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Houston to kick off season at Kansas City
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Online: Get the latest news on the virus outbreak » [stripes.com/coronavirus](https://www.stripes.com/coronavirus)

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 79, No. 15A

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

[stripes.com](https://www.stripes.com)

Free to Deployed Areas



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon will raise the age for the sale of tobacco products on base beginning in August, when a new Pentagon-wide policy goes into effect.

Army bases ready for ban on under-21 tobacco sales

Stars and Stripes

Service members under 21 will not be allowed to buy tobacco products on base beginning in August, when a new Pentagon-wide policy goes into effect.

The rule affects the sale of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, hookah tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco and vaping supplies, such as e-cigarettes and e-liquids, the Army said in a statement released this week.

It takes effect Aug. 1 at all installations and facilities in the U.S., its territories and possessions and on Navy ships in U.S. ports, the statement said. Retailers are required to post signs alerting customers to the change by July 1, it stated.

The new policy implements legislation passed in December, which raised the minimum age

SEE TOBACCO ON PAGE 3

‘Research has shown that raising the legal age of sale to 21 would likely reduce youth tobacco initiation.’

Corey Fitzgerald
Army Public Health Center

Patriot shuffle

US pulling anti-missile systems from Saudi Arabia amid dispute

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is pulling two Patriot missile batteries and some fighter aircraft out of Saudi Arabia, an American official said Thursday, amid tensions between the kingdom and the Trump administration over oil production.

The official said the decision removes two batteries that were guarding oil facilities in Saudi Arabia but leaves two Patriot batteries at Prince Sultan Air Base in the Saudi desert, along with other air defense systems and jet fighters.

The decision scales back the American presence in Saudi Arabia just months after the Pentagon began a military buildup there to counter threats from Iran. About 300 troops that staff the two batteries would also leave Saudi Arabia, according to the official,

A U.S. Patriot missile system is seen at Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia in February. The U.S. is removing two Patriot missile batteries from Saudi Arabia along with military personnel who were deployed to the region last year.

ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS, POOL/AP

who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military operations.

The move comes as the U.S. has sent Patriot systems into Iraq to protect American and allied troops there, who came under an Iranian missile attack earlier this year. The Army has a limited number of the systems, and they routinely must be brought home for upgrades.

Two other Patriot batteries that are in the

Middle East region are also heading home to the U.S., in a planned redeployment for maintenance and upgrades.

It's not clear, however, whether the ongoing oil dispute or the struggle to parcel out the much-coveted Patriot systems was the key factor in the U.S. decision to pull systems out of the kingdom.

Asked about the move Thursday, President Donald Trump said, "We're making a lot of moves in the Middle East and elsewhere. We do a lot of things all over the world, militarily we've been taken advantage of all over the world."

He didn't provide details, but added, "This has nothing to do with Saudi Arabia. This has to do with other countries, frankly, much more."

SEE PATRIOT ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Pandemic boosts Nintendo sales

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese video game maker Nintendo Co. scored a 33% jump in annual profit, as people stuck at home turn to playing games.

Kyoto-based Nintendo, which did not break down quarterly numbers, said Thursday its sales for the fiscal year through March rose 9% from the year before to \$12 billion.

Nintendo said so far it had es-

caped major damage from the virus outbreak. Consumers unable to visit stores due to shutdowns have instead turned to online purchases.

Video gaming is a popular stay-at-home activity, and Nintendo's new "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" has proven to be a hit, selling 13.4 million units in the first six weeks since going on sale.

But the company expressed concern about the future and over potential disruptions to the pro-

duction of devices and software. Depending on how the virus spreads, product deliveries might be hindered, leading to the suspension of even online purchases, it said.

Game development could also suffer if designers have to work from home for a long time, it said in a statement.

Nintendo projected a 23% fall in profit for the fiscal year through March 2021 at \$1.9 billion.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (May 11)	.....\$1.06	Bahrain (Dinar)	.....0.3781
Dollar buys (May 11)	.....69.8987	British pound	.....\$1.2374
British pound (May 11)	.....\$1.21	Canada (Dollar)	.....1.3953
Japanese yen (May 11)	.....104.00	China (Yuan)	.....7.0752
South Korean won (May 11)	.....1,186.00	Denmark (Krone)	.....6.8910
		Egypt (Pound)	.....15.5065
		Euro	.....\$1.0825/0.9238
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	.....7.7518
		Hungary (Forint)	.....323.21
		Israel (Shekel)	.....3.5111
		Japan (Yen)	.....106.63
		Kuwait (Dinar)	.....0.3094
		Norway (Krone)	.....10.2186
		Philippines (Peso)	.....50.48
		Poland (Zloty)	.....4.21
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	.....3.7558
		Singapore (Dollar)	.....1.4142
		South Korea (won)	.....1220.40
		Switzerland (Franc)	.....0.9724
		Thailand (Baht)	.....32.24
		Turkey (Lira)	.....7.1314

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	.....3.25
Discount rate	.....0.25
Federal funds market rate	.....0.04
3-month bill	.....0.10
30-year bond	.....1.32

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

Nominee says Navy culture has been 'tarnished'

By **CATLIN M. KENNEY**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is in “troubled waters” following years of leadership failures that led to scandals, ship collisions, and the health crisis aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the nominee for the Navy’s top civilian job told senators Thursday.

Kenneth Braithwaite, the U.S. ambassador to Norway, listed some of the recent failings in his opening statement to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that he believes have caused a breakdown in trust in Navy leadership. His list included the Fat Leonard scandal, the 2017 collisions of the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain, as well as “judicial missteps” and the coronavirus outbreak on the Roosevelt.

He said his number one priority, if confirmed as the 77th Navy secretary, would be to “restore the appropriate culture” in the service. Culture is what gives an organization a sense of belonging and good order and discipline, he said.

“[Navy] culture exists. I won’t say it’s broken. I think it’s been

tarnished,” Braithwaite said. “I think the events over the last several years have helped see that occur.”

Braithwaite is a 1984 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the Navy and then Navy Reserve for 27 years. President Donald Trump nominated him March 2 to be the next Navy secretary.

The Navy’s recent secretaries have been embroiled in controversies in the last several months.

Richard Spencer, the last Navy secretary, was fired Nov. 24 by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for his handling of the personnel decision for Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, who had been accused of committing war crimes. Gallagher was acquitted of murder in 2019 but found guilty of posing in a photo with the dead body of an Islamic State fighter. Spencer had gone around Esper to propose a different strategy to the White House on handling Gallagher and the Navy’s review determining whether Gallagher would be able to retire with his SEAL Trident pin.

Thomas Modly resigned as acting Navy secretary April 7 after



Al. DRAGO/AP

Kenneth Braithwaite, left, nominated to be Secretary of the Navy, testifies during a Senate Armed Services nominations hearing on Thursday in Washington.

disparaging comments made to the Roosevelt’s crew about the aircraft carrier’s former commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, were leaked online. The ship was in port in Guam due to a coronavirus outbreak that has since infected more than 1,000 sailors.

The Navy is investigating the coronavirus outbreak aboard the ship and the Navy’s response to help. The investigation was recently expanded by acting Navy Secretary James McPherson because of what he said are “unanswered questions.”

Braithwaite on Thursday was supportive of the additional time being taken to investigate the matter.

“I believe that whenever you’re confronted with a challenge like this, it’s best to pause, consider all the facts, and then make the right decision,” he said.

Referring to the actions and failings of his predecessors in handling personnel cases such as Gallagher and Crozier, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., asked Braithwaite what he felt were his responsibilities in individual personnel decisions as the Navy secretary.

“Good order and discipline starts with the chain of command ... I believe that our commanders ... are vested with the responsibility to be accountable, as well as to lead those who serve under their leadership. And I believe they should be empowered to do such,” Braithwaite said.

As part of the chain of command, he did not see himself intervening in individual personnel decisions, saying he wants that left up to the uniform leaders.

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Navy’s big frigate risks \$1.4 billion cost per ship

By **TONY CAPACCIO**
Bloomberg

The Navy truncated orders for its ill-fated Littoral Combat Ship because the small vessels were vulnerable to attack and too lightly armed. Now, a new report suggests that the frigate intended to replace it may cost 56% more than projected partly because it’s bigger.

The service projects that 18 of 20 new frigates will cost an average of \$940 million each in inflation-adjusted dollars. The first two are estimated at about \$1 billion each because of one-time costs.

But the Congressional Research Service alerted lawmakers this week to “a potential issue” worth reviewing: the accuracy of Navy cost estimates considering that “ships of the same general type and complexity that are built under similar production conditions” tend to have similar — and substantially higher — costs per ton of displacement.

CRS raised a warning because at 7,400 tons, the frigate to be built in Wisconsin by a unit of Italy’s

Fincantieri is about three-fourths the size of an Arleigh Burke destroyer and carries many of the same weapons systems. The latest of the destroyers are estimated to cost \$1.9 billion apiece.

That could put the cost for most of the frigates at as much as \$1.47 billion each, “an increase of about 56%,” based on comparing their tonnage to the destroyers, the research service said.

CRS suggested lawmakers ask the Navy the basis for “its view that the frigate — a ship about three-quarters as large” as the destroyer, with installed capabilities that are “in many cases” similar — “can be procured for about one-half the cost.”

The frigate, to be equipped with guided missiles, is intended as a better-armed and more survivable successor to the Littoral Combat Ship, which detractors called the “Little Crappy Ship.” Nonetheless, the Navy has 35 of them on contract.

At a confirmation hearing on Thursday, Senate Armed Services Committee members may ask Kenneth Braithwaite, President Donald Trump’s nominee for



U.S. Navy graphic

An artist rendering of the guided-missile frigate FFG(X).

navy secretary, whether achieving the administration’s goal of a 355-ship fleet over the next decade, up from 299 today, is realistic in light of cost constraints.

Asked to comment on the CRS report, Capt. Danny Hernandez, spokesman for the Navy’s acquisition office, said the frigate is under “a fixed price” contract that “limits the government’s risk in contract execution” for any overruns. Hernandez said the Navy’s cost estimate is 1% higher than a separate one completed by the Pentagon’s independent analysis unit.

The CRS suggested lawmakers review how much “process improvements” at Fincantieri’s Wisconsin facility would permit frigates to be built in line with the Navy’s cost estimate.

Tobacco: Army trying to reduce number of troops who use tobacco

FROM FRONT PAGE

for the sale of tobacco products in the U.S. by three years from 18, providing no military exemption. That law took effect immediately but gave government officials about nine months to develop rules for its enforcement.

“Research has shown that raising the legal age of sale to 21 would likely reduce youth tobacco initiation and use,” said Corey Fitzgerald, a public health social worker with the Army Public Health Center. “Nearly all smokers start as young children or young adults.”

Those under the age of 25 make up the largest group of the roughly 23% of active duty soldiers who reported using tobacco, the center said in its 2018 Health of the Force report. The center’s goal is to bring tobacco use through-out the service to zero by 2025, Fitzgerald said in the Army statement.

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Air Force seeking gamers to compete

By **THERON GOBOLD**
Stars and Stripes

If you dominate at video games like Tekken and Street Fighter, the Air Force may want to recruit you to compete at this summer’s Evolution Championship Series in Las Vegas.

The service plans on fielding its first-ever sports team at EVO 2020, the largest and longest running online fighting games tournament in the world, according to its website. The event is slated for July 31-Aug. 2 at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

The genre typically involves one-on-one, martial-arts style fighting. Games at this year’s competition include Street Fighter V: Champion Edition; Dragonball FighterZ; Super Smash Bros. Ultimate; Tekken 7; SoulCalibur 6; Granblue Fantasy: Versus; Samurai Showdown; and Under Night in Birth.

Many service branches are turning to esports as a recruiting tool. In March, the Navy launched a video gaming team called Goats&Glory that practices, streams and competes from a specially designed facility in Tennessee. The Army stood up its esports team last year and credited it as one of the reasons the service met its 2019 recruiting goal.

Airmen who want to compete at EVO 2020 must submit applications via the Air Force AP-PTTRAC system by May 17. A virtual trial and selection camp is scheduled from May 25 through June 5, after which the service will pick its team members and prepare them via a training camp July 20-29.

Depending on the state of the coronavirus pandemic and the military stop travel orders in effect, the team could be in Las Vegas in late July to compete against gamers from around the globe.

EVO is being hosted by Shoryuken Gaming, an event promotion company that takes its name from the arcade game Street Fighter. It began in 1996 as a 40-man Super Street Fighter II Turbo and Street Fighter II Alpha tournament. It changed its name to Evolution Championship series in 2002.

“Evo is open to anyone and offers unique opportunities to meet people from different countries and different walks of life who share your passion,” organizers said in the event’s website.

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MILITARY

Patriot: Troop presence determined by national security needs in region

FROM FRONT PAGE

When Saudi Arabia ramped up oil production and slashed prices this year, Republicans accused the kingdom of exacerbating instability in the oil market, which was already suffering because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The volatility and price crash in oil hurt U.S. shale producers, leading to layoffs in the industry, particularly in Republican-run states.

Some Republican senators warned in late March that if Saudi Arabia did not change course, it risked losing American defense support and facing a range of potential "levers of statecraft" such as tariffs and other trade restrictions, investigations and sanctions.

The U.S. official said a THAAD anti-ballistic missile defense system will also remain in Saudi Arabia. The THAAD complements the Patriots by providing a defense against ballistic missiles traveling outside Earth's atmosphere.

The Saudi government and the Saudi Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. State-run media in the kingdom similarly did not immediately acknowledge the troop removal.

The Pentagon announced last year that it would begin deploying forces and Patriot batteries to Prince Sultan Air Base, a former U.S. military hub. The move was one of the more dramatic signs of America's decision to beef up troops in the Middle East in response to threats from Iran.

When Gen. Frank McKenzie, top U.S. commander for the Middle East, visited the base earlier this year, the American troop presence had grown to roughly 2,500. At the time, McKenzie told reporters with him that the base was a key strategic location, but that the continued presence of troops and weapons there would depend on other national security needs around the world.

Tensions with Iran escalated throughout last summer and fall,



ALEXANDRA MINOR/U.S. Air Force

U.S. soldiers unload a Patriot launching station from a C-5 Galaxy at Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia in October. The U.S. deployed the anti-missile systems in Saudi Arabia amid tension with Iran.

as the U.S. blamed Tehran for using mines to target oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz and for attacking Saudi oil facilities. Violence peaked when the U.S. carried out a drone strike in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general.

In response, Iran on Jan. 8 fired ballistic missiles at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq where U.S. troops were stationed. More than 100

troops were later diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries.

At the time of the attack, the U.S. had no Patriot defenses at those bases because it judged other locations, in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf, to be more likely Iranian targets. After the attack, the U.S. decided to move Patriots into Iraq to give troops more protection from missiles.

Tensions with Iran remain high. Its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard was involved in a tense incident in the Persian Gulf last month. The Guard's small boats repeatedly came dangerously close to U.S. warships, crossing in front of them multiple times. And the Guard is believed to have briefly seized control of a Hong Kong-flagged oil tanker.

Army awards contract to support attack helicopters in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Army awarded defense contractor MD Helicopters Inc. \$35 million to support Afghanistan's fleet of light attack helicopters, the service said in a statement.

Officials modified a previously awarded contract for the Mesa, Ariz.-based company to maintain and supply a fleet of MD-530F aircraft, provide interpreters and train Afghans.

The work will take place in Mesa and Kabul, and is set to finish Nov. 30, the Army said Thursday.

The award comes as a U.S. official told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Afghan military will need continued financial support, even if foreign forces leave Afghanistan as part of a deal signed with the Taliban.

"The February 29 Agreement is intended to set security and political conditions under which, after a 14-month process, Afghan forces could maintain stability on their own, albeit with continued U.S. and coalition funding," said a statement Thursday by James Anderson, nominee for deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, prior to his hearing.

The U.S. has spent \$8.5 billion to develop and support Afghanistan's air force, often hailed by U.S. officials as a "force multiplier" of the country's efforts fighting the Taliban.



PHILIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

An Afghan maintainer inspects an MD-530F helicopter at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, in March 2018. The U.S. Army has awarded an additional \$35 million to support the Afghan air force's light attack helicopter fleet.

The MD-530F is relied on to secure convoys and patrols. But the fleet of helicopters has struggled in the first three months of this year with maintenance and fielding issues, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report last week.

A safety issue temporarily grounded the fleet and one helicopter was lost in combat, the SIGAR report said. The country's fleet of 177 aircraft has been deemed overly

dependent on costly foreign contractors due to a lack of trained local mechanics, previous inspector general reports said.

Afghans can take charge of preparing and cleaning the air force's MD-530F helicopters, but maintenance of the craft's electronic equipment is entirely dependent on the contractors, a Defense Department Inspector General report in February said.

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Navy veteran's release by militants requested

Associated Press

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. envoy for Afghanistan reconciliation, said Thursday that he has called for the release of an American citizen, captured by Taliban-linked militants, in discussions with Taliban leadership as continued violence threatens to scuttle a peace deal to end America's longest-running war.

In a series of tweets from his official account, Khalilzad said he pressed Taliban leaders during an overnight meeting in Doha, Qatar, to secure the release of Mark R. Frerichs, a Navy veteran-turned contractor who was abducted by militants in late January.

The tweets by Khalilzad mark the first public statement about the capture from a Trump administration official. It comes on the heels of an investigation by The Associated Press last week that noted there had been no public indications that Frerichs has been part of the peace negotiations between the United States and the Taliban. Khalilzad could not be reached for comment. The State Department also did not respond to a request for comment.

American officials believe Frerichs, 57, of Lombard, Ill., was captured by members of the Haqqani network, a militant group aligned with the Taliban in Afghanistan and designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Obama administration in

2012.

While little is known about the circumstances of how Frerichs was abducted, U.S. officials believe he was held for a time in Khost, an eastern province along the border with Pakistan and its so-called tribal regions. The mountainous area historically has been a haven for Taliban and al-Qaida militants. The investigation by the AP revealed how Navy SEALs and the U.S. intelligence community tried to gather information that would lead them to Frerichs' recovery, but the trail went cold.

Khalilzad, the main architect of the peace deal, said he had a long meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and his Taliban delegation. Baradar is a co-founder of the Taliban and the head of its political office.

"We sought progress on a range of topics: a reduction in violence, humanitarian ceasefire as demanded by the international community to allow for better cooperation on managing COVID-19 pandemic in Afghanistan," Khalilzad wrote on Twitter. He added, "Acceleration of prisoner releases by both sides, actions necessary to secure the freedom of U.S. citizen Mark Frerichs, regional & international support for the peace process, and movement to intra-Afghan negotiations."

Khalilzad has said he will meet again with Taliban negotiators.

MILITARY

Gen. Patton's command car up for sale

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A three-quarter-ton piece of World War II history believed to have shuttled Gen. George S. Patton across the European theater as he liberated one town after another from Nazi occupation will be up for sale next month.

The 1944 Dodge WC-57 Command Car 4x4 military vehicle is set to be featured during Worldwide Auctioneers' June 12-13 Americana Festival and Auction in Auburn, Ind., according to the vintage car auctioning company. The vehicle, which is said to have been specifically modified for Patton, will be sold with no reserve, meaning the car will go to the highest bidder no matter how high or low the price reaches. Bids can be placed in person or online.

"If this vehicle could talk it would have some wonderful, wonderful stories to tell," Worldwide Auctioneers principle John Kruse said in a video about the Patton vehicle. "What this vehicle represents is so impactful and so important. Of course, to own a piece of history from World War II, such as this, is a spectacular opportunity."

The vehicle lacks specific documentation confirming it was indeed the very one the general known as "Old Blood and Guts" had altered to his demanding expectations in England before



The 1944 Dodge WC-57 Command Car 4x4 military vehicle believed to have been used by Gen. George Patton is set to be featured during Worldwide Auctioneers' June 12-13 Americana Festival and Auction.

Worldwide Auctioneers

leading the 3rd Army into France in July 1944. But a "timeline of known history" about the car provided by the auction house states that, in 2005, a World War II veteran who claimed to have performed maintenance on Patton's own WC-57 in Europe confirmed its authenticity.

Patton, the famed tank commander known as much for his

military prowess as his short temper, long favored the Dodge series of command cars, even after many of his contemporaries transitioned to Jeep vehicles, according to a biography published by a group called Patton's Third Army Living Historians.

Patton's specific modifications to the vehicle that he used in Europe included armor plating,

high-volume horns and sirens, a machine gun, and metal flags depicting Patton's three-star general rank at that time and the 3rd Army Headquarters.

"Since Patton believed the commanding general should not only be heard but identified as the commanding general of Third Army, he placed two large metal flags on the front grill of all his

vehicles," the historians group's biography said.

The first known acquisition of the vehicle set to be auctioned next month occurred in 1950 by Guy Franz Amand, one of the creators of the Bastogne War Museum in Belgium. In 2018, the car was acquired by the J. Kruse Education Center, a nonprofit that provides career exploration for grade school students and transitioning military veterans.

All the money from the auction will benefit the nonprofit, said Matthew Toth, its executive director. In an email Thursday, Toth said he did not have an estimate for what the vehicle would sell for but reported it had garnered a lot of interest.

Photos of the Dodge on Worldwide Auctioneers website show the vehicle is in excellent condition. They appear comparable to photos taken in England in 1944 of Patton's modified WC-57, published on vintagemilitarytrucks.com.

The command car is one of more than 1,500 items up auction next month, according to Worldwide Auctioneers. Other military-themed items include a 1946 Piper J-3 Cub airplane, which was flown as reconnaissance plane in World War II, and a 1944 Cessna UC-78, which was used to train bomber pilots during the war.

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Discharged soldier killed after birthday party, police say

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

As Army veteran Leroy Joseph Scott III planned his 20th birthday party in Ellensburg, Wash., the invitations included one of the men now charged in his death.

Though Army Pvt. Joshua Gerald initially denied he was invited or attended the gathering, other people interviewed by detectives with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office stated otherwise, according to police records.

Police also said they have a video of the party that shows Gerald in attendance wearing the same pants he later wore to an interview with investigators who were trying to determine how Scott's birthday celebration April 24 ended with his badly beaten body left on the side of a rural road 10 miles outside of town.

Results of an autopsy conducted to determine the exact cause of death have not been released, because the investigation remains ongoing, police said.

Five days after Scott's body was found, Gerald was charged with first-degree murder and Pvt. Raylin D. James with rendering criminal assistance in the first degree. Both served with Scott in the 555th Engineer Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and

were arrested without incident in Pierce County, where the base is located.

Scott left the Army in December as a private, last serving at the joint base, which is located about 130 miles from Ellensburg.

James and Gerald, both 20, attended Scott's party, which was held at the apartment of Scott's friend Hadassah Fisch, whose 20th birthday was the following day.

Fisch also was arrested on a criminal assistance charge and all three remained at the Kittitas County Corrections Center on Thursday, according to online jail records.

James told detectives that Gerald, Fisch and Scott all left the apartment together, but Scott did not return, according to a police report. He also said Scott "had fingered both he and Gerald for a drug incident" in November or December and "he didn't believe as of a couple months ago that Gerald was over what happened between them," the report states.

During Gerald's interview, detectives confiscated Gerald's red shoes that appeared to have blood on them and observed his hands had bruising and scabs, according to the report.

Gerald denied that the video of him was taken in Ellensburg, but did not deny that following the party he had the keys to Scott's vehicle, which he drove and left along Interstate 90.

"[Scott] wanted better and he wanted more," said Sgt. 1st Class Demetrick Carter, who is Scott's uncle. "It's tragic the way it ended."

Carter, who serves at Fort Benning, Ga., had reconnected with his nephew last year hoping to help the young private get back on track as he faced disciplinary action for a pattern of misconduct. Known to his family as "Trey," Scott ultimately received an other-than-honorable discharge in December but chose to remain in the area around the joint base.

Some behavior that led to the discharge included an unauthorized guest in the barracks on multiple occasions, Carter said. An administrative discharge is used in the military to release service members for disciplinary reasons that don't require a court-martial but can block them from most benefits as a veteran.

"He understood what he did was wrong. It wasn't a violent thing or he wasn't doing drugs, it was kid things," Carter said, adding he would not have advocated on behalf of his nephew had his discipline problems been related to drugs. "In talking to Trey, his whole focus was, 'I can't go back home.' He really wanted to stay in the Army."

Carter said he continued to mentor Scott as he took a job at a fast-food restaurant, often asking him about his goals and what he needed to do to achieve them. Scott was considering college and was also an aspiring rapper.

Growing up in the outskirts of New Orleans made Scott "rough around the edges, but a happy kid," Carter said. "He was goal-oriented and had a happy outlook on life."

Scott joined the Army in May 2018 as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, not to make a career of it, but to "get his foot in the door as an adult," Carter said. Throughout school, Scott played football and had a natural talent and drive toward fitness.

The Army was a chance to step out on his own but with structure to allow him to mature before pursuing his true passions of sports and music, Carter said.

Following his discharge, Scott

expressed his disappointment to his family, but was trying to get his life on track by working and saving money, Carter said.

Though, in one of their last phone conversations, he said he had warned Scott to "be careful with the company that he keeps." It was a lesson that Carter said he had to learn as a young soldier.

Carter said the family is upset over Scott's death, but trying to focus on the good that he brought to the world — even if just for a short time.

"That's how we are raised in New Orleans. We celebrate life and we celebrate death," he said. "It's what you accomplished in those few years. He did a lot."

The two soldiers charged in Scott's death are due in court May 18, said Sgt. Zach Green of the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office.

"The wheels of justice turn slow, but I do appreciate that police department. They did their due diligence and they did it quickly," Carter said, adding he hopes for a speedy trial at a jury trial that will end the legal process quickly and allow the family to know how and why this happened.

"It's just to get that release and that understanding," he said. "It's not going to make it better, but I can come to terms with it."

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Scott III

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Pentagon clarifies qualification guidance

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A past diagnosis of the coronavirus will not disqualify individuals from joining the U.S. military, a defense official said Friday, after the Pentagon clarified guidance issued this week that appeared to bar all people who recovered from the illness from serving.

The updated guidance does bar from military service individuals who require hospitalization for complications from the virus, which has caused an international pandemic that has shut down much of the United States and killed more than 75,000 Ameri-

cans, the official said. Those individuals can apply for a service-issued waiver to attempt to enter the military, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the policy and requested anonymity.

The initial policy labeling a confirmed history of the coronavirus “permanently disqualifying” a person from military service was issued to the Military Entrance Processing Command in a memorandum that leaked over social media on Monday and was later published by several news organizations. Pentagon officials confirmed the memo’s authenticity, but they said it would be updated to avoid the appearance that the

military was banning all coronavirus survivors.

The decision to disqualify individuals who require hospitalization was made because the Pentagon assumes those individuals faced a “critical case” of the coronavirus, the official said. The guidance is meant to be temporary to provide the Defense Department more time to better understand the long-term impacts the coronavirus might inflict on the human body, the official said.

More than two months into the pandemic, public health officials have said scientists still do not have a full understanding of the virus.

They know it does not cause symptoms in many individuals who contract it. But it causes massive damage to others’ lungs.

As of Friday, more than 1.25 million Americans had been diagnosed with the virus and 75,650 of them died after contracting it, according to Johns Hopkins. The Pentagon said Friday that 5,171 of its service members had tested positive for the coronavirus. Among them, 1,987 had recovered, 114 faced hospitalization at some point, and two died of complications caused by the virus.

Among the questions yet to be answered include whether an individual’s exposure to the virus ensures future immunity, accord-

ing to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC is conducting testing aimed at answering that question.

Prospective service members who have been diagnosed with the coronavirus but were not hospitalized can enter initial training after they spend 28 days in “home isolation,” the official said about the updated policy.

It was not clear Friday whether the Pentagon was considering policy changes for its active-duty or Reserve troops who have contracted the disease, such as barring those who faced hospitalization from reenlistment.

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Esper: Pentagon ready for any new wave of virus

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Venturing beyond Washington for the first time since March, Defense Secretary Mark Esper got updated Thursday on the military’s coronavirus battle plan and declared the Pentagon ready for any new wave of infections.

“We are preparing for a second wave and maybe more,” said Esper, who took a variety of health precautions during his visit to U.S. Northern Command headquarters, including wearing a mask when social distancing wasn’t possible. “We don’t know what the trajectory of this virus will be.”

He added, “We are preparing for the long haul.”

Esper’s visit comes as he faces criticism from some Senate Democrats who say the Pentagon approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic has been slow and disjointed.

And it reflects Trump’s push for a reopening of the country and demonstrations of the administration’s shift from crisis management to rebooting a battered economy. Trump ended his isolation in the White House with a trip to Arizona on Tuesday to visit a face mask factory, and Vice President Mike Pence has made several recent trips.

Esper met at Northern Command with its leader, Air Force Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, and participated in a “virtual battlefield circulation” — speaking via video conference with deployed military personnel working in civilian hospitals in New York and Connecticut.

O’Shaughnessy is the most senior commander managing the far-flung military contributions to civilian agencies fighting the pandemic.

Esper offered high praise for the work of the thousands of active-duty medical specialists who pitched in at overloaded civilian hospitals.

“In my view it has been flaw-



CHANCEY BUSH, THE GAZETTE/AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper speaks to reporters during his visit to the U.S. Northern Command headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Thursday.

less,” he said during the video chat. “You guys made a great difference.”

Israel Rocha, chief executive of New York’s Elmhurst hospital, told Esper that military health care professionals who helped out

were invaluable and their arrival was greatly appreciated.

“It was a turning point,” Rocha said.

“It literally was the cavalry arriving,” Esper said.

The praise was in contrast to

criticism from Congress.

A week ago, 10 Senate Democrats, including former presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, complained that he has taken a slow and disjointed approach to the coronavirus problem. In a letter to Esper, they said he may have put politics ahead of service members’ health and that he failed to issue coherent guidance to military commanders. They demanded answers by next week to a range of questions about virus testing and steps to mitigate the virus’s spread.

Esper said Tuesday he was disappointed by the letter, asserting that it contained statements that were false or misleading. He said he has spoken to governors of the states represented by the senators who signed the letter, and all thanked him and praised the Pentagon’s performance.

Esper has regularly asserted that the Pentagon has been “ahead of the curve” in dealing with the outbreak, starting with his decision to begin implementing a pandemic plan on Feb. 1. Support to civilian authorities has been just one aspect of the Pentagon’s response. It also has scaled back training, reduced face-to-face recruiting and largely stopped deploying new forces abroad.

These and other measures aimed at protecting the health of the force have had degrees of success, despite major setbacks such as a virus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt that has sidelined the ship on Guam for weeks, creating turmoil among Navy leadership and taking the life of one sailor.

The visit to Northern Command provided Esper a first step toward a slice of normalcy, but it also offered a look at how carefully he is limiting his exposure to the virus threat as he interacts with the military he oversees.

No one lined up for the customary plane-side greeting when Esper arrived. And there were head nods and elbow bumps, no hand shakes or shoulder slaps.

His travel party was smaller than usual and they were all equipped with face coverings. The only journalist was an Associated Press reporter.

During meetings, tablet computers provided for Esper’s use were handled with surgical gloves. And smiles were hidden and voices muffled behind masks as all were careful to keep their distance.

The sessions also made clear the active-duty military’s gradually declining roles in the pandemic response.

The hospital ship USNS Comfort returned to its home port at Norfolk, Va., on Saturday after 31 days in New York harbor. A second Navy hospital ship, the USNS Mercy, will soon depart Los Angeles, where it has been since late March.

Military medical specialists have played a key role in civilian in hard-hit New York City and elsewhere, but their numbers are declining. A little over a week ago, 4,400 were working in civilian medical facilities across the nation. That number had shrunk to 2,600 on Wednesday.

Also, military expeditionary medical facilities that were set up in Texas and Louisiana are being returned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida this week.

Still, more than 46,000 National Guard members remain on active-duty, under state governors’ control, to provide assistance.

Even as he ventures out to visit commanders and troops after weeks cooped up in the Pentagon, Esper has stressed that the military cannot expect to resume business as usual any time soon. He hopes to ease military travel and training restrictions by summer, but such steps will be gradual.

“I think that we will be in a new type of normal for a period of time, measured in months at least, and we’re going to take it one step at a time to make sure we do everything possible to protect our people,” he said Tuesday.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

US jobless rate spikes to 14.7%

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. unemployment rate hit 14.7% in April, the highest rate since the Great Depression, as 20.5 million jobs vanished in the worst monthly loss on record. The figures are stark evidence of the damage the coronavirus has done to a now-shattered economy.

The losses reflect what has become a severe recession caused by sudden business shutdowns in nearly every industry. Nearly all the job growth achieved during the 11-year recovery from the Great Recession has now been lost in one month.

The collapse of the job market has occurred with stunning speed. As recently as February, the unemployment rate was a five-decade low of 3.5%, and employers had added jobs for a record 113 months. In March, the unemployment rate was just 4.4%

The government's report Friday noted that many people who lost jobs in April but didn't look for another one weren't even counted in the unemployment

rate. The impact of those losses was reflected in the drop in the proportion of working-age Americans who have jobs: Just 51.3%, the lowest on record.

In addition to the millions of newly unemployed, 5.1 million others had their hours reduced in April. That trend, too, means less income and less spending, perpetuating the economic downturn. A measure of what's called underemployment — which counts the unemployed plus full-time workers who were reduced to part-time work — reached 22.8%, a record high.

Though some businesses are beginning to reopen in certain states, factories, hotels, restaurants, resorts, sporting venues, movie theaters and many small businesses are still largely shuttered.

As companies have laid off tens of millions, lives have been upended across the country.

One of the newly unemployed, Sara Barnard, 24, of St. Louis, has lost three jobs: A floor manager at a pub and restaurant, a bartender at a small downtown



PAUL SANCTA/AP

A pedestrian walks by The Framing Gallery, which is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in Grosse Pointe, Mich., on Thursday.

tavern and the occasional stand-up comedian. Her main job was at McGurk's, an Irish pub and restaurant near downtown that closed days before St. Patrick's Day. She had worked there continually since high school.

McGurk's tried selling food curbside, Barnard said, but it was costing more to keep the place open than the money that was

coming in. Around that time, the bar where she worked closed, and comedy jobs ended when social distancing requirements forced clubs to close.

McGurk's is a St. Louis landmark, and Barnard expects it to rebound quickly once it reopens. She just doesn't know when.

Job losses and pay cuts are ranging across the world. Un-

employment in the 19-country eurozone is expected to surpass 10% in coming months as more people are laid off. That figure is expected to remain lower than the U.S. unemployment rate. But it doesn't count many people who either are furloughed or whose hours are cut but who receive most of their wages from government assistance.

Administration buries CDC reopening advice

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Trump administration shelved a document created by the nation's top disease investigators with step-by-step advice to local authorities on how and when to reopen restaurants and other public places during the still-raging coronavirus outbreak.

The 17-page report by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention team, titled "Guidance for Implementing the Opening Up America Again Framework," was researched and written to help faith leaders, business owners, educators and state and local officials as they begin to reopen.

It was supposed to be published last Friday, but pandemic scientists were told the guidance "would never see the light of day," according to a CDC official. The official was not authorized to talk to reporters and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

The AP obtained a copy from a second federal official who was not authorized to release it. The guidance was described in AP stories last week, prior to the White House decision to shelve it.

The Trump administration has been closely controlling the release of guidance and information during the pandemic spurred by a new coronavirus that scientists

are still trying to understand, with the president himself leading frequent daily briefings until last week.

Traditionally, it's been the CDC's role to give the public and local officials guidance and science-based information during public health crises. During this one, however, the CDC has not had a regular, pandemic-related news briefing in nearly two months. CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield has been a member of the White House coronavirus task force, but largely absent from public appearances.

The dearth of real-time, public information from the nation's experts has struck many current and former government health officials as dangerous.

"CDC has always been the public health agency Americans turn to in a time of crisis," said Dr. Howard Koh, a Harvard professor and former health official in the Obama administration during the H1N1 swine flu pandemic in 2009. "The standard in a crisis is to turn to them for the latest data and latest guidance and the latest press briefing. That has not occurred, and everyone sees that."

The Trump administration has instead sought to put the onus on states to handle COVID-19 response. This approach to managing the pandemic has been reflected in President Donald



Evan Vucci/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting Thursday in the Oval Office of the White House.

Trump's public statements, from the assertion that he isn't responsible for the country's lackluster early testing efforts, to his description last week of the federal government's role as a "supplier of last resort" for states in need of testing aid.

A person close to the White House's coronavirus task force said the CDC documents were never cleared by CDC leadership for public release. The person said White House officials have refrained from offering detailed guidance for how specific sectors should reopen because the virus is affecting various parts of the country differently. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Asked Thursday about the CDC report, White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Deborah Birx said: "No one has stopped those guidelines. We're still in editing." She told CNN, "It was more about simplification."

Dems eye money for smaller cities, towns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eyeing a major expansion of federal assistance, top Democrats are promising that small- to medium-sized cities and counties and small towns that were left out of four prior coronavirus bills will receive hundreds of billions of dollars in the next one.

Those cities and counties, where the coronavirus has crippled Main Street and caused local tax revenues to plummet, are pushing hard for relief in the next rescue measure to avert cuts in services and layoffs of workers.

It's an effort that the large class of freshman House Democrats has rallied around, along with many Republicans, and has the backing of key decision-makers like House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The initial number in an upcoming bill from House Democrats could total \$800 billion or more, though it's likely to shrink in any final measure negotiated with Senate Republicans and the White House. That would be more than the huge amounts delivered to the Paycheck Protection Program, the small business relief fund that is especially popular with Republicans.

An earlier, smaller installment

of money to local governments was limited to cities with populations greater than 500,000. That threshold channeled money to COVID-19 hot spots like New York City and Atlanta but passed over thousands of smaller jurisdictions packed into each of the 435 congressional districts.

Lowey has announced the upcoming, and fifth, coronavirus response bill will contain money for each county in the U.S., based on population, along with an equal amount of funding for municipalities.

"Unlike the initial CARES Act, I think it is vital we have separate programs for state and local governments, so there is less competition between governors, municipal leaders, and county executives," Lowey said in a recent letter to her colleagues. Pelosi, D-Calif., is encouraging the effort.

The approximately \$2 trillion CARES Act, which passed in late March, was the largest of the coronavirus relief bills so far. Democrats successfully pressed for \$150 billion in aid to states and local governments, with \$120 billion of that aid going to state governments to reimburse them for costs associated with fighting COVID-19.

The other \$30 billion went to cities with populations greater than 500,000.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Official says strict US border policy may remain

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. policy of quickly expelling migrants apprehended along the Mexican border may have to stay in place even after coronavirus quarantine restrictions ease around the country, a Trump administration official said Thursday.

Immigration advocates say the policy has deprived some people of the right to seek asylum. It is set to expire May 20, but the acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mark Morgan, said it may need to be extended to protect public health.

Morgan said U.S. health authorities should consider that the virus may not yet have peaked in Mexico and Central America, along with the potential for it to spread in Border Patrol detention facilities and beyond, before determining whether pre-outbreak enforcement can resume.

Even if we talk about the United States opening up its "phased approach," Morgan told reporters on a conference call to discuss statistics showing a steep drop in border apprehensions. "We're not going to go zero to 60 and it's going to go back to the way it was pre-COVID overnight."

President Donald Trump has made reducing illegal immigration a signature issue. His opponents have accused him of using the pandemic as a pretext to adopt hard-line policies that appeal to his political base as he seeks a second term in the White House.

The president closed the borders with Mexico and Canada to all-but-essential traffic in March. He granted CBP the power to quickly expel migrants, citing the potential threat to public health, on March 21. He extended the executive order for 30 days last month.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's restaurants — left reeling with massive income losses amid the coronavirus outbreak — can resume limited dine-in service later this month under the next phase of business reopenings announced by Gov. Andy Beshear on Thursday.

The new phase includes June target dates for reopening movie theaters, fitness centers and spas. In his daily briefing, the governor said at his daily briefing. By mid-June, he hopes to have a plan in place to reopen child-care centers at reduced capacity and to resume some youth sports.

It's another sign Kentucky's economy is set to spring back to activity after weeks of shutdowns caused by the coronavirus outbreak. Beshear announced the next timetable for business restarts on the same day that Kentucky surpassed 6,000 coronavirus cases and its death toll approached 300.

Under the new plan, restaurants can reopen dining rooms

starting May 22 at 33% capacity, Beshear said. Restaurants can offer unlimited outdoor seating if they meet spacing guidelines, he said. Carryout and delivery services have continued at some restaurants amid the pandemic.

Nebraska

LINCOLN — Nearly one out of six coronavirus cases in Nebraska have been linked to the state's meatpacking plants. Gov. Pete Ricketts said Thursday amid criticism that not enough is being done to protect the health of their workers.

Ricketts said public health officials have linked about 1,005 of Nebraska's 6,771 coronavirus cases to meatpacking plants. Nebraska's small, mostly rural meatpacking communities have become some of the biggest hot spots both statewide and nationally, with Hall County surpassing the much larger Omaha area.

Asked whether he should have done more to prevent the spread of the virus in the plants, Ricketts said critics were trying to "Monday morning quarter back" on a disaster that the state hasn't faced since the 1918 Spanish flu outbreak.

"Hindsight's always going to be 20/20," he said at a news conference. It's called, yes, if I had known things two months ago that I know today, I would have done things differently. But that's called experience. Of course you hope you'd learn from your experience to do a better job going forward in the future, and that's what we've done."

New Mexico

GALLUP — Traffic was almost nonexistent in this small New Mexico city, and just a handful of people waited their turn to get into grocery stores and other essential businesses. This place where rural residents from the largest American Indian reservation come to stock up on supplies is one of the nation's worst coronavirus hot spots, and the governor extended a lockdown Thursday to try to stem the spread.

The emergency declaration for Gallup, a gateway to the Navajo Nation, runs through noon Sunday. Patients have filled intensive care beds as COVID-19 infection rates here and in the surrounding county make the area one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Health officials say per capita infections are 12 times that of New Mexico's largest city, Albuquerque.

Businesses will be closed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Residents must stay at home except for emergencies that they out, they must wear face coverings to any essential business or government building.

Ohio

COLUMBUS — As he announced the reopening time-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AF

Anti-vaccination activist Tara Thornton tries to present an olive tree to members of the California Highway Patrol building during a demonstration against Gov. Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home order at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday. Thornton, who was among the demonstrators arrested by the CHP during a protest last week, was unable to get an officer to accept the tree.

table Thursday for restaurants, bars, barbershops and salons, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine urged even Ohioans who may feel the coronavirus isn't affecting them to keep adhering to state restrictions.

DeWine said young people and those in rural areas may be tempted to ease up, but that could lead to a surge in COVID-19 cases and a re-shuttering of businesses down the road.

Health Director Dr. Amy Acton likened a mask to "a high-five sign that we care about each other and we're protecting each other."

Ohio bars and restaurants can fully reopen in two weeks, on May 21, with outside dining allowed a few days earlier, on May 15, DeWine announced.

Barbershops, hair salons, nail salons and day spas will also reopen May 15, he said.

Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — The coronavirus death toll grew Thursday by more than 300 as Gov. Tom Wolf ordered most Pennsylvania residents to stay at home until June 4, extending a statewide edict he first imposed April 1 to slow the spread of the new virus.

The revised stay-at-home order, issued late Thursday to replace one that was set to expire at midnight, applies to all counties that remain under Wolf's strictest lockdown orders — meaning that for now, millions of people face the prospect of at least another month at home.

At the same time, the governor is planning to allow more counties with relatively few virus infections to emerge from some pandemic restrictions. He said he will reveal the names of those counties on Friday. They will join 24 counties in the lightly populated and mostly rural north where Wolf has already lifted his stay-at-home orders and allowed retailers and many other kinds of businesses to reopen beginning Friday morning.

Republicans have accused Wolf of moving too slowly to reopen Pennsylvania's battered and largely shuttered economy.

Earlier Thursday, Wolf extended a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions by another two months, until July 10, saying residents shouldn't have to worry about losing their homes during the pandemic.

Virginia

RICHMOND — An attempt by a Virginia church to prevent the state from barring gatherings of more than 10 people "would seriously undermine" the state's efforts to deter the spread of the coronavirus, attorneys for Gov. Ralph Northam argued Thursday in a legal filing.

Attorney General Mark Herring's office made the arguments in a memo filed in response to a federal lawsuit brought by LightHouse Fellowship Church of Chincoteague.

The church sued after its pastor was issued a criminal citation for having 16 people at a Palm Sunday service that authorities said violated Northam's order barring gatherings of more than 10 people.

The U.S. Department of Justice has sided with the church. In a court filing, the DOJ argued that Virginia "cannot treat religious gatherings less favorably than other similar, secular gatherings."

Lawyers for the church have said that during the service, those who attended maintained social distancing and had extensive sanitizing of common surfaces. The church said attendees had to stay 6 feet apart and use hand sanitizer before entering the building.

In arguing against the injunction sought by the church, Virginia Solicitor General Toby Heytens wrote that the temporary restriction on in-person gatherings is a "good-faith, evidence-based" emergency measure.

"Such a ruling would seriously

undermine Virginia's efforts to resist a once-in-a-century pandemic and threaten irreparable harm to an unknown (and unknowable) number of people," he wrote.

Wisconsin

MADISON — Republicans in more rural parts of Wisconsin joined with business owners to push for a regional reopening plan Thursday to give the economy a boost, as the Department of Workforce Development warned that the state fund that pays unemployment claims could run out of money in five months.

Meanwhile, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said he worried that loosening restrictions meant to curb the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus in some parts of the state could lead to regional outbreaks. But he admitted that his next move will depend on how the Wisconsin Supreme Court rules in a case brought by Republicans challenging the authority of his health secretary to issue orders closing businesses.

Evers also said the state will offer free coronavirus testing to all African Americans, Latinos and tribal community members in the state. Minorities have suffered a greater rate of infections and deaths than their share of the population.

Evers' "safer at home" order that closed most nonessential businesses is set to run until May 26. Republicans want to take authority away from Evers' health secretary to issue future orders, requiring instead that she work with the GOP-led Legislature on passing a rule. Evers said on WTMJ radio on Thursday that he hoped to not have to extend that order, but the future of his powers now rests with the conservative-controlled court.

Republicans have been calling on Evers to consider a regional reopening because rural areas have had far fewer confirmed cases of COVID-19.

NATION



BOBBY HAVEN, THE BRUNSWICK NEWS/AP

A crowd marches Tuesday through a neighborhood in Brunswick, Ga.

Father, son charged in shooting death of black runner in Georgia

By RUSS BYNUM
AND BEN NADLER

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Georgia authorities arrested a white father and son Thursday and charged them with murder in the February shooting death of a black man they had pursued in a truck after spotting him running in their neighborhood.

The charges came more than two months after Ahmaud Arbery, 25, was killed on a residential street just outside the port city of Brunswick. National outrage over the case swelled this week after cellphone video that appeared to show the shooting.

Those close to Arbery celebrated the news but also expressed frustration at the long wait.

"This should have occurred the day it happened," said Akseem Baker, one of Arbery's close friends in Brunswick. "There's no way without the video this would have occurred. I'm just glad the light's shining very bright on this situation."

Gregory McMichael, 64, previously told police that he and his son chased after Arbery because they suspected him of being a jogger. Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, has said she thinks her son, a former football player, was just

jogging in the Satilla Shores neighborhood before he was killed on a Sunday afternoon.

Benjamin Crump, an attorney for the slain man's father, Marcus Arbery, said it was outrageous that it took so long for arrests to be made.

"This is the first step to justice," Crump said in a statement. "This murderous father and son duo took the law into their own hands. It's a travesty of justice that they enjoyed their freedom for 74 days after taking the life of

a young black man who was simply jogging."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation announced the arrests the day after it began its own investigation at the request of an outside prosecutor. The agency said in a

news release that Gregory McMichael and his son, Travis McMichael, 34, had both been jailed on charges of murder and aggravated assault.

The GBI news release said the McMichaels "confronted Arbery with two firearms. During the encounter, Travis McMichael shot and killed Arbery." No other details were immediately released.

It was not immediately known whether either of the McMichaels had an attorney who could comment on the charges.



Travis
McMichael



Gregory
McMichael

DOJ drops case against Flynn in Mueller probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
AND ERIC TRUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an abrupt about-face, the Justice Department said it is dropping the criminal case against President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, abandoning a prosecution that became a rallying cry for the president and his supporters in attacking the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation.

The action Thursday was a stunning reversal for one of the signature cases brought by special counsel Robert Mueller. It comes even though prosecutors for the past three years have maintained that Flynn lied to the FBI in a January 2017 interview about his conversations with the Russian ambassador.

Flynn admitted as much, pleading guilty before later asking to withdraw the plea, and he became a key cooperor for Mueller as the special counsel investigated ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 political campaign.

Thursday's action was swiftly embraced by Trump, who has relentlessly tweeted about the "outrageous" case and last week pronounced Flynn "exonerated," and it is likely to energize supporters of the president who have taken up the retired Army lieutenant general as a cause.

But it will also add to Democratic complaints that Attorney General William Barr is excessively loyal to the president and could be a distraction for a Justice Department that has sought to focus on crimes arising from the coronavirus.

"Attorney General Barr's politicization of justice knows no

bounds," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. She accused Barr's department of "dropping the case to continue to cover up for the president."

Shortly before the filing was submitted, Brandon Van Grack, a Mueller team member and veteran prosecutor on the case, withdrew from the prosecution, a possible sign of disagreement with the decision.

After the Flynn announcement, Trump declared that his former aide had been "an innocent man" all along. He accused Obama administration



Flynn

officials of targeting

and said, "I hope that a big price is going to be paid." Going further, he said to investigate

Flynn: "It's treason. It's treason."

In court documents filed Thursday, the Justice Department said that after reviewing newly disclosed information and other materials, it agreed with Flynn's lawyers that his interview with the FBI should never have taken place because his contacts with the Russian ambassador were "entirely appropriate."

The department's action comes amid an internal review into the handling of the case and an aggressive effort by Flynn's lawyers to challenge the basis for the prosecution. The lawyers cited newly disclosed FBI emails and notes last week to allege that Flynn was improperly trapped into lying when agents interviewed him days after Trump's inauguration.

Democrats press Trump for answers on foiled Venezuela raid

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

MIAMI — Three Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are demanding answers from the Trump administration about how much it knew about an attempted raid to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, an operation they said potentially violated U.S. law and ran counter to American support for negotiations to end the South American country's political standoff.

In a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Attorney General William Barr and Richard Grenell, the acting director of national intelligence, the lawmakers led by Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut

expressed "alarm" about the raid led by a former Green Beret and which has resulted in the detention in Venezuela of two American citizens.

"Either the U.S. government was unaware of these planned operations, or was aware and allowed them to proceed," according to the letter sent Thursday. "Both possibilities are problematic."

The letter cited the findings of an Associated Press investigation into Jordan Goudreau, who claimed responsibility for the foiled incursion. The AP investigation detailed how Goudreau, through his Florida private security firm, had teamed up with a retired Venezuelan army official to train at secret camps in Colombia dozens of deserters from Venezuela's security forces

for a mission targeting Maduro, for whose capture the U.S. has offered a \$15 million bounty.

Trump has denied any U.S. involvement in the raid and Goudreau has said he was unable to ever persuade the Trump administration to support his bold plan for a private coup.

Maduro has insisted the operation was directed by the White House. Meanwhile, aides to Juan Guaido, the opposition leader recognized by the U.S. and 60 other nations as Venezuela's rightful leader, have acknowledged exploring the idea last year but said they quickly backed out after deciding Goudreau couldn't deliver or be trusted.

The letter, which was also signed by Sen.

Tim Kaine of Virginia and Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico, cites provisions in the VERDAD act, signed into law by Trump in late 2019, that state it is U.S. policy to support diplomatic engagement to bring a negotiated and peaceful end to Venezuela's political, economic and humanitarian crisis.

"Such incursions harm the prospects for a peaceful democratic transition in Venezuela by insinuating that an armed intervention is a viable option to resolve the crisis, potentially undermining the willingness of hard-line opposition actors to negotiate, while simultaneously allowing Maduro to rally support to his side, strengthening his hand," the lawmakers wrote.

NATION

Wildfire sweeps through Florida panhandle area

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**
Associated Press

MILTON, Fla. — Florida firefighters were working to hold containment lines around a 2,000-acre fire in the state's Panhandle, where winds were expected to shift Friday and push it toward homes.

The firebreak was about a half-mile from a neighborhood, officials said. While no evacuations have been issued, they urged residents to be ready to leave their homes should they be given the word to do so.

"People should be prepared and be ready," said Ludie Bond, a spokeswoman for the Florida Forest Service.

Daniel Felder escaped flames Wednesday when the fire invaded his neighborhood near Milton, Fla., where fire crews were staged in a church parking lot.

Felder described a harrowing scene: He recounted how the sky was glowing with sunlight, then grew dark as winds began to whip.

He stepped out into the road to watch the acrid smoke billow toward him. Ash started raining from the sky like light snow drifting in twilight. Then came the crackle of fire, and he knew it was time to run.

"Next thing you know, the fire was right there," said Felder, 45, recounting the minutes Wednesday afternoon when the raging fire swept through his bucolic wooded neighborhood.

Unable to flee, Felder and his landlord waded into a nearby pond until the fire passed. The house was spared, but the fire took down a barn and turned the surrounding trees into a charred forest of blackened trunks.

On Friday, helicopter and tractor units continued to battle the fires in the Panhandle that have forced hundreds of residents to

flee, scorched thousands of acres and razed dozens of structures.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported that the 2,000-acre fire in Santa Rosa County, just east of Pensacola, is 35% contained. That fire forced the evacuation of 1,100 homes Wednesday, though a few of those residents have been allowed to return to their homes.

A stretch of Interstate 10, northern Florida's main transportation artery, remained closed in both directions near Pensacola because of smoke. A 575-acre fire in Walton County also prompted about 500 people to evacuate. Fire officials said it was 70% contained.

There have been no reports of injuries or deaths.

Officials said 13 homes were destroyed so far in the Santa Rosa fire dubbed the Five Mile Swamp Fire. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, some evacuees were sent to nearby hotels to avoid potential problems with crowding.

The Santa Rosa County fire began Monday when a prescribed burn by a private contractor got out of control, Fried said. The conditions created a perfect storm for fire — low humidity and high winds.

"In Florida, when we're seeing the gusty winds, it's hurricane season, not necessarily fire season. So the recipe was just right for this fire to make a huge run," Bond had said.

On four different occasions, she said, the fire made a run for busy Interstate 10. Each time, it jumped the highway and pushed westward by gusts reaching 40 mph.

In a place accustomed to hurricanes, officials said many residents were ready to flee when given the word — although scores of people stayed behind, water hoses in hand, to stand against the fire.



ELAINE THOMPSON, POOL/AP

Washington State Department of Agriculture entomologist Chris Looney displays a dead Asian giant hornet, bottom, next to a native bald-faced hornet Thursday, in Blaine, Wash.

'Murder hornets' not worth the media hype, entomologists say

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

Insect experts say people should calm down about the big bug with the nickname "murder hornet" — unless you are a beekeeper or a honeybee.

The Asian giant hornets found in Washington state that grabbed headlines this week aren't big killers of humans, although it does happen on rare occasions. But the world's largest hornets do decapitate entire hives of honeybees, and that crucial food pollinator is already in big trouble.

Numerous bug experts told The Associated Press that what they call hornet "hype" reminds them of the 1970s public scare when Africanized honeybees, nicknamed "killer bees," started moving north from South America. While these more aggressive bees did make it up to Texas and the Southwest, they didn't live up to the horror-movie moniker. However, they also do kill people in rare situations.

This time it's hornets with the homicidal nickname, which bug experts want to ditch.

"They are not 'murder hornets.' They are just hornets," said Washington Agriculture Department entomologist Chris Looney, who is working on the state's search for these large hornets.

The facts are, experts said, two dead hornets were found in Washington last December, a lone Canadian live nest was found and wiped out last September and no live hornets have yet been seen this year.

Looney has a message for Americans: These hornets are not coming to get you. "The number of people who are stung and have to seek medical attention is incredibly small," he said in an interview.

While its nickname exaggerates the human health threat, experts said this hornet is especially big — two inches long — so it does carry more and stronger toxin.

"It's a really nasty sting for humans," said University of Georgia bee expert Keith Delaplaine. "It's like the Africanized bee ... A dozen (stings) you are OK; 100 not so much."

Asian giant hornets at most kill a few dozen people a year, and

some experts said it's probably far less.

In Japan, Korea and China, "people have co-existed with this hornet for thousands of years," said Doug Yaneaga, senior scientist at the University of California Riverside Entomology Research Museum.

For bees and the people who rely on them for a living however, this could be yet another massive problem, but it is not one yet.

The number of U.S. honeybees has been dropping for years, with the winter of 2018-19 one of the worst on record.

The new hornets would be different. If they get into a hive, they tear the heads off worker bees and the hive pretty much dies.

The worry for beekeeping in Washington is based on a worst-case scenario that officials have to take seriously, Looney said.

For people, the hornets are scary because the world is already frightened by the coronavirus and our innate fight-or-flight mechanisms are activated, putting people on edge, said risk expert David Ropeik, author of "How Risky Is It, Really?"

Rare May snowfall forecast for Northeast

By **MARK PRATT**
Associated Press

BOSTON — The northeastern U.S. is about to get a cold spring farewell from winter's bad boy, the polar vortex, which could bring rare May snowfall and record-low temperatures to some areas over the Mother's Day weekend, forecasters say.

Usually the polar vortex is a batch of cold air that stays trapped in the Arctic all winter, but a couple times during the season, it wanders south and brings bone-chilling cold and snow to Canada and parts of the United States. This year the polar vortex stayed put, and the East had an unusually mild cold season.

Around this time of year, the polar vortex breaks up, but this

breakup is a bit different, said Judah Cohen, a winter storm expert for Atmospheric Environmental Research, a commercial firm outside Boston.

"The polar vortex didn't do much the whole winter, but on the way out I guess it kind of sent a message: Just because I didn't do much this winter, don't think I can't," Cohen said Thursday.

A low pressure system off the coast of southern New England is pulling cold air down from the north, Alan Dunham, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Norton, Mass., said Thursday.

Forecasters called for perhaps as much as 2 inches of snow in the Berkshire Mountains in western Massachusetts on Friday into Saturday, an inch or so on grassy

areas of central Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and western Connecticut, and rain with a few flakes possible in the Boston area, he said.

Upstate New York could see an inch of snow, and further down in New York City and the Hudson River Valley are likely to see mostly rain, according to Hunter Tubbs at the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine.

In northern New England, the greatest chance for snowfall accumulations this weekend is across the higher elevations, in New Hampshire's White Mountains and in Coos County, and in northwestern Maine, Tubbs said. Snow showers were also forecast for Friday night and Saturday morning in some parts of northern Vermont.



TOM McLAUGHLIN, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

The remains of a car and a building sit in residential neighborhood in Walton County, Fla., Thursday morning following an overnight wildfire that destroyed more than two dozen homes.

TRAVEL

A future uncertain

Recovery expected to be slow for battered tourism industry

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Six months ago, the global tourism industry was celebrating a record year for travel. Now, it's decimated and facing a recovery that could take years.

Tourism Economics, a data and consulting firm, predicts global travel demand won't resume its normal pace until 2023.

When tourists do finally return, they will face a changed landscape that incorporates social distancing and other measures to calm residual fears over COVID-19, the disease that has so far killed more than 258,000 people worldwide and infected millions more.

"It takes time to shake fear from the hearts of people, not to mention the economy," said Mahmoud Hadhoud, founder of Egypt Knight Tours, who doesn't expect foreign tourists to start trickling back into Egypt until September.

Last week, Hilton, Marriott and Airbnb all announced enhanced cleaning procedures worldwide to ease travelers' minds. In Egypt, Hadhoud is removing cruises and hot air balloon rides from his packages and replacing them with tours of Egypt's vast western deserts, where travelers can keep their distance from one another.

At Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., multiple teams are working on scenarios, including putting more space between riders on roller coasters, said

John Sprouls, the resort's chief administrative officer, at a recent virtual event for tourism officials.

Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox said his company may sanitize dice between users, put fewer seats at blackjack tables and idle slot machines between players at its casinos in Las Vegas, Boston and Macau.

Gary Thulander, managing director of Chatham Bars Inn, a 106-year-old resort on Cape Cod, said the resort is planning many changes when it reopens this summer, including checking in guests via cellphones, letting them opt out of room service and lengthening dining hours so fewer guests will be eating at the same time.

The road to recovery will be long and hard for the tourism industry. The United Nations World Tourism Organization predicts global tourist arrivals — or visits from tourists who come to their destinations and stay at least one night — will fall 30% this year from the record 1.5 billion in 2019. Airlines have grounded nearly two-thirds of their planes as passengers vanish. Cruise ships are docked; some won't sail again until November.

Millions of people who depend on tourism are laid off or furloughed. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 8 million tourism-related workers are jobless right now, or about one-third of total U.S. unemployment, said Roger Dow, the president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Women wearing masks as a precaution against the new coronavirus walk April 23 at the Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul, South Korea.

Alexandre de Juniac, CEO of the International Air Transport Association, the leading airline trade group, said carriers need to fill at least 70% of seats to break even on most flights. If they're required to block or remove many seats, they will either stop flying or raise prices 50%, he said.

That will delay recovery for places like Israel, which sees almost all of its tourists arrive by air. Diklah Cohen Sheinfeld, chief of staff of the Israeli Tourism Ministry's director general's office, said the tourism industry — which employs 250,000 Israelis — was the first to be impacted and will likely be the last to recover.

"There are no tourists and no entry to the country for tourists. The gates are totally closed," she said.

In some places, governments are stepping in to help the sector. Serge Cachan, president of the Astotel hotel chain in Paris, closed his 17 properties in March and expects to lose 70% of his business this year. But the French government will help the chain get through it, he said. The government is paying around 80% of furloughed hotel workers' salaries.

Many destinations anticipate travelers' behavior will change in the virus's wake. Pornthip Hirunkate, vice president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, thinks more people will come in small groups or seek personalized tours.

Ander Fuentes, who works as a tour guide in Spain's Granada province, thinks travelers will shift away from crowded beaches to the quieter interior mountains.

"It could be an opportunity to develop a new kind of tourism, which is going to be good for Spain, because in the last 10 years, the tourism boom



HAU DINH/AP

A motorcyclist drives past a poster reminding people to guard their health against the new coronavirus April 14 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

has been in quantity but not in quality," Fuentes said. He hopes tourism there picks back up by mid-August.

But not everyone is comfortable with reopening. Marco Michielli, who owns the 67-room San Marco Hotel in Bibione, a beach resort east of Venice, Italy, said many hoteliers worry their businesses will be ruined if the virus spreads on their properties. Some would rather reopen next year than serve guests this summer with desk staff and bartenders wearing masks.

"If we have rules approved by the ministry, some hotel owners would be convinced to start to open. But if the hotel must look like a COVID ward, many will refuse to open to guests," he said.

Others say they need reassurance from science — not just tourist sites — before they travel. Emma Barnes visited a dozen countries last year, including Serbia, Vietnam and Chile. This year, she had planned trips to Jordan and South Korea.

But right now, Barnes is work-

ing remotely in a tiny town in her native New Zealand. Airports near her are closed, so she's not sure when she'll get back to New York, where she works in publishing.

Barnes said she needs some peace of mind — a COVID-19 vaccine, or testing to make sure she isn't a carrier — before she resumes her travels.

"I don't think my desire to travel and explore other places is worth my risking the health of people in those places," Barnes said.

Others remain optimistic. Dedy Sulistyanto, the owner of a tour and adventure provider in Bali, Indonesia, has been promoting his business on social media while it's closed. He has received so many positive responses that he thinks tourism will resume quickly when restrictions are lifted. Most of his clients are domestic tourists from Indonesia.

"There are so many people out there very eager to do traveling," Sulistyanto said.



JOHN LOCKER/AP

A sign advises people to practice social distancing to slow the spread of the coronavirus at the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada" sign amid a shutdown of casinos along the Las Vegas Strip.

TRAVEL & FOOD

Have cup, will travel

8 coffees you can make at home that will leave you feeling like an intrepid explorer

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON
The Washington Post

As the world turns to edible entertainment during social distancing, a number of food and drink trends have virally emerged. One of the major ones (next to an explosion in bread-making) has been dalgona coffee, a whipped beverage whose internet takeover began with YouTube videos out of South Korea. It's frothy and fun to drink — and oddly calming to watch.

But dalgona isn't the only distinctive global coffee you can concoct at home right now. Here are eight traditional varieties to try.

Italy: Ristretto

To drink coffee like an Italian, you're going to need enough espresso to support a morning-to-evening caffeine routine. Start early with a biscotti or a croissant and jam, paired with a hit of ristretto.

"Ristretto is traditionally a short shot of espresso coffee made with the normal amount of ground coffee but extracted with about half the amount of water in the same amount of time by using a finer grind," Il Salvatino executive chef Silvia Grossi explained to The Post, in an email from Fiesole, Italy.

Grossi said it's best to use Arabica or Robusta coffee blends to capture the Italian essence. And you'll want to keep things simple when it comes to add-ons.

"Generally, when we talk about espresso, the few variations or ingredients added in very small quantities are: milk foam, a drop of liquor (usually anise or grappa), and the coffee served in a cup with hazelnut cream," Grossi said.

Vietnam: Iced coffee

With the arrival of warmer weather, you may find yourself craving iced coffee. A perfect solution? Vietnam's most popular coffee drink: iced coffee with sweetened condensed milk. (Ca phe sua da)

To attempt an authentic recreation of your own, Sahra Nguyen, a Vietnamese-American filmmaker and founder of Nguyen Coffee Supply, recommends using 100 percent Peaberry Robusta coffee beans, which deliver nearly twice the caffeine content of Arabica beans. Nguyen Coffee Supply makes things easy by selling a Vietnamese coffee kit online, complete with a stainless-steel, single-servingphin filter and either whole or ground beans, grown in Da Lat, Vietnam.

Once you're stocked with the right supplies (Nguyen says an electric kettle and a good coffee grinder will deliver the freshest coffee experience), mix your grind and call your friends.

"Saying 'di hang ca phe,' which translates to 'let's get coffee,' is the most common invitation to hang out in villages and cities alike," Nguyen said in an email interview.

Australia: Flat white

If you're missing traveling in Australia (or New Zealand), make yourself a flat white.

"[The flat white is] one of our great Australian innovations, along with a lamington and TimTam," Andy Stone, the vice president of marketing at Australian-inspired coffee company Bluestone Lane, said in an email.

Stone says that an authentic Australian flat white



requires a huge amount of precision. You'll need a shot of espresso (Stone's pick is Bluestone Lane's Maverick espresso blend), two shots of steamed milk and an 8-ounce ceramic cup to do it right.

Singapore: Kopi

You can't feast at a Singapore hawk center during the pandemic, but you can embrace kopitiam (or coffee shop) culture at home if you have some butter and a little time.

"To enhance their flavor, [Robusta] beans are roasted in a wok with butter or lard and sugar until they turn deep brown," Rachel Loh, a regional director for the Singapore Tourism Board, explained over email. "This caramelizes the beans and gives them a unique aroma."

After their buttering, the beans are ground and strained through a sock filter. Finally, the coffee is mixed with sweet condensed milk or evaporated milk, or served straight.

For the full Singaporean experience, you'll need a snack, too.

"Most Singaporeans enjoy sipping their kopi while snacking on some kaya toast — a local breakfast staple of charcoal-grilled or toasted bread with a slice of butter and kaya spread (a traditional jam made from coconut and eggs)," said Loh. "More often than not, it is also accompanied by two savory soft-boiled eggs with runny yolks and a dash of dark soya sauce."

Miami: Cuban espresso

In Miami, a coffee break is as much about socializing as it is a midday energy boost.

"It's a moment to chit-chat and have coffee. It's a little pick-me-up in the afternoon," said Adrian Gonzalez, the owner of David's Cafe Cafecito in Miami Beach.

The routine for customers at Gonzalez's 42-year-old cafe, he said, is to grab Cuban espresso from the shop's walk-up window, then divide it up among friends while they swap stories from their day.

Miami's official cafecito time is 3:05 p.m., in honor of its 305 area code, so replicate the experience by taking a video-chat coffee break with friends then. Go the extra mile by enjoying your coffee with guava, cheese or meat pastelitos (a traditional Cuban pastry) on the side.

France: French press

If you've ever traveled to France, you almost certainly set aside time to sit at a cafe for coffee. French cafes date back centuries, and are as essential to a trip to the country as seeing the Louvre or eating a baguette.

"French cafes have a distinct place in history and

literature — from the French Revolution to Hemingway, cafes were used as places to create ideas, write, gather and plot," emailed Berta Canovas, the associate director of marketing at Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa, in Champagne, France.

Until we can fly to Paris and take a seat at a cafe's sidewalk table, we can satisfy our French-cafe cravings at home with an cafe, a cup of espresso. Or, for the Royal Champagne treatment, use a French press.

"We always serve room service with a French press," said Canovas. "Our guests wouldn't have it otherwise."

The best time to sip yours? 4 p.m., in accordance with France's "Le gouter" tradition, alongside a small dessert.

Guatemala: Guatemalan coffee

You may already drink coffee from Guatemala today. But do you drink it like a Guatemalan?

"People in Guatemala traditionally drink black coffee with a splash of milk and some sugar," Marcela Jongezoon, chef of Casa Palopo in Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, said in an email. "Guatemalan coffee is amazing, so it does not need much more to make it great."

The key to getting the most out of Guatemalan coffee is making sure your beans are fresh and that you grind them yourself. (Jongezoon's favorites are from the Guatemalan cities of Huehuetenango and Antigua.)

"I would recommend you buy whole-grain coffee and either grind it at home or take it to a local supermarket to do it for you," said Jongezoon. "Make sure you read the label in detail to check for freshness and shelf life."

Bali: Kopi

Time seems to slow down in Bali, whether you're listening to the sound of waves crashing in Uluwatu or to traditional gamelan music in the jungle. And locals and visitors alike can take in the calming splendor of the Indonesian island over a cup of Kopi Bali.

"The secret to great Balinese coffee comes during the roasting process, and everyone has different recipes," Mark Swinton, general manager of the resort Capella Ubud, Bali, said in an email. "The tradition is in general 1 kilo of coffee plus .5 kilo of rice added together, then roasted."

After the mixture's roasting is complete, grind it into a powder, add a tablespoon of coffee mix and a tablespoon of sugar to a glass of hot water, and stir. To alter the intensity, vary the amount of rice, or roast the mixture for different lengths of time.

Pull it off properly, and for a moment, it'll almost (just almost) be as if you're really there.

MOVIES



A RARE MOVE

Teen dramedy 'The Half of It' centers on platonic friendship

By SONIA RAO ■ *The Washington Post*

For years, filmmaker Alice Wu bought into the notion that finding the perfect romantic partner is what makes life complete. The sentiment fuels the Victorian novels she grew up reading, just as it continues to thrive in modern culture. It wasn't until adulthood that she truly recognized, she says with a laugh, that even "after a wonderful wedding or marriage, it does seem like life goes on."

"I really started to think, maybe we have a narrow definition of what love is, or we fixate on a portion of it disproportionately," Wu expands. "What if you meet someone and it's the last person on Earth you think you'd have anything in common with, but you end up changing each other's lives?"



Netflix photos

Her latest film, which received top honors from the Tribeca Film Festival, searches for that answer. "The Half of It" joins Netflix's ever-expanding empire of teen dramedies but, unlike many of its peers, it approaches romantic love as a secondary, plot-propelling force. A modern spin on "Cyrano de Bergerac," the film instead focuses on the friendship that grows between a studious high school senior in rural Washington state, Ellie Chu (Leah Lewis), and a kindhearted football player, Paul Munsky (Daniel Dimer), who needs her help writing love letters to a pretty new student.

Part of the reason that relationship stays platonic, as the film's trailer reveals, is because Ellie also has a crush on their new classmate, Aster Flores (Alexxis Lemire). "The Half of It" is Wu's second film to center on a Chinese American lesbian following her 2004 debut, "Saving Face." But that's where the similarities between the projects end, she says. Whereas the older film was a romantic comedy, the newer is a coming-of-age story. And while cultural heritage shapes the identities of Wu's characters, it doesn't define them.

"It's not something I consciously think about, I think it's just the way I tell stories," Wu says. "I'm a Chinese American lesbian, but I don't wake up in the morning and think, 'Here I am, Chinese. Here I am, gay,' and see the world in a gay way. I wake up in the morning and think, 'Do I have to get up? Do I have coffee?'"

"The subversive quality of my work is simply that I take characters and just make them people," she adds. This approach extends to everyone in "The Half of It," whether that's Ellie, who plans to forgo a future at the distant Grinnell College to stay home with her widowed father (Collin Chou), or Paul, who aspires to spin off his family's sausage company with a new recipe. The unlikely pair spend time together at first only so Ellie can draft Paul's messages to Aster, but soon enough, they become

friends in earnest. Paul is quick to defend Ellie against the bullies who refer to her as "Chu Chu Train."

Wu chose an unlikely setting — a conservative, overwhelmingly Christian town — to highlight her belief that most people are fundamentally good and have the ability to grow and accept those who are unlike them. It's a mission driven by the anger she has experienced over racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination she feels have intensified in the past few years.

"There have always been conflicts," she says, "but ever since (President Donald) Trump got elected, everyone has retreated to different corners and everyone is pointing fingers. I am fundamentally not comfortable with conflict, but I am furious about what's happening."

Rather than spelling out her desire for people to look past themselves, Wu encourages viewers to do so by inspiring empathy for her characters through how they overcome their own differences.

Aster's father is the minister of a local church where Paul also attends services, for instance, whereas Ellie doesn't believe in God. Aster and Ellie both excel at school, but Paul struggles to write meaningful sentences and instead opts for strings of emoji. They work to understand each other's perspectives.

High school can be a "profoundly lonely experience," Wu says. As Ellie's friendship with Paul develops, she begins to understand, in her words, "what it's like to finally meet someone your age who gets you."

Wu notes that she wouldn't be surprised if it's Asian lesbians who end up relating to the character of Paul, or conservative men who see themselves in Ellie. "For me, that is my subtle way of hoping that people start to see that we're more similar than different," she says. "Maybe it will open up our minds to being a little more generous with each other."

Alice Wu delivers an updated twist on the Cyrano de Bergerac tale in her film "The Half of It." A teenage girl (Leah Lewis, far left) helps a popular jock (Daniel Ellie, left) write letters to his crush (Alexxis Lemire, top left).

VIDEO GAMES

5 Indie games for Nintendo Switch to play while you're stuck at home

BY TEDDY AMENABAR
The Washington Post

In this period of social distancing, many of us have found more time to play video games. Maybe you recently purchased a Nintendo Switch for just this reason, or maybe you've already had your console for years. Regardless, there's more to the Switch than just Mario or Animal Crossing's anthropomorphic tanuki. There are countless games on the Nintendo Store created as passion projects by independent developers — indies for short.

Below is a list of some great indie titles to consider playing over the coming weeks.

Dead Cells

In *Dead Cells*, a ruthless Castlevania-like game that's perfect for a dedicated game night, you're a lump of cells that finds refuge in a prisoner's corpse. Using this reanimated body, you set out to escape the dungeon as well as the bleak island you find yourself on.

If you die while trying to escape, you start over. There are no checkpoints or saving graces; you lose everything. *Dead Cells* encourages, almost requires, players to start over time and again until they begin to master the mechanics and breeze through levels.

You need to master the controls, remember how different enemies attack and counter effectively as you move through the game's areas. Once the game starts to click, the fun comes from pulling off left maneuvers despite the mutated opponents breathing down your neck.

Every time you run through a level, the game is a bit different. The enemies are randomly populated across the map, so, even though you may get comfortable with the controls, you still have to stay on your toes. To aid you, *Dead Cells* includes a range of weapons to match your play style, including traps, melee and ranged weapons.

You can buy *Dead Cells* for \$24.99 on the Nintendo Store. The game will take around 13 hours to beat the main story, but there's an expansion pack, *The Bad Seed*.



D-Pad Studio

Owlboy

A captivating adventure with a story that rivals any top-dollar title, *Owlboy* is a coming-of-age story that follows Otus, a young mute struggling to meet the expectations of adulthood.

The game takes Otus on a journey to protect his village from an army of sky pirates. At the start, Otus is a bumbling pupil, but he quickly becomes embroiled in a larger fight — one with an impressive story that builds out the lore of the game's world.

As the title suggests, Otus can fly. You're able to fly right out of the gate, which is an incredibly freeing mechanic to introduce so early on. You don't need to worry about falling to your death, like you would in a standard platform title. Instead, *Owlboy* raises the difficulty by applying limits on your mobility throughout the game. It's a refreshing way to make levels more complicated as you play.

Otus upgrades his abilities through his friends. He can grant anyone using his talons, or opting their abilities to solve puzzles and defeat air enemies. One ally has a shotgun blast for short-range destruction, while another has a simple point-and-shoot machine gun.

The game took nearly a decade for D-Pad Studio to develop, and the final product is a beautiful love letter to pixel art. Every cave, terrain and sprite is meticulously detailed. Then there's the soundtrack tying the entire package together. The level against the sky pirates have some of the best tracks, with a pulsing, spy-thriller intensity that sucks you into the action.

Owlboy will take around 10 hours to beat the main story. It's on sale at the Nintendo Store for \$14.99.



SideBar Games

Golf Story

A role-playing game that happens to be a great surrogate for watching the Masters, *Golf Story* isn't a golf simulator; it's an RPG that revolves around golf.

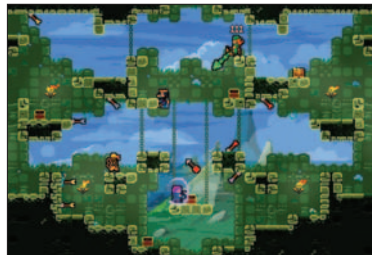
You play a golfer who's returning to the sport he grew to love as a kid. Besides that, there's not too much else to the story. The fun comes from playing golf and all the minigames that are sandwiched in between each round.

There are eight courses in the game; each one is its own small town with eccentric characters milling about for you to talk to, challenge and compete against. Winning earns you experience and cash to upgrade your clubs, just as defeating an enemy earns you loot in some fantasy RPGs.

The greens you play on can get a bit wacky — moles can steal your ball; some holes resemble putt-putt more than the PGA Tour. *Golf Story* is for the player who loved *Mario Golf*, not the purist.

It's not a perfect game; it can get repetitive at times. Still, there are ways to break up the monotony: Try some Frisbee golf on certain courses, for example. At a moment when traditional sports are off the air, the game is a great alternative.

Golf Story packs in up to 20 hours of gameplay, making it one of the longest games on the list. You can find it on the Nintendo Store for \$7.49, at the moment.



Matt Makes Games

Towerfall

Stuck at home with family? This game is the Super Smash Bros. of indie titles.

Towerfall pits players against one another in close-quarters arena combat. It's the perfect game for avid gamers and amateurs to pick up and play together.

The title is from Matt Makes Games, the same developer behind the platform adventure *Celeste*, and the controls require just a few buttons, making it easy to learn for big groups.

Players fight using a simple bow and arrow in a death-match format. Similar to *Pac-Man*, the arenas often have entrances and exits that send you to the opposite side of the screen, making for quick ways to flank your opponent. There are dozens of unique arenas, for countless hours of "friendly" competition. Besides the main arena play, there's a cooperative story mode and a series of time trials to hone your skills.

It's important to stress: *Towerfall* is a multiplayer game. You should probably look elsewhere if you want an indie game with an engrossing single-player experience. Plus, a big downside for *Towerfall* is that it only supports local multiplayer, with no options for online play.

Towerfall is currently \$19.99 on the Nintendo Store. The main story will take four hours to beat, but the game really shines during the endless rounds of multiplayer.



Nintendo

Good Job!

Miss the office? Press 1 to join this conference call.

Good Job! is a game about the son of a chief executive who lands his first job at the family company. No nepotism here, folks.

Your character, a stickman right off a traffic sign, is assigned a series of mental human resources and IT tasks, like fixing the Wi-Fi router. Exactly how you reconnect the router is entirely your choice. You're the boss' kid. Rules need not apply. You can snack the cord through offices and hallways or send a printer through some drywall to make for a truly "open" floor plan.

The puzzle game has the same chaotic energy people grew to love with *Untitled Goose Game*, which released in the fall and quickly became a meme for all the ways you could wreak havoc on a small town. The possibilities are not as endless in *Good Job!* I never found myself blown away by all the possible levers you could pull, but you find solutions to simple tasks by applying some fun and destructive physics.

In the game, you work your way up the corporate ladder completing missions on every floor of the building. Every task is timed, and every item you break is accounted for once you've finished a task. The faster you get the job done, the better — encouraging players to think creatively and crack some eggs in the process. And *Good Job!* comes with a co-op mode, so you can maximize the chaos you spread across the cubicles.

The game takes six to eight hours to beat, depending on how fast you play, and is on the Nintendo Store for \$19.99.



Motion Twin

HEALTH & FITNESS

Harmonious HEALTH

Studies suggest that music may have a positive effect on the immune system

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

To boost your immune system, doctors recommend a healthy diet that embraces fruits and veggies and has no vitamin deficiencies. But how about a little Mozart?

Sound like quackery? It's not. Numerous studies, including a 2019 review in the journal *Annual Research & Review in Biology*, have found that both performing and listening to music can have a significant impact on the immune system. And as COVID-19 fosters global tension and fear, everyone is looking for ways to mitigate that stress and boost the immune system to ward off viral infections.

"Certainly music has an impact on the brain, and anxiety and stress impact the immune system," said Andrew Levin, a neurologist at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Levin, an amateur trumpet player who performs with several local ensembles, said he's not an expert in the ways music interacts with the brain. But it works for him.

"Music is a part of my stress release paradigm," he said, adding that he hasn't had much time lately to play. "We know that music can affect brain states, so I don't believe it is much of a stretch to say that music can indirectly affect our physiology, and there is research that supports this notion."

According to a 2013 review in the journal *Brain Behavior and Immunity*, the emotional and psychological effects of listening to music have a direct impact on biomarkers and hormone levels. Immunoglobulin A, which plays a crucial role in immune functions, was cited as being "particularly responsive to music." There is also general consensus among researchers that listening to music reduces cortisol levels, with one 2007 study in the *Journal of Music Therapy* by A.J. Ferrer stating that music can be "as effective as diazepam" in

reducing vital signs of anxiety.

So, does it matter what sort of music you're listening to?

It does, but only whether you like the song. Prior associations and relationships with different types of music affect how your body responds. In general, research indicates that "relaxing music" (i.e. slower tempo, peaceful music) is better for calming frayed nerves, decreasing blood pressure and respiration and settling the heart rate.

Curiously, while major music streaming companies including Spotify and Bandcamp report dips in usage during the pandemic, classical music streaming has seen a bump, along with folk and children's music.

A report by the classical music streaming service Primephonic states that listeners' habits have shifted away from early morning and evening listening to business hours. Listening during lunch hour has doubled, and countries that have been shut down the longest due to COVID-19 have seen up to a 50% increase in listening time.

"This music provides hope," Primephonic CEO Thomas Steffens said in a phone call from the Netherlands.

He also said the rate of increase for new subscriptions is much higher than it was a month ago, even though Primephonic is marketing less.

"The increase is a mixture of people who already like classical listening more and new listeners trying out the genre, like how many people are now trying new recipes," Steffens said.

Idagio, another classical music streaming service, also reports increased usage. Orchestras and opera houses around the country are streaming video performances and drawing millions of viewers. On Easter, Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli sang a selection of hymns in an empty cathedral in Milan. By the next

evening, the performance had garnered more than 30 million views on YouTube.

Noah Potvin, a professor of music therapy at Duquesne University, said classical music's cultural associations include relaxation and refinement and a certain health image, and this is likely driving listeners to the genre.

"Think of any Lexus or Mercedes commercial with soaring classical melodies," he said. "That sense of security and peace is attractive right now."

Potvin is skeptical of some of the research linking music with the immune system, questioning whether it's healthy to use music or any other tool to suppress anxiety.

"The research is superficial, though I don't mean that in a pejorative way," he said. "I think the information we have is valuable, but we need to go deeper."

Music therapists use music to treat acute anxiety and stress, but Potvin said a more valuable use is exploring how music can help listeners work through anxiety and stress instead of simply covering over such sensations, which can be counterproductive. Using music for progressive muscle relaxation is a common technique at the moment, he said.

Listening to music is not a cure-all. It's another example of the much-discussed "mind-body connection" that has so captured the public consciousness in recent years, which deals with how emotional and mental health have physical outcomes.

"I'm a skeptic by nature, so when I first heard of the mind-body connection I thought it was new-age woo-woo," Levin said. "However, the more I learned about human physiology, and in particular neuropsychology and neurology, I became increasingly convinced that we actually underestimate how profound this connection is."

GADGETS & TECH



Software, always-on webcams monitor teleworking employees

By DREW HARWELL
The Washington Post

When the coronavirus shuttered the Kansas headquarters of the High Plains Journal, an agricultural trade paper for farmers and ranchers across the Midwest, digital marketing director James Luce decided to replicate the office experience entirely online.

Employees were told to create a digital avatar and spend their workday in a virtual office, replete with chat room cubicles and a gossip-ready "water cooler." They were also instructed to keep their home webcams and microphones on and at the ready, so a spontaneous face-to-face chat was always only a click away.

Luce believes the software, by the San Francisco tech startup Pragli, is the future of remote work. But not everyone is so smitten. One older employee who has struggled to adapt — barging clumsily into other people's video conversations or awkwardly lingering in someone's "room" after a meeting adjourned — recently changed her avatar's face to show it shedding a single tear.

"We have no shyness now at this point," Luce said. "It's weirdly brought us a little closer together."

In the weeks since social distancing lockdowns abruptly scattered the American workforce, businesses across the country have scrambled to find ways to keep their employees in line, packing their social calendars and tracking their productivity to ensure they're telling the truth about working from home.

Thousands of companies now use monitoring software to record employees' Web browsing and active work hours, dispatching the kinds of tools built for corporate offices into workers' phones, computers and homes. But they have also sought to watch over the workers themselves, mandating always-on webcam rules, scheduling three-daily check-ins and inundating workers with not-so-optional company happy hours, game nights and lunchtime chats.

Company leaders say the systems are built to boost productivity and make the quiet isolation of remote work more chipper, connected and fun. But some workers said all of this new corporate surveillance has further blurred the lines between their work and personal lives, amping up their stress and exhaustion at a time when few feel they don't have the standing to push back.

Several companies allow managers to regularly capture images of workers' screens and list employees by who is actively working and their hours worked over the previous seven days.

One system, InterGuard, can be installed in a hidden way on workers' computers and creates a minute-by-minute timeline of every app and website they view, categorizing each as "productive" or "unproductive" and ranking workers by their "productivity score." The system alerts manag-

ers if workers do or say something suspicious: In a demo of the software shown to The Post, the words "job," "client" and "file" were all flagged, just in case employees were looking elsewhere for work.

InterGuard's system can also record all of the workers' emails, instant messages and keystrokes, and takes pictures of workers' screens as frequently as every five seconds, which managers can review as they please. "You could literally watch a movie of what that person did," said Brad Miller, chief executive of the system's Connecticut-based parent company, Awareness Technologies.

Miller said that hundreds of companies a week, three times their normal interest, are now asking about using the employee surveillance tools. He called it "financially irresponsible" for companies not to keep a close eye on their employees' daily work and said managers "feel completely entitled to know what their workers are doing" if they're allowed to log in from home.

Alison Green, whose popular "Ask a Manager" blog serves as a workplace advice column and sounding board, said she's heard from a rush of housebound workers stressed out about their bosses' increasing demands.

Many said they're already facing incredible anxiety over how their job responsibilities will change, whether their companies will have to lay off workers or cut wages, or even whether their industry will survive. But they are hesitant to speak up about the constant monitoring, for fear that any criticism could lead them to join the more than 26 million Americans who have filed for unemployment aid since mid-March.

"It's really demoralizing to feel like you've done good work for a company, maybe for years, and have a solid, reliable track record, and they're treating you as if you're going to spend your day drinking beer and watching YouTube," Green said. "People don't work well under that kind of scrutiny, even in the best of times."

A digital-marketing worker in Tennessee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity so as not to be punished by her boss, said the aggressive amount of check-ins — via emails, calls, text messages and Zoom video calls — has left her team feeling "incredibly stressed out."

"They're just checking in constantly. Every meeting is, 'What are you working on, exactly?'" she said. "I worked all weekend and woke up to an email this morning asking for everything I did last week."

This new wave of digitally mandated corporate camaraderie is quickly burning some workers out, said Green, who has heard from dozens of employees feeling socially fatigued and unable to say no, lest they be painted as an outcast. One respondent told her they were overwhelmed with Slack social-support channels, Zoom call "fun" challenges and chain emails about quarantine tips and recipes, writing, "I have more meetings now than I ever had in the office, and this is while also juggling a full workload."

GADGET WATCH

Everything you need for vlogging in one kit

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

With the GorillaPod Mobile Vlogging Kit, launched in Joby's new custom line, Mobile Accessories for Content Creation at Playlist Live, the tools will be a welcome addition for bloggers, vloggers or anyone wanting to create video content with clear audio and adjustable lighting.

Joby put it a nice way in a recent press release, saying the new kit will eliminate any barrier to creativity and share one common theme — the versatility to be situation-proof.

The lightweight (19 ounces) and versatile kit consists of the flagship Joby GorillaPod with the GorillaPod Mobile Rig, Beamo Mini LED and the Wavo Mobile microphone.

The flagship product is a tripod, ball and socket design with rubberized grips, designed to stabilize your camera on just about any surface or object. It sits perfectly on flat surfaces, or with its bendable legs can snuggle up to a pole and keep perfectly steady. I've used GorillaPods to hold my original iPod in place while flying and to take selfies in the Caribbean and put cameras in remote locations.

With the GorillaPod Mobile Rig tripod (3.1-by-4.7-by-12.9 inches), you'll have the same options to keep it flat, standing or wrap it just about anywhere, straight up or upside down — with its twistable and gripping legs.

Your smartphone is held in the GripTight mount, which can be used in portrait and landscape views. To change views, just loosen a screw, change the angle and hand tighten it shut.

The GripTight mount attaches to the tripod with the GorillaPod ball head.

Two GorillaPod arms, two cold shoe mounts and a GoPro mount are included with the GorillaPod Mobile Rig for adding or taking accessories on or off instantly.

For capturing crisp, clear audio, the kit includes the Wavo portable on-camera microphone, which attaches with a cold shoe mount. It's

built with Rycote Lyre technology to assist in shock-absorbing movements for clear sound while standing, walking or running. A deadend cover is included, to help on windy days and remove other unwanted background noise. Camera and smartphone connection cables and a pouch are included with the microphone.

The last piece of the kit is the Beamo Mini LED light, which is the piece of the puzzle many people don't use, but should. The on-the-go, compact and portable (1.5-by-2-by-2 inches) LED light will make you or your subjects look great. It has 1000 lumens with five steps of dimmable lighting and will last 40 minutes at full power or 100 minutes at 50 percent when a USB-C charge is needed.

The rugged Beamo 5100K light is waterproof up to 30 meters and also has a magnetic backing. With the myJOBV app (iOS and Android), lighting can be controlled remotely if the camera isn't within reach or if you want it adjusted while filming.

When you combine these pieces in the kit, it's a complete package, and you'll save money compared to buying each piece individually. With little to no setup, the kit stabilizes the image from the smartphone and adds much better lighting and audio compared to that produced by the smartphone. Use it to get on your next Zoom or FaceTime meeting, and you'll be asked why you look so good.

Joby has bigger kits, tripods, lights and accessories available on their site to work with just about any smartphone or DSLR.

Online: Joby.com; \$199.95



The GorillaPod Mobile Vlogging Kit is lightweight at 19 ounces.

JOBY/TNS

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96302-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96302-5002.

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OPINION

New campus sex assault rules fatally flawed

By SANDRA R. LEVITSKY, ELIZABETH A. ARMSTRONG and KAMARIA PORTER
Special to The Washington Post

One in four undergraduate women report experiencing a sexual assault while in college. For the past three years, we have studied how universities respond to complaints of sexual misconduct, examining in particular how administrators balance the Title IX rights of victims against the due-process rights of the accused. Our study of 381 colleges and universities documents wide variation in how schools navigate this challenge and identifies the kinds of procedures that potentially strike an appropriate balance. Unfortunately, the regulations that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced Wednesday tip the balance of rights in favor of the accused.

Universities that receive federal funding are required, under the 1972 civil rights law known as Title IX, to promptly and equitably respond to reports of sexual violence. Courts have long held that public universities must provide students accused of misconduct with basic elements of due process. Sexual misconduct matters often place in conflict the civil rights of those who report sexual harm and the due process rights of the accused.

The issue of cross-examination highlights this conflict. In 2015, the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights advised schools against allowing students to personally cross-examine each other during a hearing, citing concerns about potential trauma to survivors. Many schools responded to the informal guidance by adopting procedures in which students do not confront each other directly, but by eliminating cross-examination entirely. The rules scheduled to take effect

in August would eliminate many of these alternatives.

In traditional adversarial hearings, lawyers directly question an accuser to challenge credibility, memory and motive. Experts in sexual violence have amassed considerable evidence that cross-examination in a live hearing can re-traumatize survivors and further deter survivors from reporting sexual misconduct. Research has also shown that aggressive, adversarial questioning is a poor tool for assessing the truth in cases of sexual violence. Universities seeking to respond equitably to reports of sexual violence have strong reasons under Title IX to avoid cross-examination in a live hearing.

Due process requires that universities provide accused students with an opportunity to challenge evidence and witness testimony. As we studied how schools navigate the tension between these competing sets of rights, we found that almost 11% of the schools in our sample failed to protect the rights of either party and lacked clear procedures for what happens when a complaint is made. Only 20% of schools have created "complaint review" procedures where one person or office investigates the claim and makes the determination of responsibility — an approach that some argue can compromise the due process rights of the accused. (Even in those cases, all but two schools allow accused students to appeal their findings, as reexamined by another university official.)

In between those extremes we found innovations that balance the rights and interests of both parties. Sixty percent of schools have moved toward models of fact-finding and resolution that avoid cross-examination but do protect the rights of the accused to review and contest evidence. The best of these procedures rely on

the expertise and training of investigators who understand the trauma of sexual violence. Questions are funneled through an impartial intermediary who has the capacity to omit impermissible questions or revise a question's format. Students have the opportunity to contest findings, and both parties have the right to appeal. Transparency of process is critical.

Our research found that it is possible to devise procedures that promote the goals of Title IX while simultaneously affording accused students the opportunity to be heard. Rather than promote these models, however, the new regulations compel schools to allow cross-examination — putting a sizable thumb on the scale in favor of the due-process rights of the accused. If lawyers are brought in to conduct cross-examination, professional ethics require zealous advocacy in defense of the accused. Wealthy students are more likely to be able to hire skilled attorneys to develop strategies to destroy witness credibility and distort the campus process.

Some argue that cross-examination is necessary because schools have gone too far in seeking to protect survivors and are expelling accused students on the flimsiest of grounds. But evidence shows that even schools using the most victim-centric procedures rarely find those accused of sexual misconduct responsible. Expulsions are extremely rare. Congress ought to eliminate this cross-examination requirement and restore a balance between concern for due process and a commitment to promoting gender equality in higher education.

Sandra R. Levitsky and Elizabeth A. Armstrong are sociology professors at the University of Michigan, where Kamaria Porter is a doctoral student in higher education. They are analyzing student sexual misconduct policies of almost 400 U.S. universities.

Corn 'Bridgiate,' the Supreme Court got it right

By RANDALL D. ELIASON

Special to The Washington Post

On Thursday, a unanimous Supreme Court reversed the federal criminal convictions of the "Bridgiate" defendants. Many will view this as simply the latest in a series of court holdings that make life easier for corrupt public officials. But in this case, federal prosecutors improperly sought to turn political hardball into a federal crime. The court was right to reject the government's sweeping theory.

"Bridgiate" began in September 2013 when officials at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey closed two inbound lanes on the George Washington Bridge, causing several days of massive traffic gridlock in Fort Lee, N.J. They claimed they were conducting a traffic study, but the real goal was to punish the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee for refusing to endorse then-Republican Gov. Chris Christie for reelection. In an email implementing the scheme, Bridget Anne Kelly, an official in Christie's administration, wrote, "Time for some traffic study." Kelly and her colleagues were convicted and sentenced to prison.

The resulting scandal effectively torpedoed Christie's political career. But for some in Christie's administration, the consequences were not merely political. Federal prosecutors charged Kelly and Port Authority official William Baroni under federal law to prove they engaged in a scheme to obtain money or property from the "vic-

tim," the Port Authority. It was clear the defendants had not personally profited from their political hit job. But prosecutors had two different theories concerning how they nevertheless had obtained the Port Authority's property. The first was that, through their scheme, the defendants had "commandeered" the bridge lanes for their own use. The second theory was that the defendants had deprived the Port Authority of the salaries of the employees who moved traffic cones, staffed the toll booths and otherwise carried out the scheme.

In an opinion by Justice Elena Kagan, the court rejected both theories. As for the bridge lanes, the court held the defendants did not "commandeer" them, at least in any normal sense of the word. They obviously did not walk off with the lanes, nor did they somehow convert the lanes to their private use. The public continued to use the bridge, and the Port Authority continued to control it and collect the tolls; the defendants merely changed the allocations of the lanes as between different groups of drivers. This was a textbook regulatory decision, allocating scarce government resources. Even if, as the government argued, power is exercised or interfered with for a bad reason, that alone does not deprive the government of property. The government interest at stake is that of a regulatory sovereign, not a property owner.

The court similarly rejected the government's theory concerning the salaries of the Port Authority employees. This was not a case, the court noted, where officials had conscripted public employees to perform private work for them such as renovating their own home or working on a political campaign. In this case, the Port Authority employees were still doing Port Authority work, moving cones and collecting tolls.

The object of the defendant's scheme was not to obtain their labor — it was to create a traffic jam and inflict political punishment. Any salary payments were not obtained by the defendants and were merely incidental effects of their scheme. But fraud, the court noted, requires that obtaining property be the object of the scheme itself.

The court observed that the government's theory, if adopted, would have breathtaking consequences. Virtually every regulatory decision requires some employee labor to implement. Whenever a politician lied about the true reason for some decision (a non-utopian occurrence), federal prosecutors could sue and succeed based on the salaries paid to employees who carried it out. This would give prosecutors sweeping powers to use federal criminal law to enforce their own views of good government for state and local officials, even in the absence of core corruption such as bribery. That's something the court has consistently — and rightly — rejected.

The behavior of the Bridgiate defendants was reprehensible. They deserved to lose their jobs, and perhaps even to be sued by anyone injured as a result of their scheme. Their boss, Christie, surely deserved the political consequences he suffered. But as the court concluded, "not every corrupt act by state or local officials is a federal crime." If criminal corruption laws sweep too broadly, it enhances the risk of prosecution being used as a political weapon.

There's often a tendency these days to reach immediately for criminal remedies for political misdeeds. The court's decision is a welcome reminder that criminal law is not always the answer.

Randall D. Eliason teaches white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Machete-wielding man punches officer in face

ND FARGO — Police say a man armed with a machete during an attempted robbery of a Fargo smoke shop fought with an employee and punched an officer in the face.

Police were called to multiple reports of a disturbance in the middle of a street Wednesday, according to officials.

The 20-year-old suspect attempted to rob Smoke 4 Less in Fargo and pulled out the machete when an employee confronted him, KFGO reported. The suspect fought with the employee and the struggle spilled out onto the street, according to police.

When an officer responded and tried to arrest the suspect, the officer was punched in the face. The officer was taken to the hospital, treated and released. Two bystanders stepped in and grabbed the man until other officers arrived and arrested him.

Bus driver credited with saving toddler

WI EAU CLAIRE — An Eau Claire transit driver is credited with saving a toddler from harm by plucking her from the middle of some traffic lanes.

The driver saw the 1-year-old in the street while driving his route, stopped the bus in the lane of traffic, got out and retrieved the young child, according to city officials.

The driver, Mike Steinke, called dispatch to get help for the girl. Steinke said the child wasn't crying and let him pick her up and carry her to the bus.

Before a police officer arrived on scene, the child's mother realized something was wrong when she saw her front door open and a bus parked in the road.

Transit administrators said the mother went to the bus and was shocked, but appreciative, to find her daughter safe.

Policy change weighed on officers' tattoos

NE LINCOLN — Police officers in Lincoln won't have to cover up their tattoos for the next six weeks, and if the public approves, the policy change could become permanent.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that the city is gauging public opinion about a potential policy change that would allow on-duty officers to have their tattoos visible. The proposal was unveiled this week on the police department's Facebook page.

Chief of Police said that after six weeks' feedback from the community will be evaluated and presented to command staff, which will determine if the department should return to the previous policy that required officers to keep tattoos covered up.

Rescuer falls, dies during recovery effort

NC CASHIERS — A search team member fell to his death while trying to



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/PA

Honored in Houston

Memorial Hermann Hospital health care professionals watch as the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels fly over the Medical Center on Wednesday in Houston. The Blue Angels are flying over cities across the United States to honor COVID-19 frontline responders and essential workers.

help recover a body at the base of a North Carolina waterfall, according to emergency management officials.

Eldon Jamison, 71, was assisting in the search for hiker Chandler Manuel, 24, when he fell from a rope to the bottom of Whitewater Falls in Cashiers, the Jackson County Emergency Management Office said. Jamison was a 40-year member of the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, according to a statement from the crew.

The accident happened as nearly 20 climbers were repelling down the falls to look for Manuel, who fell into the water Monday night, county officials said in a statement. A North Carolina National Guard helicopter team helped recover Jamison's body Tuesday evening and Manuel's body was found Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

Authorities: Driver in stolen car sparks crash

PA PHILADELPHIA — A man driving a stolen car sparked a fiery crash on a roadway in Philadelphia that left a Florida truck driver dead, Pennsylvania state police said.

The crash occurred around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday as Abdul Johnson-Selby, 19, of Philadelphia, was driving in the east-bound lanes of the Schuylkill Expressway. When he missed his exit, he tried to back up but lost control, state police said.

A tractor-trailer then hit the car, and the truck slammed into the concrete barrier on the right side of the roadway. The truck then burst into flames as the trailer toppled off the highway, spilling its cargo of fresh produce.

Meanwhile, the car spun into the far left lane, injuring Johnson-Selby and his two juvenile female

THE CENSUS

198M

The dollar amount Phoenix is getting in federal assistance to help prop up the city's transportation system during the coronavirus outbreak. The U.S. Department of Transportation on Thursday announced the grant. The department said Phoenix will use the federal funding to cover operating expenses for the city Public Transit Department as well as costs of the rail, bus and paratransit services.

passengers, state police said.

The truck driver, a 54-year-old Jacksonville, Fla., man, was pronounced dead at the scene. Johnson-Selby and his passengers were later found at a hospital where they had sought treatment for their undisclosed injuries.

Johnson-Selby will face charges of homicide by motor vehicle, reckless endangerment and other counts, authorities said.

Ex-police sergeant, twice arrested, resigns

RI TIVERTON — A former police sergeant who was arrested twice by Rhode Island State Police has resigned.

William Munroe, a former officer with the Tiverton Police Department, agreed retroactive to March 27 to leave his job, the Newport Daily News reported.

Munroe was arrested in 2018 on suspicion of stealing gasoline from the town at least 14 times. He pleaded no contest to misdemeanors in June 2019.

He was arrested again in July 2019 on suspicion of forging the town treasurer's signature about 30 times so he could withdraw about \$50,000 from his deferred compensation plan. Munroe pleaded no contest in March to misdemeanors in that case.

Munroe, 57, of Fall River, Mass., will receive a pension for his employment up to the day he was seen on tape stealing gaso-

line from town pumps. He will continue to receive health benefits until he is 65, standard for retiring officers.

Cops investigating anti-LGBTQ vandalism

OR PORTLAND — Portland police are investigating anti-LGBTQ vandalism at a Southwest Portland church.

Police were called to Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ on Sunday after neighbors saw homophobic slurs and signs painted on the building. Police then responded to the church Wednesday after a brick was thrown through a window.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. The brick had a piece of paper attached to it with homophobic slurs, according to the church's pastor, Rev. Gabrielle Chavez.

The church has flown a rainbow flag outside for years and similar vandalism has happened before, Chavez said.

Police: Driver reaches 105 mph with toddler

WA STANWOOD — A 3-year-old girl was safely returned to her family after she was a passenger in a high-speed chase spanning multiple counties, authorities said.

Washington State Patrol at-

tempted to stop a vehicle believed to be speeding on Interstate 405 on Tuesday around 6:30 p.m., the Daily Herald reported.

The 31-year-old driver, who is the toddler's father, reportedly pulled over briefly before speeding off toward Interstate 5, Trooper Heather Axtman said.

Officers pursued because they learned a child was inside and that the vehicle's registered owner had protection orders against two children, Axtman said, adding they later learned the orders were for two other children.

Troopers attempted to stop the vehicle with spike strips, but the driver swerved around them and continued, reaching speeds up to 105 mph, authorities said.

The man was stopped about 50 miles later when officers used a technique to get the truck to spin out, disabling the engine, Axtman said. Officers found the girl buckled in the front seat without a child car seat.

The driver was arrested for investigation of multiple charges, troopers said.

Alligator shot with arrows sparks probe

FL FORT MYERS — Florida wildlife officials want to know who shot an alligator with arrows in an apparent attempt to harvest the reptile.

Lee County deputies responded to the injured 11-foot alligator on April 28 at a Fort Myers pond, the News-Press reported. The animal had two arrows in its head and a rope wrapped around its snout and feet.

Deputies and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission helped a contracted trapper remove the alligator, which was transferred alive to a farm.

From wire reports



MILITARY MATTERS



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Deals

Thursday's transactions

FOOTBALL
Nation Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed RB J.K. Dobbins and S Geno Stone. Agreed to terms with undrafted free agents G. Evan Adams and DT Aaron Crawford.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed K Tyler Bass, WR Isaiah Hodgins and CB Dane Jackson to four-year contracts.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Agreed to terms with undrafted free agents: K Dominik Eberle, WR Sliasi Mariner and DT Mike Panasiuk.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed DE Jason Stroupbridge.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB Josh Uche, K Justin Rohrvasser, OL Justin Hervey and LB Cassin Maluluu.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed LB Tae Crowder.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with undrafted free agents: C Aaron Brewer, LB Cole Garrett, LB Khayari Kearse-Thomas, TE Tommy Hudson, OT Brandon Kemp, OT Anthony McKinney, WR Mason Kinsley, WR Nick Westbrook, WR Kristian Wilkerson, WR Kyle Williams, T Tucker McLean, RB Cameron Scarlett, NT Kobe Smith and DT T'Pol Tart.

Major League Soccer
D.C. United — Completed the permanent transfer of MF Chris Durkin to Sint-Truidense V.V.

Pro hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Tampa Bay	70	43	21	16	92	245	195			
Toronto	70	36	25	15	86	238	227			
Florida	69	31	31	14	81	232	228			
Montreal	71	31	31	9	71	212	221			
Carolina	69	29	31	11	68	195	217			
Ottawa	71	25	34	12	61	191	243			
Washington	69	17	49	9	39	145	267			
Washington	69	41	20	9	90	240	215			
Pittsburgh	69	40	23	6	89	232	196			
Carolina	69	38	25	6	86	222	193			
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187			
Philadelphia	68	38	25	5	80	192	199			
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	28	5	79	234	222			
New Jersey	70	37	28	6	88	189	230			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Central Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
St. Louis	71	42	19	10	94	225	193			
Colorado	70	42	20	8	92	237	191			
Dallas	69	37	24	8	82	180	177			
Winnipeg	69	37	26	8	78	215	217			
Nashville	69	35	27	7	77	220	220			
Chicago	70	32	30	9	72	212	218			
Pacific Division										
Vegas	71	37	25	9	86	227	211			
Edmonton	71	37	25	9	83	225	217			
Arizona	69	36	27	6	78	228	213			
Calgary	70	33	29	8	74	195	187			
Vancouver	71	31	31	9	70	187	226			
Los Angeles	70	29	35	6	64	178	212			
San Jose	70	29	36	5	63	182	226			

AP spotlight

May 9
1987 — Baltimore's Eddie Murray becomes the first major league player to hit home runs from both sides of the plate in consecutive games as the Orioles beat Chicago White Sox 15-6 at Comiskey Park.
1993 — The Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers 112-104 in overtime to become the first team to overtake scores in the second straight year in the gold-medal game at the world hockey championships.
2006 — Jeffrey Lupul becomes the first player in NHL playoff history to cap a scoring quartet with a hat-trick by winning the game-winner at 16:30 of the extra period in Anaheim's 4-3 victory over Colorado.
2009 — Cleveland James scores 47 points to lead the Cavs to an NBA record with a double-overtime win over Atlanta. The Cavaliers sets an NBA record with a fourth quarter comeback to secure victory to eclipse the mark set by the 2004 Indiana Pacers.
2010 — Dallas Braden pitches the 19th perfect game in major league history, a dazzling performance for the Oakland Athletics in a 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

IndyCar gets green flag to race

Texas hosting opener

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — IndyCar has gotten the green flag to finally start its season, which it will do in Texas with a nighttime race June 6 without spectators.

The race at Texas Motor Speedway was the next one on the schedule that hadn't been postponed or canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. IndyCar and track officials announced the details Thursday, heavy with safety precautions along with financial concessions from both sides to make it happen.

There will be a condensed schedule, with practice, qualifying and the race taking place on the same day. There will be strict access guidelines limiting the number of personnel on site, with a health screening system administered to all participants and personal protection equipment provided to everyone entering the facility.

TMS president Eddie Gossage had previously indicated he didn't want to run an IndyCar race without fans, given that tracks don't get a cut of the TV revenue for those races like they do for NASCAR events.

"For a race track with the IndyCar race, the gate is your single largest revenue source. So that's a big deal to do it without fans in the stands, and I didn't want to do that," Gossage said. "But at the end of the day, we're working something out. ... We're paying IndyCar, we're just not paying as much. So both of us compromised, and both of us are losing money."



LARRY PAKPE/AP

Will Power heads into pit road during qualifying for an IndyCar race at Texas Motor Speedway on June 9, 2017 in Fort Worth, Texas. IndyCar will start its season in Texas. The race will be run June 6 without spectators as part of a condensed, single-day schedule.

While Gossage wouldn't reveal any figures, he said it was good to get things going in the sport again. He joked that one concession he got from Roger Penske was 10 minutes in the motorcoach of the series' new owner to "search between the cushions to kind of help bridge the gap on our financial issues."

Texas has held IndyCar races since the 1 1/2-mile track opened in 1997, longer than any facility in the series other than Indianapolis Motor Speedway. TMS hosted two races a year from 1998-2004, including the series finale the last six years of that stretch.

IndyCar President Jay Frye said the series worked with Gossage and public health of-

ficials on a plan to "ensure the safety of our event participants."

Gossage said IndyCar was chartering two planes to fly drivers and team members from Indianapolis to the Fort Worth Alliance Airport the morning of the race, and back home that night. The planes would be sanitized before and after each flight, as will the buses that will take everyone to and from the airport and track.

Social distancing protocols will be in place and carefully maintained. There are two 64-bay garages on the infield at Texas, and both will be utilized to give the 24 expected teams plenty of room for separation.

Briefly

Kansas violations 'egregious'

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The NCAA struck back at the University of Kansas and its men's basketball program Thursday, calling five Level I violations that are alleged to have occurred "egregious" and arguing that they "undermine and threaten" college athletics.

In the latest in a series of back-and-forth filings, the NCAA reiterated in a 92-page response its claim that Adidas representatives were acting as boosters when two of them — T.J. Gassnold and Jim Gatto — helped to arrange payments to prospective recruits. Those transactions became a central point in a wide-ranging FBI probe into college basketball that has ensnared Kansas, Louisville and several other high-profile programs.

"The institution secured significant recruiting and competitive advantages by committing alleged Level I men's basketball violations," the NCAA said. "The institution, in taking its defiant posture in this case, is indifferent to how alleged violations may have adversely impacted other NCAA institutions who acted in compliance with NCAA legislation."

Jaguars Glennon agree to terms

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars have agreed to terms with journeyman quarterback Mike Glennon, giving them a veteran backup behind Gardner Minshew.

Jacksonville also has fourth-year pro Joshuua Dobbs and rookie Jake Luton on its roster. Dobbs has never started an NFL game.

The 6-foot-7 Glennon has played for Oakland (1999), Arizona (2018) and Chicago (2017) after beginning his career in Tampa Bay (2013-16). The Buccaneers drafted him in the third round in 2013. He made \$18.5 million during his one season with the Bears.

The 30-year-old Glennon has completed 61% of his passes for 5,163 yards, with 36 touchdowns and 20 interceptions, in 29 games over seven NFL seasons.

Harbaugh favors one-and-done

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh is pushing for a change that would allow football players to enter the NFL Draft after one year in college.

"My first proposal is that we put this decision to 'go or stay' in the hands of the individual and his family, not in the form of an NFL, NFLPA or NCAA rule while allowing the player to return to college football if he does not sign," Harbaugh wrote in an open letter to the football community Thursday.

Currently, players are not eligible until three NFL regular seasons have begun and ended following either their graduation from high school or graduation of the class with which they entered high school, whichever is earlier.



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

The Washington Capitals have placed Brendan Leipsic on unconditional waivers to terminate his contract after he made disparaging comments about women and teammates in a private social media chat.

Capitals cut ties with Leipsic

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Washington Capitals on Friday placed Brendan Leipsic on unconditional waivers to terminate his contract after he made disparaging comments about women and teammates in a private social media chat.

In a conversation involving his brother and Florida Panthers minor league Jack Rowald, Leipsic commented on the physical appearances of Vancouver forward Tanner Pearson's wife and Edmonton captain Connor McDavid's girlfriend. He also called Capitals linemates Garnet Hathaway and Nick Dowd losers.

Screenshots of the conversation were leaked Wednesday, and a team spokesman said the matter would be handled internally.

MLB/MMA

Special feature

Fans desperate to see baseball

Korean league broadcast on ESPN

By RYAN ZIMMERMAN
For The Associated Press

It does sort of show, I guess, how starved we are for sports content.

And I don't mean that in a bad way — this is no knock on the Korean league — but just to have live sports, of any kind at all, is really a big deal right now.

If things were normal, there's zero chance you would have people watching Korean baseball on TV here; they'd be watching us play.

But there it is on ESPN, with Karl Ravech and other people who'd normally be talking about the main big league games.

They're in a different place than we are with the virus. They are way ahead of us; it's kind of like looking into the future, compared to us. If we can get the cases going downhill, instead of plateauing, then you can start talking about baseball.

So I want to see how things go

Ryan Zimmerman is a two-time All-Star infielder who has played 15 years in the majors, all with the Washington Nationals. He holds most of the team's career hitting records, and his two homers and seven RBIs last postseason helped the Nationals win their first World Series championship. With baseball on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, Zimmerman occasionally will offer his thoughts — as told to AP sports writer Howard Fendrich — while waiting for the 2020 season to begin.

for them.

Hopefully it doesn't happen, but what if one of the players there gets the virus? I would want to see how the league reacts and what they do for that player and for his team and the teams they played against.

At least they're trying some-



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman sits in the stands as he participates in a television interview after a workout in Washington on Oct. 18. Zimmerman can't imagine playing in an empty stadium.

thing. I would be pretty sure that our league is talking to their league to see how things are going and what they've implemented.

What's worked. What hasn't worked.

It is kind of nice to have someone go first.

The biggest takeaway for me is it shows you much of all of us want something to watch. I haven't sat down and watched it, but I saw highlights online.

It is weird to see a game with

nobody in the stands. No fans.

I'm assuming if — when — we get going, that's going to be the case for us, as well. That environment's kind of interesting.

Not sure I understand the paper cutouts of fake fans in the seats. Save your money on that and do something else with it. You're not going to fool us. Might as well just leave the seats empty.

We've had a couple of times here — like a weekday with a rain delay, and you're finishing

the final innings at pretty much midnight, or after — it's so empty in the place that you can hear the radio announcers talking, because they play that through the concourse. Kind of weird for us to hear that during games.

There are some people there, obviously, but it's so quiet. Being in a completely quiet stadium would be so awkward.

But at this point, you have to be open-minded and ready for whatever.

Blood, sweat and swabs: UFC aims for safe shows

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

Even before they check in to the hotel, every fighter, coach, cameraman, journalist and UFC employee arriving in Jacksonville, Fla., is immediately directed to a screening station. Their temperatures are taken, and their fingers are pricked for a coronavirus antibody test.

And then comes the part that reduces even the world's most fearless cage fighters to squirming schoolchildren: a long swab is pushed deep into the back of their nasal cavities.

That thing in the nose, that was the second time I did it, and it wasn't good at all," laughed 6-foot-4, 255-pound Francis Ngannou, who will fight fellow heavyweight title contender Jair Rozenstruik on the main card at UFC 249 on Saturday night.

"It's too weird. I think I'd rather take a punch than take that."

The UFC is returning to action this weekend after an involuntary eight-week pause while the coronavirus pandemic upended President Dana White's determination to keep fighting amid a devastating public health crisis. The mixed martial arts promotion is holding three shows in eight days in a fan-free arena in Florida, where state officials were willing to allow it.

These unique conditions required the UFC to come up with unprecedented health and safety precautions. They're collected in a 25-page document written over the past six weeks by the UFC's executives and physicians.

With no blueprint for keeping athletes safe while they compete amid a pandemic, the UFC consulted regulatory officials and



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Henry Cejudo, left, kicks Demetrious Johnson during their UFC flyweight title bout at UFC 227 on Aug. 4, 2018 in Los Angeles. Cejudo is scheduled to fight Dominick Cruz at UFC 249 in Jacksonville, Fla., on Saturday.

outside experts to develop its protocols. They were also helped by Jeffrey Davidson, the UFC's chief physician, who had already dealt with COVID-19 cases in his other job as head of the emergency department at Valley Hospital in Las Vegas.

The work was done remotely, since the people in charge of figuring out a way for fighters to compete safely couldn't work in

the same room safely.

"We know we've got a great plan in place," UFC chief operating officer Lawrence Epstein said. "I'm sure we'll learn something about how we can do things better or differently or more efficiently, but the key is making sure everything is proceeding as scheduled and trying to figure out whether or not there are ways we can

enhance things, or become more efficient. We'll be keeping a close eye on everything that happens, and we'll see how things go. But so far, so good."

The UFC stages shows around the globe each year, and the promotion has plenty of experience in dealing with each location's unique rules, or creating new testing protocols for everything from HIV to doping.

That experience provided a framework, but the UFC still had to fill it in with details. Their guiding principles were minimization of the size of their endeavor, along with constant social distancing — except inside the cage, of course.

The UFC has trimmed the number of people involved in running an MMA show to an absolute minimum — less than half of the usual 300-plus people, according to Epstein. The promotion also required everyone involved to adhere to isolation and strict social distancing standards whenever possible for the entire week, both in the hotel and in VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.

Everybody working the event, even perhaps some referees, will be wearing masks and gloves. The cage floor, inevitably sprinkled with sweat and blood, is supposed to be disinfected constantly.

The broadcast crew will sit apart from each other at three different tables. Joe Rogan won't conduct his traditional post-fight interviews in the octagon, with the fighters instead putting on a sanitized headset backstage after leaving the cage. Even people working in the broadcast trucks at the pay-per-view event will be separated by plastic barriers and social distancing practices.

NFL

Ravens' Thomas threatened with gun

Baltimore player's wife pointed pistol at him after discovering saftely in bed with another woman

By David Ginsburg
Associated Press

BALTIMORE—The lawyer for the wife of Baltimore Ravens safety Earl Thomas said she is being subjected to an “unfounded ongoing investigation” by Texas police after she allegedly pointed a gun at her husband’s head upon finding him in bed with another woman last month.

According to a police affidavit, Nina Thomas tracked down her husband at a short-term rental home in Austin in the early morning hours of April 13 and found him and his brother, Seth, in bed with two women.

The affidavit says Nina Thomas admitted to pointing the pistol at Earl Thomas’ head “with the intent to scare him.” She had taken the magazine out of the gun and disengaged the safety, but police noted “she was unaware the gun had a round in the chamber.”

Nina Thomas struck Earl Thomas repeatedly with her free hand before her husband eventually wrestled the 9 mm Beretta from her grasp, the affidavit said. At that point, he told the woman with whom he was romantically linked to call the police.

Nina Thomas was arrested on a felony charge of burglary of a habitation with the intent to commit aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The incident was first reported by TMZ.

After getting word that the episode would soon be made public, Earl Thomas acknowledged late Wednesday in a video

on his Instagram account that there was “an altercation between me and Nina.” “It’s really not anybody’s business.

It’s (ticking) me off that it got out, but it’s the world we live in today,” he said in the video, which has since been deleted. “Stuff like this happens. We try to live the best life we possibly can, but sometimes it doesn’t go as planned.”

Jonathan D. “Jay” Goins, the lawyer for Nina Thomas, said she “was wrongfully arrested.”

“We have already gathered information which controverts every single allegation made on the night in question,” Goins said.

Earl Thomas, who turned 31 on Thursday, earned his seventh Pro Bowl selection last season. He signed a four-year deal with the Ravens in April 2019 and was an integral part of a defense that helped Baltimore finish with an NFL-best 14-2 record in the regular season.

In a statement, the Ravens said: “We became aware of the situation when we read

and saw it on the reports late last night and early this morning.”

Nina Thomas told police she tracked her husband’s whereabouts to the rental home through his Snapchat account, which showed several videos of Earl with the other woman. Two women who Nina brought to confront her husband were also arrested on burglary charges; her sister and her best friend, the ex-spouse of Seth Thomas.

Upon their arrival at the home, police found Nina Thomas with a knife in her hand chasing her husband, who had the pistol, around a vehicle, according to the affidavit. The two were ordered to drop their weapons and drop to the ground, and they complied.

Police said the sister took a video of the altercation with her cellphone. The footage showed Nina Thomas pointing the gun at her husband’s head from less than a foot away with her finger on the trigger and the safety disengaged, the affidavit said.

It stated that Earl Thomas told police that he was “romantically involved” with the other woman for “3-4 months and that he was working on his relationship with his wife.”

Earl Thomas was not arrested. Nina Thomas was released from custody after making bond.

“As her attorney, I am here to declare that my client unequivocally and categorically denies these allegations,” Goins said. “We look forward to our day in court where we can clear her good name.”



Nina Thomas



Earl Thomas



Chris O'Meara/AP

Chiefs coach Andy Reid receives the Lombardi Trophy after Kansas City defeated the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl 54 in February.

Chiefs host Texans to open season

Associated Press

The Kansas City Chiefs will open defense of their Super Bowl championship by hosting Houston on Sept. 10 in the NFL’s annual kickoff game — pending developments in the virus pandemic, of course.

The Texans won a regular-season game at Arrowhead Stadium in 2019, then blew a 24-0 lead in the divisional round of the playoffs.

Another highlight of the opening weekend will have Tom Brady’s regular-season debut with Tampa Bay against Drew Brees at New Orleans on Sept. 13 — the first matchup of 40-plus quarterbacks in NFL history.

The opening of SoFi Stadium in the Los Angeles area that Sunday night has the Rams hosting the Cowboys.

Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas will debut on Monday night, Sept. 21, with the Raiders facing Brees and the Saints.

All of the 32 teams released their schedules early Thursday evening, with the full 2020 list scheduled to be revealed by the league a bit later.

The Chiefs, who won their first Super Bowl in a half-century last February, need baseball’s Royals to move their game for Sept. 10, which now is part of a double-header two days earlier. The teams’ stadiums share parking lots.

The NFL schedule, not to mention off-season activities and the preseason, has to be considered tentatively given the current prohibition on large gatherings.

But Commissioner Roger Goodell has said the league is planning for a normal season, albeit while making contingency plans.

“The league and the clubs have been in contact with the relevant local, state and federal government authorities and will continue to do so,” NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The traditional Monday night double-header on opening weekend will have Pittsburgh at the New York Giants, which has a rookie head coach in Joe Judge, and Tennessee at Denver.

Step: Jets hope to end nine-year playoff drought

FROM BACK PAGE

some inconsistency mixed in, needs the arrow to go way up on his progress this year.

“There’s definitely room to grow,” Darnold acknowledged Tuesday in a Zoom call with reporters. “Throughout the back half of the season, I thought I improved on a lot of things. I thought I got more consistent and was just able to get more confident with the offense.”

“There’s obviously room to be better for this next year and, for myself, I’m just trying to be as consistent as possible and play at a high level.”

That’s the hope for the entire franchise, which has focused its offseason on helping Darnold — with protection and playmakers.

General manager Joe Douglas rebuilt the offensive line by drafting left tackle Mekhi Becton and guard Cameron Clark, bringing back guard Alex Lewis and signing tackle George Fant, center Connor McGovern, and guards Greg Van Roten and Josh Andrews.

New York also added some playmakers around Darnold to help boost a unit that finished last in the NFL in total offense. The Jets signed running-back Frank Gore, the NFL’s No. 3 all-time rusher, to complement Le’Veon Bell in the backfield. They lost top receiver Robby Anderson to Carolina in free agency, but signed wide receivers Breshad Perriman and Josh Doctson. Wide receiver Denzel Mims and running back La'Mical Perine were also key draft selections.

But, has it been enough to end a playoff drought that sits at nine years, third-longest in the NFL, behind only Cleveland (17) and Tampa Bay (12)?



GAIL BURTON/AP

New York quarterback Sam Darnold led the Jets to a 6-2 record down the stretch last season, throwing 13 touchdown passes with only four interceptions.

win football games,” Darnold said. “But as we see every year, it’s about putting everything together.”

Darnold had a rough start in his first season in coach Adam Gase’s offense. He missed three games with mononucleosis and then found himself the subject of jokes after prime-time TV cameras showed him on the sideline saying he was “seeing ghosts” during a loss to New England. At that point, questions were raised

whether Darnold could be the franchise quarterback the Jets envisioned when they drafted him No. 3 overall in 2018.

He turned things around, though, in the last eight games by throwing 13 touchdown passes with only four interceptions in a 6-2 finish.

With team facilities closed and travel and social distancing restrictions in place, NFL players and coaches have had to “meet” through online video sessions.

The continuing development of the rapport between the coach and quarterback will be a major story line this season, and whether Gase will be able to fully tap into Darnold’s potential. Despite the lack of in-person conversations, Gase likes what he’s hearing from Darnold.

“Before, he was asking a lot of questions, and now he’s more telling us how he should have done something, which is great,” Gase said during a conference call last week. “When you’re a coach and you start hearing a player talk like that, you get really fired up and you can see it’s coming. He’s really understanding this and he’s understanding the ‘why’ behind things.”

“You can tell there’s an irritation, too, when he sees mistakes made from last year, especially at the beginning of the year. That’s not going to happen again, and the longer we go in this thing, the better he’s going to get.”

Darnold understands all that, and embraces the fact as a team leader and face of the franchise, all eyes — teammates, coaches, fans and media — will be on him. “Right now, I think it’s about continuing to do what I’ve been doing,” Darnold said. “I think as I grow and mature and continue to be the quarterback for this organization, I’m just going to continue to mat into the leader that I’m going to become.”

SPORTS



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NCAA: Kansas' violations 'undermine'
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NFL



The next step

Jets quarterback Darnold entering pivotal third season

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

“The longer we go in this thing, the better he’s going to get.”

Adam Case

New York Jets coach, on QB Sam Darnold

NEW YORK

Sam Darnold was mostly pleased with how he finished last year with the New York Jets. The young quarterback enters his

third NFL season knowing he needs to be even better. Make or break? Not really.

But Darnold, who has flashed promise with his playmaking abilities, along with

SEE STEP ON PAGE 23

New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold enters his third NFL season knowing he needs to build on last year’s strong finish.

ADRIAN KRAUS / AP

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.