients cleared

By **TERESA BRAINE**
New York Daily News

The Chinese city of Wuhan, site of the initial coronavirus outbreak, has no COVID-19 patients in its hospitals for the first time since the pandemic began in earnest at the beginning of this year.

"The latest news is that by April 26, the number of new coronavirus patients in Wuhan was at zero, thanks to the joint efforts of Wuhan and medical staff from around the country," National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng said at a briefing Sunday, according to NBC News.

Wuhan, in central Hubei province, was the starting point for the outbreak that turned into a pandemic that is ricocheting across the globe, with 5.2 million confirmed infections and nearly 206,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus map.

In the province itself, the number of infections is below 50 for the first time since the crisis began late last year, with no new confirmed cases reported in the province for more than 20 days, according to Chinese news agency Xinhua.

In all of China, 801 patients were still being treated and 77,594 had recovered and been discharged from hospitals, Xinhua said, out of 82,827 confirmed cases on the mainland. In Wuhan

itself, there were 46,452 cases, 56% of the national total, Reuters reported, with 3,869 fatalities, which was 84% of China's total.

The city and province are only just beginning to emerge from a lockdown imposed at the end of January that involved closing off roads, canceling train and air travel and forcing residents to stay inside. Even with relaxed restrictions, the city is regularly testing residents to ensure there is no recurrence, Reuters said.

Wuhan reported 12 total coronavirus cases Saturday, one of them classified as "severe," but no new infections, reported Forbes.

The number of coronavirus cases in Wuhan and China as a whole has been unclear, as in much of the rest of the world, with Wuhan on April 17 revising its death toll to be 50% higher than originally claimed, Forbes said, due to hospital staffing shortages. Many critics have alleged that China underreported its numbers.

A study out of Hong Kong published in *The Lancet* last week suggested that China's number of cases might have been four times higher than it reported, according to *The Guardian*. If the later definition of what constitutes a case of COVID-19 had been used and applied to the earlier cases, then more illness would have been attributed to the coronavirus.



PETER DEJONG/AP

Two women hand out free tulips on King's Day on Monday in Amsterdam Netherlands.

Dutch celebrate King's Day at home

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — There was no orange crush Monday as coronavirus restrictions reined in festivities marking the Dutch king's birthday.

Canals and streets in Amsterdam, normally choked with boats and revelers wearing wigs, hats, fake feather boas and anything else they can find in the national color, orange, instead were eerily quiet as people largely stuck to government requests to stay at home.

Those who did venture out observed social distancing guidelines even as people handed out

free tulips.

King Willem-Alexander celebrated his 53rd birthday with his family at home in their palace in a forest on the edge of The Hague after a mass celebration in the southern city of Maastricht was canceled due to the restrictions.

Nevertheless, loyal followers, some wearing orange T-shirts and hats, cycled to the gates of the palace in the morning to peer through the railings.

In a nationally televised speech to the nation, the king paid tribute to health care workers and others battling the virus and hoped for better times ahead.

Flanked by his wife Maxima and their three daughters, Wil-

lem-Alexander said the annual holiday would be unique, "especially unique because I hope it will be absolutely the last King's Day at Home in history."

Prime Minister Mark Rutte tweeted his congratulations to the king, adding that "he is celebrating King's Day at home like the rest of the Netherlands. The best present we can give him is to follow that example."

The only places that were clearly busy were bakeries, where long, well-spaced queues formed early of shoppers, observing social distancing guidelines, waiting to snap up traditional King's Day pastries decorated with orange frosting.

Facing disaster, Russian businesses find Kremlin aid lacking

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Desperate business owners in Russia have been pleading with the Kremlin for help in the pandemic shutdown. The response, however, has been slow and largely focused on big industries, leaving most smaller companies to fend for themselves and raising the prospect of massive unemployment and social unrest.

The Kremlin's anti-crisis measures reflect both its long-held emphasis on state-controlled companies and a fear of opening state coffers at a time when government revenue is drying up due to a plunge in oil prices and economic slump.

When President Vladimir Putin ordered Russians to stay home through April 30 to contain the coronavirus, he said employees must continue to be paid. A joke soon went viral online: "Putin walks into a bar and declares, to the owner's surprise: 'Beer for everyone. It's on the house!'"

Weeks later, the president promised subsidies and loans for private-sector companies to help them pay wages. But businesses paralyzed by the lockdowns imposed by the majority of Russia's 85 regions see the

"The situation is catastrophic. The measures that have been announced are not enough to deal with it."

Dmitry Nesvetov
Opora Russia business association

Kremlin's support as sorely insufficient.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Dmitry Nesvetov, the owner of a dry cleaning chain and a leading member at the Opora Russia business association. "The measures that have been announced are not enough to deal with it."

Nesvetov said the state subsidies — about \$160 per employee per month, the equivalent of minimum wage — are too small and deferrals on taxes and social security payments don't address the underlying problems. "It's a 'die another day' logic," he said, adding that the inefficient state bureaucracy can't properly manage even those limited support measures.

Retail shops, restaurants and cafes, gyms, beauty parlors and other small and medium-sized companies in the services sector, which employs about a third of the

nation's workforce, have been shut, and a great number of them may not outlive the pandemic. According to one forecast, over 40% of restaurants won't reopen.

Experts say the number of unemployed could rise from about 3.5 million in 2019 to 9 million, or a 12% jobless rate.

"It looks like helping small and medium-sized business isn't a top priority," Nesvetov said.

While the non-food retail and services sector ground to a halt, big state-controlled companies and industrial plants have kept operating. Putin has promised subsidies to airlines, car and aircraft plants, and defense manufacturers, among others.

The Kremlin's approach contrasts with that of the United States and many EU nations, which provided more generous subsidies to workers and businesses.

With tears in her eyes, cafe chain owner Anastasia Tatulova told Putin during a recent meeting with business managers that more support is needed quickly. She urged the Kremlin to temporarily waive taxes instead of offering tax deferrals and to provide more subsidies.

Putin promised help, but Tatulova said authorities have since stonewalled most of her proposals.

"We don't count on anyone. We are struggling to survive on our own," Tatulova told the AP. "What's happening is very sad."

She says authorities failed to consult businesses when drafting rescue measures, meaning many ended up being useless. In one example, businesses will have to pay taxes on bank loans intended to help pay wages.

"It's a duty of the state to ensure normal operations in a time of crisis, and it just didn't work," she said.

Tatulova noted that Moscow authorities offered some real help, waiving rental payments on city property and automatically extending licenses. Governors in some regions slashed taxes, offered subsidies and allowed some businesses to reopen.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Governments using smartphones to help fight virus

The Washington Post

When California officials wanted to see how closely people were following social distancing guidelines last month, they tapped a powerful new data set — a map that Facebook provided to state authorities derived from the location coordinates of tens of millions of smartphones.

The map showed with alarming clarity that large numbers of people were still gathering on beaches and in public parks. Soon after, Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, ordered them closed to vehicles, sharply restricting access.

Newsom's move to blunt the spread of the coronavirus was just one sign of the increasingly close cooperation between government authorities and technology companies in fighting a dangerous common enemy. This global wave of experimentation has involved data sets long considered so personal and sensitive — capable of revealing how smartphone users spent their days, and with whom — that many government officials shied away from their use out of fear of public backlash.

But health experts have said that such new tactics, while testing traditional privacy boundaries in the United States and elsewhere, could play a central role in the battle against the coronavirus as nations try to reopen their economies. Expanded disease surveillance will be key with the help of emerging technologies to identify new infections before they create major hot spots.

Experts have said that old-fashioned public health approaches, such as widespread testing and manually tracing the contacts of people with newly discovered infections, will likely remain the most effective way to control the pandemic. But with few signs that the U.S. is assembling the army of health workers needed to fight coronavirus infections, technology may be called on to fill the gaps.

Technological tools are already helping authorities fine-tune their public directives, and data derived from individual smartphones may soon play an important role in mapping webs of potential new infections and alerting people at particularly high risk of developing COVID-19 that they need to be tested immediately.

“You need more [exposed] people to go and get tested,” said Ashish Vaswani, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute. “If we can do this and keep it going, I think we have a shot — just a shot — at keeping our economy going.”

There is some evidence of public acceptance of technological surveillance, a new study published

earlier this month found that just over half of those surveyed said that it is at least “somewhat acceptable” for the government to use people’s cellphones to track those who have tested positive for the virus to understand how it is spreading. Forty-five percent said that it is acceptable for the government to do so for people who may have had contact with someone who tested positive for the coronavirus.

There is less support for monitoring mobile devices to ensure that people are following social distancing orders, however. Just 37% of respondents said that it was “somewhat acceptable” for the government to track people’s locations to monitor compliance.

Privacy advocates have cautioned that the rush to deploy possible technological solutions to a devastating pandemic may be outrunning the public’s understanding of how their data is being collected and used. They have warned that the apps and other services developed to fight the coronavirus might someday be used by different government authorities to fight crime or monitor political activity.

In part because of these concerns, most of the technological tools being deployed — such as the activity map Facebook provided to California authorities — rely on what is known as aggregated and anonymized data, meaning they are compilations of data that have been stripped of information that could be used to identify an individual. New Mexico officials are using such anonymous smartphone data to help anticipate surging hospital demand, and Colorado officials have used similar data to determine whether residents are traveling less in compliance with the stay-at-home order the state’s Democratic governor, Jared Polis.

But officials in other nations, mainly in Europe and Asia, have gone farther, harnessing smartphone data to identify infected people and warn others that they are at risk and, in some cases, to quarantine themselves. Many Israeli, for example, have received texts from public health officials alerting them that, based on cellphone location records collected by the government, they had been near an infected person and needed to go into isolation for 14 days.

As technologists seek to balance public health benefits with privacy concerns, there remains uncertainty about how effective any of these tools might be, and whether the time, money and energy spent on them would be better used expanding virus testing or hiring more people to conduct contact-tracing investigations.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Holly Balcom, 54, kisses her daughter, Kelsea Mensh, 22, as they reunite at their home in Dumfries, Va., on April 1 after Mensh, who had served a year in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, finished her two-week quarantine period.

For Peace Corps evacuees, there wasn't even time for goodbye

By JACQUELYN MARTIN
Associated Press

DUMFRIES, Va. — After two weeks alone in a hotel room in the Virginia suburbs, 40 minutes outside Washington, Kelsea Mensh was ready to go home.

A few weeks earlier, the 22-year-old Peace Corps volunteer had completed a year of service in the Dominican Republic. She loved being in her “pueblo” surrounded by families and lively children. She was working on a school improvement project and applying for funding to install hand-washing stations to help provide running water in her community. She was filled with purpose and excited to fulfill her two remaining years of service.

Then an email came, followed by a phone call. The Peace Corps was pulling all its volunteers from projects around the world because of concerns about the coronavirus. There would be no hand-washing station. There would not even be time to say goodbye.

In a message posted on the Peace Corps website last month, Director Jody Olsen said that the decision to temporarily suspend operations was difficult.

“Fortunately, we were able to safely evacuate each of our posts, avoiding a situation where volunteers would have been stranded overseas as borders and air space were shutting down to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” she said.

In response to questions, the agency said that about 7,000 volunteers were evacuated from 60 countries. Upon returning to the U.S., they were asked to self-quarantine for two weeks.

The Peace Corps declined to comment on whether any evacuees tested positive for the coronavirus.

Although she is grateful to have been evacuated, Mensh said that she is very worried about the community she had to leave be-

‘There’s a saying in the Dominican Republic, ‘Hay que seguir echando pa’ lante’ — ‘gotta keep moving forward’ — so that’s my mentality now.’

Kelsea Mensh
Peace Corps volunteer

hind in the Dominican Republic.

“I told my mother in tears that I didn’t get to say goodbye, and we both started to cry,” Mensh said.

Mensh’s mother, Holly Balcom, a fourth-grade teacher, said, “I didn’t get to say goodbye to the children here, either,” Mensh recalled.

As a cancer survivor with viral-induced asthma, Balcom, 54, could be particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus. Once evacuated, Mensh had nowhere else to stay. What could she do? How could she come home and keep her family safe? Though she hadn’t been exposed to any known infections, her evacuation had forced her to travel through three international airports.

The Peace Corps put Mensh up in a hotel in her hometown to self-isolate so that she wouldn’t risk her mother’s health. She chose a Holiday Inn Express that was a five-minute drive from her mother’s home.

“The Peace Corps were very supportive,” Mensh said. “They sent out an email and said they would refund a hotel for 14 days in your hometowns with a stipend for food. You’re leaving your job that you love. It was hard. But I’m extremely grateful to the Peace Corps for helping me have a place to stay so that my mom could be safe.”

While staying at the hotel, Mensh and her mother realized that they could be within 6 feet of each other — if outdoors — no touching allowed.

“So we had a picnic lunch out-

doors. You couldn’t hug each other, but it didn’t matter.” Balcom said. “We were just grateful to have her home and safe.”

Olsen, the Peace Corps director, said that the agency is already planning for the time when operations can resume.

“Volunteers who seek to return to their host countries or seek a new assignment will be given expedited consideration over the next year,” her message said. “To be clear, the Peace Corps is not closing posts, and volunteers will be able to return to normal activities as soon as conditions permit.”

Mensh doesn’t plan on completing her remaining two years of service because she worries how long of a process that could be.

“A lot of us volunteers are in the same boat,” Mensh said. “We would have loved to finish our service, but there is so much insecurity and uncertainty in waiting and putting our lives on pause to try to go back in what could be six months or more.”

Mensh dreams of becoming a nurse and is looking at prerequisite classes to apply for nursing schools.

“I know a lot of fellow Peace Corps volunteers are searching for jobs now and trying to enter the workforce at one of the worst times to find a job,” she said. “It’s not easy, but there’s a saying in the Dominican Republic, ‘Hay que seguir echando pa’ lante’ — ‘gotta keep moving forward’ — so that’s my mentality now.”

NATION

Census delay could push back drawing new voting districts

By DAVID A. LIEB
AND MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The U.S. Census Bureau needs more time to wrap up the once-a-decade count because of the coronavirus, opening the possibility of delays in drawing new legislative districts that could help determine what political party is in power, what laws pass or fail and whether communities of color get a voice in their states.

The number of people counted and their demographics guide how voting districts for the U.S. House and state legislatures are redrawn every 10 years. The monthslong delay in census data could make a divisive process more complicated, potentially forcing lawmakers into costly special sessions to complete the work or postponing some primary elections.

"It will pinch the timing for sure on everybody," said Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles who tracks

redistricting nationwide. "For a few states, that's incredibly meaningful." Despite the complications, advocates, lawmakers and others largely embraced the census delay as necessary to get a complete count.

With the U.S. so politically polarized, redistricting plays a major role in whether Republicans or Democrats drive the agenda in each state and how those lawmakers' decisions can affect people's lives. Parties that win large legislative majorities can tilt policy to the left or right on abortion, guns, taxes and other contentious issues.

Redistricting typically is done by state lawmakers and governors, but an increasing number of states have shifted to special commissions.

The new districts frequently are challenged in court for not properly representing minority communities or for favoring one party over another in what is called gerrymandering.



TED S. WARREN/AP

People walk past posters encouraging participation in the 2020 Census in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood earlier this month. The Census Bureau needs more time to wrap up the count because of the coronavirus, opening the possibility of delays in drawing new legislative districts.

The census delay could trigger more lawsuits.

Because of stay-at-home orders designed to combat the coronavirus, the Census Bureau put off hiring and training temporary census takers in mid-March. They won't start knocking on doors of people who haven't answered the questionnaire until August. The bureau pushed back the deadline to wrap up the count from the end of July to the end of October.

Congress must approve the Census Bureau's request to delay turning over redistricting data to the states from the end of March

2021 to the end of July 2021.

A delay could have big implications for states with legislative elections next year — New Jersey and Virginia.

"There will not be enough time for redistricting, candidate filing, preparing for an election and running a general election. There simply won't be time for it," said Michael McDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida.

California, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas all have early 2022 primaries, which could create a compressed schedule for new

maps. Some states could require special legislative sessions to complete the work before candidates file to run for office in 2022.

Others may have to postpone candidate filing, said Michael Li, a redistricting attorney at New York University School of Law's Brennan Center for Justice.

In 2011, Virginia moved its primary from June 14 to Aug. 23 to allow time for redistricting after receiving census data. A similar delay could be needed for its 2021 election, which is scheduled for the second Tuesday in June.

La. shooting leaves officer dead, another wounded

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A shooting in Louisiana's capital city left one police officer dead and his wounded colleague fighting for his life Sunday, authorities said, adding a suspect was later taken into custody after an hourslong standoff in which shots were exchanged with a SWAT team.

Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul told The Advocate the two officers were shot in a northern residential district in the city, and that one of the officers later succumbed.

Paul said a suspect, Ronnie Kato, 36, was detained after a roughly four-hour standoff in which he barricaded inside a house. The chief didn't immediately say what charg-



TRAVIS SPRADLING, THE (BATON ROUGE, LA.) ADVOCATE/AP

Baton Rouge Police Department officers gather at the site of a shooting in Baton Rouge, La., on Sunday. The shooting left one police officer dead and a wounded colleague fighting for his life, authorities said. A suspect is in custody.

es Kato might face. He added that SWAT team members had been fired on and they returned fire. No one was reported hurt during those exchanges.

Police said the officers who were shot had responded earlier in the day to reports of gunfire in the area.

At a news conference Sunday evening,

the police chief said the slain officer was a 21-year law enforcement veteran and that the wounded colleague had seven years of police work, according to WBRZ-TV.

Police released few details about the shooting of the two officers or events that led up to it. The chief said only that police continue to investigate.

El Paso shooting death toll at 23 as man succumbs

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — A man shot in the Aug. 3 attack targeting Latinos in an El Paso Walmart died after months in the hospital, raising the death toll from the attack to 23, according to a hospital official.

"After a nearly nine-month fight, our hearts are heavy as we report Guillermo 'Memo' Garcia, our last remaining patient being treated from the El Paso shooting, has passed away," said Del Sol Medical Center CEO David Shimp.

Garcia and his wife Jessica Coea Garcia were fundraising for their daughter's soccer team in the Walmart parking lot when the suspected gunman opened fire that Saturday morning.

Garcia is survived by his wife, who suffered leg wounds but recovered.

The suspect, Patrick Crusius, 21, from the Dallas area, remains in jail awaiting trial. State prosecutors have charged him with murder and are pursuing the death penalty, and federal prosecutors charged him with hate crimes.

Police said they arrested Crusius near the shooting after he surrendered to officers, telling them he was targeting "Mexicans." They also attributed to him a four-page racist screed that decried a Hispanic "invasion" of Texas and the U.S., and called for ethnic and racial segregation.

The shooting was the largest terrorist attack targeting Hispanics in modern history, and spread fear throughout the Latino community.

House speaker endorses Biden's bid for White House

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden's White House bid on Monday, citing the Democrat's experience helping to pass the Affordable Care Act and implementing the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to argue

that he is well positioned to lead the country amid a global pandemic.

"As we face coronavirus, Joe has been a voice of reason and resilience, with a clear path to lead us out of this crisis," Pelosi said.

With a prerecorded video, Pelosi gave the latest in a well-planned string of endorsements that Biden's advisers have

scheduled to drive attention to Biden's campaign, which has a far more limited reach than President Donald Trump's operation.

Although Biden remains about 600 pledged delegates short of the 1,991 needed to win the Democratic nomination, all of his rivals in the party have suspended their campaigns or endorsed him, making his coronation this summer a near certainty.

WORLD

Saudi Arabia ends death penalty for minors, floggings

By AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — After facing harsh criticism, Saudi Arabia's King Salman has ordered an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors, according to a statement Sunday by a top official.

The decision comes after another ordering judges to end the practice of flogging, replacing it with jail time, fines or community service and ending one of the kingdom's most controversial forms of public punishment.

King Salman's son and heir, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is seen as the force behind the kingdom's loosening of restrictions, as well as its pivot away from ultraconservative interpretations of Islamic law known as Wahhabism, to which

many in the country still adhere.

The crown prince has sought to modernize the country, attract foreign investment and revamp its reputation globally. He's also overseen a parallel crackdown on liberals, women's rights activists, writers, moderate clerics and reformers. The 2018 killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey by agents who worked for the crown prince drew sharp criticism internationally.

The latest royal decree by King Salman could spare the death penalty for at least six men from the country's minority Shiite community who allegedly committed crimes while under the age of 18, including Ali al-Nimr, who had participated in anti-government protests. Such activity carries terrorism-related charges in the kingdom for disturbing order and disobeying the ruler.



JON GAMBRELL/AP

Soldiers allied to Yemen's internationally recognized government fly the South Yemen flag at the port of Aden in Aden, Yemen.

Coalition urges Emirati-backed separatists to honor Riyadh deal

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A Saudi-led coalition mired in a yearlong war in Yemen on Monday urged Emirati-backed southern separatists to honor terms of a Riyadh peace deal and share control of the port city of Aden with the country's internationally recognized government.

The statement by Saudi Arabia

comes after the separatists' Southern Transitional Council again claimed sole control on Sunday of Aden, a Red Sea port that serves as the seat of the internationally recognized government as Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, hold the country's capital, Sanaa.

The Saudi statement urged the council to return to the terms of the November 2019 Riyadh

agreement, which ended earlier fighting between the separatists and the government forces — ostensible allies in the war against the Houthis — after the council seized control of Aden just a few months earlier.

In its statement, the coalition urged the council to honor the deal "to unite Yemeni ranks, restore state institutions and combat the scourge of terrorism."

Mexico returns Central Americans amid emptying migrant centers

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has nearly emptied the 65 migrant detention centers it has across the country by returning 8,653 people to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, the National Migration Institute said Sunday. It added that the move should help

avoid COVID-19 outbreaks in the once-crowded facilities.

The institute said in a statement that only 106 migrants remain in the centers, which have a capacity for 8,524 migrants.

While they were filled to less than half their capacity in March, there were complaints of overcrowding and poor hygiene con-

ditions before that, especially last spring. Various migrant rights and international groups had urged Mexico to release the mainly Central American migrants to avoid an outbreak of the coronavirus.

Mexico began to empty the centers on March 21 in line with policies issued by United Nations

agencies, but border closures by the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador delayed returns, the institute said.

In the return process, Mexico's government prioritized minors, the elderly, families, pregnant women and migrants with risks of chronic diseases. Mexico's justice system this month issued a

resolution demanding the release of all migrants in vulnerable situations.

Mexico's migration agency said that it does not handle the transfer of Mexican nationals returned by the United States, but made no reference to Central Americans returned by U.S. authorities to Mexico.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation 944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Board bans 5 books from high school classes

AK PALMER — A school board north of Anchorage, Alaska, has banned the teaching of five books considered literary classics used for high school English elective courses without public comment, sparking criticism from some educators.

The Matanuska-Susitna School Board voted 5-2 to remove “Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison; “Catch-22” by Joseph Heller; “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien; “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou; and “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Teachers are no longer permitted to use the books, district spokeswoman Jillian Morrissey said.

Police: Man made bomb threat to avoid work

FL WELLINGTON — A Florida construction worker called in a bomb threat to a water treatment facility to get a day off work, authorities said.

Richard Hamilton, 36, was arrested and charged with making a bomb threat, the Palm Beach Post reported.

More than 20 people evacuated Wellington’s water treatment plant shortly after the threatening 911 call, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office. Hamilton had been working with a construction crew at the facility and later told deputies that he made the threat because he was having a bad day and didn’t want to work.

Museum given Frederick Douglass’ walking stick

SC COLUMBIA — The South Carolina State Museum is now home to a walking stick given to abolitionist Frederick Douglass when he visited Charleston in 1888.

Douglass escaped slavery before the Civil War and spent his life trying to abolish slavery. After the Civil War, he made speeches reminding people to never forget the horror of keeping people in bondage.

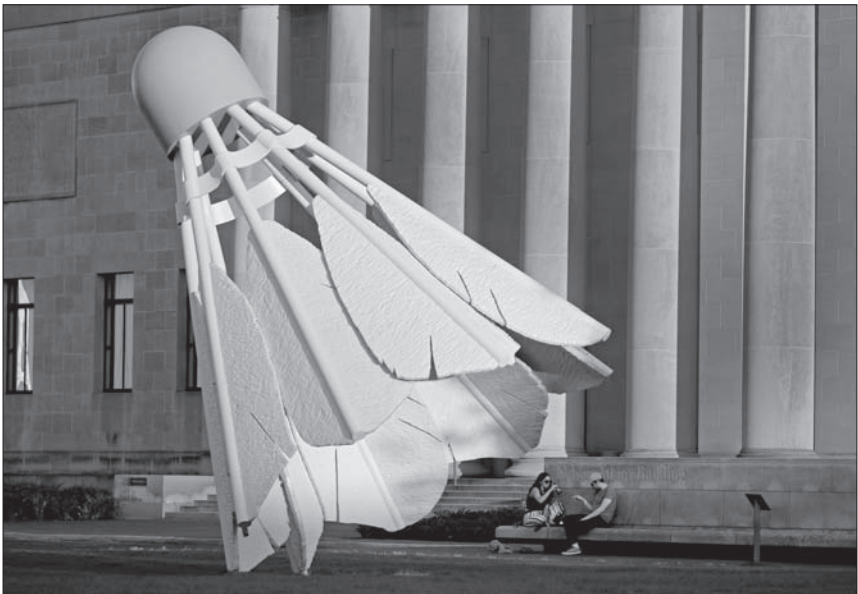
One of those speaking tours came in 1888 in Georgia and South Carolina.

At Douglass’ stop in Charleston in March, he was honored by an African American militia unit calling themselves the Douglass Light Infantry, the majority of whom were former slaves, the museum said in a statement.

They gave Douglass the walking stick with a gold cap, personally engraved for Douglass and decorated with penguin strawberries, which symbolized righteousness and spiritual merit.

Ex-FBI agent accused of taking \$200K in bribes

CA LOS ANGELES — A retired FBI agent from Northern California was arrested for allegedly taking more than \$200,000 in bribes to pass law enforcement information to a lawyer with ties to organized crime,



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Game, set, lunch

A couple eat a take-out meal at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday. The museum remains closed as extended stay-at-home orders continue until May 15 in the city as part of an effort to stem the spread of the new coronavirus.

prosecutors announced. Babak Broumand, 53, of Lafayette in the San Francisco Bay Area, was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to commit bribery of a public official that was filed in Los Angeles federal court, the U.S. attorney’s office said in a statement.

Prosecutors said that from 2015 to 2017 while working on national security matters at the San Francisco field office, he received gifts and cash averaging \$10,000 a month.

The bribes came from a lawyer with links to Armenian organized crime, prosecutors alleged.

Man threatened, sent dead rat to ex-wife

FL TAMPA — An Indiana man faces up to five years in federal prison for threatening his ex-wife over several years and mailing a dead rat to her Florida home.

Romey Christopher Ellis, 55, of Indianapolis, pleaded guilty in Tampa federal court to making interstate threats and mailing injurious articles, according to court records.

According to a criminal complaint, Ellis had engaged in a four-year-long campaign of harassment against his ex-wife, who lives in Tampa, through text messages, photographs, videos and mailings. He threatened to decapitate her and set her on fire, investigators said. He routinely made racially and sexually charged

THE CENSUS

44

The number of invasive plant species now banned for sale and exchange in Indiana. The rule banning 44 species of invasive plants, including five different species of honeysuckle that eventually choke out surrounding plants, took effect April 15, The Indianapolis Star reported. Under the Terrestrial Plant Rule, the plants are prohibited from being sold, gifted, exchanged or even transported within the state, punishable by a \$500 fine per incident per day. The plants can still be owned. The list also includes the Japanese barberry and Wintercreeper.

statements in the text messages, including sending sexually explicit images of himself.

Ellis sent text messages stating that he had traveled from Indiana to Florida to see his ex-wife. On one occasion, Ellis mailed a package to the victim’s home containing a dead rat and black rose.

Nurse suspended after neglecting an inmate

OR UMATILLA — A nurse who works at the Two Rivers Correctional Facility in Umatilla has had her license suspended because she neglected care for an inmate at the prison.

In May 2015, Linda Gruenwald ordered Steven Fox on a liquid diet for six months, according to the nursing board’s suspension order. “Licensee acknowledges that from May 27, 2015, to July 10, 2015, there was a lack of follow up and assessment for the inmate, which lead to a weight loss of 34 pounds,” the order states. “Additionally, a decrease in blood pres-

sure and heart rate from lack of nutrition led to a fall on July 10, 2015, that resulted in hospitalization and permanent injury.” The fall left Fox paralyzed. He requires a motorized wheelchair to move and 24-hour care.

Oregon Department of Corrections spokeswoman Jennifer Black said Gruenwald remains employed.

Businessman buys amusement park

IN MONTICELLO — A Chicago businessman has bought a northern Indiana amusement park that abruptly closed in February and hopes to reopen the 94-year-old tourist destination’s rides and other attractions this summer if coronavirus restrictions allow.

Gene Staples purchased Indiana Beach before its former owner, California-based Apex Parks Group, declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy, White County Commissioner John Heimlich said. Apex had cited the park’s dis-

appointing financial performance when it announced in February that it had shuttered the Monticello site, which is about halfway between Chicago and Indianapolis.

Staples said in a statement that he is “an amusement park enthusiast” and is excited “to be part of a new era for Monticello.”

Bike shop salvages and donates trashed bicycles

KS LAWRENCE — A Lawrence bicycle repair shop is earning praise for salvaging and donating dozens of bicycles dumped by a bike-share company at a scrapyard.

Lawrence Re-Cyclery used about \$2,000 in donations from the community to buy and repair bikes from a 20-foot-tall pile scrapped by Vee, the bike-share company, the Journal-World reported.

Re-Cyclery co-owner Kristie Shay said the shop was able to salvage and repair 15 bikes that suffered only minor damage in the dump.

The repaired bikes are being donated to the Lawrence Community Shelter, O’Connell Youth Ranch and the Transitional Living Program, which serves youth who have recently aged out of foster care. Three of the bikes have been donated to individuals, including a homeless man who recently had his tent and bike stolen and needed a way to get to work, Shay said.

From wire reports

FACES



SARAH KLOEPPING, THE GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE/AP

Paul Hanna of the rock band Annex sits outside his Allouez, Wis., house April 9. With venues closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, Hanna started live streaming shows three times a week on Facebook.

Making do with a virtual stage

Musician connects with audience through Facebook Live shows

By KENDRA MEINERT
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Facebook Live, selfies, videos, live streaming ... That's never really been Paul Hanna's thing.

As the frontman of longtime Green Bay, Wis., rock band Annex, he's all about the rush that comes from commanding a stage at a club with crowds at your feet. He's a huge KISS fan. He lives for the thrill of the show.

So when the coronavirus pandemic silenced live music across bars, theaters and arenas, he wasn't that guy who immediately thought of taking his talents online. It took friends telling him how much they needed some kind of escape from this new reality to get him to try it.

He learned Facebook Live literally overnight, studied YouTube tutorials, ordered a tripod with a light and pieced together whatever other equipment he could find to make it not just work but sound as good as it could — "not just an acoustic guitar through your phone," Hanna told the Green Bay Press-Gazette. He played for four hours that first night of March 27.

He knows four hours for his first outing was insane, but it went by in the snap of a finger. It felt good, even if he was in his pajama pants.

To join in on a Paul Hanna Facebook concert, go to [facebook.com/paul.hanna.50](https://www.facebook.com/paul.hanna.50)

"People are shouting out requests. People are picking on each other. They're talking about stories. I did feel like I was in a social setting. Yes, it's weird to look at a computer screen and I'm looking at myself and there's a bunch of comments next to it. It's crazy chaos, but this is the new normal," Hanna said.

"This is what I have to embrace. This is how it's going to be done, because how else do I get to everyone's living room right now? How do I get to everyone's house right now? How can people hear this music? How can people have fun? How can people get away from watching 'Thomas the Tank Engine' 9,000 times with their kids?"

The first streaming concert racked up more than 10,000 views and a lot of thanks to "Pauly" for a little sense of normalcy on a Friday night. People asked for it to become a regular gig.

Hanna now plays three Facebook Live shows a week, at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday and a short set at 2 p.m. Sunday to get people through the weekend and ready for another Monday. It's a mix of original music and feel-good covers ranging from Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" to The Beatles' "Let It Be." Sometimes there's a shared pup with those watching from home. Sometimes there's a surprise dog cameo.

Each show also has a link for listeners to tip via a virtual tip jar. As a touring musician, music is Hanna's livelihood. He's been heartened by the generosity of those will-

Quarantine Q&A with Hanna

Recent binge watch: "Tiger King" on Netflix. "I watched it because it was literally like driving past an accident where everyone slows down and they've got to look at everything. Just a train wreck."

Favorite quarantine movies: Anything with Eddie Murphy. "I've been going really light as far as movies, because I want to laugh. You can't go wrong with 'The Golden Child' or 'Coming to America.'"

What he misses most about playing in front of crowds: "For two hours they get to go out to a show and let loose. I feel like that's what I miss most, because I feed off that. That's my energy drink, if you will. When you get done with a song, when you hit that chord and the whole band ends, you've got a big ending, and you hear that roar of the crowd, I wish I could explain that to people. I miss that dearly."

ing or able to tip during hard times, but it's about more than paying the bills.

"This affected my income 100 percent, and it scared me when this all happened. It's a scary time, but I didn't start doing this thing as a way for me just to make money. It's also a way for me to keep sane being cooped up," he said.

"Some people are terrified at the idea of walking up on a stage and playing music. Well, that's just what I've done my whole life. Now that gets taken away from me. I have to find another way to still feel human, and this is the way that I have to do it."

Sotheby's offers benefit auction with celebrities

Associated Press

Win an acting lesson from Patrick Stewart. Record a song with the Strokes. Have a virtual coffee with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Those are just some of the offerings in an online auction presented by famed auction house Sotheby's using Google Meet video calls. The auctions will be held May 1-8 and will benefit the International Rescue Committee's efforts to combat COVID-19. Bidding starts at \$50 on each and there are no minimums.

Other experiences being auctioned include a video conversation with Sasha Baron Cohen or Apollo 9 astronaut Russell Schweickart, coffee or tea with former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, a coaching session with business adviser and author Tim Ferriss and conversations with decorator Jacques Grange and David Miliband, former British foreign secretary. "Downton Abbey" fans may bid on a virtual visit to Highclere Castle, where "Downton Abbey" was filmed, with writer and creator Julian Fellowes and actors Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern, who played Lord and Lady Grantham.

Sondheim gets starry, tardy birthday concert

Josh Groban, Nathan Lane and Jake Gyllenhaal honored composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim on Sunday with an online 90th birthday concert that was stuffed with his songs, but delayed by technical difficulties.

The starry special called "Take Me to the World" featured performances by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Kelli O'Hara, Lea Salonga, Judy Kuhn, Katrina Lenk, Aaron Neville, Laura Benanti, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Patti LuPone and Bernadette Peters, who closed out the show with a triumphant version of "No One Is Alone."

Sondheim actually turned 90 on March 22, but plans to celebrate were taken online after Broadway shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. The celebration on Sunday night coincided with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Sondheim's Broadway show "Company," and serves as a fundraiser for Artists Striving to End Poverty.

Other news

■ **Harold Reid**, who sang bass for the Grammy-winning country group the Statler Brothers, has died April 24 after a long battle with kidney failure. He was 80. The Statler Brothers frequently sang backup for country icon Johnny Cash. Some of their biggest hits include 1965's "Flowers on the Wall" and 1970's "Bed of Roses." Reid was a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. He was also a comedian.

■ "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" will begin streaming on Disney Plus on Friday, about two months earlier than scheduled.

Some people are terrified at the idea of walking up on a stage and playing music. Well, that's just what I've done my whole life. Now that gets taken away from me. I have to find another way to still feel human, and this is the way that I have to do it.

Paul Hanna
touring musician

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OPINION

US must be ready to act if Kim Jong Un dies

By SUE MI TERRY
Special to The Washington Post

There are unconfirmed media reports that the North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un may be incapacitated, or even dead following a medical emergency, possibly heart surgery. Both the South Korean and U.S. governments have said they do not believe anything is amiss, but Kim's failure to appear in public since April 11 has fueled the speculation.

No one knows what happens if Kim dies — and that is precisely the problem. Kim's death would leave North Korea dealing with an unplanned succession for the first time in its 72-year history. Kim Jong II had been preparing to succeed his father Kim II Sung for two decades when he took over in 1994, while Kim Jong Un had a few years to prepare before his father Kim Jong II's death in 2011. But Kim Jong Un is too young to have cultivated his own successor, and his only known son is barely of elementary school age. If Kim dies, it is uncertain who will prevail in North Korea's "Game of Thrones."

The most likely outcome is that Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, would take over. The state defies the Kims, and no other family member is as well positioned. Kim already had his half brother and his uncle killed. Kim has an older brother, Kim Jong Chul, but he was already passed over for the leadership by his father because, like Fredo Corleone, he was considered too weak. Finally there is Kim Jong Un's uncle Kim Pyong Il, who served as a diplomat abroad for 40 years and only recently returned to Pyongyang. He is more likely to be an adviser to Kim Yo Jong than ruler himself.

Kim Yo Jong has been one of Kim's most trusted advisers and was recently promot-

ed to alternate member of the Politburo. The only question is whether in a Confucian, male-dominated society, the elites would support a young woman as supreme leader. If she does prevail, she would likely preserve Kim's policies of limited economic liberalization, an expansion of its weapons of mass destruction and a diplomatic offensive to gain greater international recognition and a relaxation of sanctions.

If Kim Yo Jong fails to secure power and leadership passes for the first time outside the Kim family, the most likely successor would be Vice Marshal Choe Yong Hae, a Politburo member and vice chairman of the Workers Party of Korea. His family is close to Kim Yo Jong, but he also has an incentive to fight for power rather than to support the next Kim family member in line, because when Kim Jong Un took over, he executed the second- and third-most powerful members of the regime. Choe himself has been purged in the past. He may conclude that the only way to stay alive is to take over. If he prevails, he would also likely preserve the status quo — albeit with less fear in international settings than Kim has shown.

The least likely but most dangerous scenario is that no one emerges as Kim's successor and, instead, multiple leaders grapple for power for a protracted period. If this were to occur, North Korea could become unstable, leaving control of its nuclear arsenal unclear.

Kim is obese, smokes and drinks heavily, and has a family history of heart disease, so no matter what happens now, his health will remain a major risk factor for the regime. The Trump administration needs to open a dialogue now with North Korea's most important ally and trade partner — China — to discuss how the two countries would react in the event of regime instability to avert the worst pos-

sible contingencies. The longer it takes to organize humanitarian efforts, the higher the number of North Koreans who might perish or leave their homes, and the longer weapons of mass destruction are left unsecured, the greater the risk that they will disappear across international borders.

The administration should also initiate a dialogue with Chinese leaders about the future of North Korea — even if Kim survives for now. Are there any circumstances — such as a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea — under which Beijing might support Korean reunification? If not, would Beijing at least be willing to press for a reform-minded North Korean leader who would initiate Chinese-style economic liberalization and even denuclearize? If so, and if South Korea agrees, the United States could offer sweeteners such as the prospect of sanctions relief and a troop reduction.

It's unfortunate that President Donald Trump's trade war with China and mutual finger-pointing over the coronavirus have divided Washington and Beijing just when it's so important for them to work together. The United States also needs to coordinate closely with allies South Korea and Japan — and that means concluding the drawn-out negotiations over how much Seoul will pay to support U.S. troops.

Others are sure the North Korean regime will stagger along no matter what is happening with Kim, just as it survived the death of Kim's grandfather and father, but you never know. Few predicted the collapse of East Germany in 1989. Winter could be coming sooner than anyone expected in North Korea's game of thrones. We had better be ready.

Sue Mi Terry, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, served as a senior CIA analyst on Korea and worked on Korea policy at the National Security Council in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations.

Trump's 'secret stash' of voters don't guarantee a win

By STUART ROTHENBERG
CQ Roll Call

Writing in The Washington Post recently, columnist and veteran political analyst Henry Olsen suggested that we may all be missing something important: President Donald Trump showing in head-to-head ballot tests against expected Democratic nominee Joe Biden is lagging his job approval numbers in recent RealClearPolitics polling averages.

After noting the strong relationship between presidential job approval and election outcomes, Olsen wrote: "Biden leads Trump by nearly six points, 48.3 to 42.4 percent in the most recent RCP average. Trump's approval rating in the RCP average was 46.0 percent on Wednesday morning. If Trump's true vote share approximates that, he only trails Biden by about 2 points. If that happens on Election Day, Trump could once again win the Electoral College while losing the popular vote."

That's the secret stash of voters that could help the president with a second term, apparently — voters who now say (in the middle of a health care crisis) they approve of the president's job performance but don't also say they will vote for him in the fall.

All we have to do is manipulate the ballot test by inserting Trump's job approval number where his percentage of the vote is.

I immediately looked at four random dates from this month and found Olsen was

correct. On April 1, 6, 13 and 20, Trump's job approval was between 45.2% and 47.4%, while his share of the ballot test ranged from 41.7% to 44.3%. On the four dates I checked, Trump's job approval was higher than his ballot average by 3.1 points, 2.5 points, 3.5 points and 3.3 points.

If job approval is a strong predictor of the presidential election, then maybe Olsen is right.

But when I looked back into the recent past, the data showed something different — something that undercuts Olsen's hypothesis. I looked back at Trump's job approval and ballot test aggregations on four random days in October (Oct. 4, 9, 16 and 27), November (Nov. 1, 10, 20 and 28) and January/February (Jan. 5, 13, 23 and Feb. 3) and found nothing like the April results.

The Trump job approval and ballot test numbers were remarkably similar. Sometimes one was a fraction of a point higher, and sometimes the other was a point or a half a point higher. This trend held for all three months, making it completely different from the April data.

That brings us to an obvious question: Given that we are in the middle of a national health care crisis, wouldn't it make sense not to draw sweeping conclusions about 2020 until things settle down?

Handicappers of old may not use all the snazzy models of today, but we always had one rule of thumb on which many of us relied: For incumbents, what you see is what you get.

I've watched thousands of races, and in all but a few, an incumbent trailing in a

race can't count on getting most of the undecided voters. If after years in office, he or she hasn't sold himself or herself to voters, then that incumbent is unlikely to win late-deciders or reelection.

With an extremely negative race expected, one more development should be noted. Among voters who don't like either presidential candidate, Biden currently has a strong advantage over Trump. That's a marked difference from 2016, when the 18% of the electorate that disliked both Trump and Hillary Clinton went for the GOP nominee by 17 points.

Obviously, Trump has scrambled our politics. It's possible (even likely) that his supporters don't participate in polls, which could be a factor if Trump overperforms on Election Day. Maybe Trump will turn out an army of previously silent whites without a college degree. Or maybe handicappers have overestimated Democratic enthusiasm, and voters of color don't turn out for Biden.

So yes, there are scenarios under which Trump loses the popular vote again but squeezes out the narrowest of Electoral College wins. We all know it is possible, although unlikely.

I expect Trump's job approval and ballot test numbers will come together again, if only when November nears. But I am more sure of this: Merely replacing Trump's ballot test number with his job approval number in a presidential matchup in the middle of a national crisis strikes me as more of an effort to prove something rather than an effort to understand what is happening in our politics.

Looking at the news

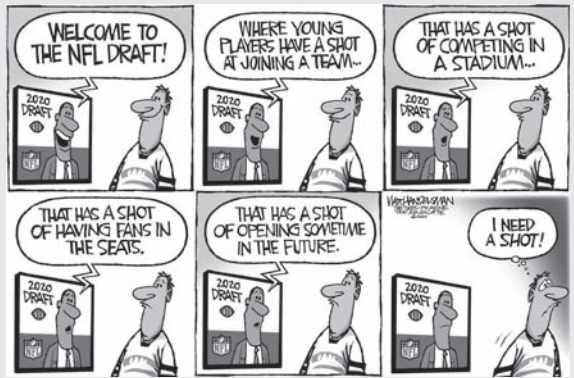
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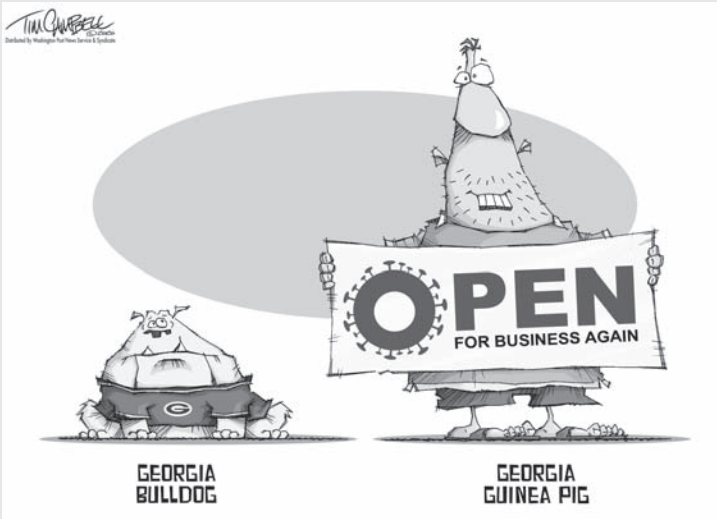
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NFL

Scoreboard

Sunday's transactions

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Jonathan Ward, WR Cedric Bowls II, WR Shane Leatherbury, TE Ryan Becker, OT Jake Beninger, G Jackson Dennis, G Steve Gonzalez, G Andrew Dickinson, DT T.J. Carter, DE Adam Shuler, CB Zane Lewis, CB Whitaker, CB Jarren Williams, and S Reggie Floyd.

LA FALCONS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Mikey Daniel, WR Jalen McCleskey, WR Juwan Green, WR Chris Rowland, TE Jared Pinkney, TE Caleb Reep, OL Evrin Kleszczarz, OL Hunter Atkinson, OL Austin Capps, OL Scotty Ollie, DT Salotti Latu, DL Hinwa Allieu, DE Austin Edwards, LB Bryson Young, LB Rayshawn Wilborn, LB Jordan Williams, CB Rojesterman Farris, CB Tyler Hall and CB Detrick Abrams.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: QB Tyler Hantler, RB Bronson Rechsteiner, RB, Ty'Son Williams, WR Jaylon Moore, TE Jacob Greenard, TE Eli Wolf, OL Daishawn Dixon, C Trystan Colon-Castro, C Sean Roland, DT Aaron Crawford, DE John Duka, DE Chancey Rivers, DE Marcus Willoughby, ILB Kristian Welch, DB Jeff Heath, CB Josh Harris, CB Mike Dorsey, S Nigel Warrior, K Jake Vogel and P David Pinney.

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Antonio Williams, TE Marcus Williams, OL Marcell Dareus, OL Brandon Walton, OL Treys Adams, CB Ike Brown, DB Josh Thomas and S Barrett Taylor.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Tee Higgins, WR Omar Baynes, WR TreVonte Smith, TE Cam Sutton, TE Giovanni Ricci, RB Brandon Bowen, C Frederick Maulgoa, OG Mike Horton, DT Myles Adams, RB Jason Gildner, RB Jamarco Lin Jr., LB Chris Orr, LB Jordan Mack and P Mike Hartshill.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Artavis Pierce, WR Albert Wagner, OL Dieter Esselen, Badara Traore, DL Leticia London, DL Trevon Swain, LB Ladarius Mack and Rashad Smith.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Re-signed S one-year contract. Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB De'Vante Whaley, WR Scotty Waddle, RB Josh Downs, OL Willie Coussado, LB Kendall Futrell, LB Marcel Speer, LB and Isaiah Smith.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Kevin David, RB David Bell, RB Leonard Fournette, WR Tony Brown, WR Ja'Marcus Bradley, TE Nate Wieting, OT Alex Taylor, DL De'Anthony Carter, DL De'Vante Whaley, LB Solomon Ajayi, DE Jeffery Haughton, DE Myles Bryant, DE Antoine Moffatt and S Elijah Bennett.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Terence Steele, DE Jarron Carter, DE DeMarcus Lawrence, DE LaDarius Hamilton, LB Francis Bernard and Edge Azeez Kamara.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Riley Neal, RB Brandon McMillon, RB Darrell Henderson, WR Kendall Hinton, OL Hunter Watts, DB Essang Bassey and DB Douglas Slaton.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB FB Brandon Barlow, RB Bryant, DB Jalen Elliott, DB Bobby Price, DB Jeremiah Dinold, P Arryn S. Smith and RB Steven Jackson.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Jalen Morton, RB Patrick Dierdorf, WR Darrell Stewart, TE/FB Jordan Jones, OT Zack Johnson, WR Mike Huff, DE Willie Grier, DE De'Tonja Galeai, LB Krys Barnes, DB Marc-Andre Doucy, CB Stanford Robinson and WR Woodrow Williams.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Scott Phillips, TE Dylan Stapleton, WR Tyler Boyd, RB Corey Coleman, TE Ben Woodworth, DT Auzaysh Alufaiha, LB Justin Ross and RB Harrison Smith.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR Demichale Patterson, RB LB DE Willie Anderson on Clinie, DE Kendall Coleman, DT Chris Carson, CB Trae Turner, DE John Ledgedge Jr. and KRodrig Blankenship.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB James Frazier, RB James Robinson, WR Marvin Ross and WR Harrison Smith, TE Efelester, OL Doug Costin, OT Steven Nielsen, LB Nate Evans, CB Kobe White, WR DeAndre Hopkins, WR DeAndre S. J.R. Reed, LS Ross Maticsk and K Michael White.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR Andre Baccantini, RB Maurice Harris, WR DeShon Sletton-Mosley, WR Cody White, WR Andre Ware, WR DeAndre White, WR Asa Durant, OL Darryl Williams, OG Joahvi Farr, DT Tershawn Wharton, LB Patrick Mahomes, LB DeAndre Anderson, S Davis, DB Hakeem Blair, S Rodney Clements, RB Jalen Jones, CB Lavert Gunter and Tommy Townsend.

LA VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR George Mari-

ner, TE Nick Bowers, DL Mike Panasiuk, LB Javin White, CB Madre Harper, LS Liam McCullough and K Donnell Barber.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Darius Bradford, FB Bobby Holly, FB Gabe Nabers, WR Jeff Carter, DT Talton Schoen, TE Jared Rice, T Ryan Roberts, G Joshua Dunlop, G Nate Gilliam, DE Jesse Lemmonier, DE Joe Gaziano, DT Breiden Fehoko, DT T.J. Smith, LB Asmar Bilal, LB Cole Christiansen, LB Romeo Finley, CB John Branch, CB Kevin McGill and CB Donnte Vaughn.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Josh Love, OG Bryce Perkins, RB James Gilbert, RB Xavier Jones, WR Earnest Edwards, WR Trishon Jackson, WR Jui Koski, WR Brandon Polk, WR Esop Winston, OL Cobi Cabral, DL Eric Banks, DL Mike Hoecht, DL Sam Reener, DL Jonah Williams, LB Greg Reeves, LB Christian Rozeboom, DE Julu Hughes, CB Dyan Lake, CB Tyrique McGehee and CB Levontia Taylor.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed S Kevin Frazier, Waived LB Terrill Hanks, S Monroe Hartage, LS Taylor Pepper and RB Samaje Perine. Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR Kirk Merritt, WR Matt Cole, RB Mike Williams, RB Donnell Starling, OL Nick Kaltmayer, DT Benito Jones, DL Ray Lima and DE Tyshun Turner.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR Quantez Davis, TE Nubia Griffin-Stewart, OL Anthony Aiello, OL Tyler Higby, OL Jake Lacina, DT David Moa, LB Blake Lynch, CB Neville Clarke and CB Myles Dorn.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Brian Ruveteke, QB James Smith, RB Taylor, WR Will Hastings, WR Sean Riley, WR Jeff Thomas, WR Isaiah Zuber, TE Josh Downs, WR Mike Evans, WR Willie Wallace, DE Nick Cole, DE Trevon Williams, LB Kyle Van Noy, LB Kyahya Teton and CB Myles Bryant.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Agreed to terms with QB Taysom Thomas on a two-year contract. Signed QB Jameis Winston to a one-year contract. Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Jamarco Lin Jr., WR Juaun Johnson, WR Marquez Callaway, DT Calvin Throckmorton, Jordan Stryker, OT Darrius Ford, OL Malcolm Roach, LB Joe Bachtie, DE Gus Quisenberry, LB Tino Ellis and DB Keith Washington.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Jamarco Lin Jr., RB Javon Leake, WR Derrick Dillon, WR Austin Mack, WR Binjamin Victor, WR Ryan Taylor, WR Mike Kelly, WR Kyle Murphy, DE Dana Levine, Edge Niko Laury and Christian Anguilo.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: WR Lawrence Garer, WR Brandon Marshall, WR Chris Anzures, DT Sterling Johnson, DT Domenique Davis, LB Bryce Huff, DB Synheem Carter, LB Jamarco Lin and Guard James Jackson.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Khaliloul RB Adrian Killins, RB Michael Warren, WR Jalen Hurts, CB DeSean Jackson, OG Gabe Gooden-Jones, DT Raquan Williams, LB Dante Olson, CB Jamarco Lin, LB DeSean Jackson, LB Kyle Riley and CB Prince Smith.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Devin Singletary, RB Chris Janz, RB Tray Matthews. Signed Undrafted Free Agents: FB Spencer Nigh, G Christian Brown, RB Jovan Johnson, WR Calvin Taylor, LB John Houston, LB Leo Lewis, DE Josh Leake, DE Mike Adams, CB James Pierce and P Corliss Walton.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Broc Rutter, RB Salvon Ahmed, RB Ja'Michael Jones, RB Josh Williams, LB Darrion Daniels, LB James Griffith, LB'S Ronnell Perine, S Jared Mayden and RB DeSean Jackson.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released OL DL De'Anthony Carter, signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Anthony Gordon, RB Anthony Jones, RB Patrick Carr, WR Aaron Fuller, WR Darius Dawkins, TE Tyler Mabry, OL Tommy Champion, DT Marcus White, DT Josh Wagner, RB Josh Elliott, RB James Gavin Heister, CB Kemah Siverand and DL DeShon Reno.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANNERS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Reid Simpson, LB Cam Gill and OL John Molchon.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: RB Brandon Scarlett, WR Mason Kinsey, WR Kyle Williams, WR Kristian Wilkerson, TE Brock Bowers, RB Brandon Braxton, Brandon Kemp, OT Anthony McKinney, DT Teair Tart, DT Kobe Smith, LB Khaylan Carter, WR Aaron Fuller, WR Darius Dawkins and K Tucker McCan.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Signed Undrafted Free Agents: OG Steven Montez, WR Isaiah Wright, WR Jonathan Williams and TE Thaddeus Moss.



CHARLIE NEBERGALL/AP

Tampa Bay drafted low offensive lineman Tristan Wirfs, above, giving Tom Brady more protection.

Filling holes in the draft

49ers among teams that plugged holes, while Packers, others fell short

By Josh Dunow
Associated Press

The task for the San Francisco 49ers heading into the draft was straightforward.

Find replacements for departed starters DeForest Buckner at defensive tackle and Emmanuel Sanders at receiver and then find a player to step in for longtime left tackle Joe Staley, who informed the NFL champions before the draft that he planned to retire.

The Niners filled the first two spots in the first round with defensive tackle Jevon Kinlaw and receiver Brandon Aiyuk.

They couldn't have scripted it any better when they were able to trade for seven-time Pro Bowl left tackle Trent Williams on Saturday.

"It was a good gamble that worked out well," coach Kyle Shanahan said.

While the 49ers were one of the teams that filled their needs on draft weekend, others, such as Green Bay, fell short.

The Packers got a first-round quarterback in Jordan Love to sit behind Aaron Rodgers for a couple of years but didn't get their star quarterback any wideouts in a receiver-rich draft.

How some other teams filled their needs or didn't:

Filled needs

Vikings: Minnesota's needs were clear after trading star receiver Stefon Diggs and losing cornerback Xavier Rhodes. Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander. They managed to fill them despite trading down a couple of times in the draft and ended up taking 15 players and acquiring two mid-round picks in 2021. The highlights of this class are first-round receiver Justin Jefferson and cornerback Jeff Gladney. They added another promising

cornerback in Cameron Dantzer in the third round, a good coverage linebacker in fourth-round Tyler Dye. Second-round offensive tackle Ezra Cleveland could be a starter by 2021.

Broncos: Quarterback Drew Lock showed promise in a five-game audition at the end of his rookie season in 2019. Denver GM John Elway gave Lock plenty of help. The draft's best route runner in Jerry Judy fell to the Broncos at No. 15 in the first round and they added Penn State speedster KJ Hamler to team with Courtland Sutton for a powerful receiving trio. Elway also added fleet tight end Albert Okwuegunnam on day three. Lock gets some protection with two strong interior blockers in LSU center Lloyid Cushenberry and Fresno State guard Netane Muti.

Buccanners: The Bucs are in win-now mode after signing Tom Brady and acquiring Rob Gronkowski. They did a good job of filling their roster with players who can help their soon-to-be-43-year-old quarterback. They got one of the top tackles in round one in Tristan Wirfs and a talented slot receiver in fifth-round Tyler Johnson. They also added a third-round running back in Ke'Shawn Vaughn to team with Ronald Jones and a ball-hawking safety in Antoine Winfield.

Panthers: After signing quarterback Teddy Bridgewater and receiver Robby Anderson in free agency and locking up running back Christian McCaffrey with a long-term extension, new coach Matt Rhule set out to replace nine defensive starters. Carolina became the first team in the common draft era to use all of their draft picks on defensive players. Stud defensive tackle Derrick Brown highlights the seven-player class that also includes edge rusher Yusef Grimes-Maros, and defensive backs Jeremy Chinn,

Tray Pride Jr., and former West Virginia and XFL safety Kenny Robinson.

Unfilled needs

Patriots: New England couldn't expect to find Tom Brady's replacement in the draft but didn't even take a shot on any of the quarterbacks. They also failed to bolster their weak receiver group instead adding to their stellar defense with the first three picks before taking two tight ends in round three.

Rams: The Rams had one of the league's worst offensive lines last year and didn't address that spot until taking Clemson tackle Treymayne Anchrum in the seventh round. They had no first-round pick after trading it for cornerback Jason Ramsey and used their first selection on running back Cam Akers. This is the second straight year they took a running back on day two, which isn't always the best value.

Chargers: Los Angeles' other team also had problems on the offensive line last year that weren't addressed in the draft. They took OG Justin Herbert sixth overall and traded back into the first round for LB Kenneth Murray. That left them with no more picks until round four and they didn't end up with any linemen.

Dolphins: This draft will be a success for Miami if QB Tua Tagovailoa remains healthy and develops into a franchise QB. But it wouldn't have hurt to get him a starting receiver in a draft filled with prospects. Instead, they spent their next six picks on the offensive line and secondary and didn't take a receiver until grabbing Navy QB Malcolm Perry in the seventh round. That leaves them with DeVante Parker and a few other options at receiver.

AP Sports Writer Steve Megargee contributed to this report

NFL

Saints, Winston reportedly close to deal

Former Bucs starter set to back up Brees

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Saints and quarterback Jameis Winston are working on a contract proposal to make the former Buccaneers starter a backup to Drew Brees in New Orleans, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

Winston and the Saints are in “advanced” talks, the person said, speaking to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Sunday because negotiations were ongoing. The person declined to say whether there was any agreement on either the length of the contract or financial terms.

Yahoo Sports first reported the Saints’ interest in signing Winston’s agent in a report.

Meanwhile, the Saints have announced that dynamic reserve QB and utility player Tayson Hill has a new two-year contract.

Winston is coming off a season in which he led the NFL with 5,109 yards passing and ranked second with 33 touchdown passes, but he also led the NFL in interceptions with 30. That made Winston the first QB in NFL history to have at least 30 TDs and 30 interceptions. Tampa Bay allowed Winston, whom it drafted first overall out of Florida State in 2015, to enter free agency and replaced him with former Patriots QB Tom Brady.

Now it appears Winston is open to going from five-year NFL starter to being Brees’ understudy in



MARK LOUGHOLO/AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, left, shakes hands with then-Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Jameis Winston after a game in November in Tampa, Fla. Winston and the Saints are reportedly in “advanced” talks on a contract proposal.

hopes of rebuilding his credentials as a prospective franchise quarterback. Teddy Bridgewater recently did just that, serving as Brees’ backup for two seasons before the Carolina Panthers signed him last month to replace their longtime starter, Cam Newton.

Winston was a two-year starter at Florida State, where he won the Heisman Trophy and led the Seminoles to a national title as a freshman in the 2013 season.

In five seasons with the Buccaneers, he has passed for 19,737 yards and 121 touchdowns while throwing 88 interceptions. But while he was productive statistically, that didn’t amount to winning. The Bucs went 28-42 in

games Winston started.

Winston also became known for making news off the field. He was suspended for the first three games in 2018 after the NFL investigated allegations by a female ride-share service driver that the quarterback made unwanted sexual advances.

The driver never reported the matter to authorities but did notify her employer, Uber.

During college, Winston was accused of raping a fellow student at FSU but was never charged. The university in January 2016 settled a Title IX lawsuit with Winston’s accuser for \$1.7 million over its handling of the allegations.

Winston also was implicated in

By the numbers

33

TDs thrown by Bucs QB Jameis Winston last year, second-most in the NFL. He led the league with 5,109 yards passing.

30

Number of interceptions thrown by Winston last season, tops in the NFL.

SOURCE: Associated Press

a shoplifting case involving about \$33 in crab legs and crawfish.

Saints coach Sean Payton has said throughout this offseason that he intended to have three active quarterbacks on game days so that Hill may continue in a multifaceted role that has helped the Saints go 13-3 the past two regular seasons.

A person familiar with the contract told the AP that the deal for Hill, who was a restricted free agent and turns 30 in August, is worth \$21 million, with \$16 million guaranteed and up to \$1 million in incentives. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Sunday because financial terms have not been announced.



courtesy of Washburn University

New Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Kyle Hinton was a multiple-sport star at DODEA Europe school Vilseck before transferring to Liberty High School in Peoria, Ariz.

Former Vilseck standout drafted

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Former Vilseck Falcons football player Kyle Hinton was selected in the NFL Draft this weekend.

The Minnesota Vikings took Hinton, an offensive lineman out of Division II Washburn University, with the 253rd overall pick in the seventh and final round on Saturday. Hinton started his prep career as a multiple-sport star at DODEA Europe school Vilseck before transferring to Liberty High School in Peoria, Ariz.

Before leaving for the States, he was fourth in the shot put at the DODEA Europe track and field championships in 2014.

Hinton developed into an NFL-level prospect over an impressive four-year career for the Ichabods. The 6-foot-3, 310-pounder was named a first-team All-American by d2football.com as a senior and was invited to participate in the NFL Players Association Bowl Game. A standout performance at the offseason pro day at Kansas State University further raised Hinton’s draft profile, the Pro Football Network reported this spring.

Hinton continued to successfully pursue multiple sports in college. He was a second-team All-American and holds multiple school records as a discus thrower in track and field. Hinton also excelled in the classroom, earning three Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Scholar-Athlete awards in his time at Washburn.

He was scheduled to be a member of the school’s track team again this season before the coronavirus wiped out the NCAA’s entire spring sports schedule.

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When: No guarantee Tagovailoa will play this season

FROM BACK PAGE

job this year, either.

“With the pandemic and all that’s going on, our doctors haven’t seen him,” Grier said. “We have a long way to go before we can say who’s doing what. We have to just get him and have a meeting first. I think it’s way too early to speculate on this year and how this is going to go.”

This offseason has been a long one for Tagovailoa, and not just because he hasn’t played a game since Nov. 16.

For one thing, he lost his car in a tornado that hit the Nashville, Tenn., area last month.

“It was about 1 o’clock in the morning,” Tagovailoa told reporters shortly after being drafted Thursday night. “Sirens were going off and I was asleep. I ended up waking up to I guess warnings on my phone. Three or four minutes later, a tornado just swooped right over my complex, destroys my car and everything there. It was pretty bad.”

Tornadoes on March 3 killed 25 people in Middle Tennessee and damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings. Tagovailoa was in Nashville to work out and rehabilitate his hip.

All in all, Tagovailoa said, it has been a stressful stretch, partly because he didn’t know where he would be drafted.

“I went through that tornado; my car got destroyed,” he said. “I’m going through rehab during this process. And then there’s a lot of uncertainty at the same time. There were just



VASHA HUNT/AP

Despite lingering questions about a hip injury that sidelined him this season with Alabama, quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was taken fifth overall by the Miami Dolphins in the NFL Draft.

a lot of things piling up. This was probably the most difficult time for me in my life.”

After being drafted, however, the Hawaiian

wore a grin — and a lei.

“A dream come true, man, to be able to have this opportunity,” Tagovailoa said.

VIRUS OUTBREAK/SPORTS BRIEFS

Down to their last strike

Little League has been benched, and Williamsport will be hit hard by cancellation of the World Series

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

Put them in, coach. The boys and girls of summer are ready to play.
But Little League, like most of the sports world, has been benched. Youth baseball fields sit empty, and parents mourn the loss of spring ball yearning for the days when the best way to flatten the curve was with a line drive up the middle.

The youth baseball program that boasts more than 2.5 million kids spread over 6,500 programs in 84 countries is on hold at least until May 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even that target date seems optimistic, and the fate of its signature event, the Little League World Series in August in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania is unclear.

"If we were going to play the world series, traditionally like we have done for many, many years, we need to be playing and picking teams by the middle of June," said Little League President Stephen Keener, who has yet to set a drop-dead date for a tournament decision.

Keener has been the Little League CEO since 1996 and spent almost 40 years in the organization, but trying to figure out the dynamics of a rescheduled tournament is more complex than the infield fly rule.

At best, Little League would have to loosen rules on qualifying — such as minimum number of games — for teams to participate. Postponement to even a fall date is a thorny issue because anything beyond August would disrupt the school year.

"If we were to do it in the fall, pretty much every team that would be here would have to be uprooted from school," Keener said. "I'm not so sure that it would be in the best interest of a child's education, after having missed probably a couple of months school already, to take them out of school in the fall to come play in a baseball tournament. That, to me, would be quite unimportant."

And there's this: It is a World Series emphasis on travel. The 2019 international bracket features teams from Curacao, Japan, Mexico, Australia and Italy. There are travel restrictions guidelines because of the global pandemic that could make it impossible for some teams to participate.

Ultimately, we'll have to go country by country," Keener said.

The Associated Press is looking at the impact of the cancellation or postponement of some of the iconic sporting events due to the coronavirus pandemic is having on cities and communities. If the LLWS is canceled, the hardest-hit would surely be Williamsport, a city of about 29,000



Matt Slocum/AP

Japan players throw their coach, Manosori Takeda, into the air after winning the Little League World Series championship against Lufkin, Texas, in South Williamsport, Pa., on Aug. 12, 2017. It is unlikely the Little League World Series will carry on as planned this summer.

that is the heartbeat of Lycoming County, and synonymous with Little League since 1947.

"This is who we are. This is what we're known for," said Jason Fink, the Williamsport/Lycoming number of Commerce president. "It's more than just baseball."

The World Series is scheduled to run Aug. 20 to Aug. 30, and any kind of cancellation would crush the hospitality industry. Hotels would not have the packed floors of families, fans and ballplayers that send business booming for two weeks every August.

Nilesh Patel, the general manager of the Red Roof Inn across the street from the complex, said 30 to 40% of its business is generated during the World Series.

"It's a hot time for all business people, not only us," Patel said.

Patel said the motel's 100 rooms are sold out for two weeks — going for \$199 to \$259 per night — and families from South Korean and Chinese teams usually book rooms at checkout for the next year.

Now, Patel lamented, "people are afraid of traveling," leaving the vacancy light on these days, though no one has canceled yet for August because the series is still on the calendar.

The Major League Baseball Little League Classic was added in 2016 and the Boston Red Sox and Baltimore Orioles are still set to play Aug. 23 at Bowman Field, the home of the Phillies' Class-A team.

Fink said the economic impact of the LLWS on the region is "well over \$30 million" and there is no event that could raise even a fraction of the potential loss revenue.

There's also the exposure that comes with a television contract with ABC/ESPN that earns the organization more than \$9 million

per year through 2022. The 2019 championship game got 3.02 million viewers on ABC.

But if the event is canceled this year, Fink said the city will bounce back.

"If for some reason we do not have it this year, next year it will be bigger, it will be better," he said.

The Little League World Series turns 75 next year, and the quaint traditions of the event such as pin trading and cardboard box sled rides down the hill behind Howard J. Lamade Stadium are sure to return once its safe.

Without a tournament, there would be no feel-good stories like the one Alex Rice enjoyed.

He was the coach of the Toney Dragons and then 13-year-old Mo'ne Davis, the 2014 Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year who became an instant celebrity and the first girl to win a Little League World Series game.

"The first night game, with I think 35,000 people, and about 95% Philadelphia folks, that was really terrific," Rice said. "... But kind of like we are now, we were sequestered in our little dorms. The kids were are on social media and everything but you really have a good sense of what was going on with how excited the city was getting."

Amid the hoopla, Rice didn't feel the Dragons got a chance to really live the full World Series experience so he took the majority of the team back in 2015 as regular kids.

"We did the pin trading. We did the cardboard down the hill," Rice said. "We kind of relaxed on the hill and enjoyed it."

Once it's safe for play to resume, so should the memorable times at Williamsport.



John Raoux/AP

Former NASCAR champion Matt Kenseth will once again come out of retirement to compete for Chip Ganassi Racing as the replacement for fired driver Kyle Larson. Larson lost his job two weeks ago for using a racial slur while competing in a virtual race.

Briefly

Kenseth to replace Larson at Ganassi

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former NASCAR champion Matt Kenseth will again come out of retirement to compete for Chip Ganassi Racing as the replacement for fired driver Kyle Larson.

Larson lost his job two weeks ago for using a racial slur while competing in a virtual race. Although Ganassi development driver Ross Chastain was assumed to be the leading contender to replace Larson in the No. 42 Chevrolet, the team instead announced Monday it will go with the two-time Daytona 500 winner.

"I think Matt gives us the best chance to win, run up front and compete for wins," Ganassi told The Associated Press.

Ganassi said the team will petition NASCAR for a waiver to make Kenseth, the 2003 Cup champion, eligible to race for the title this season. NASCAR completed just four of its 36 races before the season was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kenseth retired from Joe Gibbs Racing after the 2017 season but came back for 15 races to drive for Roush Fenway Racing, his original team, in 2018. He turned 48 on March 10.

In other racing news:

■ Ryan Newman said he will be ready to race when NASCAR resumes competition, which could be as early as May 17.

Newman suffered a head injury in the season-opening race at Daytona International Speedway. The Indiana native spent less than 48 hours in the hospital before walking out holding hands with his two daughters.

Ross Chastain drove the No. 6 Ford in place of Newman for three races before the NASCAR season was suspended March 13 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking before NASCAR's IRacing event Sunday, Newman said on Fox Sports that he will

be ready to race when NASCAR calls drivers back to the track.

"That's the absolute plan for sure. I am healthy," Newman said.

Tulane basketball player charged with murder

MCDONOUGH, Ga. — A Tulane basketball player who recently declared for the NBA Draft is charged with murder and other crimes in a Georgia slaying.

Teshaun Hightower, who led the Green Wave in scoring last season, was booked into jail Saturday on multiple charges, including murder and aggravated assault, Henry County Jail records show.

He was one of six people wanted in connection with an April 8 homicide in Stockbridge, Ga., Henry County police said in a Facebook post Friday. Police spokesman Capt. Randy Lee told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the victim, Deshaun Anthony Long, died from gunshot wounds after he was taken to a hospital.

Jail records show that five of the six men are now in police custody, including Hightower's brother, Jeffrey Hightower.

Tulane immediately dismissed Hightower from the basketball program after learning about his arrest, athletic director Troy Dannen said in a statement reported by news outlets.

Hightower, 22, said he was entering the NBA draft pool on April 18, just 10 days after Long's death. In his announcement on Twitter, the junior guard noted he planned to maintain the option of returning to school with a year of eligibility left.

The 6-foot-5 Hightower, a native of Lithonia, Ga., averaged 15.9 points, 4.6 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game during the 2019-20 season, his only one at Tulane. He played the previous two seasons at Georgia before transferring.

SOCCKER

European leagues' reboots face opposition

Associated Press

European soccer officials, eager to restart professional soccer leagues, are running into opposition from hesitant medical officials.

In Germany, the Bundesliga's plan to restart in May faced increased opposition Monday with a German virologist warning that players' health remains at risk from the coronavirus.

In Spain, the country's health minister said Sunday that Spaniards should not expect to see professional soccer restart before the summer.

In Italy, teams got the go-ahead to start practicing on May 18, but sports medicine officials have clashed over a proposed health protocol for soccer players — specifically over the issue where if a player or team official tests positive for the virus, how long — if at all — their teammates should be quarantined.

A breakdown at how those countries are handling their restart plans:

Bundesliga restart plan draws controversy

Leipzig-based Professor Uwe G. Liebert told the *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung* newspaper that proposed hygiene measures for Germany's Bundesliga — games without fans, continuous testing and permanent monitoring of players — are not sufficient to guarantee the safety of those involved.

"We don't know about the long-term effects of an illness with COVID-19," Liebert said, referring to the death of a 31-year-old without underlying health problems from the disease. "It's possible to get very sick or die from the virus at the young age."

Liebert, the head of the Institute of Virology at the University of Leipzig, said the league's plan to quarantine any players who test positive for the virus is flawed.

"You can only detect an infection after 48 hours. From my point of view, all people in contact with a soccer player are first-degree contacts," he said, referring



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

German Bundesliga soccer club FC Schalke 04 exercises during a training session in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on Thursday. The German Bundesliga is expected to start playing the rest of the season in early May behind closed doors due to the coronavirus outbreak.

to the disease control center Robert Koch Institute's label for people in close contact for more than 15 minutes. "So everyone would have to go in quarantine, possibly also the opposing team."

Despite a ban on all large gatherings through the end of August in Germany, soccer officials had been hoping to restart the league without spectators as early as May 9.

But the decision is not in their hands. Chancellor Angela Merkel's next meeting with state governors to discuss the ongoing fight against the pandemic is scheduled for Thursday, when the Bundesliga will not be the top priority.

As of Monday, Germany had registered almost 160,000 cases of the coronavirus, with nearly 6,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The true number of infections is likely much higher because many have not been tested and studies suggest people can be infected without showing symptoms.

While Bavarian governor Markus Soder and North Rhine-

Westphalia counterpart Armin Laschet appear content with the league's proposed measures to resume, the plans have been criticized by other politicians and health experts.

Green party leader Annalena Baerbock said Sunday it would be "deeply unfair" (to resume the league) when a child is not even allowed on a lonely swing."

Fan groups have also opposed plans to resume the season, while the police union has warned that supporters may congregate outside stadiums if they're not allowed to attend. Several hundred fans appeared outside Borussia Mönchengladbach's closed stadium for the team's derby with Cologne on March 11. The league was suspended two days later.

Spanish health minister: No soccer until summer

Spain has been without soccer since March 12, two days before the nation went into a strict lockdown under a state of emergency to battle its savage coronavirus outbreak that has claimed more

than 22,000 lives.

"It would be reckless for me to say now that professional football will be back before the summer," Spanish health minister Salvador Illa said. "We will continue to monitor the evolution (of the virus) and the guidelines we will present will indicate how different activities can return to a new normalcy."

The Spanish league had already said that play would not resume before late May. Madrid's mayor had said that he does not expect football before the end of the summer. The government's health officials, led by Illa, have the final say to authorize the return of sporting activities that would bring together groups of people and present a collective contagion risk.

Illa also appeared to dampen expectations that soccer players would be tested for the virus, as the Spanish league wants to happen on a daily basis once training resumes.

"There is a ministerial order in effect for all different groups, including professional football," Illa said. "The tests must be put at

the disposition of regional authorities, no matter what type of test they are. And it will be for them (the regional health authorities) to decide. We must have a common strategy. All of us must pull in the same direction."

There is no timetable for when practice would restart.

Italy will allow training beginning on May 18

Nearly seven weeks after the last game was played, Italy's top soccer division finally has a target date to resume practice.

Premier Giuseppe Conte announced Sunday that professional sports teams can resume training on May 18, while individual sports can resume practice on May 4.

The Serie A league could resume playing games in June — albeit without any fans in the stadiums.

Conte said that starting on Monday, Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora "will work intensely with the soccer system, the professional sports in general, to find a road map that we have already partly defined in terms of the repatriation of individual training on May 4 and teams on May 18.

"Then we'll evaluate if the conditions will allow the leagues that were suspended to be completed," Conte added.

There needs to be a gradual return and it requires a "rigid protocol," Spadafora said. The FIGC (the Italian soccer federation) presented a protocol and the technical-scientific commission said it wasn't sufficient yet. It needs more analysis and only after that analysis can we say if the season will resume or not."

Before Conte's nationally televised speech and news conference, health ministry figures indicated that Italy had seen its lowest day-to-day increase in deaths — 260 — since mid-March, during the first week of lockdown.

Conte said that all sports would resume with the maximum precautions.

FIFA wants to allow teams to use 5 substitutes during backlog



IAN WALTON/AP

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, right, stands by as manager Jurgen Klopp calls for a substitution. FIFA wants to allow teams five substitutions instead of three to limit injuries.

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

GENEVA — With soccer facing a congested program of games caused by the coronavirus pandemic, FIFA wants to let teams use five substitutes.

FIFA detailed a temporary plan Monday to help prevent more injuries due to "potential player overload" as soccer competitions catch up with a backlog.

The proposal gives competition organizers the option of letting teams use five substitutes instead of three in 90 minutes, and a sixth in knockout games that go to extra time.

"One concern in this regard is that the higher-than-normal frequency

of matches may increase the risk of potential injuries due to a resulting player overload," FIFA said in a statement.

Clubs such as Manchester City face an intense program in three competitions if games can safely restart in the coming weeks.

City could have 19 more games — 10 in the Premier League and up to three in the FA Cup — being scheduled in as few as 10 weeks through August.

Juventus could need 20 more: 12 in Serie A, up to six in the Champions League, and two Coppa Italia games.

The proposal must be signed off by soccer's rule-making panel, known as IFAB. Teams would still be limited to

three stoppages of play to make the changes.

IFAB approval should be a formality on a panel which includes officials from FIFA and the four British national federations.

FIFA suggested retaining the five-substitute rule next season, which looks likely to start later.

It would also apply to all national-team games through December 2021.

World Cup qualifying programs are already behind schedule in Asia and South America, and are on track to face problems in Europe next year.

After UEFA postponed the 2020 European Championship by one year, that tournament is now set to take fixture dates in June from the 2022 World Cup qualifying groups.

SPORTS



Little League lost?

Tough blow for Williamsport if youth baseball championship canceled » **Virus Outbreak, Page 22**

NFL

Destination: South Beach

Question no longer where Tagovailoa will play — it's when

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

Tua Tagovailoa has been dogged for months by uncertainty, upheaval and close calls, from a career-threatening injury to an encounter with a tornado.

Now he knows where he'll play next. He still doesn't know when.

The Miami Dolphins are willing to wait — perhaps even until 2021.

They took the Alabama quarterback with the fifth overall pick in the NFL Draft, optimistic he'll fully recover from a hip injury that ended his college career in mid-November.

He says doctors have indicated he's on schedule for a return in 2020.

MIAMI

"I've been really encouraged to say that I'm able to play if need be," Tagovailoa said.

But the Dolphins don't need for him to rush back, especially if his hip isn't yet 100%. Returning starter Ryan Fitzpatrick is 37 and ideally suited for the role of caretaker quarterback and mentor to the rookie.

With the coronavirus pandemic, it's uncertain whether there will even be a 2020 NFL season. For now, Tagovailoa plans to begin bonding with new teammates by long distance.

"We've just got to hope and pray that

everything works out, and that we can get back to spending time as a team," he said. "I think for me, the most important thing is probably getting everyone's phone number on the team and just creating relationships."

For the rebuilding Dolphins, the pick is a huge investment: the highest they've used to draft a quarterback since taking Bob Griese in 1967.

General manager Chris Grier said the Dolphins are comfortable about Tagovailoa's health, despite a long injury history that includes at least four surgeries at Alabama. Grier declined to say whether Tagovailoa is expected to participate fully in workouts whenever they begin.

Grier wouldn't talk about the rookie challenging for a starting

SEE WHEN ON PAGE 21

Taken fifth overall by Miami on Thursday in the NFL Draft, former Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa finally knows where he will play next. What's still uncertain is when that will be. Tagovailoa suffered a season-ending hip injury in November, and the Dolphins may choose to hold off his return until they are confident he has made a full recovery.

ILLUSTRATION
BY SEAN VERABLES
Stars and Stripes; AP photo



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.

