CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Testing the waters

Pentagon eyes random tests to better learn scope of infections

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will likely never have enough supplies to test the entire U.S. military, but leaders aim to test random units to improve their understanding of the scope of asymptomatic carriers in the ranks.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday that some two months into the coronavirus pandemic that the military has little idea how many of its troops are actually carrying the virus without experiencing the telltale symptoms such as fever and breathing difficulties. The Pentagon knows 4,967 troops had tested positive for the disease, of which 100 had spent some time in a hospital battling the virus, 1,844 had recovered, and two of its service members died of complications caused by the illness, according to data released Tuesday.

SEE TESTS ON PAGE 5

RELATED
Attention turns to second wave as lockdowns ease worldwide

Page 10

SEAL candidates participate in “surf immersion” during Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training at the Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado, Calif., on Monday.

ANTHONY WALKER, U.S. NAVY / AP

Navy SEAL recruits resume training while social distancing

BY JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Navy SEAL recruits and their instructors are being tested for the coronavirus as the candidates in one of the military’s most grueling programs return to training with new social distancing guidelines, a top official said Tuesday.

Everyone in the first phase of training will be tested to try to detect if anyone is infected but asymptomatic, Capt. Bart Randall said. The rapid tests to be administered this week to 170 recruits and instructors are part of a Defense Department pilot project.

“Ideally we’ll get any asymptomatic shedders out of the population to help keep the rest of the guys safe,” said Randall, the Naval Special Warfare Center’s commodore.

The recruits returned to training Monday after classes were paused March 16 as leaders
EU forecasts ‘recession of historic proportions’

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union predicted Wednesday “a recession of historic proportions this year” due to the impact of the coronavirus as it released its first official estimates of the damage the pandemic is inflicting on the bloc’s economy.

The 27-nation EU economy is predicted to contract by 7.5% this year, before growing by about 6% in 2021. The group of 19 nations using the euro as their currency is forecast to rise from 6.7% in 2019 to 9% in 2020 but then fall to around 8% in 2021, the commission said.

Gentiloni said that the depth of the recession and the strength of recovery will be uneven across the world’s biggest trading bloc. Much will depend, he said, on “the speed at which lockdowns can be lifted, the importance of services like tourism in each economy and by each country’s financial resources.”

The pandemic has hurt consumer spending, industrial output, investment, trade, capital flows and supply chains. It has also hit jobs. The unemployment rate across the 27-nation EU is forecast to rise from 6.7% in 2019 to 9% in 2020 but then fall to around 8% in 2021, the commission said.

Gentiloni said that the depth of the recession and the strength of recovery will be uneven across the world’s biggest trading bloc. Much will depend, he said, on “the speed at which lockdowns can be lifted, the importance of services like tourism in each economy and by each country’s financial resources.”

EU forecasts ‘recession of historic proportions’
**B-1B bombers in Baltics for NATO training**

**By Jennifer H. Svay**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Two B-1B Lancers arrived in the Baltics to work with NATO allies this week, marking the heavy bombers’ first flights to Europe in about 18 months.

After crossing the Atlantic, the Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.-based bombers flew with Danish F-16s over Bornholm Island, east of mainland Denmark, and worked with Estonian ground forces to provide close air support training. U.S. Air Forces in Europe — Air Forces Africa said in a statement Wednesday.

The training also included overflights of Lithuania and Latvia.

“Infecting bomber missions with our NATO allies and partners build enduring relationships that are capable of confronting a broad range of global challenges,” said Gen. Jeff Harrigian, USAFE-PAFRCIA commander.

The strategic bombers participated in the “Spring Storm military exercise, the Estonian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

“It is important that our allies understand that security cannot be put on pause for the duration of the pandemic,” Estonian Defense Minister Juri Luik said Tuesday, the Baltic Times newspaper reported.

The Lancers were last in Europe in November 2018 supporting NATO’s Trident Juncture exercises.

Strategic bomber deployments to Europe have become more frequent in recent years, amid U.S. and European concerns about potential Russian aggression. In March, a flight of B-2 stealth bombers participated in a series of training operations on the Continent. And last August, the Air Force deployed a similar B-2 bomber task force to Europe.

The Air Force did not say how long the Lancers would remain in Europe.

The Europe mission for the variable-wing Rockwell jets came just after B-1B bombers from Texas flew to the Western Pacific region.

Four B-1Bs from Dyess Air Force Base arrived in Guam on Friday to conduct training and operations with allies and partners, the Air Force said.

---

**Marines help detain unruly passenger**

**By Immanuel Johnson**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Three Marines “stacked up” outside the door of a jetliner’s bathroom and detained a passenger who had barricaded himself inside and screamed threats during a flight from Japan to Texas.

Capt. Daniel Kult, Sgt. John Dietrick and Pfc. Alexander Meinhardt, all with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, were on their way back stateside Monday when they heard the commotion, the Marine Corps said in a statement.

“We all heard the commotion and instinctively knew something needed to be done,” Dietrick, an assault infantry Marine, told Stars and Stripes via text message Wednesday.

“The only thing that was going through our heads was to ensure the safety of all passengers on board and our fellow Marines.”

The trio was about halfway through a six-month deployment to Camp Schwab on Okinawa as part of the service’s Unit Deployment Program.

But for different reasons, each was cleared to travel back to the U.S. despite the Defense Department’s coronavirus-related stop movement order.

“Honestly we just kind of naturally positioned ourselves in a manner to cover the exit and cover each other,” Kult, an infantry officer from Coon Rapids, Iowa, told Stars and Stripes.

They gathered in a tactical “stack” at the lavatory and prepared to subdue the passenger as a flight attendant unlocked the door.

“They restrained him after the flight crew provided flex ties — locking plastic cable ties often used as handcuffs.

“Your know how to work with a team, and you are trained to calmly insert yourself into a stressful situation,” Kult said. “Even though we are all different ranks, we’ve had shared experiences in training that made this an easy situation.”

After restraining the passenger in a seat, they watched him for the duration of the flight, which was diverted to Los Angeles International Airport, the statement said.

The passenger was transported to a hospital for a mental evaluation and a district command and control over the safety of all passengers on board and our fellow Marines.”

The Air Force did not say how long the Lancers would remain in Europe.

The Europe mission for the variable-wing Rockwell jets came just after B-1B bombers from Texas flew to the Western Pacific region.

Four B-1Bs from Dyess Air Force Base arrived in Guam on Friday to conduct training and operations with allies and partners, the Air Force said.

---

**Afghan forces: ISIS fighters who attacked Bagram killed in raid**

**By Phillip Walter Wellman**  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five members of an Islamic State terror cell that attacked the largest American base in Afghanistan earlier this year were killed in a series of operations by Afghan commandos in and around Kabul, Afghan officials said Wednesday.

The terror cell, which was blamed for two rocket attacks on Bagram Airfield in recent months and for firing rockets at President Ashraf Ghani’s inauguration in March, was eliminated and its leader captured in three raids in northern Kabul and a district just outside the capital, said the country’s main intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security.

A video released by the NDS shows the bodies of men said to be members of the cell. The operations were conducted Tuesday evening, an official said in the video.

Eight fighters were arrested during the raids, which were carried out by special operations forces assigned to the NDS, the agency said in a statement.

No one was seriously injured in the attacks on Bagram or the presidential inauguration attacks, but 25 people, including women and children, were killed in another attack blamed on the group, in which a gunman opened fire at a Sikh temple in Kabul in March.

Besides being part of Islamic State-Khorasan Province, the terror cell was said by the NDS to have ties to the Haqqani network, which is officially part of the Taliban but maintains district command and control over its own fighters.

The Haqqani network has been blamed for some of the most gruesome attacks in the country and was designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. in 2012.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter Wednesday that none of the group’s fighters are linked to ISIS and rejected the NDS statement as propaganda.

The Taliban and ISIS-K are bitter enemies and regularly clash on the battlefield.

Between 2,000 and 2,500 ISIS-K fighters are active in Afghanistan, according to data reported by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in January.
Soldier who died in Iraq was from Indiana

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Sgt. Christopher Aaron Lucas, 25-year-old soldier from Texas, Ind., died Monday in a noncombat-related incident in Irbil, Iraq, according to officials.

The incident is under investigation, though a coronavirus-related illness was not suspected in the death, the Operation Inherent Resolve coalition said Tuesday in a statement. Curra was with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The unit is from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

"More than 90 U.S. service members and civilians have died as part of the coalition to train, advise and assist Iraqi and Syrian partner forces fighting Islamic State, Pentagon data shows. This year, there have been seven coalition fatalities in Iraq and one in Syria. Of those, four Americans and one British soldier were killed in combat incidents—all in Iraq in early March. The most recent noncombat death before Monday happened March 30, also in Irbil, where foreign

US Space Force unveils first recruiting video

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Space Force is expected to roll out its first noncombat recruiting campaign next week, featuring scenes from space, rockets launching, its namesake orbiter and a glimpse at the secretive American space craft service the will launch in June.

In the short video, a young man looks longingly up at a night sky full of bright stars between short shots of his superhero counterpart in the military and space as a narrator says, "some people look to the stars and ask, 'What if?' "

"Maybe you weren't put here just to ask the questions," the narrator says in the 30-second video. "Maybe you were put here to be the answer. Maybe your purpose on this planet isn't on this planet.

"I trust our citizens. Trust is the principle," Merkle said. "Of course you have to check occasional- ally, but if we don't have this trust that council leaders, mayors and health offices will work well, we might as well pack up and leave."

Hairdresser Sylke Westphal works on the hair of her customer Ilse Kopsch in the salon HARRGenau in Griesfeld, Germany, on Monday, hairdressers were allowed to reopen in parts of Germany.

Hairdresser Sylke Westphal works on the hair of her customer Ilse Kopsch in the salon HARRGenau in Griesfeld, Germany, on Monday, hairdressers were allowed to reopen in parts of Germany.

Hairdresser Sylke Westphal works on the hair of her customer Ilse Kopsch in the salon HARRGenau in Griesfeld, Germany, on Monday, hairdressers were allowed to reopen in parts of Germany.
but coronavirus concerns alter its procedures

**Training:** Grueling SEAL program is back, but coronavirus concerns alter its procedures

Anyone showing symptoms of the virus will be immediately pulled from training and evaluated by a medical team and placed into quarantine if determined to be a potential case, Randall said.

The SEAL program tests participants’ physical and psychological strength along with water competency and leadership skills.

It starts at the Naval station in Great Lakes, Ill., and typically ends 65 weeks later with graduation in Coronado, across the bay from San Diego. Each graduate is awarded the special warfare insignia known as the Trident that denotes membership in the elite fighting force.

The program is so grueling that 75% of candidates drop out by the end of the first month in phase one. That’s when trainees undergo what is known as Hell Week when recruits are pushed to the limit with little sleep.

Medical crews will be watching closely this year to ensure any coughs or other flu-like symptoms that often are produced by the strenuous workouts are not a sign of the coronavirus, Randall said.

The Pentagon now needs to test its troops deemed tier 1 — those preparing to return home.

Those numbers are likely to rise during the next week to achieve its goals, and the defense secretary said the defense department to provide at $250 million to support ongoing combat or other operations around the globe.

The third tier in the Pentagon’s coronavirus testing priorities are troops preparing to deploy or those preparing to return home.

The rest of the Pentagon’s service members make up the largest group, tier 4, and its lowest priority for testing. Those are troops who are for the foreseeable future expected to remain at their home stations — where they are confined largely due to a near-universal, stop-movement order for nonessential travel. It is those units within tier 4 that the defense secretary said the program is still being shaped as the Pentagon is working to build up its coronavirus-testing supply base while simultaneously expanding the number of troops it tests every day.

Pentagon officials first realized the scope of potential asymptomatic carriers within its ranks as it worked through testing the entire crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. In the month after its first cases were found within flight crews aboard the massive ship, more than 1,000 sailors contracted the virus — the majority without experiencing symptoms.

The fast-spreading virus would sideline the ship in Guam, where its crew was offloaded and isolated in an effort to stop the spread. It marked by far the worst outbreak among the U.S. military to date, which includes one of the military’s two coronavirus-linked fatalities.

The Navy and national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month launched a scientific probe into the Roosevelt outbreak, meant to find clues from the spread of the virus aboard the ship where tight quarters make health protocols such as social distancing impossible.

Officials said the probe could be used to help the military and civilian agencies respond to other outbreaks.

Esper said he could not predict how long the pandemic would continue to affect the military. Last month he extended his stop-movement orders through the end of June. He plans to review them every 15 days to determine if the order can be canceled earlier or should be extended. The first such review will occur this week, he said.

“Whether it’s delivering personal protective equipment, food, or medical supplies, our National Guard missions began in various states as early as mid-March and have included testing the public at drive-through facilities, helping feed people through food banks and delivery programs and transporting protective equipment and supplies to where they are most needed. Some of them have come into closer contact with the virus by working in medical facilities treating the sick.”

Ernst’s home state has about 850 Guard troops activated. She said she planned to send a letter to President Donald Trump asking that he grant Iowa National Guard members and women have the call to help during the coronavirus pandemic.

Esper said he could not predict whether the coronavirus will be immediately isolated in a facility, that includes with overseeing the military’s coronavirus response efforts. That includes about 2,600 medical personnel and those serving aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is the defense secretary said Tuesday to President Donald Trump asking that he grant Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds’ request to extend the federal status authorization through June 30.

Ernst’s home state has about 850 Guard troops activated. She said she planned to send a letter to President Donald Trump asking that he grant Iowa National Guard members and women have the call to help during the coronavirus pandemic.

Esper said he could not predict whether the coronavirus will be immediately isolated in a facility, that includes with overseeing the military’s coronavirus response efforts. That includes about 2,600 medical personnel and those serving aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is the defense secretary said Tuesday to President Donald Trump asking that he grant Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds’ request to extend the federal status authorization through June 30.

**Tests:** Scope of potential asymptomatic carriers first realized in Roosevelt outbreak

The Defense Department has placed its troops into four tiered groups to prioritize those who must be tested. Esper said the Pentagon now needs to test 56,000 service members each week to achieve its goals, and those numbers are likely to rise in the future.

The Pentagon’s first priority is to test its troops deemed tier 1 — those responsible for the nation’s nuclear enterprise, including service members on submarines and bomber aircraft capable of deploying nuclear weapons and those responsible for U.S.-based ballistic missile silos. Those troops have all been tested, said Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

DOD is now working through testing its entire second tier, consisting of those now deployed to support ongoing combat or other operations around the globe.

The third tier in the Pentagon’s coronavirus testing priorities are troops preparing to deploy or those preparing to return home.

The rest of the Pentagon’s service members make up the largest group, tier 4, and its lowest priority for testing. Those are troops who are for the foreseeable future expected to remain at their home stations — where they are confined largely due to a near-universal, stop-movement order for nonessential travel. It is those units within tier 4 that the defense secretary said the program is still being shaped as the Pentagon is working to build up its coronavirus-testing supply base while simultaneously expanding the number of troops it tests every day.

Pentagon officials first realized the scope of potential asymptomatic carriers within its ranks as it worked through testing the entire crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. In the month after its first cases were found within flight crews aboard the massive ship, more than 1,000 sailors contracted the virus — the majority without experiencing symptoms.

The fast-spreading virus would sideline the ship in Guam, where its crew was offloaded and isolated in an effort to stop the spread. It marked by far the worst outbreak among the U.S. military to date, which includes one of the military’s two coronavirus-linked fatalities.

The Navy and national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month launched a scientific probe into the Roosevelt outbreak, meant to find clues from the spread of the virus aboard the ship where tight quarters make health protocols such as social distancing impossible.

Officials said the probe could be used to help the military and civilian agencies respond to other outbreaks.

Esper said he could not predict how long the pandemic would continue to affect the military. Last month he extended his stop-movement orders through the end of June. He plans to review them every 15 days to determine if the order can be canceled earlier or should be extended. The first such review will occur this week, he said.

For now, the military will continue to adhere to strict social distancing protocols when possible and the utilization of face coverings, he said.

“I think we’ll be in a new type of normal for an amount of time,” Esper said. “We’re going to do everything possible to protect our people … for the foreseeable future.”

Esper said he could not predict how long the pandemic would continue to affect the military. Last month he extended his stop-movement orders through the end of June. He plans to review them every 15 days to determine if the order can be canceled earlier or should be extended. The first such review will occur this week, he said.

For now, the military will continue to adhere to strict social distancing protocols when possible and the utilization of face coverings, he said.

“I think we’ll be in a new type of normal for an amount of time,” Esper said. “We’re going to do everything possible to protect our people … for the foreseeable future.”

Guard missions began in various states as early as mid-March and have included testing the public at drive-through facilities, helping feed people through food banks and delivery programs and transporting protective equipment and supplies to where they are most needed. Some of them have come into closer contact with the virus by working in medical facilities treating the sick.
Crisis exacts toll on people with disabilities

By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Even before the coronavirus hit, cystic fibrosis infected Utah’s C.J. Dillard with organs that didn’t stay healthy because he also had cerebral palsy and can’t easily wash his hands from his wheelchair. But these days, shelves are often bare.

For millions of disabled people and their families, the coronavirus crisis has panned out new difficulties and ramped up those that already existed. Many are immunocompromised and therefore more vulnerable to infection, but terrified of new virus-era hospital guidelines that they fear could put them at risk.

The leader of the U.N. said Wednesday that the 1 billion people living with disabilities around the world have been among the hardest-hit by the virus. Secretaries-General Antonio Guterres called for them to have equal access to prevention and treatment of COVID-19 as the pandemic exposes and intensifies global inequalities.

In the U.S., a number of states are closing businesses shuttered by the virus, but many people with disabilities stay behind closed doors, worried that more interaction could lead to a wave of new infections.

“It’s honestly kind of scary,” said Hansen, who usually likes volunteering at the library and visiting friends and family, including her parents who live far away.

Georgia Shulepov, 31, a nurse’s aide who has worked with a new medication and was ready to start a grocery store job near his Utah home before the coronavirus hit, but the infection risk has put a stop to that for now. He used to have help from health care workers with things like eating and bathing, but they had to stop coming after one had a potential exposure. The coronavirus test turned out to be negative, but they decided that the risk was too high. Jodi Hansen now does most of those things for her son, bringing drinks, scratching itches and bathing him, even though she has a bad shoulder and is working 40 hours a week from home as a transition coordinator for the Utah Parent Center.

“I’ve definitely had one full panic attack,” said Jodi Hansen. “I look at my eyes in the morning. I’ve got bad under-eye circles. I just don’t sleep well at all.”

Oklahoma mom Lisa DeBoit felt like she had to make a similar decision in caring for her son, Chandler, who also has cerebral palsy. While her husband works in facilities management for a church, she’s helping with things like medication, hygiene and feeding pump.

“We just have such a small little family to rely on right now,” she said.

Both moms worry not only about how the virus might affect their sons, but also how a hospital stay might unfold.

“They live in states where advocates have said that people with disabilities may end up at the back of the line for scarce resources like ventilators if hospitals become overwhelmed. Advocacy groups have filed complaints in several states, including Kansas, Tennessee, Washington state and Oklahoma over government guidelines which they have said wrongly disadvantage people with disabilities.

“We don’t want people who are disabled to have to fear going to the doctor,” said Shira Wakschlag, legal director at The Arc, the largest national organization advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

She said, “as care-rationing or triage guidelines, the documents are meant to help doctors and nurses handle a nightmare scenario. The goal is save the largest number of lives and create a system to make data-based decisions, said Govind Persad, who studies bioethics at the University of Denver’s Strum College of Law.

“If you put people under time pressure making these decisions, it’s more likely to lead to all kinds of biases,” he said.

Each state’s guidelines are a little different, but too many allow patients to be downgraded simply for things like needing help with daily activities or based on a perceived quality of life, Wakschlag said. Instead, her group and others, like Disability Law Center in Utah and Oklahoma, have said that the guidelines should encourage doctors to focus on how much the patient can benefit from care.

Advocates had an early victory when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, after the first complaints were filed, sent out a guidance to all states warning that anti-discrimination laws still apply. And guidelines which said that people with intellectual or cognitive disabilities may not be good candidates for care in Alabama have been withdrawn.

Utah has also created a revised document, and in Washington state health officials have acknowledged the concerns and sent out their own bulletin on non-discrimination. They’re also talking with activists about equal access to care, including Ivanova Smith, chair of the group Self Advocacy Leadership.

She’s on the autism spectrum, and even though her weakened lungs and a central nervous system make her vulnerable to the virus, sensory issues make it impossible for her to wear a mask even as more Americans don’t to keep the virus from spreading as they begin venturing from their homes more often.

“It has given me anxiety, I’ve had to take more of my meds,” she said. “I think COVID-19 has actually affected our community even harder, a lot of us have weaker immune systems and we really depend on that care … This is causing an emotional, mental toll on our community.

For Josh Miller, like many people closed in by the virus, staying in contact with family and friends through video calls has helped him stay in touch, but that doesn’t work for everyone.

“Jodi Hansen, with her son Jacob Hansen near their home in Eagle Mountain, Utah.

Yet, many people with disabilities have said they can’t get help from government agencies.

Josh Miller has intellectual disabilities and can’t understand why he can’t see grandparents and friends. But he also has vision problems, so staring at a screen is painful.

“It gets too overwhelming, he’s migraines,” said his mother, Jennifer Sollars-Miller.

If he ends up in the hospital, his mother is worried about virus-era restrictions that could prevent him from being able to communicate by himself, and having to be medicated to stop him doing things, or making things he thinks about that could happen … this is not something we ever imagined.’

2 Russian doctors dead, 1 in ICU after mysterious accidents

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Two Russian doctors have died and one remains in the intensive care unit in serious condition after falling out of windows in hospitals under mysterious circumstances.

The tragic incidents last week made national headlines, with media reports saying that all three have come under pressure from their superiors over working conditions amid the covid pandemic.

The tragic incidents last week made national headlines, with media reports saying that all three have come under pressure from their superiors over working conditions amid the covid pandemic.

In recent weeks, medical workers in Russia have been under attack for shortages of protective equipment and questionable infection control procedures that turned dozens of hospitals into virus hotbeds, with hundreds of doctors and nurses contracting the virus.

Many said that they have been threatened with dismissal or even prosecution for going public with their grievances.

Dr. Alexander Shulepov, an ambulance doctor from the Voronezh region, 310 miles south of Moscow, fell out of a window in a hospital early Saturday where he was being treated for COVID-19, breaking several ribs and sustaining a skull fracture.

Shulepov, 37, was admitted to the hospital more than a week before the accident after testing positive for the virus. That day, colleague Alexander Koyakin posted a video on social media of himself and Shulepov complaining about protective equipment shortages. In the video, Shulepov said that he was being forced to finish his ambulance shift despite being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Five days later, local health officials shared another video of Shulepov on social media in which he retracted his earlier complaints, saying that he was just being emotional.

Five days after, Shulepov fell out of a two-story hospital building in the Voronezh region, 310 miles south of Moscow, in the Star City, Russia’s spacecraft training facility just outside Moscow, which reported several dozen coronavirus cases in late April. She was admitted to a hospital in southeast Moscow with suspected COVID-19.

Lebedeva died immediately after the fall, with health officials insisting that it was just a tragic accident. Some Russian media, however, claimed that Lebedeva was accused of not protecting her staff from becoming infected and committed suicide because of it.

Russia has reported 166,000 infections and 1,537 virus deaths, but health officials in the West have described those numbers as laughably low.

The Associated Press has no official data on how many Russian health workers have died working on the front lines of the pandemic and has not responded to numerous requests for comment by The Associated Press.

Last week, a group of Russian doctors compiled an online Memory List of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who died during the outbreak. The list currently has 111 names.
Here come tracing apps — and privacy trade-offs

BY MATT O'BRIEN AND CHRISTINA LARSON  
Associated Press

As governments around the world consider how to monitor new coronavirus outbreaks while reopening their societies, many are starting to bet on smartphone apps to help stanch the pandemic.

But their decisions on which technologies to use — and how far those allow authorities to peer into private lives — are highlighting some uncomfortable trade-offs between protecting privacy and public health.

“There are conflicting interests,” said Tina White, a Stanford University researcher who first introduced a privacy-protecting approach in February. “Governments and public health (agencies) want to be able to track people” to minimize the spread of COVID-19, but people are less likely to download a voluntary app if it is intrusive, she said.

Containing infectious disease outbreaks boils down to a simple mantra: test, trace and isolate. Today, that means identifying those people can be tested and potentially isolated.

Smartphone apps could speed up that process by collecting data about your movements and alerting you if you’ve spent time near a confirmed coronavirus carrier. The more detailed that data, the more it could help regional governments identify and contain emerging disease “hot spots.” But data collected by governments can also be abused by governments — or their private-sector partners.

Some countries and local governments are issuing voluntary government-designed apps that make information directly available to public health authorities.

In Australia, more than 3 million people have downloaded COVIDSafe, an app touted by the prime minister, who compared it to the ease of applying sunscreen and said that more app downloads would bring about a “more liberated economy and society.”

Utah is the first U.S. state to embrace HealthyTogether, developed by a social media startup previously focused on helping young people hang out with nearby friends.

Both these apps record a digital trail of the strangers an individual has encountered. But their decisions on which technologies to use — and how far those allow authorities to peer into private lives — are highlighting some uncomfortable trade-offs between protecting privacy and public health.

“Containing infectious disease outbreaks boils down to a simple mantra: test, trace and isolate. Today, that means identifying those people can be tested and potentially isolated.”

That second step requires an army of health care workers to question coronavirus carriers about recent contacts so that those people can be tested and potentially isolated.

By quarantining everyone who might be infected and preventing further spread of the virus, tracking down others they might have infected and preventing further spread by quarantining everyone who might be contagious.

That second step requires an army of health care workers to question coronavirus carriers about recent contacts so that those people can be tested and potentially isolated.

Public health officials aren’t even in the loop, as these apps would notify users directly of their possible exposure and urge them to get tested. be effective.
**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

### 11 states seek probe into meatpackers

**By Roxana Hegeman**
Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. — The attorneys general for 11 Midwestern states urged the Justice Department to investigate whether meatpackers are using the coronavirus pandemic to increase their market power and boost prices, sending a letter to the attorney general that could be the first step toward a federal lawsuit.

"There is a growing concern about the use of the pandemic as a lever to put pressure on the American consumer and the American farmer," Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt wrote Tuesday to U.S. Attorney General William Barr. "Producers of food are vital to the health and safety of our nation, but the increase in cattle prices is not justified by any cost increases, and the domestic processing market has been and continues to be highly competitive." 

The state attorneys general said they plan to review the pricing data and talk to meatpackers’ trade groups as they continue their investigation.

The letter also praises the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its efforts to trace the origin of the coronavirus outbreak in March, when the disease first appeared in the United States, but it says the government has yet to release the results of the investigation.

The attorneys general said they are concerned about the use of the pandemic as a lever to put pressure on the American consumer and the American farmer, and they said they plan to review the pricing data and talk to meatpackers’ trade groups as they continue their investigation.

Mark Watne, the president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, said in a statement that the pandemic is putting "extraordinary pressure" on beef farmers. "We are concerned about the use of the pandemic as a lever to put pressure on the American consumer and the American farmer. We are concerned about the use of the pandemic as a lever to put pressure on the American consumer and the American farmer." 

GOP wary as Pelosi, Dems push ahead on big virus bill

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Even in the absence of a coronavirus response bill, President Donald Trump is seeking to drive the debate on the importance of his re-election priorities even as a chorus of GOP leaders voices hesitation about more spending.

"I'm not saying anything is perfect, and yes, will someone be affected? Yes. Will someone be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open and we have to get it open soon," he said.

Trump had said he would don a face mask if the factory was "safe in the environment," but in the end he wore only safety goggles during a tour of the Honeywell facility. Nearly all factory workers and members of the press as well as some White House staff and Secret Service agents wore masks.

Senior White House staff and Honeywell executives did not.

"They smell rotten," Watne said. "The situation is fronting furloughs and cuts to businesses. The amount of funding is to be determined." 

The contours of the next package are taking shape despite Republican resistance to more spending and a deeper debate over how best to confront the pandemic and its economic devastation. Some Republicans such as Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah and a group of GOP governors want to be more generous to states continuing to use federal funds to cover services as revenues plummet and unemployment insurance and other costs spike.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday's time to push "pause" on more aid legislation — even as he repeated a "red line" demand that any new aid package include liability protections for hospitals, health care providers and businesses operating and reopening.

McConnell and other Republicans, however, discussed the chances to endorse President Donald Trump's demand for a cut to Social Security payroll taxes as a salve for the economy. Many lawmakers think the payroll tax cut is a bad idea because it only boosts paychecks but doesn't help people thrown out of a job. "I've never thought that really would be very effective," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. She said she's working with a bipartisan, bicameral group on a state and local aid package.
We are deeply disappointed that he has not shown work on coronavirus testing, a crucial assignment. transferred to the National Institutes of Health to issued a terse statement saying that Bright was investigation. uncover problems. He wants his job back and a full tigates retaliation against federal employees who investigates retaliation for whistle-blowers. He said the Trump administration wanted to “flood” hot spots in New York and New Jersey with the drug.

“I witnessed government leadership rushing blindly into a potentially dangerous situation by bringing in a non-FDA approved chloroquine from Pakistan and India, from facilities that had never been approved by the FDA,” Bright said Tuesday on a call with reporters. “Their eagerness to push blindly forward without sufficient data to put this drug into the hands of Americans was alarming to me and my fellow scientists.”

Bright filed the complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, a government agency that investigates retaliation against federal employees who uncover problems. He wants his job back and a full investigation.

The Department of Health and Human Services has provided him no details on his new role. But his spokeswoman said that Bright is up to work on behalf of the American people and lead on this critical endeavor; HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley said.

According HHS, Bright has not reported to his new post. But his spokeswoman said that Bright is on sick leave, following his doctor’s orders, and that HHS has provided him no details on his new role.

Bright’s complaint comes as the Trump administration faces criticism over its response to the pandemic, including testing and supplies of ventilators, masks and other equipment to stem the spread. There have been nearly 1.2 million confirmed cases in the United States and more than 70,000 deaths.

Bright said his superiors repeatedly rejected his warnings that the virus would spread in the U.S., missing an early opportunity to stock up on protective masks for first responders. He said he “acted with urgency” to address the growing spread of COVID-19 — the disease the virus causes — after the World Health Organization issued a warning in January.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health, said she plans to hold a hearing into his complaint next week, and Bright’s lawyers said he would testify. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, appearing on MSNBC, called the complaint “very damaging.”

In his complaint, Bright said he encountered resistance from HHS leadership, including Secretary Alexander Acosta, who appeared intent on downplaying this catastrophic event.”

During a Feb. 23 meeting, Acosta, as well as Bright’s boss, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec, “responded with surprise at (Bright’s) dire predictions and urgency, and asserted that the United States would be able to contain the virus and keep it out,” the whistleblower complaint said.

States with few virus cases get big share of relief aid

Alaska, Hawaii, Montana and Wyoming are not epicenters of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet these four states scored big this spring when Congress pumped out direct federal aid, while the two hardest-hit states, New York and New Jersey, got comparatively little given the vast numbers of cases and deaths they have seen.

An Associated Press analysis shows that some states with small populations like these took in an out-sized share of the $150 billion in federal money that was designed to address coronavirus-related expenses, when measured by the number of positive tests for the COVID-19 disease.

Their haul ranged from $2 million per positive test in Hawaii to nearly $3.4 million per test in Alaska. In Wyoming, with less than 600 positive cases, the $1.25 billion it received equates to 80% of its annual general state budget.

By comparison, New York and New Jersey received about $24 million and $27 million, respectively, for each positive coronavirus test. Other states with high numbers of cases, including Massachusetts, Michigan and Illinois, received less than $100,000 per case.

“If there’s a fire, you don’t spray the whole neighborhood. You spray the house that’s on fire,” said Bill Hammond, director of public health policy at the Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonpartisan government watchdog in New York. He said it doesn’t make sense in this case to follow the normal political procedure of giving every state so much in the face of a public health crisis.

To be sure, the lowest population states often receive higher dollar amounts per capita when Congress doles out federal aid. That’s due in part to political reality: Small states have the same number of U.S. senators as more populous ones, and those senators lobby hard for their states’ interests. The awards in the relief aid passed in late March were based on population, but with a catch: Every state was to receive at least $1.25 billion, regardless of its size. Lawmakers said setting such a minimum was needed to reach a deal in a divided government.

In the coronavirus fight, the disproportionate share going to smaller states has consequences. States with high numbers of infections and deaths say they need that money for immediate expenses related to fighting an outbreak that threatened to overwhelm their hospital systems.

Brighten your day!

Read letters from kids to deployed servicemembers and their heartwarming responses.
VIRUS OUTBREAK

2nd wave on many minds as lockdowns ease

Associated Press

ROME — From the marbled halls of Italy to the wheat fields of Kansas, health authorities are increasingly warning that the question isn’t whether a second wave of coronavirus infections and deaths will hit, but when — and how badly.

In India, which partly relaxed its lockdown this week, health authorities scrambled Wednesday to contain an outbreak at a huge market. Hard-hit New York City shut down its subway system overnight for disinfection. Experts in Italy, which just began easing some restrictions, warned lawmakers that a new surge of virus infections and deaths is coming, and they urged intensified efforts to identify victims, monitor their symptoms and trace their contacts.

Germany warned of a second and even a third wave and threatened to reimpose virus restrictions if new cases can’t be contained. German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Wednesday with the country’s 16 governors to discuss further loosening restrictions that have crippled Europe’s largest economy.

“There will be a second wave, but the problem is to what extent. Is it a small wave or a big wave? It’s too early to say,” said Olivier Schwartz, head of the virus and immunity unit at France’s Pasteur Institute. France, which hasn’t yet eased its lockdown, has worked up a “re-confinement plan” to ready for that second wave.

Many areas are still struggling with the first wave. Brazil for the first time locked down a large city, the capital of Maranhao state. Across the ocean, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa has shot up 42% in the past week. Infections were expected to surpass 50,000 there on Wednesday.

An Associated Press analysis, meanwhile, found that U.S. infection rates outside the New York City area are in fact rising, notably in rural areas. It noted that New York’s progress against the virus was overshadowing increasing infections elsewhere.

“Make no mistakes: This virus is still circulating in our community, perhaps even more now than in previous weeks,” said Dr. Lee Ochs, director of the Health Department in Shawnee County, Kan.

The virus is known to have infected more than 3.6 million and killed more than 251,000 people, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The U.S. has seen over 71,000 deaths amid its 1.2 million confirmed infections, and Europe has endured over 144,000 reported deaths.

The researchers behind a widely cited model from the University of Washington nearly doubled their projection of deaths in the U.S. to around 134,000 through early August, in part because authorities allowed mass gatherings from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

In Germany, authorities may reimpose restrictions on any county that reports 50 new cases for every 100,000 inhabitants within the past week.

Lothar Wieler, head of Germany’s national disease control center, said scientists “know with great certainty that there will be a second wave” of infections but said Germany is well-prepared to deal with it. The country has been hailed for testing widely and has had one-fourth of the deaths in Italy or Britain, which have smaller populations.

Britain has begun recruiting 18,000 people to trace contacts of those infected.

South Africa, which has years of experience tracking HIV and other infections, has more than 30,000 experienced community tracers at work. Turkey has 5,800 teams of contact tracers who have tracked down and tested nearly half a million people.

India was concentrated on the immediate drama around the market in the southern city of Chennai, which is now tied to at least 1,000 virus cases. An additional 7,000 people connected to the now-shuttered Koyambedu market are being traced and quarantined. Experts are worried about a health catastrophe in a country of 1.3 billion people with an already stressed medical system.

New confirmed daily infections in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are well over 1,000, according to the Johns Hopkins tally. And public health officials warn that the failure to lower the infection rate could lead to many more deaths — perhaps tens of thousands — as people venture out and businesses reopen.

Trump acknowledged the toll but argued that keeping the U.S. economy closed carries deadly costs of its own, such as drug abuse and suicides.

“I’m not saying anything is perfect, and yes, will some people be affected? Yes. Will some people be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open,” he said during a visit to Arizona in which he did not wear a face mask.

Dallas salon owner jailed

Associated Press

DALLAS — A hair salon owner in Texas was ordered to spend a week in jail after she continued to operate her business despite restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Shelley Luther was booked in the Dallas County jail on Tuesday afternoon following a video hearing, during which she was found in contempt of court. The hearing occurred as Gov. Greg Abbott relaxed more restrictions statewide, allowing barbershops and hair salons to reopen Friday.

Last month, Luther was issued a citation for keeping open her Dallas salon despite state and local mandates that kept nonessential businesses closed.

In Tuesday’s hearing, Luther said she kept the salon open because she needed the money.

“I didn’t feed my family, and my stylists couldn’t feed their families,” Luther testified, saying she had applied for a federal loan but didn’t receive it until Sunday.

Dallas County Judge Eric Moye said during Tuesday’s hearing that he would consider levying a fine instead of jail time if Luther would apologize and not reopen until she was allowed to do so. Luther refused.

“Feeding my kids is not selfish,” she told Moye. “If you think the law is more important than kids getting fed, then please go ahead with your decision, but I am not going to shut the salon.”
NYC subways shut down for disinfecting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City’s subway system went silent in the early morning hours of Wednesday, as part of a plan for normally round-the-clock system to shut down for cleaning.

The trains, which had been running on a reduced schedule since late March, are now going to be stopped from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. each day.

Police officers escorted people out of Brooklyn’s Coney Island station, the end of the line for several trains, and told them they would wait until the next bus or train to their destinations. Cleaners carrying bottles of bleach then boarded the trains.

Power had been running in the overnight hours anyway, but the shutdown allows for daily cleanings and for city workers to move homeless people who have been more visible in subway cars during the coronavirus.

California

SACRAMENTO — California Gov. Gavin Newsom scolded two rural counties Tuesday for allowing some businesses to reopen during the coronavirus restrictions of his statewide coronavirus restrictions, calling it a “big mistake” and saying that they are “putting their public at risk.”

Restaurants, hair salons and many other businesses opened Monday in Yuba and Sutter counties, about 40 miles north of Sacramento. A revised public health order in the counties is busy requiring reopen but requires them to enforce social distancing and other restrictions. The Yuba Suder Mall planned to reopen Wednesday.

The two counties together have had 84 confirmed coronavirus cases out of a combined population of just over 175,000 people, and no one is now hospitalized there with the virus, according to state data.

Sutter County Supervisor Mike Zerbe said Tuesday that he was “irritated” by Newsom’s comments, saying that the two counties were following the directives of their shared public health officer. He said that he will urge county officials to keep allowing businesses to reopen in defiance of Newsom’s order.

Colorado

DENVER — Denver Mayor Michael Hancock said Tuesday that the city’s stay-at-home order will expire at the end of the week, allowing an array of businesses to reopen with strict social distancing rules.

Beginning Saturday, offices and retail stores can reopen with half of their usual staff, and businesses like hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors and pet groomers must have an appointment only. Some businesses, like dine-in restaurants, bars, movie theaters and gyms, will have to remain closed, and gatherings of more than 10 people will be prohibited through May 26.

On Friday, Denver will join a handful of cities requiring people to wear a face covering in certain public areas, including at businesses, while waiting for and riding public transportation, as well as at health care facilities and city offices.

Denver has seen a decline in hospital patients with the coronavirus in the last two weeks, but in a first, county health officials said that they still need to increase testing and hire more contact tracers to see how the disease spreads.

Iowa

IOWA CITY — Nearly 1,400 workers at three Tyson Foods pork processing plants in Iowa have tested positive for the coronavirus, the state reported Tuesday, as efforts to control the outbreak surged to a new daily high.

The Iowa Department of Public Health revealed that the state’s largest outbreak to date has been at the Tyson plant in Perry, a town in central Iowa. There, 730 workers were confirmed to have the virus, a stunning 55% of those tested, the department said.

The Tyson plant in Waterloo had 636 confirmed positive, and its Columbus Junction plant has had 221 confirmed infections, the department said.

The department said that 258 workers at a National Beef plant in Tama tested positive, as did another 131 employees of a Newton wind turbine blade manufacturer.

Michigan

WARREN — Michigan communities saw record turnout for local elections Tuesday, as voters participated in largely mail-based contests that could be a blueprint for the presidential battleground in November.

In a first, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson’s office automatically sent absentee ballot applications to all 740,000 registered voters in roughly 50 municipalities — about 10% of the electorate to discourage in-person voting in a state where nearly 400 people have died from coronavirus complications.

Turnout was up from 2016, elections officials said, but it likely didn’t double the average for May elections.

Each jurisdiction had at least one site for in-person voting, though only about 850 people had done so as of late afternoon. Absentee ballots in Warren, for example, had been returned by 6:30 p.m. — accounted for 98% of the vote.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in March used her emergency powers to expand absentee voting by letting the state mail ballot applications with postage-paid return envelopes to every voter in 53 communities across 33 counties.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper agreed on Tuesday to ease North Carolina’s stay-at-home order, saying that COVID-19 in the state is clearly under control and numbers are improving enough to warrant increased commerce and movement.

A new executive order taking effect Friday afternoon that opens many more businesses will replace a more restrictive mandate that Cooper had issued starting March 30. The Democratic governor began to loosen the rules as infections and hospitalizations continued to drop. Still, it was as stark a figure as the state has reported since the first case of the new coronavirus was detected in Pennsylvania in early March. It comes as the growth in cases appears to slow down in many parts of Pennsylvania and Wolf’s administration moves to lighten its restrictions on movement and business activity.

Texas

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas kept charging ahead with reopenings Tuesday, as Republican Gov. Greg Abbott gave hair salons permission to return to business alongside restaurants and retailors and defended the pace of reopening as one of the nation’s biggest states as experts have warned that going too fast could result in new outbreaks.

In letting barbershops and hair salons open starting Friday, Abbott appeared to be moving faster than he suggested even a week ago when he allowed stay-at-home orders in Texas to expire. Restaurants and retailers in Texas began reopening under limited capacity Friday, but that has not satisfied even some GOP lawmakers who want a far quicker reopening of the state.

Two Republican state lawmakers Tuesday got haircuts at a barbershop outside Houston in defiance of Abbott’s orders, saying that they were supporting business owners who need to get back to work. Last week, Abbott had mentioned mid-May as a target for hair salons to open, along with bars and gyms.

He fired back at criticism over whether Texas is moving too fast during a news conference at the Texas Capitol, at one point rattling off a list of experts he said he has consulted with in making decisions, including Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force.
Ginsburg hospitalized with infection

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized Tuesday with a condition caused by a gallstone, but planned to take part in the court’s arguments by telephone Wednesday, the Supreme Court said.

The 87-year-old justice underwent non-surgical treatment for what the court described as acute cholecystitis, a benign gallbladder condition, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

She is resting comfortably and expects to be in the hospital for a day or two, the court said.

Ginsburg took part in the court’s telephone arguments Monday and Tuesday. She initially sought medical care Monday, when the gallstone was first diagnosed. She has been treated four times for cancer, most recently in August 2018, when she underwent radiation for a tumor on her pancreas.

Her most recent hospital stay was in November, when she spent two nights at Johns Hopkins Hospital with a likely infection after suffering from chills and fever.

Ginsburg has said she would like to serve until she’s 90, if her health allows.

Ginsburg took part in the court’s telephone arguments Monday and Tuesday.
Iran’s president says end to arms embargo is a ‘right’

By Nasser Karimi
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian president said Wednesday that lifting a United Nations arms embargo on Tehran would be an “obvious right” and added a veiled warning of unspecified steps Iran could take if the embargo is extended, as the United States wants.

Hassan Rouhani’s remarks were in response to a push by the U.S., which last month circulated a draft U.N. resolution that would indefinitely extend the embargo set to expire in October. Such a move is almost certain to spark opposition from Russia, which has made no secret of its desire to resume conventional weapons sales to Tehran.

“Iran considers the lifting of the arms embargo an obvious right,” Rouhani said during a Cabinet meeting broadcast live on state TV.

A U.N. Security Council resolution that endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers envisions an end to the embargo five years after the deal. President Donald Trump pulled America out of the deal in 2018 and imposed harsher sanctions on Iran.

Since Iran is admittedly no longer complying with several elements of the nuclear deal, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.S. administration believes it has a case to make that the embargo should not be lifted.

“Iran will not accept violation of the ... (U.N.) resolution under any circumstances,” Rouhani said. He said that extending the embargo would lead to “serious consequence and a historic failure” for the West.

Iraqi military says 3 rockets strike near Baghdad airport; no casualties

Associated Press

BAGHDAD—Three Katyusha rockets struck near the military sector of the Baghdad airport early Wednesday but caused no casualties, the Iraqi military said.

The attack came hours ahead of a parliament session that will vote on the proposed government of the latest prime minister-designate, Mustafa al-Kadhimi.

Iraqi security forces later discovered the launching pad for the rockets in the al-Barkiya area, west of Baghdad. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

An Iraqi security official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said that one of the rockets struck close to Iraqi forces at the military airport, another near Camp Cropper, once a U.S. detention facility, and the last near to where U.S. forces are stationed at the base. Saddam Hussein was held in Camp Cropper prison prior to his execution.

The attack is the first after a brief lull since March 26, when rockets hit near the Baghdad Operations Command, a center that coordinates Iraq’s police and military forces.

The command is a few hundred yards from the U.S. Embassy, which has also been a frequent target of rocket attacks.

The U.S. has accused Iran-backed militias of carrying out such attacks in the past. Several attacks targeted U.S. interests early in March, including three military bases known to house U.S. troops. The U.S.-led coalition has withdrawn from several bases across Iraq in a planned drawdown.

Hosed down

Servicemen of the Belarus Ministry of Defence wearing protective gear spray disinfectant on each other after disinfecting a hospital Tuesday in Minsk, Belarus. Despite the World Health Organization’s call for Belarus to ban public events as coronavirus cases rise sharply, President Alexander Lukashenko said that the country will go ahead with a parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Hosed down

SERGEI GRTTS/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Police: Shopper wore KKK hood at store

SAN DIEGO — Authorities are looking into whether a man who they say wore a Ku Klux Klan hood while grocery shopping in a San Diego suburb could face criminal charges, the sheriff's department said.

The unidentified man was photographed with the white hood while pushing a grocery cart at the store in the town of Santee a day after the county required people to wear masks outside to slow the spread of the coronavirus, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Store clerks asked him to take off the hood or leave the store, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune. He removed the tall, pointed hood that had two small eye holes cut into it, paid for his groceries and left.

Deputies are investigating to see if he could be charged with a possible hate crime, the department said.

Fowl play: Police search for ‘aggressive chicken’

LA WALKER — Police are searching for an “aggressive chicken” accused of engaging in fowl play at a Louisiana bank.

The Walker Police Department responded to a complaint about the brazen animal, the agency said in a social media post.

Witnesses told police the chicken had been spotted at the bank multiple times, approaching patrons at the ATM, chasing customers and even attempting to climb into cars in the drive-thru, according to the department's post.

Officials said officers responded to the bank within a few minutes of the call, but found the pesky poultry had already escaped.

Officials warn of disease killing off rabbits

Lake Havasu City — Arizona wildlife officials are issuing a warning about the potential spread of a virus that kills rabbits.

The Today's News-Herald reported that state Game and Fish Department veterinarians are watching for cases of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 dubbed RHDV2.

For rabbits, the disease can be deadly, with up to 100 percent of the animals affected succumbing to it within 24 hours of infection.

Police find dead dogs, cats in shelter’s freezer

WEBBVILLE — Police seized 90 dogs from a no-kill animal shelter in Kentucky due to its allegedly poor living conditions, and charged its owner with animal cruelty charges from 2018, said he provides medical care when the animals need it.

Skaggs, 68, now faces 12 additional counts, of improper disposal.

Deputy accused of taking money orders on patrol

PENSACOLA — A deputy in Florida is accused of cashing out blank money orders from a car he pulled over while on patrol.

The Escambia County Sheriff’s Office received a complaint from a woman who said the money orders were in the car her boyfriend was driving when he was arrested on outstanding warrants by Deputy William Christopher Henley, news outlets reported.

The woman said she called Western Union to find out about the money orders after the arrest, and was informed they were already cashed out by Henley, Escambia County Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Amber Southard told the Pensacola News Journal.

Henley, 37, was booked into county jail with no bond and on multiple charges, including burglary and fraud.

Billboard vandalized with ‘Cancel Rent’ graffiti

BALTIMORE — A billboard that features Baltimore’s mayor was vandalized with the words “Cancel Rent” as well as a vulgarity directed at the police.

The Baltimore Sun reported that the vandalized billboard followed in the wake of many people losing their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Many people have called for rent and mortgage payments to be suspended. The billboard graffiti also touched on tensions in the city with law enforcement.

Officials: Man set on fire while using blow torch

HARVEY — A Louisiana man was hospitalized after accidentally setting himself on fire from the waist up while using a blow torch to repair his truck.

The man was working under the chassis of his 18-wheeler truck when the blow torch ignited, Harvey Volunteer Fire Company 2 Captain Mike McAliff told the Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate.

The 58-year-old victim became covered in flames above his waist and ran 200 feet from his repair yard to a nearby business to call for help.

He was taken to a New Orleans hospital after people in that business extinguished the fire and called 911.

From wire reports
Selena Gomez cooks up show for HBO Max

Associated Press

Selena Gomez will display her quarantine cooking skills in a 10-episode series for the upcoming streaming service HBO Max.

The actress and singer, who said she’s been spending more time in the kitchen during the coronavirus pandemic, also is an executive producer for the untitled project, HBO Max said Tuesday.

“I’ve always been very vocal about my love of food. I think I’ve been asked hundreds of times in interviews if I had another career, what would I do and I’ve answered that it would be fun to be a chef,” Gomez said in a statement. “I definitely don’t have the formal training though! Like many of us while being home, I find myself cooking more and experimenting in the kitchen.”

She will be joined remotely in each episode by a different master chef to cook and chat about kitchen tips. Food charities will be highlighted by the show, HBO Max said.

HBO Max is scheduled to debut May 27, with Gomez’s series set to air this summer. A release date wasn’t announced.

Radcliffe, Beckham among Harry Potter readers in videos

Celebrities including Daniel Radcliffe, David Beckham and Dakota Fanning will take part in chapter-by-chapter readings of J.K. Rowling’s first Harry Potter book.

Rowling’s Wizarding World announced Tuesday that all 17 chapters of “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” will be read in a series of free videos and audio recordings. The readings of the beloved fantasy story is part of the Harry Potter at Home series.

Stephen Fry, Claudia Kim, Noma Dumezweni and Eddie Redmayne are expected to narrate chapters.

Radcliffe, who starred as Harry Potter in the films, kicked off the series. He read the first chapter of the book, “The Boy Who Lived,” which is posted on harrypotterathome.com.

Other videos will be posted weekly on the website. Audio-only versions will be available for free on Spotify.

Producers’ win against Jackson overturned

A California appeals court on Tuesday overturned most of a 2017 jury verdict awarding Quincy Jones $9.4 million in royalties and fees from the Michael Jackson estate over the use of Jones-produced Jackson hits in the concert film “This Is It” and two Cirque du Soleil shows.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled that the jury misinterpreted a contract that was the judge’s job to interpret anyway. It took away $6.9 million that jurors had said MJJ Productions owed Jones, 87, for his work on “Billie Jean” and “Thriller,” and more of Jackson’s biggest hits.

The appeals court found that the jury wrongly granted Jones money from licensing fees, wrongly went beyond the 10% royalty rate Jones was owed for record sales, and incorrectly granted Jones money for remixes of Jackson’s master recordings.

The court kept intact $2.5 million of the award, which Jones said he was owed for the use of his masters in “This Is It” and other fees.

Gary Busey to host ‘Pet Judge’ for Amazon

What do you get when you cross Gary Busey, Judge Judy and Joe Exotic? Whatever it is, it’s debuting May 25 on Amazon Prime.

The 75-year-old actor will hold court on the six-part series “Gary Busey: Pet Judge,” where animal owners can settle their grievances before what’s sure to be a kooky panel.

Rolling Stone revealed the release date for Busey’s show, which the Academy Award-nominated actor has been teasing on social media last week.

The cases Busey expects to handle usually include “chinchillas, meerkats, goats, birds, meerkats and turt...”
Our life-or-death struggle with a new disease has become, for Trump, just another chance to divide the country.

By David Von Drehle
The Washington Post

To preserve what passes for my mental health, I avoid as much as possible President Donald Trump’s Twitter habits. Some theorize that his feed is a sort of cat toy that he dangles in front of the media to distract us from his agenda. Others study it as a means to discern Trump’s often confused, divided mind. Still others — including, I suspect, most Trump supporters — perceive it to be a sort of Andy Kaufman-esque performance art, compelling and bewildering at the same time. What’s he doing, and what will he do next? Or maybe it’s more in the vein of a self-satisfied micromanager who exposed, debases and even tortures himself in front of audiences who find it difficult to look away. Which means they are watching. Which is the goal.

The presidential Twitter feed is probably all these things, and more. What it’s not, however, is an illuminating good-faith discussion of real opportunities facing the American people. So I prefer not to fall under its mesmerizing spell.

Today, you may have noticed. A Trump tweet passed through my peripheral vision that struck me so nakedly revealing of its author’s values and character that it’s almost Shakespearean in the way it distills so many of its author’s values and character. What it’s saying is that Russia is acting like a bully and France is acting like a stooge. “Russia, like a bully, uses Syria as a weapon of power. France, like a stooge, following Russia, is sitting back and just watching. Russia could have stopped the Suez conflict of 1956. France did not. Russia has hit Syria with waves of attacks but France is just watching. Russia could have stopped the nuclear weapons of Iran. France did not.”

The president’s message is that we are not partisan combatants, we are human beings, equally vulnerable and, if we so choose, can work together for the good of the world. If the nation is rising, we rise together. If the nation falls, we fall together. And we are determined to rise.”

Enter Pete Hegseth, a decorated Army veteran who also serves as Chief Mentor. Every TV host needs a niche, and Hegseth finds his in a cartoonishly exag- gerated version of conservative patriotism. Normal soldiers respect the Constitution they have pledged to defend. Ultra-soldiers Hegseth has part of the preamblie tattooed on his forearm.

He was offended by the timing of Bush’s declaration that we are not partisan combatants. Why, Hegseth demanded to know, shouldn’t he be saying that the Trump administration is doing the right thing in stopping the barrel-rolling Russian leadership? The provocation of a half-baked question made so much sense to Trump that he repeated it in a tweet, adding, for good measure, that Bush was “no where to be found in speaking up against the greatest Hoax in American history!”

What I find revealing is that the word “Trump” appears nowhere in the Bush tweet. Bush’s statement was of course plain speaking in a general way about all Americans “equally.” Yet Trump’s tweet equates himself with Trump. Bush’s remarks should properly be viewed through the prism of Trump’s political fortunes. Why? No doubt the president’s florid narcissism explains part of his reaction. (It certainly explains Hegseth’s slavering courtship of the Trump ego.) As the only noteworthy occupant of his own psychological state, Trump seems to think everything is about him.

But something more was going on. Even a narcissist could choose to hear the call to unity and think: Isn’t that nice? As president in a crisis, I need everyone pulling together, and he’s trying to help me with that.

Since George Washington waved goodby, every president has been the leader of a party. But they also lead the nation, especially in times of great peril. Yet here, a plea for national unity is the occasion for a presidential rebuke. The only sensible explanation: The president has no interest in unity.

Like the heart beneath Edgar Allan Poe’s floorboards pounding in the years of a guilty man’s sentence, Trump can’t bear the thought of Trump like an indictment. He knows that unifying the public is not on his agenda. He has no interest in bringing us together. After all, there is no “team” in “I.”

Our life-or-death struggle with a new disease has become, for Trump, just another chance to divide the country. For Trump, the nation is the enemy. For Trump, we must be a nation of winners and losers. For Trump, the American people’s interests are the interests of a party — his party.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of “Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year.”

Ruthless and leaderless, the Middle East

By Arthur I. Cyr
Special to Stars and Stripes

The foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, and Turkey held a successful video conference on April 22. The purpose was to rekindle the seemingly endless violence in Syria. This is the latest instance of continuing cooperation among tentative opponents.

Earlier, on March 5, Russia and Syria agreed to a cease-fire. This followed a dangerous escalation in violence. Retaliation for the Turkish attacks on the YPG led to increased support by Ankara for surviving rebel groups in Syria, and a devastating series of drone attacks against Syrian government forces.

The decision by Vladimir Putin in 2015 to intervene with military forces in the brutal civil war in Syria has led to sustained expansion of Russia’s influence in the region. Along with other benefits, Moscow has greatly increased its standing in the regime of Syria President Bashar Assad.

Historically, Moscow has been preoccupied with securing its strategic interests in the Mediterranean. Russia has long been a major player in the region, and has historically been the dominant power in the Mediterranean basin. The threat of a Turkish invasion of Syria has led Russia to intensify its military presence in the region, and to establish a military base in Syria.

Russia has a long history of involvement in the volatile region, especially Syria. The country has a profound interest in maintaining its influence and securing its interests in the region. Russia has been a consistent advocate of the Syrian regime and has been a key player in the cease-fires and other agreements that have been reached in the region.

President Putin has repeatedly stated his commitment to preserving Russian influence in the region, and has been a vocal supporter of the Syrian regime. The Russian military has played a key role in supporting the Syrian regime, and has been involved in a number of high-profile military interventions in the region.

The recent political developments in the region, including the agreement between Russia and Turkey to create a de-escalation zone in Syria, have been seen as positive for Russia’s interests. However, the situation remains complex and volatility is likely to persist. The future of the region remains uncertain, and it is unclear what role Russia will play in the coming years.
OPINION

The blame pandemic worsens another crisis

By Mitch Daniels
Special to The Washington Post

What follows is not a prediction. More of a precaution, based on a presumption. While I’m wearing out the prefix, let’s call it a preventive prescription.

I’m worried about preventing a sickness, one we’ve been through before — much more recently than the last pandemic flu. It’s our tribal epidemic of pronouncements, deploy 20/20 rearview vision and castigate the Other Side for its mistakes, even those made in all sincerity even when those second-guessers failed to dispute, or even endorsed, at the outset.

Since everything these days seems to call for a snappy abbreviation, let’s use HRD, for Hindsight Recrimination Disorder.

In the first years of this century, the consensus conclusion of multiple national intelligence agencies was that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had or was close to acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Based on that “expert” information, the United States organized a large number of nations in a massive campaign to eliminate the threat, which proved not only expensive in both human and economic terms.

Because the intelligence was wrong. The WMDs weren’t real; they proved to be a dictator’s bluff. A reasonable postmortem over the years has been the overestimation of those who misread the information and try to learn lessons that might help us avoid repeating the errors of the past. But it’s not the makers of the time could have been criticized for not seeing through faulty data they had been given, without being trashed as liars or worse and pursuing personal vindication.

Of course, that’s not what happened. People who had examined the information and followed their own hearts and minds using military action developed a contortionist amnesia to denounce the exact viewpoint they had once held, or even voted for.

Conspiracy theorists were permitted, even encouraged, to foment the slander that someone fabricated the inaccurate intelligence. Today’s poisonous, partisan atmosphere can be some of the toxins from the ugly Iraq War aftermath.

It’s easy to imagine the coronavirus producing the same potentially deadly symptoms. None of us knows how this is going to turn out. It could be that the maximalist measures we’ve taken, with all their brutal consequences and lost jobs, dashed our interrupted educations, second-order deaths — from foregone care, postponed surgeries, addiction relapses and suicides, you name it — will all prove warranted.

I, for one, hope so. I earnestly hope that our public officials, who are acting on the best (they believe) intelligence available to them, have chosen wisely. Because I think we pay a frightful societal price when we fail to establish social distance from HRD.

The consequences will have a lot of raw material to exploit. Even more than in the Iraq experience, it will be simple to identify special-interest motives and claim they drove a campaign that deceived the rest of us into an overreaction. The public health community, underappreciated in normal times, but also replete with a fabulous light opportunity. They’re not only on TV daily; they’re also calling the public policy shots.

Heretofore obscure politicians have also been handed plenty of airtime to pronounce on the pandemic. At least in the short term, they are “saving lives”; hard to be unpopular doing that. Of course, trading near-term benefits they collect for long-term costs someone else can deal with is what politicians do (#nationaldebts).

Most are taking a terrible beating, but the news media are suddenly on a roll, at least in audience. All those eyeballs stuck at home, and desperate for news about the virus that is the reason. There has been a lot of smart and responsible reporting but also a ton of the kind, anecdotal, sensationalist, alarmist. They old print maxim, “If it bleeds, it leads,” now has its modern-day update, “If it’s sick, it claims.

Again, my hope is that what we’ve been doing will be truly vindicated. I want to discover that this was the wisest course, that the ghastly price we’re paying was all worth it. But it’s the long term that matters. I can already hear the outcry claiming, “They lied to us.”

Sweden (hey, wasn’t it just yesterday we were being lectured to admire and emulate its health care system?) has been criticized for a high per capita coronavirus death rate after declining to shut down its entire society. But what if after a year there’s no difference? Sweden’s rate is far below ours, due to the herd immunity we are postponing? What if people as thoughtful as New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman have been right about protecting the most vulnerable without shutting down society?

Let’s not reprise Iraq. How about we self-vaccinate against HRD and all agree that, whatever comes, people right now are doing their best with the information they have. If their judgments turn out to be mistaken, let’s avoid another orgy of tribal recrimination and agree that we won’t repeat the errors. Here’s a type of HRD immunity we can achieve without becoming ill.

Mitch Daniels, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is president of Purdue University and a former governor of Indiana.

What your post-lockdown office will look like

By Therese Raphael
Bloomberg Opinion

Whether working from home has been a productivity and wellness-enhancing experience or a revelation depends on who you ask. What is clear is that a brave new workplace is now on the horizon. The once shudder-inducing thought of being isolated in remote working may prove beneficial to women.

There may be other benefits to the change. When we’re in the office, we may not notice the immense time cost that goes into commuting, breakfast and lunch preparations, and more Zoom meetings.

In the U.K., remote working has been increasing in recent years, although it still only applied to 5% of the country’s workforce before this period of lockdowns. That’s likely to change, given the range of jobs that can be done remotely and the government’s need to manage the flow of people using mass transit systems like London’s Tube.

If Britain follows a similar strategy to Ireland’s (announced last week) and responds to the growing pressure from business leaders to provide return dates, workers with very little contact in their offices could be back at work before the end of June, while others could return in the second half of July. But Johnson will probably ask those who can work from home to keep doing so. That would make sense. His “stay at home” message has been so successful that many Britons are reluctant to return to work environments.

Still, the reopening plans will also create confusion, and employers demanding clarity are unlikely to get it. As prescriptive as it sounds, the new guidance will still leave a lot up to interpretation, sprinkled in phrases such as “where possible.” Britain’s trade unions are already pressing for clearly mandated safety measures. Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, has criticized the consultation documents as too vague and he’s calling for a “national safety standard.”

I haven’t walked around the City of London since our team was sent home in March, but I picture miles of open offices, with nobody, or very nearly nobody, working home of some 52,000 professionals, who emerge from Underground stations each morning, travel gleaming buildings and patronize the local bars, gyms and restaurants.

Worst of all is thinking of most industries are taking prized-winning headquarters standing largely empty. But just as people got used to new rules for flying, we’re going to have to get used to sharing space with colleagues eventually.

It’s just going to be different.

“Why can’t I just know you’re in the good old days before you’ve actually left them?” said the character Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) in the finale of the NBC sitcom ‘The Office’.

Therese Raphael is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.
Brighten your day!

Read letters from kids to deployed servicemembers and their heartwarming responses.

**LETTER FROM EMILY**

Dear Pen pal,
My name is Emily. I live in Germany. Where do you live?

From Emily

**LETTER FROM NICK**

Dear Emily,
My name is Nick. I live in Hawaii, but I used to live in Germany for 3 years. Do you have a pen pal?

From Nick

penpal.stripes.com
Tagovailoa will wear No. 1 for Dolphins

Associated Press

MIA MIA — Rookie quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Miami Dolphins’ top draft pick, will wear uniform No. 1.

Tagovailoa will be the first Dolphins quarterback to wear No. 1, which was most famously worn by kick-

garbo Yepremian.

If Tagovailoa has been drafted by any other team besides the Dolphins, he probably would have

chosen to wear No. 13 in the NFL, which is the same number that he wore during his college career at

Alabama.

However, that number isn’t an option in Miami because the Dol-
sphins retired it back in 2003 as a way to honor the greatest quarterback in franchise history, Dan

Marino.

“I’m not too worried about what number I have. I understand No. 13 is retired, and it should be,”

Tagovailoa said on draft night. “Dan Marino, he’s the GOAT. He’s the mayor out there and I have

much respect for him.”

Tagovailoa did wear No. 11 in high school, but Dolphins receiv-

er DeVante Parker has owned the

number for the past five seasons.

No. 2 was an option for Tagovail-

oal, but that number was worn

by punter Matt Haack, and No. 3 is already occupied by fellow

quarterback Josh Rosen.

Gore agrees to 1-year deal with Jets

NEW YORK — Running back Frank Gore has agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the New York Jets, agent Drew Rosenhaus announced.

Gore, who turns 37 Thursday, will join a Jets backfield that also includes Le’Veon Bell and fourth-round draft pick La'Mical Perine. Gore is third on the NFL’s career rushing list with 15,269 yards.

The signing reunites Gore with

coach Adam Gase, for whom he played in Miami in 2018.

The two were also together in San Francisco in 2008, when Gore was an offensive assistant.

ESPN first reported the agree-

ment between the Jets and Gore, who trails only Emmitt Smith (18,355) and Walter Payton (16,726) in yards rushing.

Gore spent last season with Buf-

falo, where he ran for a ca-

reer-low 599 yards in 16 games.

In other NFL news:

Quincy Enunwa playing with Jets

The WTA and ATP tours, the

International Tennis Federa-

tion and the groups that run the four Grand Slam tournaments announced Tuesday that they have formed the “Player Relief Programme.”

The Associated Press reported

details of the plan Monday.

The seven groups said the money will be divided evenly among women and men, and will go to singles and doubles players.

In other tennis news:

If given the option, Rafael Nadal said he would scrap this season entirely so tennis could resume normally in 2021.

The second-ranked Spaniard, who is 33 years old and has won 19 Grand Slam titles, said he hoped to resume playing this year but doubted it could happen because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“I would sign up right now just to be ready for 2021,” Nadal said in interviews with El Pais and other Spanish newspapers published Tuesday. “I’m more concerned with the Australian Open, with what happens later this year.”

The head of the Australian Open says various contingency plans are being considered for the Grandslam tournament scheduled for January 2021. They include scrambling it altogether because of the coronavirus pandemic or allowing just spectators from the host country.

World Amateur team golf scratched

The International Golf Federation says the World Amateur Team Championships for men and women that were supposed to occur two weeks in October in Singapore — have been scratched. The tournament dates to 1958. It was moved in February from Bangkok because of social unrest.

The World Amateur Team is having another try and a decision was not yet made on whether it will be held.

But it will be played in France in 2022.

WADA seeks more funding for drug testing

DUSSeldorf — Germany — Even with sports shut down and little testing going on, World Anti-Doping Agency President Witold Banka is trying to convince governments to stump up extra funding in the fight against drug cheats.

Drug testing around the world has nearly ground to a halt due to lockdown restrictions, leav-

ing anti-doping officials looking to other methods to catch cheats. That means more focus on inves-
tigations and longer-term analy-
sis of athletes’ data.

German soccer gets OK to resume

Associated Press

BERLIN — The Bundesliga can resume playing this month, ending a two-month sus-
pension caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a loosening of a range of containment measures after meeting with the country’s 16 state governors on Wednesday. Pressure to relax the rules had been growing as the rate of daily infections in the country has dropped.

Soccer in the top two divisions will resume without spectators and with a range of other conditions designed to prevent another out-
break, including the continuous monitoring and testing of players. Teams will also have to spend time in quarantine before games can restart.

“This day is good news for the Bundesliga and second division,” German soccer league president Christian Seibert said. “It comes with great responsibility for the clubs and their employees to implement the medical and organizational requirements in a disciplined manner.

“Games without spectators are not ideal for anyone. In a crisis threatening the very exis-
tence of some clubs, however, it is the only way to keep the current financial structure in place,” Seibert said.

The decision to allow play to resume came despite three positive tests for the virus at the Cologne last weekend. The league said there were 10 positive test results from all 36 clubs in the top two divisions.

Hertha Berlin forward Salomon Kalou also announced a “spectacular own-goal” on Wednesday.

“I can only appeal to those who have unreasonably to face consequences,” Soder said.

Hertha has suspended Kalou and blamed the player for the misstep, but there were also in-
rangements that were the club’s responsibility, such as closed doors between rooms.

May 7


1982 — A federal jury rules that the New Mexico State University athletic department successfully attempted to prevent the Olympic Ruiders from moving to Los An-

geles.

1993 — Wayne Gretzky of the Los An-
geles Kings scores his 100th and 101st playoff goals in a 1-4 win over the Van-

couver Canucks.

1995 — Reggie Miller scores eight points in the last 16 seconds to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 107-106 win over the New York Knicks in the second-round opener of the NBA playoffs.

1997 — The Montreal Expos set two National League records by scoring 18

runs in the sixth, an NL record, for 30 runs in six innings, the second-most ever in a major league game.

1999 — The Boston Red Sox, including pitcher Curt Schilling, clinch the AL East championship, then beat the San Francisco Giants 19-3.

2016 — The Houston Astros are the most joshed game 7 score in NL history, 2, 3-2, to beat the Atlanta. It was their first game in the playoffs and they won it on a walk-off single by Justin Verlander in the 13th.


sportsfan الاثنين، 7 مايو 2020

WADA seeks more funding for drug testing

DUSSeldorf — Germany — Even with sports shut down and little testing going on, World Anti-Doping Agency President Witold Banka is trying to convince governments to stump up extra funding in the fight against drug cheats.

Drug testing around the world has nearly ground to a halt due to lockdown restrictions, leav-

ing anti-doping officials looking to other methods to catch cheats. That means more focus on inves-
tigations and longer-term analy-
sis of athletes’ data.

German soccer gets OK to resume

Associated Press

BERLIN — The Bundesliga can resume playing this month, ending a two-month sus-
pension caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a loosening of a range of containment measures after meeting with the country’s 16 state governors on Wednesday. Pressure to relax the rules had been growing as the rate of daily infections in the country has dropped.

Soccer in the top two divisions will resume without spectators and with a range of other conditions designed to prevent another out-
break, including the continuous monitoring and testing of players. Teams will also have to spend time in quarantine before games can restart.

“This day is good news for the Bundesliga and second division,” German soccer league president Christian Seibert said. “It comes with great responsibility for the clubs and their employees to implement the medical and organizational requirements in a disciplined manner.

“Games without spectators are not ideal for anyone. In a crisis threatening the very exis-
tence of some clubs, however, it is the only way to keep the current financial structure in place,” Seibert said.

The decision to allow play to resume came despite three positive tests for the virus at the Cologne last weekend. The league said there were 10 positive test results from all 36 clubs in the top two divisions.

Hertha Berlin forward Salomon Kalou also announced a “spectacular own-goal” on Wednesday.

“I can only appeal to those who have unreasonably to face consequences,” Soder said.

Hertha has suspended Kalou and blamed the player for the misstep, but there were also in-
rangements that were the club’s responsibility, such as closed doors between rooms.
By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Giuseppe Rossi was hoping Major League Soccer would jump-start his career.

But by injuries in recent years, the former Villarreal forward was signed by Real Salt Lake in February. He moved to Salt Lake City and made his MLS debut in the second half of the team’s opener against Orlando City.

Then everything came to a standstill because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Now Rossi finds himself isolated in an unfamiliar city while his wife is home in New Jersey.

The league suspended play March 12, when teams were just two games into the 2020 season. The latest training moratorium extends through at least May 15.

Rossi bought a video game console and is tackling a 1,000-piece puzzle. He’s even trying his hand at painting.

“Just going out and grabbing something to eat, getting to know the city a little bit more, I feel like that’s kind of been taken away. So that’s why it’s kind of hard to feel whole, in a certain way,” Rossi said. “It’s tough when you’re not from the area, when you don’t know people. So you try to find these little things like a painting or like a puzzle or like PlayStation and try to make that your whole day.”

Rossi, 33, was born in New Jersey to Italian immigrants but moved to Italy at age 12 to pursue a soccer career. He was still a teenager when he made his debut for Manchester United.

He joined Villarreal in 2007 and had his best season in 2010-11, when he had 18 goals and seven assists in league play. Back-to-back knee injuries slowed his momentum, but he still leads the La Liga team with 82 career goals in five seasons.

Rossi also chose to play for Italy’s national team, famously turning down an invitation to the U.S. national team’s 2006 pre-World Cup camp by then-coach Bruce Arena.

Rossi returned to train with Villarreal for two months last year. But because he’d been out of the game for more than a year, there was really no prospect of him returning to the club. Then the opportunity with RSL came along.

“It was the right energy that I felt from them. The right words were said. I felt as if they really wanted me to be part of this project,” he said.

Daily solo workouts are keeping his mind off his current situation, as well as the toll the virus has taken.

“I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you’re not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard,” he said. “It’s just like, ‘My God, I just want to get this out of my head.’”

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he’ll save for when he’s reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he’s doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

“I think I’m learning how things are not in my control, how I’m able to stay patient, how I’m able to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family,” he said.

**Did you know?**

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

**Source:** Associated Press

**Mark J. Terrill/AP**

Left wing Kevin Fiala’s emergence as a go-to scorer before the NHL went on hiatus was the best part of the Minnesota Wild’s season so far.

**Wild hope Fiala rekindles spark when NHL resumes**

Young wing became go-to scorer by DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

Frozen by the virus shutdown but not forgotten was Kevin Fiala’s emergence, a surge that gave the Minnesota Wild a glimpse of the go-to scorer they have lacked for another underperforming top-line star the Wild have been waiting for.

The opportunity with RSL came along.

“I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you’re not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard,” he said. “It’s just like, ‘My God, I just want to get this out of my head.’”

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he’ll save for when he’s reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he’s doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

“I think I’m learning how things are not in my control, how I’m able to stay patient, how I’m able to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family,” he said.

**Did you know?**

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

**Source:** Associated Press

**Mark J. Terrill/AP**

Left wing Kevin Fiala’s emergence as a go-to scorer before the NHL went on hiatus was the best part of the Minnesota Wild’s season so far.

**Wild hope Fiala rekindles spark when NHL resumes**

Young wing became go-to scorer by DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

Frozen by the virus shutdown but not forgotten was Kevin Fiala’s emergence, a surge that gave the Minnesota Wild a glimpse of the go-to scorer they have lacked for another underperforming top-line star the Wild have been waiting for.

The opportunity with RSL came along.

“I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you’re not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard,” he said. “It’s just like, ‘My God, I just want to get this out of my head.’”

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he’ll save for when he’s reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he’s doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

“I think I’m learning how things are not in my control, how I’m able to stay patient, how I’m able to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family,” he said.

**Did you know?**

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

**Source:** Associated Press

**Mark J. Terrill/AP**

Left wing Kevin Fiala’s emergence as a go-to scorer before the NHL went on hiatus was the best part of the Minnesota Wild’s season so far.

**Wild hope Fiala rekindles spark when NHL resumes**

Young wing became go-to scorer by DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

Frozen by the virus shutdown but not forgotten was Kevin Fiala’s emergence, a surge that gave the Minnesota Wild a glimpse of the go-to scorer they have lacked for another underperforming top-line star the Wild have been waiting for.

The opportunity with RSL came along.

“I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you’re not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard,” he said. “It’s just like, ‘My God, I just want to get this out of my head.’”

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he’ll save for when he’s reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he’s doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

“I think I’m learning how things are not in my control, how I’m able to stay patient, how I’m able to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family,” he said.

**Did you know?**

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

**Source:** Associated Press

**Mark J. Terrill/AP**

Left wing Kevin Fiala’s emergence as a go-to scorer before the NHL went on hiatus was the best part of the Minnesota Wild’s season so far.

**Wild hope Fiala rekindles spark when NHL resumes**

Young wing became go-to scorer by DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

Frozen by the virus shutdown but not forgotten was Kevin Fiala’s emergence, a surge that gave the Minnesota Wild a glimpse of the go-to scorer they have lacked for another underperforming top-line star the Wild have been waiting for.

The opportunity with RSL came along.

“I want to work out for like 10 hours straight because your mind just goes to the workout and you’re not thinking about all the things that are around you. You know, having my family in Italy, having my family in New Jersey, which is another spot that was hit hard,” he said. “It’s just like, ‘My God, I just want to get this out of my head.’”

He has a list of things to see in Utah, which he’ll save for when he’s reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he’s doing his best to connect with his new teammates.

“I think I’m learning how things are not in my control, how I’m able to stay patient, how I’m able to go back to training. I want to go back home and see my family,” he said.

**Did you know?**

Swedish left wing Kevin Fiala had already matched his career best with 23 goals and set a new personal assists record (31) when the NHL season was put on hiatus due to the new coronavirus. He racked up 14 goals and 12 assists in the last 18 games before play was halted.

**Source:** Associated Press
By Barry Wilner  
Associated Press

While planning to play a full regular-season schedule, the NFL has formulated a ticket refund plan for canceled games or those held without fans.

In a memo sent to the 32 teams by Commissioner Roger Goodell and obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, a uniform baseline for full refunds on any tickets purchased directly from the clubs was prepared.

Goodell wrote that “all clubs will have in place a policy under which, if a game is cancelled or not played under conditions that prohibit fans from attending, anyone purchasing a ticket directly from the club (i.e., season ticket sales and/or partial season plans) will have the option of either receiving a full refund or applying the amount paid toward a future ticket purchase directly from the club.”

As for the secondary market, the league received pledges from Ticketmaster and SeatGeek to make full refunds available for all ticket sales within no more than 30 days of cancellation. StubHub, however, will do so only where required by state law.

The NFL will reveal its 2020 regular-season schedule on Thursday night. While it is distancing contingencies for alterations to the schedule due to the coronavirus pandemic, it currently is planning for a normal season.

“In preparing for all elements of the 2020 season, including the schedule release, we have considered the unique circumstances facing us this year,” Goodell wrote, and “have been clear that all of our decisions will be guided by medical and public health advice and will comply with government regulations. We will be prepared to make necessary adjustments just as we have in other contexts, such as the offseason program and the draft.”

He said that clubs have in place will serve the league and all member clubs in a variety of ways and will allow us to continue preparing for the 2020 season while also protecting the interests of our fans.”

Each team will communicate directly with its fans over the next few days with specific details on potential refunds.

Although contingency plans are hardly a regular procedure for the NFL, the specter of significant changes to the season, from delays to a shortened season, had to have been considered this year.

Each season, NFL teams and the league office re-examine what they term “fan friendly” ticket refund policies.

Spanish athletes harassed while they practice amid confinement

By Tales Azzoni  
Associated Press

MADRID — Some got jeered. Others were yelled at by people on their balconies. Many received disapproving looks.

The long-awaited return to practice amid the coronavirus pandemic wasn’t as pleasant as some Spanish athletes had hoped.

High-performance athletes were allowed to resume training in Spain this week after nearly two months of confinement, but some reported being harassed by local residents who thought they were breaking confinement rules.

The government has eased some of the lockdown measures that have been in place because of the pandemic, but restrictions on exercising still apply for most of the population, including specific time frames in which people from different age groups can go outside.

Professional and high-performance athletes are an exception and can exercise at any time, though some people didn’t like seeing them out on the streets outside the permitted time slots for the rest of the population, either because they didn’t know the rules or because they didn’t recognize the athletes.

“I’ve never been looked at so badly and heard so many negative comments,” Spanish sprinter Cristina Lara wrote on Twitter. “They also jeered some of my colleagues. It looks like we will have to go out with signs identifying ourselves.”

Lara said she went out at about 10:30 a.m., which is a time reserved for the elderly. Children can go out with a parent from noon to 7 p.m., while others can leave their homes from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. or from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., always while staying within 0.6 miles from their residences.

Spanish long-distance runner Carlos Mayo also went out during the time reserved for the elderly on Monday. He told Spanish radio networkCOPE that he was asked why he was running at that time.

“Of the nearly 50 people that I crossed paths with today, the majority of them older than 65 because that’s when they could go out, five verbally called my attention, including a lady who yelled at me from her balcony,” he wrote on Twitter.

Spanish marathon runner Javier Guerra said he was told by people on the streets that he was a bad example.

“From what I’m seeing, I wasn’t the only one who got reprimanded while going out to practice,” he wrote on Twitter. “Being a high-performance athlete, I can practice at any time during the day, but apparently that is not enough…We understand that this is an extreme situation, but we always have to respect each other.”

Other Spanish athletes who complained of harassment while practicing included steelcrouch runner Irene Sánchez Escribano and long-distance runner Ignacio Pontes.

Athletes always must go out carrying the proper documentation showing that they are allowed to be out, otherwise they can be subjected to fines.

Soccer players from the first and second divisions are among the few athletes who can already train inside sports facilities and training centers, which have been closed since Spain entered a lockdown in mid-March to contain the spread of the virus that has already killed more than 25,000 people in the southern European nation.
Stars: Expos earned first postseason berth in 1981

From Back Page

“The chaos, the change, the uniqueness, the intensity,” said Schmidt, who entered Philadelphia’s last game before the strike needing one hit to tie Stan Musial’s NL mark of 7,636. “It was in the midst of my prime, especially following 1980. It really had nothing to do with a unique thing I did during my career. Schmidt hit .316 with 31 home runs in 102 games. Baseball-Reference.com credits him with 7.7 Wins Above Replacement that year. In 2019 — with a full season — only two NL players reached that WAR total.

If baseball’s return went smoothly for position players like Rose and Schmidt, pitchers faced more of a challenge. And Rogers had the added responsibility of being on the union’s negotiating committee during the strike. “My ability to stay in shape had been curtailed pretty significantly,” Rogers said. “I really did not have the capability of throwing that much.”

It would nonetheless turn into a memorable year for Rogers and the Expos. Baseball expanded its postseason, allowing the four division leaders from before the strike to qualify — and also taking the teams with the best post-strike records in each division.

That led to some unusual results. Cincinnati went 66-42 for the best overall record in the game, but the Red Sox finished second in both halves and missed the playoffs. Kansas City went 50-53 but won the second half in the AL West and played on.

The Milwaukee Brewers made their first playoff appearance, as well. Houston made the postseason with the help of Ryan’s fifth no-hitter, Sept. 26 against the Dodgers.

In the first round of the playoffs, Rogers beat Steve Carlton twice, including in the winner-take-all fifth game at Philadelphia. He went the distance in that 3-0 victory and even drove in two runs.

In the NL Championship Series against Los Angeles, Rogers threw another complete game in a Game 3 win, but when he came on in relief in Game 5, Rick Mon- day homered in the top of the ninth to give the Dodgers the pennant. The ending was disappoint- ing, but it had been a remarkable run for the Expos.

By the time the World Series ended — with the Dodgers winning in six games — it was fair to say the 1981 season, while far from ideal, had avoided becoming a farce.

schmidt hit .316 with 31 home runs in 102 games. Baseball-reference.com credits him with 7.7 Wins Above Replacement that year. In 2019 — with a full season — only two NL players reached that WAR total.

By the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>.316</th>
<th>7.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Batting average of the Phillies’ Mike Schmidt over 102 games during the 1981 season, which was shortened by a strike.

The Mexican League was headquartered in Los Angeles by storm, winning his first eight starts for the Dodgers and throwing shutouts in five of them. Kansas City went 50-53 but won the second half in the AL West and played on.

In the NL Championship Series against Los Angeles, Rogers threw another complete game in a Game 3 win, but when he came on in relief in Game 5, Rick Monday homered in the top of the ninth to give the Dodgers the pennant. The ending was disappointing, but it had been a remarkable run for the Expos.

By the time the World Series ended — with the Dodgers winning in six games — it was fair to say the 1981 season, while far from ideal, had avoided becoming a farce.

Instead, it was easy to hear players cheering and shouting from the dugouts. And it was a relief to fans watching from home in a country that is now attempting to slowly return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy amid a waning caseload.

The country’s professional soccer leagues will kick off Friday, also without spectators in the stadiums.

As one of the world’s first major professional sports competitions to return to action amid the pandemic, the Korea Base- ball Organization has employed various preventive measures aimed at creating safe playing environments.

Players and coaches will go through fever screenings before entering stadiums, while umpires and first- and third-base coaches must wear masks during games. Players are prohibited from sign- ing autographs or high-fiving teammates with bare hands. Also, chewing tobacco was banned to prevent spitting, while masks and latex gloves will be required at training facilities.

Fans will be barred from games until the KBO is convinced the risk of infection has been mini- mized. If any member of a team tests positive for the coronavirus at any point of the season, the league will be shut down for at least three weeks.

“I feel great,” said Cho Kyun- byun, a 63-year-old SK Wyverns fan who shared a mattress with three other fans outside the walls of the team’s stadium in Incheon, watching the game against the Daejeon-based Hanwha Eagles with a tablet computer. “I am delighted just to hear the sounds of a baseball game from outside.”

The teams tried to create a festive atmosphere in the empty stadiums.

A full season of baseball seemed doubtful in early March when South Korea was reporting about 500 new virus infections a day, forcing the KBO to postpone its March 28 season opening.

But South Korea reported only three new cases on Tuesday, its lowest daily jump since infections surged in late February.

Barring any virus-related sus- pension, the KBO plans to main- tain a 144-game regular-season schedule. But it decided to scrap its all-star game and shorten the first round of the playoffs from best-of-five to best-of-three series.
SHORTENED SEASON

Despite strike, stars still had opportunities to shine in 1981

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

The season began with Fernandomania and ended with a classic World Series match-up between the Dodgers and Yankees. Mike Schmidt slugged his way to a second consecutive MVP, and Nolan Ryan pitched another no-hitter.

But perhaps the best way to describe baseball in 1981 is by recounting Pete Rose's pursuit of the National League's career hits record. He tied the mark in June, then had to wait until August to break it — because a strike shut down the sport for about two months.

All Rose could do was make regular visits to the batting cage while he waited. "I went there every freaking day," Rose said.

If baseball is able to come back at all this year, fans should be prepared for a significantly shortened season, and that 1981 campaign may be the most relevant comparison available. The season was split in two by a labor dispute, but when the sport finally returned, its stars still had an abbreviated chance to shine.

SEE STARS ON PAGE 23

Above: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Fernando Valenzuela pitches in the All-Star Game in Cleveland on Aug. 8, 1981. The Mexican rookie dominated the early part of the '81 season, winning his first eight starts and throwing five shutouts. Left: The Philadelphia Phillies' Pete Rose waves to the crowd after breaking the National League's all-time career hits record on Aug. 10, 1981.

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.