Pentagon to extend halt on travel

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Department restrictions barring troops, their families and civilian workers from nearly all official travel will not be lifted May 11 when the initial orders were set to expire, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday.

The worldwide travel halt has stopped thousands of military moves and has forced some deployed units to remain overseas longer than expected. Esper did not announce immediately how long he expected the stop-movement order to last. But a new target date to end the restrictions meant to help thwart the coronavirus spread could be announced this week, he said.

“At this point in time, since the expiration of the first stop-movement order expires on May 11, we want to give our folks sufficient time to make adjustments and to socialize with them that we are going to be extending beyond that May 11,” Esper told reporters during a video news briefing from the Pentagon. “While I understand the impact this has on our troops and our families, this is a necessary measure to keep our people safe and our military ready to act.”

SEE TRAVEL ON PAGE 7

Roosevelt’s fateful Vietnam port call had blessing of Pacific’s highest commanders

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — President Donald Trump has criticized the ousted skipper of the USS Theodore Roosevelt for risking a stop last month in Vietnam, exposing his crew to the coronavirus that has stricken more than 600 sailors.

In the days after the aircraft carrier completed its historic five-day port call to Danang that ran March 5-8, crew members began exhibiting symptoms of the disease, which originated in China late last year.

The Roosevelt’s commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, was fired for raising alarm over the ship’s uncontrolled contagion, and the carrier is now in Guam grappling with the unfolding crisis, which has left one sailor dead and several in intensive care.

“I don’t know who gave the orders to stop in Vietnam, but they stopped in Vietnam, and all of a sudden they get on and now you have over 600 sailors and people on the ship that are infected,” Trump said to a Reuters reporter at the White House briefing Monday. “I don’t know whose idea that was, but that wasn’t such a good idea in the middle of a pandemic.”

SEE ROOSEVELT ON PAGE 5

‘Arduous and tough situation’

Military medical personnel deployed to front lines feel strain of US virus fight

‘Elephant walk’ on Guam a timely demonstration of airpower

RELATED COVERAGE

Military clinics in Europe using rapid test

Get the latest news on the virus outbreak

stripes.com/coronavirus
US returns $300M in stolen funds to Malaysia

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. has returned $300 million to Malaysia that prosecutors say was stolen in a multibillion-dollar corruption scheme, authorities announced Tuesday.

The money comes from assets forfeited last year by a financier, Jho Low, in a Los Angeles federal settlement. The settlement covered assets that included a Manhattan penthouse, a Beverly Hills mansion, a Beverly Hills boutique hotel, a luxury jet and paintings by Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet.

Low and his family agreed to forfeit more than $700 million in assets and to date, the U.S. has returned or assisted Malaysia in recovering more than $800 million, according to a U.S. Department of Justice statement.

Low, who is also known as Low Taek Jho, didn’t acknowledge any wrongdoing in the civil settlement. However, he remains a fugitive from criminal charges filed against him in New York that accuse him of bribery and money laundering.

Low was a consultant for a Malaysian state fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, set up in 2009 by then-Prime Minister Najib Razak to promote economic development. Prosecutors allege that Low used fund money for bribes and kickbacks to foreign officials.

U.S. investigators allege at least $4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib’s associates.

EXCHANGE RATES

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

FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC

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<tr>
<td>Misawa</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
Taliban: US bombing insurgents in homes, contrary to agreement

By Kathy Gannon
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Washington peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with Pakistan's military chief of staff, a day after discussing the lagging U.S.-Taliban peace deal in Afghanistan with the chief negotiator for the insurgent movement.

The meetings included Gen. Scott Miller, head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Statements from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. military in Kabul said Washington was engaged in "ongoing efforts" to find a sustainable peace after decades of relentless war but the U.S. officials released no details.

Taliban political spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the insurgent group's chief negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, used Monday’s meeting at the Taliban’s political office in Qatar to protest attacks against Taliban fighters in their homes, contrary to provisions of the Feb. 29 agreement.

"Our men have been targeted in their residential areas while there is no room for such attacks, either by the U.S. or their internal (Afghan) supporters," he said, a reference to Afghan National Security Forces.

The U.S. military has refused to address the Taliban's specific complaint but has said that it is abiding by the agreement and will continue to come to the aid of the Afghan military.

At the meeting with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan's military leaders reaffirmed their support for U.S. efforts and renewed their "commitment to act to advance a political settlement of the conflict," according to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in the Pakistani capital.

At the heart of most of the talks, say Taliban and U.S. officials, is the demand for a reduction of violence. The Taliban have not been attacking U.S. and NATO troops since the agreement was signed, instead attacking Afghan forces in outlying areas. Washington wants a reduction to those attacks.

Shaheen said the Taliban are ready to negotiate a countrywide cease-fire but only during intra-Afghan negotiations, the next critical step of the deal. However, getting to intra-Afghan negotiations, which Washington had hoped would begin weeks earlier, has mostly been held up by political turmoil in Kabul as dueling presidents fight over who is the real winner in last year's presidential elections and the government squabbles over the deal's call for the release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners and 1,000 government prisoners.

Watchdog says Microsoft's $10B cloud contract is legal

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A government watchdog agency said Wednesday the Pentagon's process for awarding a highly lucrative contract to Microsoft was in line with legal and government purchasing standards.

The contract, potentially worth $10 billion, was awarded to Microsoft and its tech rival Amazon to provide artificial intelligence to speed decisions by soldiers on the battlefield and use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities.

The review released Wednesday the Defense Department's inspector general did not draw a conclusion about whether Microsoft was appropriately declared the winner. Rather, it looked at whether the decision-making process was proper and legal. It also examined allegations of unethical behavior by Pentagon officials involved in the matter and generally determined that any ethical lapses did not influence the outcome.

Amazon has asserted that the bidding was improperly influenced by President Donald Trump's dislike of Amazon and its CEO, Jeff Bezos. Bezos owns The Washington Post, a news outlet often criticized by Trump.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Robert Carver, said the inspector general's report shows that the contract award process was fair and legal.

"This report should finally close the door on the media and corporate-driven attacks on the career procurement officials who have been working tirelessly to get the much needed JEDI cloud computing environment into the hands of our frontline warfighters while continuing to protect American taxpayers," Carver said.
Order now covers all US military bases in Japan

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The commander of U.S. Forces Japan on Wednesday declared a public health emergency for all U.S. military installations in Japan, expanding an earlier order that covered only the area in and around Tokyo.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider on April 6 declared a public health emergency for U.S. bases in the Kanto Plain, near the Japanese capital. Tokyo is the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in Japan. City officials reported 161 new cases on Tuesday.

Schneider’s action Wednesday extends that status to all installations across the country, from Misawa Air Base in the north east to the many bases on the southern island prefecture of Okinawa.

The public health emergency will remain in effect through May 15 unless Schneider renews or terminates it sooner, the statement said.

“The declaration ensures commanders possess the necessary authorities to enforce compliance with health protection measures,” it said. “It is applicable to anyone with access to U.S. installations or facilities and includes military, civilians, contractors, and host-nation employees.”

Commanders of U.S. bases on the Kanto Plain have declared their own public health emergencies, which allow them to restrict the movements and activities, not only of troops, but also civilian employees, family members, retirees, contractors and local nationals with access to the facilities. Base commanders in other parts of the country had held off on imposing stricter measures. However, that hasn’t stopped them from punishing non-service members who ignore their guidelines.

Two civilians were barred from Sasebo Naval Base after security personnel found them in an off-base bar on Friday in violation of rules set by the Navy and restrictions imposed to combat the coronavirus.

USFJ, headquartered at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, “will continually assess necessary preventative measures and continues to encourage strict hygiene and social distancing to reduce the risk of transmission,” the statement added.

A day after the Guam elephant parade, North Korean fighter jets fired missiles into the sea off the country’s eastern coast while units launched a salvo of cruise missiles from the ground, according to South Korea’s military.

“Nothing gets the North Koreans’ attention like B-52s,” Cossa said Wednesday. “They want to signal that, despite the problems with the carrier, we still have forces with the ability to respond.”

The display was likely directed at China and North Korea, according to former Air Force officer Ralph Cossa, now an adviser for the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii.

“They want to signal that, despite the problems with the carrier, we still have forces with the ability to respond,” Cossa said Wednesday. “We want to show we are still ready to respond.”

Over the weekend, China’s Liaoning aircraft carrier passed between the Japanese islands of Okinawa and Miyako and east of Taiwan. The voyage showed that coronavirus has not impacted Beijing’s carrier like it has those of the U.S. Navy, an unnamed Chinese military expert said Monday in the country’s state-run Global Times newspaper.

However, Cossa said the Liaoning isn’t a real threat to U.S. forces in the region.

“Chinese aircraft carriers don’t make me lose a lot of sleep,” he said. “I wouldn’t want to be on one in a fight with the U.S. Navy.”

A day after the Guam elephant parade, an RQ-4 Global Hawk, a Navy MQ-4C Triton and Air Force B-52 Stratofortresses line up up Monday.

A civilian who ignored a quarantine order was arrested in Kwajalein Thursday, April 16, 2020.
Roosevelt: No travel restrictions to Vietnam had been issued at the time of the port call

Another Roosevelt sailor hospitalized due to virus

Boeing lost 150 jet orders as travel bookings plunged
Military clinics in Europe now have rapid testing

By JENNIFER H. SWAN Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — At least seven U.S. military medical clinics in Europe now have an in-house diagnostic tool that processes coronavirus tests in as little as 45 minutes, officials said this week.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the SHAPE Army Health Clinic in Belgium and the Vicenza Army Health Clinic in Italy are the first Army hospitals in Europe to begin using the tool, which was authorized last month by the Food and Drug Administration for use during the global coronavirus emergency.

The Navy hospitals in Rota, Spain, and Naples, Italy, and the Air Force clinics at Lakenheath in England and Aviano in Italy, are also receiving or already using the new diagnostic tool developed by Utah-based BioFire Defense.

LRMC has processed 50 tests using the new system; SHAPE has processed nine and Vicenza has processed four, said Col. Pete Bowden, LRMC deputy commander for patient services.

“The new system gives our other Army Health Clinics more options,” Bowden said. “(It) can process a testing sample in about 45 minutes so it can be used to test patients with worsening symptoms to help the clinician rule out co-infection with influenza, which would affect how the patient is treated.”

Bowden said LRMC will continue to process tests conventionally, in batches, when large numbers of people must be tested.

Since testing began, military clinics in Europe have sent tests to host-nation labs, to LRMC or to the U.S. for processing.

“The in-house testing capability cut what was a 3- to 7-day result process to a less than 24-hour result,” Lt. Col. Shawn McFarland, 48th Surgical Operations Squadron commander at RAF Lakenheath, said last week. Lakenheath began using the new system March 30.

BioFire worked with the Defense Department to develop the diagnostic test, which detects a genetic fragment of the virus that causes the coronavirus. The system can only be used in authorized laboratories as functioning as their own emergency authorization for coronavirus diagnostic tools is in place, a March 23 letter to BioFire from the FDA said.

More than 400 military personnel are working inside 11 New York hospitals, some of them volunteering to treat patients who must be processed and cleared for the virus, said Air Force Capt. Joe Kochan, executive officer for the Operational Health Support Unit Portsmouth, a Navy Reserve unit based at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va. Kochan deployed to New York City, working primarily in Elmhurst Hospital.

Military support varies in each hospital based on whatever the facility needs to relieve their own personnel, who have been in this fight against the virus for about 35 to 45 days, he said.

Air Force Col. Jennifer Ratcliff, commander of the 927th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., said that once her personnel received credentials, military teams quickly integrated themselves into New York’s hospitals.

“We’re a fresh face. We’ve got the energy and enthusiasm to really help these people who are tired and have been working very long days and weeks,” she said.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday that there are some good signs that coronavirus cases are beginning to plateau in the state and hospitalizations are beginning to level.

As the state and local government respond to the changing curve of the virus, Curtis said the military presence at the Javits Center will evolve to meet the needs of the community.

Staffers are prepared to meet any need.

“`They have the [personal protective equipment] they need,” she said. “They have everything we can think of to make it easier to do the job they are doing.”

Medical providers assigned to Javits New York Medical Station rush a critically-ill patient to an intensive care room Saturday.

‘Arduous and tough’ times for military medical personnel

By ROSE L. THAYER Stars and Stripes

Workdays for the military medical personnel overseeing the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan begin at about 5 a.m., where about 200 military and civilian nurses prepare for a 12-hour shift caring for coronavirus patients, said Army Lt. Col. Leslie Curtis, chief nursing officer of the 9th Field Hospital, which is deployed to New York City from Fort Hood, Texas.

“We have very strict protocol to protect every single person,” Curtis said Tuesday. “We are extremely busy.”

The center averages about 325 coronavirus patients a day in the 2,500-bed facility. The staff — a joint force of Army, Navy, Air Force and civilian personnel — sees about 125 new patients each day and about 40 to 50 discharges.

Military personnel have been in New York City for about two weeks in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The city, which is the U.S. epicenter of the pandemic with more than 106,800 coronavirus cases as of Tuesday, three more units were deployed to New York City from Michigan and Massachusetts.

More people are added every day. On Friday, the Army Reserve announced eight medical task forces to deploy to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. As of Tuesday, three more units were announced to support efforts in Michigan and Massachusetts.

The troops are in addition to the more than 30,000 National Guard members working in communities in all U.S. states and territories, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Other cities receiving relief efforts include Edison and Newark, N.J., Stamford, Conn., Boston and Detroit. Each of those cities received at least one 85-member Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force consisting of respiratory specialists, infectious disease specialists, doctors, nurses, medics and behavioral health specialists, according to Army North officials.

One team deployed to Detroit on Friday and began seeing patients Sunday at a 1,000-bed alternate care facility built by the Federal Emergency Management Agency inside the TCP Center.

Detroit is considered a potential future hotspot for the coronavirus, and so far it has more than 6,700 confirmed cases of the virus. The state has more than 26,000 cases, according to the governor’s office.

The alternate care site opened Friday, according to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and expects to have about 250 patients transferred to the facility by the end of the week.

Meanwhile, the majority of military personnel are concentrat ed in New York City.

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thAYER.rose stripes.mil

Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Medical providers assigned to Javits New York Medical Station rush a critically-ill patient to an intensive care room Saturday.
VA hospitals expand care by treating 135 non-veteran virus patients

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is helping 10 states with their coronavirus response efforts by opening bed space for non-veteran patients and sending VA medical staff to private facilities.

As of this week, VA hospitals are treating 135 non-veteran patients in Albuquerque, N.M., Detroit and Ann Arbor, Chicago, Norwood, Mass., to help with regional outbreaks that have overwhelmed local hospitals.

According to the VA, it has offered to send medical staff to 19 states nationwide, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

As cases of the virus continue to rise, the VA said it is working to expand its capacity to care for non-veterans.

The VA said that it had accepted new assignments from FEMA to care for non-veterans in Illinois and Louisiana. It also opened 18 beds at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport, La., and it opened 35 beds for non-veterans in Chicago, Hines and Marion, Ill.

The VA also sent a mobile pharmacy and two staff members to suburban Detroit, where the Army Corps of Engineers is establishing a field hospital.

In New Haven, Conn., three VA medical staff were sent on a state assignment to aid the homeless population.

The VA agency has continued to face backlash about its shortage of personal protective equipment for medical staff. One federal union filed a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, criticizing the VA for creating an unsafe working environment.

Though the VA has not shared the job titles of its employees who have died from coronavirus, the department said Tuesday that three of the 153 had jobs in which they directly cared for patients.

The employees worked at VA hospitals in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Indianapolis, Houston, Shreveport, the Bronx, Manhattan, West Palm Beach, Calif., Denver and Los Angeles. Three worked in Reno, Nev.

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In nod to governors, Trump walks back authority claim

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he’s open to some states “reopening” before federal social distancing guidelines expire at the end of month, as he appeared to back off his claim of absolute authority to decide when the time was right to act.

Hours after suggesting that the bipartisan concerns of governors about his assertion of power would amount to an insurrection, Trump abruptly reversed course Tuesday, saying he would leave it to governors to determine when and how to revive activity in their states. He said he likely would discuss his plans with governors on Thursday.

“The governors are responsible,” Trump said. “They have to take charge.”

Still, he insisted, “The governors will be very, very respectful of the presidency.”

Democratic and Republican governors had objected after Trump asserted Monday that he alone would determine when and how to reopen the economy, despite clear constitutional limitations on federal powers.

Trump said Tuesday he would authorize governors “of each individual state to implement a reopening — and a very powerful reopening — plan of their state at a time and in a manner as most appropriate.”

“Trump added that he would support moves by states that haven’t been hit hard by the outbreak to ease restrictions even before federal guidelines on social distancing expire April 30.

Trump said the country would open up “in beautiful little pieces,” adding that some states with low rates of infection “have fewer people and they have lots of room.”

“It’s unclear if any states are actively considering reopening their economies before May 1.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious diseases expert, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the country is “not there yet” when it comes to the kind of testing and tracing needed for the economy to reopen. But Trump made clear Tuesday he is intent on proceeding with his plans.

Trump outlined a vision in which workers would be tested, perhaps weekly, and governors would test travelers arriving at their states’ borders. But the U.S. is nowhere near having that kind of infrastructure, with testing still largely reserved for those with serious symptoms and results taking days to learn.

In expressing an openness to states setting their own timelines, Trump was largely acknowledging the authority governors have already exercised. While Trump has issued national recommendations advising people to stay home, governors and local leaders are the ones who ordered schools and nonessential business to close.

By Jocelyn Gecker

San Francisco — Staggered school start times. Class sizes cut in half. Social distancing in the hallways and cafeteria. These are a few of the possible scenarios for California schools that Gov. Gavin Newsom has laid out as part of a road map for reopening the state amid the coronavirus.

The timeline for reopening schools remains unclear, as it does for reopening California society at large. But Newsom said Tuesday that when the state’s 6 million students do return, things will look dramatically different.

“We need to get our kids back to school,” Newsom said. “And we need to do it in a safe way.”

The outline he presented for what it will take to lift coronavirus restrictions in the nation’s most populous state asked more questions than it answered. He sought to temper the expectations of a restless, isolated public.

For schools, the biggest challenge officials will face is how to continue physical distancing among children and adults to ensure that “kids aren’t going to school, getting infected and then infecting grandmas and grandpas,” Newsom said.

That could mean requiring schools to stagger schedules, with some students arriving in the morning and the rest in the afternoon. In the coming weeks and months, officials along with educators and unions will be discussing that idea and other possibilities for keeping campuses safe, he said.

School assemblies, gym class, recess, lunchtime and all scenarios in which students gather in large groups will have to be rethought. School maintenance will need to be overhauled.

“Are we entering a new era of education? And whether that’s transitional or whether it portends a more permanent change in how we educate students is unclear,” said Troy Flint, spokesman for the California School Boards Association.

Flint said the governor’s idea of staggering class times would help guide the conversations school districts are having about how to safely reopen.

Do you need to move to an expanded school day or school week, or consider weekend classes? Do you need to look at a year-round model?” said Flint.

Education funding cutbacks have already led to teacher shortages and made campus nurses rare, raising questions about how officials might cope with extended days and ensure kids are healthy, said Tony Wold, associate superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, which includes 55 schools.

“We can’t just build new schools overnight. Even if the state gives us more money, where will the teachers come from?” said Wold. “This is probably the most Herculean challenge I have ever seen in public education.”

Worldwide, deaths have topped 128,000, and confirmed infections have surpassed 2 million, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The figures understate the true size of the crisis, in part because of limited testing, different ways of counting the dead, and concealment by some governments.

The U.S. has by far been the hardest-hit country, with more than 26,000 deaths and over 600,000 confirmed infections, by Johns Hopkins’ count. Still, nightmare scenarios projecting a far greater number of deaths and hospitalizations have not come to pass, raising hopes from coast to coast.

At the same time, the economic damage from the effort to “flatten the curve” of infections has mounted alarmingly. Signaling just how huge an impact on consumer behavior, grocery store sales in the U.S. jumped nearly 26% as Americans stocked up on food and consumer goods to ride out the shutdowns in late March and early April. These sales introduced only around the middle of the month means that far worse is to come in April and the second quarter more generally,” said Michael Pearce, an economist at the consulting firm Capital Economics.

U.S. manufacturing output by the world’s biggest economy fell 5.4% in March, led by plunging production at auto factories, which have shut down entirely.

President Donald Trump has been anxious to lift stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns in the U.S. But those aspirations continue to meet stiff resistance on the state and local levels.

The European Union published a 16-page road map plotting a united course out of its socioeconomic lockdowns. But those aspirations are introduced only around the middle of the month means that far worse is to come in April and the second quarter more generally,” said Michael Pearce, an economist at the consulting firm Capital Economics.

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Residents of Austria, Marie Froehlich, who owns a clothing store in downtown Vienna, said her store was happy to get back to work after weeks of being cooped up at home. But with her business dependent largely on tourism, which has dried up amid the travel restrictions, she expects it will take months to return to normal.

“Until then, we are in crisis mode,” she said.

Rob Currier, 50, a security guard at a clothing store in downtown Vienna, said he appeared to back off his claim of absolute authority to decide when the time was right to act.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Wash. state officials: Masks will likely be needed for months

From wire reports

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Even once the broad restrictions currently in place in Washington state in response to the coronavirus are lifted, health officials said Thursday that for months to come the “new normal” will continue to look like daily life does now: teleworking, physical distancing and use of masks in public.

Health Secretary John Wiesman said because the virus won’t be able to be stopped or contained until there are treatments and a vaccine, the goal is to make sure that once the state starts to see a decline of cases, “that we do our best to spring back.”

“Now we can go about our daily lives, we’re not going to return to what we knew before COVID-19 for many, many months,” he said.

“It’s going to be a new normal, one that is much more aware of safety and biosecurity.”

More than 10,500 people in Washington state have tested positive for the virus and at least 516 have died.

Washington state’s stay-at-home order, which has already been extended, is currently in place through May 4, though Gov. Jay Inslee has warned that it is possible the order may have to be extended once again.

Wiesman said that while details on how the order will be lifted are still being worked out, there will probably be phases and some of the restrictions, including possibly businesses opening with restrictions, will have to be extended once again.

Alaska

JUNEAU — The state plans to lift restrictions on elective medical procedures in what Gov. Mike Dunleavy described Tuesday as an initial step toward reopening segments of the economy affected by concerns with the coronavirus.

State officials last week updated a mandate requiring non-urgent or elective procedures be canceled or postponed for three months. The mandate included surgical abortion under a section of the law that could be delayed for a few weeks, but made an exception if the women’s life or physical health was endangered.

Some saw the inclusion of abortion in the list as political. The mandate stated the overall goal was to preserve protective equipment for health care workers and patient care supplies, ensure staff and patient safety and expand available hospital capacity.

Alabama

MONTGOMERY — An Alabama school district said it would be deploying school buses beginning Wednesday to provide Wi-Fi hot spots to students in need of internet access.

Montgomery Public Schools said six buses would be parked around town, allowing students to get connected while learning remotely due to the continued pandemic, news outlets reported.

Most of the buses were expected to be available in various locations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The district said it had 11 buses capable of providing Wi-Fi.

California

SACRAMENTO — California regulators will try again to convene an online public meeting discussing a potential limited ban on freshwater fishing during the coronavirus pandemic after last week’s teleconference was canceled when it became over-crowded by hundreds of callers.

The state Fish and Game Commission on Wednesday will consider emergency closures of some California rivers, streams and lakes at the request of local officials concerned that visiting anglers might spread the virus.

Rumors circulated last week on social media that the commission was considering shutting down all freshwater fishing in California. That led to a crush of people trying to join the April 9 meeting.

Florida

TAMPA — A Florida inmate who was among those released last month in an effort to contain the coronavirus has been arrested on a murder charge, sheriff’s officials said.

Joseph Edward Williams, 26, was arrested Monday on a second-degree murder charge in connection with a fatal shooting March 26 on the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office. He’s also charged with resisting an officer, being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of heroin, records show.

Williams was part of a group of inmates released from the jail in an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus throughout the facility.

On March 19, Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister said in a news release that 164 county jail inmates accused of low level crimes had been released.

The next night, deputies received 911 calls about gunshot in a neighborhood. When they arrived, they found a man who had been fatally shot, sheriff’s officials said.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois has paid $174 million for medicine and protective equipment to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the past month, according to data released Tuesday.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza debuts an online portal identifying every expenditure since Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s March 9 disaster declaration, which allows his administration to coordinate with state partners and federal agencies in buying equipment and supplies.

As of Tuesday, 868 people had died of complications related to COVID-19 among 23,247 cases of coronavirus infections since the pandemic hit Illinois.

Mendoza said that despite the state’s billions of dollars of debt, she will prioritize COVID-19 response payments for the duration of the pandemic.

Pritzker reported that analysis of Illinois’ COVID-19 statistics suggests that cases might have plateaued and might be declining because of social-distancing and other strategies. He reiterated that he is consulting other governors about how to relax such restrictions.

Kansas

TOPEKA — The Kansas Supreme Court on Tuesday night canceled arguments from attorneys about a civil rights group’s effort to prevent the state from releasing prison inmates in order to make existing medical conditions manageable, making them vulnerable to the novel coronavirus.

The high court’s actions came with arguments originally set for Wednesday afternoon in a lawsuit that seeks to prevent Gov. Laura Kelly from allowing inmates to leave isolation or treatment if needed.

“The lawsuit argues that the inmates are housed in crowded conditions with limited access to adequate medical care. It also contended that releasing vulnerable inmates would allow proper social distancing and reduce the virus’ transmission among remaining prisoners.”

But lawyers for the Department of Corrections and Attorney General Derek Schmidt’s office on Tuesday filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, and Justice Marla Luckert’s order said the state’s response showed “there are significant issues of fact” that should be settled in district court.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts is launching an effort to reach everyone in the state who may have the coronavirus and get them tested and into isolation or treatment if needed.

The ambitious goal is to stop — not just slow — the destruction posed by COVID-19 that’s already caused dozens of deaths and rampant economic damage.

Contact tracing starts with a call to someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus, and then follow-up with everyone that person was in close contact with — family, friends, colleagues or others they got closer than 6 feet from for more than a brief encounter.

Everyone on that list is interviewed about their contacts and symptoms.

This is a routine, resource-intensive public health strategy that’s been successfully used in the U.S. and around the world to contain infectious disease outbreaks — from measles to smallpox to tuberculosis to Ebola and more.

The state is partnering with the Boston-based nonprofit Partners in Health, and has begun hiring and training some of the 1,000, or so, people who will call everyone who tests positive.

Tennessee

NASHVILLE — Tennessee’s state parks will remain closed due to the ongoing threat of the coronavirus.

The announcement Tuesday by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation keeps the 56 parks closed past the previously announced April 14 date to end the closures.

State officials have not set a new date to reopen the parks at this time, saying they will closely monitor the pandemic and will notify the public when parks reopen.

The department says the closure occurred because state parks saw staggering increases in visitor traffic, including from out-of-state visitors, making social distancing difficult.
China didn’t warn public for six key days

Associated Press

In the six days after top Chinese officials secretly determined that they likely were facing a pandemic from a new coronavirus, the city of Wuhan at the epicenter of the disease hosted a mass banquet for tens of thousands of people, while medical teams had already been traveling for Lunar New Year celebrations.

President Xi Jinping warned the public on the seventh day, Jan. 20. But by then, more than 3,000 people had been infected — during a period that took almost a week of public silence, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and estimates based on retrospective infection data.

The delay from Jan. 14 to Jan. 20 was neither the first mistake made by Chinese officials at all levels in confronting the outbreak nor the longest lag, as governments around the world could have dragged their feet for weeks and even months in addressing the virus.

But the delay by the first country to face the coronavirus came at a critical time in the unfolding of the outbreak. China’s attempt to walk a line between alerting the public and avoiding panic set the tone for a pandemic that has infected almost 2 million people and taken more than 126,000 lives worldwide.

“This is tremendous,” said Zuo-Feng Zhang, an epidemiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles. “If they took action six days earlier, there would have been much fewer patients and medical facilities would have had sufficient capacity.”

Another epidemiologist, Benjamin Cowley at the University of Hong Kong, however, noted that it may have been a tricky call. If health officials raise the alarm prematurely, it can damage their credibility — “like crying wolf” — and may cripple their ability to mobilize the public, he said.

The six-day delay by China’s leaders in Beijing came on top of almost two weeks during which the national Center for Disease Control did not register any new cases, internal bulletins obtained by the AP confirmed. Yet during that time, from Jan. 5 to Jan. 17, hundreds of patients were appearing in hospitals not just in Wuhan — which finally reopened last week — but across the country.

China’s rigid controls on information, bureaucratic hurdles and a reluctance to send bad news up the chain of command muffled early warnings, experts said.

Without these internal reports, it took the first case outside China, in Thailand on Jan. 13, to galvanize leaders in Beijing into recognizing the possible pandemic before them.

The Chinese government has repeatedly denied suppressing information in the early days, saying that it immediately reported the outbreak to the World Health Organization.

“All allegations of a cover-up or lack of transparency in China are groundless,” said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a Thursday press conference.

The documents show that the head of China’s National Health Commission, Ma Xiaowei, laid out a grim assessment of the situation in a confidential Jan. 14 teleconference with provincial health officials. A memo stated that the teleconference was held to convey instructions on the coronavirus from President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, but does not specify what those instructions were.

The epidemic situation is still severe and complex, the most severe challenge since SARS in 2003, and is likely to develop into a major public health event,” the memo cited Ma as saying.

In a faxed statement, the National Health Commission said that China had published information on the outbreak in an “open, transparent, responsible and timely manner,” in accordance with “important instructions” repeatedly issued by President Xi.

The documents come from an anonymous source in the medical field who did not want to be named for fear of retribution. The AP confirmed the contents with two other sources in public health familiar with the teleconference.

Under a section titled “sober understanding of the situation,” the memo singled out the case in Thailand, saying that the situation had “changed significantly” because of the possible spread of the virus abroad.

“All localities must prepare for and respond to a pandemic,” it said.

The National Health Commission distributed a 63-page set of instructions to provincial health officials, obtained by the AP. The instructions, marked “not to be publicly disclosed,” ordered doctors and nurses nationwide to don protective gear, health officials to identify suspected cases and hospitals to open fever clinics.

In public, however, officials continued to downplay the threat.

“The risk of sustained human-to-human transmission is low,” Li Qun, the head of the China CDC’s emergency center, told Chinese state television on Jan. 15.

Under the new orders, officials in Wuhan and elsewhere finally got CDC-approved testing kits and a green light to start confirming new cases on Jan. 16. Across the country, dozens of reported cases then began to surface, in some cases among patients who were infected earlier but had not yet been tested.

On Jan. 20, President Xi issued his first public comments on the virus, saying the outbreak “must be taken seriously.” A leading Chinese epidemiologist, Zhong Nanshan, announced for the first time that the virus was transmissible from person to person on national television.

The delay may support accusations by U.S. President Donald Trump that the Chinese government’s secrecy held back the world’s response to the virus. Even the public announcement on Jan. 20, however, left the U.S. nearly two months to prepare for the pandemic that the U.S. squandered.

Some health experts said that Beijing took decisive action given the information available to them.

“They may not have said the right thing, but they were doing the right thing,” said Ray Yip, the retired founding head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control’s office in China. “On the 20th, they sounded the alarm for the whole country, which is not an unreasonable delay.”

But others have said that an earlier warning would have saved lives. If the public had been warned a week earlier to practice social distancing, wear masks and cut back on travel, cases could have been cut by up to two-thirds, one paper later found.

“The earlier you act, the easier you can control the disease,” said Zhang.

South Koreans vote in national election amid virus fears

By Kim Tong-Hyung

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — In a surprising development, results of South Korean voters wore masks and moved slowly between lines of tape at polling stations on Wednesday to elect lawmakers in the shadows of the spreading coronavirus.

The government resisted calls to postpone the parliamentary elections billed as a midterm referendum on President Moon Jae-in, who enters the final two years of his single five-year term grappling with a historic public health crisis that is unleashing massive economic shock.

While South Korea’s electorate is deeply divided along ideological and generational lines and regional rivalries, recent surveys showed growing support for Moon and his liberal party, reflecting the public’s approval of an aggressive test-and-quarantine program so far credited for lowering fatality rates for the coronavirus compared to China, Europe and North America.

Initial surveys of voters leaving the polls conducted by TV stations indicated that Moon’s Democratic Party and a satellite party it created to win proportional-representative seats would comfortably combine to make up a majority in the 300-seat National Assembly.

“We are going through difficult times, but the coronavirus and politics are two different things,” said one voter, Lee Kum.

Another Seoul resident, Chung Eun-yong, said that she arrived at her polling station just after 6 a.m. to avoid crowds.

“I was worried about the coronavirus,” she said. “They checked my temperature and handed me gloves, but it wasn’t as bothersome as I thought it would be. … I don’t like what we are going through, but I cast my ballot to prevent the wrong candidates from getting elected.”

The long lines that snaked around public offices and schools followed record-high participation in early voting held on Friday and Saturday, and defied expectations of low turnout to minimize social contact.

The National Election Commission said that 15.6 million people had voted as of 5 p.m. When combined with the 11.8 million who cast their ballots during early voting or by mail, the overall turnout was at 62.6%, the highest since a 60.6% turnout in the 2004 general election.
The Roller Coaster Life of a Military Child

Being a military child, my life is interesting. My experience of a military child begins in Maryland in the year 2006. I was born in Maryland and lived there for a year. My family then moved to Hawaii for four years. During this time my father was deployed for a whole year to Iraq. I lived in Hawaii from the ages of two to six years old. I enjoyed my time there even though I was so young. I can still remember some memories from then. After Hawaii we had to move to Texas. I lived in Texas for three years. Then I moved to Germany for another three years. I loved the time I lived in Germany. I made a lot of friends, played many sports, traveled all over to different countries. During this time my father was deployed again to Poland twice.

After living in Germany I moved to South Carolina for one year. I didn’t really make friends because I had no one to connect with since I was a military and the population there for the military was so low. I didn’t mind not having many friends. After that one year in South Carolina I moved here to Belgium. I can say I enjoy my time here so far. I have friends. I like the school but I have to live separate from my father because of his jobs. This makes living here tough but I see him on the weekends, so her comes to see me and my mom.

Being a military child is tough, but it gives you many opportunities. When you constantly move around you can make many friends from all over and you can travel to different places. The one thing that’s hard about being a military child is having to leave things behind. You eventually have to leave friends behind, and it makes the moving part tough. As many places as it’s been kind of rough on me. I get used to it because I know that this is how being a military child is. I like being a military child though there are some cons to it but there are outstanding pros to it.

― Mikayla C.

Navy Kid

Life as a military child is not good or bad. It is quite harsh sometimes because you have to leave your friends behind and maybe never see them again. One of the good things is you get to go to different places to swim like Greece, Croatia, Italy, France, Estonia, and even a quick glimpse in an Dutch country canal. You might get to go skiing in the Alps, the German, the French, the Swiss or Italian Alps. I get to live the way of playing soccer which is basically rough and tough. You might have to learn different languages, like French, with 8 vowel accents which are annoying. You might have to go to boring places because your parents force you to go. You might have to learn to deal with many different cultures in an international school and that can sometimes be tiring. You might also make life-long friends. You might finish your time at a NATO base, with good friends, a new language, better cooking skills, and better understanding of cultures and end up as an engrish person.

― Wyatt

Great experience

Being a military child is fun and boring. If you are overseas, there’s not much stuff to do. In the states there was a lot of stuff to do like amusement parks and restaurants and a bunch of other stuff. Overseas, all your parents want to do is explore or travel and take pictures. The schools overseas are much better than the schools in the states because you go to the same classes every day. In all honestly being a military is really fun and cool. You get a whole lot more experiences and experiences. You could travel Europe, learn history and learn at a higher rate than American schools. It is a great experience.

― Chris C.

A kid named Tony

Once upon a time, there was a kid named Tony. Tony’s dad worked for the military and meant that one day he would move away to a new home. Tony and his family lived in Spain, Tony had many friends there and he liked his house. One day Tony’s dad was told to go to Belgium for the next three years. Tony didn’t want to go because he would miss his friends, but they had to go. When Tony made it to Belgium he was shy because he didn’t know anybody there. After a few weeks, Tony started making friends and he was really happy because he liked his school and his new friends. Tony and his family were really happy and they were all together, just like in Spain. After three years Tony would have to say bye to his friend and go back to Spain. Tony was excited but also kind of sad because he would have to say bye to his friends but he would see his old friends again. When Tony and his family went back to Spain they would have to live different master homes. However, they were still happy together and they went back to living their old life.

― George F.

I stay

My mom is a civilian. So, I get to stay in one place for a long time. It’s fine because I get along with most of the military children. My mom can fit right in with everyone.

I am the one that has to stay.

When all of my friends are moving every 3 years. It is hard to be the one to have to just stay in one place.

I have always lived overseas in my life and never lived in the USA. So a lot of things that are normal to me are not normal to my friends.

― Octavio M.

Be thankful

My name is Sheirah, you might be asking: What is it like being a military child? It’s not all that hard. There are some positives and negatives about being one, but honestly, I don’t even find any negatives. Military children are just the same as civilian children; we just have little differences. Now you’re going to get my view of what military children experience.

You move around a lot! The good thing about this is, that you get to see new places and there for a few years! The only bad thing about moving is that you lose all your friends that you’ve made in the previous school. Sometimes you get tired of moving around so much, but you have to look on the bright side, meeting new friends is fun!

You get to have privileges, since you are a military child, your school might be in a Military base unless you’re in the States. You get stores like the Exchange or Commissary, Here in SHAPE, if you have an ID card, you get to do lots of fun things like eating at restaurants.

Since you move around, you obviously get to learn new languages. Learning new languages is fun, some people learn enough that they end up speaking it! If you learn having friends you can brag to your friends about how you can understand it. Now you know what’s it is like to be a military child. It’s really fun, and I hope you think so too! Just know that you have to be thankful to the parents or adults for putting their lives on the line in order to protect you.

― Sheirah C.

So Much

I am a military child. I move from place to place. I leave my friends and family. I try to remember. The memories I have made. I have met people. And the places I have been. Then I start all over again.

― Noora H.

Easier than most

My experience of being a military child has been... Well, actually easier than most. My name is Orianna, and my mom has been in the military till she was about 6 years old. I remember her leaving for about 3-6 months to go on deployment. I don’t really move that much, in fact, I’ve only moved twice. Once from Japan to Virginia, and now from Virginia to Belgium. It’s really nice to be able to explore the world! Even though I still wish I was in Japan, Spain, or Italy because I’ve met many friends along the way of this journey!

There’s a lot of fun things you can do because of the diverse cultures you are exposed to. One other thing is that you get to go to many places outside of military families. I love this place called the NEX many exchange. In Virginia, it was hope. It was like a wonderland of software, skincare products, perfumes, books, toys, candy, and just so much! Being a military child is tough, but I had it easy, and I’m glad I did! Hopefully, other military children are not struggling too much. I hope this helps everyone understand what my personal experience was like.

― Orianna C.

Turkish Military Child

Hello, my name is Yigit and I am from Turkey. My dad is working for the military and I am a special kid because of my dad. I get to see lots of places and meet so many nice people as I visit more places and that makes me lucky. Right now I am living in SHAPE’s NATO base in Belgium. First, let me tell you how it all started. Two years ago I was living in Cyprus and it was an ordinary sunny school day. I was on the school but riding back home and I was tired after a long school day. I was talking to my friend who was sitting next to me as always. When I returned home my mom said she had a surprise for me. After dinner, she told me that we were moving to Belgium because of my dad’s job. I was excited about going to Belgium. Most people are sad that they have to leave and say bye to their friends but don’t really realize that. Do not get me wrong, like having friends but I don’t usually get sad when I am moving somewhere. Days have passed and finally, I was at SHAPE for the first time. The first two months were hard because I was learning another language to communicate but I have met nice people and I got used to this new place and now I like being at SHAPE. I should thank my dad because he was working all day and all night to pass a test that brought me to SHAPE.

― Yigit A.

SHAPE American Middle School

The months of the military child.
Celebrating Month of the Military Child

SHAPE American Middle School

Pros and cons

When you are a military child, you need to move around all the time but that has positives and negatives. The positives are that you get to move around and live in new places and make new friends. Sometimes you also get to see different cultures and try new foods. But the negatives are that you might not get to stay in one place for long and you might have to leave your friends behind. Sometimes you might not have time to make new friends and you might feel lonely.

- Sebastian H

Exciting

Hello, my name is Moira. Being a military child is exciting because I always get to move to new places and meet new people. I have lived in many countries and I love trying new foods and experiencing different cultures. It's also exciting to see new places and learn about different ways of life.

- Moira O

Good cause

Hello, my name is Gavin and I'm a military child. Being a military child is good, but can also be difficult sometimes. My mom is in the U.S. Air Force, and I have to move every few years. But I also know that my parents are doing something important for our country.

- Gavin P

An adventure

Belgium, the place of beer, chocolate, and waffles in that order. I moved to Belgium in 2/19/2019. I have been here for 2 years now. My grandma is a captain in the U.S.Navy Medical Corp and she works at SHAPE, where she helps with COVID-19. We will be in Belgium for one more year until we move to Nebraska or Colorado Springs. A pro of being a military kid is moving to Belgium is that there is no school or country that you can compete against where you always have new friends. But the con is moving around a lot.

- Elijah R

Transformation

Do you know how it is to be a military child? Well, I do. My dad is in the military and that makes my life completely different from a civilian's life. For me, it is not very fun to be a military person. I get to travel a lot, but that means I have to move almost every 1-3 years. And I don't have a choice where I move to. So, I don't enjoy my parents. It might be a nice place or it might be a trash city that you didn't want to go to.

I know how it is to be a military child, and I think it is a bad experience. You move to new places all the time. But there are things that are also good like to travel and see different places. I am a huge fan of Transformers so I always watch them on my free time.

- Meesh L

My Life as a Military Child

Do you know what it is like to be a military child? I know, because I am one. Being a military child has its highs and lows, but I am proud. Even if sometimes you hate the city you moved to, or the school you go to, don't worry: we are military children, and we can do anything.

I only moved three times in my life, and I know that compared to other kids it looks like I didn't move that much, but I actually have a really big number in this situation. Moving three times means having to make new friends three times, having to leave your relatives three times, and having to leave your city three times. It's hard to not worry about making new friends, but in the end, always find a way to make new ones. Three years ago, I moved from Italy (my home country) to Belgium. I think that this was the biggest change in my entire life because the other two times I moved it was in different places in Italy.

The thought of moving to a completely different place made me get goosebumps because I never actually went out of Italy. The first couple of months lived there, I didn't like it at all. I would cry my entire day because I didn't know the language, and I didn't know how to talk to people. I cried every day because I didn't know where I was going to school. I didn't understand the teachers, and I didn't know how to make friends since I couldn't talk to them. Everything changed when I learned English. I made new friends, I understood what the teachers said, and I stopped crying! This year, all my best friends are going to move to their home country, and of course, I am going to move too. But I hope that I will make new friends.

In conclusion, being a military child can be hard, but I am really proud of what my dad does. In this dark moment, we are all sad and scared, but as military children, we are strong. We are strong because we are being able to protect our country and come back strong.

- Alissa G

What it’s like to be a military child

Do you know what it’s like to be a military child? Well, I do because I am one. There are good things and bad things about being a military child. The good part is that you get to see many places, but the bad thing is that you have to move from the place you have made home. This is what I like and dislike about being a military child. A good thing is that I get to travel, and a lot. I have been to Italy, England, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Poland, Malta, the Netherlands and of course, my home country, Greece. I have lived in many places with others with whom we could have, and have a lot of other places to see. I love seeing new things and other cultures, the characteristics and how people look are different in every country. But, there is a bad thing too. I lived in Greece for about ten years, and when I found that I had to go to Belgium was I was okay with it. I was happy and I was really happy. Then I figured that I would have to leave Greece, my best friend and my family. When I told my best friend for some reason I felt so heartbroken, and I knew she felt the same. I had to leave my best friend and then I had to move to the States. I didn’t want to leave for the States because my friends there also thought I was terrible. They knew my best friend was a lot more than I knew mine. My sister's best friend was our cousin but that's her age, and my brothers a boy he knew from when he was 3. My brother wasn't that sad but my sister was full of bitterness. When my sister came back from their last night together, she was bloody crying. She was so angry I was crying too. But, we came through it and that last day I felt that I didn't think of my family and friends in Greece. That's what I like and dislike for being a military child. It's always hard to leave someone so important behind, but then, I moved from. What if I didn't leave? What if I wasn't a military child? I would never have seen what I saw. What about you? Did you ever have any of these opportunities? If yes, what are they? Do you think you would have those opportunities if you weren't a military kid?

- Lydia C

Adventure in Life

Hi, my name is Kira and I am a sort of German kid. Basically, I was born in Germany and moved to Spain when I was born. When we moved to Belgium I was two and my sister had just turned six, now she is in ninth grade. I was in the American school pretty much every single year for only one year. And I didn't really like it. Being a military kid is not easy but not bad. It's ok because you get to see a lot of places but you move a lot too. We had the chance to stay here for about six and a half years. It was really nice and hard at the same time. You can make a lot of friends but if you have a really good friend they will go after three years or so it's really hard. Then there was the time that I was allowed to go to kindergarten with and after such a long time they are going to leave pretty soon. You can also learn a lot of languages from your friends. I think that if you want to stay here for a while you will always think about what you want and at the same time, you are going to meet new people.

- Kira M

Another location

Long as a military brat has its advantages and disadvantages. Specifically, I enjoy these three main advantages. I like being able to travel, make use of military facilities and be around so many foreign people. Being able to travel to military bases has its own vibe. There are discounts on nearly everything, stores are always open, and you can stay at luxurious hotels. You can enjoy exploring old tancas and t.c on campouts! The facilities at only military bases are top rate. Being able to pass swimming from your house is a real treat. Making use of 2-4 pc express is useful for the midnight snacks and the morning coffee regulars. Did you know, overseas military bases are the only place to obtain root beer in some places? But there is something bad about this, your parents will be on tig always. Having so many people around you that are foreign is not the easiest thing. But I really enjoy hearing about other countries and cultures and even learn a new language. More often than not, you will be going to school with these foreign kids. In summary, it's good to be a military kid because you are able to do three very nice things.

- Teo Hill

Nevaeh's Story

Being a military child feels like we are always moving. Well, that is fine because I like to move to different places and see the rest of the world. I'm in middle school and I have been a military child for the past six years. Being a Military Child has ups and downs. Also, it means that you will be spending your years in different schools like me! Going to other schools is hard for me because all my friends are gone and I haven't seen my family for years. It is a lot of money to fly to where my family lives in the U.S. For example, my Memaw died and I wasn't there to be at her funeral. My aunt had her first baby and I still couldn't be there. Being a military child means being powerful and strong and nothing can take us down! All the military children I have met are amazing and you can too! We are proud to serve in the military and I am proud to be a military child. Some bad things about being a military child are that you have to pay a lot of money to move your car. If you don't want to ship it, you can buy another car when you move. Also, when you move a lot you need to have a lot of storage places. Having a lot of storage places means you have to have a lot of money to store all your belongings. Some of the good things being a military family is that you get to see a lot of history and if you want, you can learn to speak other languages. Being a military child means you will be moving a lot! I lived in the U.S, in Georgia, and I now from Georgia to London then to Brussels and those places were not that comfortable. But after we moved, in we got to see the Eiffel tower and a light show and I know a little French!

- Nevaeh S

My childhood

I'm Miahal (read Michael), I'm from the Czech Republic and this is my story about living here in Belgium. It started when I was playing outside and my dad was still at work. When he came from work, he said he passed an English test. I didn't think a lot about it until he said “we are moving” because he had passed the test. I got a little bit scared of the announcement; it could mean the loss of all my friends. Luckily, my parents had been playing a piano game come out and our destroyed group was back again. When we first arrived in Belgium, I didn't like the only friend I had. That friendship didn't last because he moved outside of my country and we played outside and online. It was even more fun to have friends. I started to like her here. The only problem was...
school, it was hard for me and I didn’t know English at all so then I was going to ESL and there was a fun teacher. She was funny and always happy, so she did these events like a pancake race. My group won! The best was a trip to Scotland. I was so happy about this trip because I knew English and I was popular in the class with apples. I liked the teacher and a club that I loved was robotics. We got 3rd place in Europe and it was fantastic. I was the first team to get to the finals at our school. I had a lot of fun and made new friends. Because of new friends, I don’t want to go away from Belgium. I want to stay here and that will never happen because of COVID-19. I know I wanted to go away from Belgium at the start, but now I don’t want to. My last year was perfect here and I like Belgium. I hope I come back here. – Michal S

Karioumenes Vaikas

There are always positives and negatives to being a military child. My dad works in the military. I’m from a small country, Lithuania, but now I live in Belgium. Some people don’t know what it’s like being a military child. When I was one year old my father had to go to Afghanistan for two years. I don’t remember that time, but my mom said it was hard without him. You have to move every three or two years. You have to leave your friends and sometimes even your family. I have a best friend in Lithuania, but she doesn’t know what it’s like to leave your country for three years. She doesn’t know what it’s like to see your dad in his uniform every day. Being a military child could also be fun. You can travel all over the world, see new cultures, learn new languages, meet new friends. Being a military child is awesome! – Paula L

Difficulties

There are goods and bad things about being a military child. Being a military child is not easy but it can help you build a better future, and maybe you could serve in the American military. Serving for the military at a young age is sort of a bad thing but there are some positives to it. Serving at a young age for the military is bad because maybe you are not used to it, and you are the one to have less experience on the job. When you get more comfortable with it and get used to it, it will help your country and you are going to build a better future. I wouldn’t serve in the military because I have a different goal that I want to reach, and the military has nothing to do with my objective. Maybe I can change my mind and serve for the Italian military when I am a little bit older. – Antonio T

Amazing memories

I am Addyson. I am a military kid. I know it can be difficult to move every 2-3 years, but there are also good things that you get from being a military kid. I have moved to 7 different places in my life, while that is difficult, I also got to have many good experiences that most people only get if they move around a lot. Being a military kid I have had to see my friends leave or leave my friends because I have to move. I also get to see so much of the world because I get to travel everywhere I go. These experiences have made me who I am today. I remember it was hardest when my dad was deployed to Afghanistan because I was only two when he left and three when he came back. I don’t remember it that well, but I know my mom, my brother, and I lived in Michigan. Living there was a different experience for me because there weren’t any military bases in Michigan so I knew people will be there their whole lives and will never live anywhere else. The downsides of military life is having to move frequently, but there are good parts of being a military kid like meeting kids from around the world or your own country and those experiences shape who I am. I make amazing memories wherever I am and meet new people that I will remember for a long time. That is why there are also good things that come out of being a military child. – Addyson

Civilian

Being a military kid is hard because you have to move a lot. That means you lose a lot of your friends and that is for me I have gotten used to losing all of my friends and I know you just need to move on. I have lived in three different cities I have moved 8 or 9 times in my life. So it is not easy being a military kid. I have lived in Japan and in Germany and in the USA and Korea. Now I live in Belgium. My dad is a civilian so he works for the military but is not in the military. I feel bad for the kids who have their dads deployed because they do not know their dad is going to come back home. Their dad could be gone for good or gone for 2 to 3 years at a time. But more about me I have traveled all over the world and I am very lucky. – Lu B

Winding River

Life is like a river – it has its own flow. As a military child, my river is winding, full of sharp stones, of unexpected turns and surprises. I like this life. I like surprises, learning new languages, meeting new people. In 2018 I got to move to Belgium. I had to say goodbye to everybody – my friends, my family, my home, my everything. I had to completely change my life. I got casted into deep water, and I had to figure out fast how to swim. That was the second time ever that I had to move from Poland because of my dad’s job. When I was little, we moved to the Netherlands for three years. I remember that it was a big deal. But what could we do? We just worked it out… Mostly my parents did All the memories from there are good memories for me. My brother was born there. And now I am here, in Belgium, and I live my life like I always did. My sister was born a year ago here, in Belgium. We live in a 2-floor house, we have a big backyard and a front yard. I go to Middle School and enjoy it. I made new friends, who are not as good as my friends back from Poland, but now I have more of them. Still, sometimes I feel that my real home is in Poland, that’s the place where I mostly grew up in and find our tiny apartment in Poland warm and cozy. My big and white inside house in Belgium feels sad. But like that the military base I am living in is in harmony with nature. Trees and bushes are all over the place, and we even have a little forest. I love the place I live in, the one in Poland and the one in Belgium. I am generally proud of being a soldier’s child. I love experiencing new things. I love the feeling of being back home, which I couldn’t experience if I lived in one country. I have a dream – I hope my river will flow just like it does now, and that there will be no droughts.

See more SHAPE American Middle School students’ stories on next page.

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Environmental Changes

What are changes? The actual meaning of change is to make or become different. There are many examples of changes. Changes in science, medicine, technology or even in life itself. A change in life can happen by something, move somewhere, do something different. I have experienced many environmental changes in my life even though I'm only 11 years old. How have I done that? My name is Sofia T. My school is Sacred Heart and I am a 6th grader. As a child, I have been moving from one place to another or from one house to another. I have moved three times. There are many reasons why I moved but the effective part is that I have moved a lot of things, I want to make myself familiar with new friends. I believe that life is better when you have just one child with just one friend with a different lifestyle. I have always been moving from one place to another which has given me both positive and negative experiences that are both acceptable to me because they have taught me a lot of things that help me and will help me in my life. I believe that military kids are like dandelions because they bloom everywhere they are planted.

- Sofia T

Life of a Military Kid

Hello, I am Javier. I am a military child. In my family, my father is in the Air Force and works for the military. He used to fly F-18 for many years. Now I live in Belgium. I came from Spain two and a half years ago and I am going back home this summer. Then, I would like to stay there for a year or two before returning to Belgium. As you can see, this is one of the good things about being a military child: traveling to new places. There are other things that I like. You have the possibility to learn more languages, especially if you have the option to attend a school with classes in the native language. Besides, you learn many things about other cultures (traditions, food, religion), and you get to know many people, not only from that specific country but from different nations, in the case of studying in an international school.

So, I think that being a military child is awesome.

- Javier D

Good memories

Hello, my name is Maria. I am a military child from Romania. Being a military child has its ups and downs. I have moved 5 times already. It can be really hard but at some point, you get used to it, especially if you do it since you were a baby just like me. The first time I had to leave my home country was when I was 9 months old. I moved to Spain and learned Spanish. Sadly, I was so small and I wasn’t practicing it anymore when I moved back to Romania, so I forgot a lot of it. I loved Spain a lot. It was an amazing experience. I lived there for 3 years. After a few years, I moved again. This time, I moved to Belgium, I still like here and it’s supposed to be my last year so far. I’ve been here for 4 years.

Being a military child you get many amazing opportunities. You get to meet new people from so many different countries. I have friends from Greece, Italy, and so many more countries. It’s really cool to be a military child! Before I came here I hated going to English lessons and I barely knew any. Now I speak fluent English and a tiny bit of French. I get to visit so many countries and I’ve been up on so many different countries! I have so many good memories that I will treasure forever.

- Maria L

Really proud

Being a military child is no walk in the park, but it has its advantages. You get to travel and go to cool camps. Don’t forget to mention that you get discounts at stores and restaurants. One bad thing is that your parents have to get deployed for one or more years. Having your parents deployed is terrible. You miss them a lot, but the worst part is watching them drive away on a huge army with other soldiers waving at their families. It is nice to know that I am not the only one that knows what it feels like. On my birthday, when my parents were still in Afghanistan, a lady whose husband was also deploying made me a professional cake for my birthday. I got to go to lots of fun camps while being at the military base. It was super fun. I got to travel a ton because I live in Belgium. I am super proud of my father and I am really proud to be a military child. I am happy that my father is in the military.

- Eliza H

Proud of it!

Do you have any idea how it is to be a military child? I do and I’m proud of it! My dad works in the military which makes me a military child. There are always challenges in life including military kids.

There are a few negative things about being a military child. One of them is that you have to leave your friends behind. It’s also hard to have to say goodbye to all your friends for a while, and when you come back you understand that they are not the same person anymore. Their character might have changed which results in you two being not close friends anymore. Also you have adapted into new environments. Have to make new friends and meet new people, maybe even learn a new language!

There are also a few positive things about being a military child, but they overcome the negatives. One of the positive things is that you get to see the world. Every country has something interesting in it. It can be history, monuments or traditions, and you get to learn and see it! Another positive thing is that you get to meet new and interesting people. They might be from another country and become your good friends. Meeting people from other countries makes you understand that no matter the nation, human beings are all the same.

- Emir I

Different cultures

My name is Max and I am a military child, being a military child with high ranking parents is hard. Most of the time my dad got back home at 12 am. My mom had to give briefings and debriefings until late in the evening. Most of the time I spent hours past closing at a youth center. Often it’s hard to even want to make friends because you know it’s likely you will never see them again in 2-3 years. But being a military child has its positives. You get to visit different countries and meet many people. I have lived across two oceans and all across the beautiful United States of America.

- Max H

It’s cool

My name is Robin and I was born in Germany. I have moved a lot since I was a baby. My mom went to training courses a lot when I was small. Sometimes they would only be a couple of weeks but sometimes they lasted up to 6 months, they were all over Germany. So I would go somewhere with my mom and go to a kindergarten there and after a couple of weeks we left again. It would sometimes be easy to go because I didn’t find good friends in a couple of weeks, but sometimes it would be hard to go because I found so many new friends. After a while of doing this I got used to it and I tried to not find friends anymore because it would be too hard to go. When I was seven (in 2015) we went back home so I could go to first grade there. After first grade we moved to Belgium where I still am in 2020. That was the hardest move so far because in that one year in first grade I had found so many new friends, I still text with some of them. That was the first time I lived outside of Germany. It was very different to live in Belgium. So after we moved here I went to an international elementary school. In that school people spoke English it was a totally new language to me back then. It took me a while to get used to it. But after a while I was used to speaking English all day. After a while I even found some friends. So I am still here but next year we will move again which will be very hard for me because I am going to 4th grade. I am just about to go to 4th grade. Before I came here I hated going to English lessons and I barely knew any. Now I speak fluent English and still enjoy to visit different countries. I have so many good memories that I will treasure forever.

- Robin Noh

Crazy Life

Being a military child is kind of crazy because you move a lot, see a lot of different places and meet new people. Sometimes it’s fun sometimes is scary but at the end it’s fun. I have been a military child for 4 years now. I have met my best friends and enemies over the years. Once when I first moved to Maryland that next week, I had to go to school, but I looked the pink eye, so I had to stay at home for the rest of the week. I was like yay! I don’t have to go to school yet. Then I realized my whole classroom everybody went silent. I was so scared because I was only in 3rd grade and I thought nobody would like me. But on the first day I had a lot of friends. It’s cool to be a military child because you get to see new places and meet people. Also, you have a lot of cool stories to tell when you meet your new friends. The bad part of being a military child is to leave your old friends behind and start over at a new place. And have a new house and no Internet on the first day. Traveling to new places is fun because if you have never been to that place before it will be fun to go. Sometimes it’s kind of orange to be a military kid. But you get to go on a lot of fun and orage adventures. I’m just looking forward to going to new places and I hope you too are too. Have a good day. I hope you like my story.

- Kylah D

Advantages/Disadvantages

Friday, March 15th was the last day before our school began doing online classes instead of going to school. We don’t get to see our friends that we used to see at school. We’re able to chat on google hangouts, but it’s not the same as actually hanging out. I’m ready to go back to school, which is something because I wasn’t really a fan of school before the quarantine happened. Living as a military child, your parents sometimes get deployed so as well. I’ve been really good at dealing with that. One thing that I have learned to deal with is to be patient. I have to be patient with other people because I’m always going to have to move. I have to be patient with other people because I’m always going to have to move. I have to be patient with other people because I’m always going to have to move.

Dear Non-Military children

Being a military child may seem hard but that’s not always the case. Sure, you lack of friends, but military kids are also the best. They are the best because of their ability to make new friends, meet new people, and learn about different cultures. There are plenty of reasons why being a military child is better than being a non-military child. Military children get to experience different cultures firsthand, make new and lasting friendships.

Check out more military children stories at: militarychildstripes.com
Obama endorses former VP Biden

BY JANET HOOK
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Former President Barack Obama on Tuesday formally endorsed Joe Biden for president, a big step in helping to unite their party and marking his own entry into the fight against President Donald Trump.

Evoking the nation’s current health and economic crisis, Obama said in a video release, "Joe has the character and the experience to guide us through one of our darkest times, and heal us through a long recovery.”

There had been little doubt that Obama would back his former vice president once Biden had a lock on the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination, but Obama—one of the most popular Democrats in the country — had steadfastly withheld any endorsement during the long primary contest that featured numerous contenders.

"Choosing Joe to be my vice president was one of the best decisions I ever made, and he became a close friend," Obama said, speaking straight to the camera in the 12-minute video. "And I believe Joe has all the qualities we need in a president right now.

Obama’s endorsement came one day after Biden secured the formal backing of his last remaining rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont. Another former competitor, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, is expected to soon endorse Biden as well; the timing of the announcement is being largely determined by the Biden campaign, according to a source familiar with the planning. The high-level endorser is one part of an orchestrated effort to unify the Democratic Party for the general-election push to defeat Trump, and to avoid the kind of lingering post-primary divisions that hampered the 2016 nominee, Hillary Clinton.

Obama did not endorse anyone during the primary season because, sources close to him said, he believed his most important role would be as the uniter after a competition that pitted the party establishment that Biden represented and the liberal wing that Sanders leads. As Biden’s hold on the nomination became clear in past weeks, Obama had several conversations with Sanders in advance of the senator’s withdrawal from the race, according to a source familiar with the conversations.

In his endorsement video for Biden, Obama lavished praise on Sanders.

"Bernie’s an American original — a man who has devoted his life to giving voice to working people’s hopes, dreams and frustrations," Obama said. "He and I haven’t always agreed on everything. But we’ve always shared a conviction that we have to make America a fairer, more just, more equitable society.

Obama also defended Biden against criticism from the left that his agenda is not bold enough to fix what ails the nation. He noted Biden’s health plan to provide universal coverage, a 21st-century infrastructure program that leapfrogs a past administration, and measures to tackle climate change.

"Joe already has what is the most progressive platform of any major party nominee in history," Obama said.

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — The Northern California victims of catastrophic wildfires caused by Pacific Gas & Electric’s decaying electrical grid will have at least $19 million siphoned way from a $13.5 billion fund for their losses to cover administrative costs.

A bankruptcy judge said he would approve drawing from the victims’ fund as part of a plan reviewed Tuesday during a court hearing. The decision came after PG&E and a committee representing the victims struck an accord on a $21.8 million budget for administering the $13.5 billion fund for the thousands of people who lost loved ones, homes and businesses during a series of deadly wildfires in 2017 and 2018.

PG&E will pay an additional $2.5 million to cover the fund’s administrative fees, but the rest of the money will come from the fund earmarked for the fire victims under the plan that won U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali’s blessing.

Even more money could be diverted from the fire victims’ fund to cover its administrative costs if PG&E’s plan for getting out of bankruptcy gains court approval by June 30, but misses its Aug. 29 target date for becoming effective.

The economic upheaval triggered by the coronavirus pandemic has increased the chances that it may take longer for PG&E to raise the tens of billions of dollars that will be needed to finance its proposed bankruptcy plan than the company envisioned earlier this year.

The uncertainty prompted the company to draw up a contingency plan that calls for the plan becoming effective Dec. 30, which would result in the fire victims having to wait until next year before the $13.5 billion fund starts to pay their claims.

If the plan isn’t effective until Dec. 30, another $21.2 million could be drained from the fire victims’ pool of money.

Taking any money away from the fire victims’ fund as been a hot-button issue since PG&E agreed to the settlement in December. At one point, two government disaster-relief agencies had been seeking to take a $4 billion claim on the victims’ fund, but finally backed off.

Last month, PG&E agreed to a $4 million fine as part of a plea agreement to $4 counts of involuntary manslaughter in a deadly wildfire in 2018 and initially said its bankruptcy financing plan required it to pay for its crimes from the victims’ fund. Stung by an indignant backlash, PG&E negotiated for a group of insurers to pay the fine from their gains earned from a $1 billion settlement that the utility is paying them as part of the bankruptcy plan.

Even if the $13.5 billion remained totally intact, many fire victims are worried there still won’t be enough to fully compensate the more than 82,000 people filing claims for their property losses and emotional trauma. Those concerns have been elevated by the $6.75 billion in stock that will represent half of the fund. Like the rest of the stock market, PG&E stock has sunk during the past two months, prompting one financial expert to estimate the stock earmarked for the victims’ fund may now only be worth $4.85 billion.

Montali expressed reservations about the company’s court-writing allowing such a large amount of the victims’ money to be paid for the fund’s oversight and administration. But he set them aside after being assured by lawyers that the people overseeing the work only be paid for as long as they are needed.

Alabama police detective is charged with murder after ‘love triangle gone wrong’

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — An Alabama police detective fatally shot a woman as part of a “love triangle” dispute with a colleague, authorities said.

Birmingham police Detective Alfreda Fluker, 39, was charged Tuesday with capital murder in the Friday killing of Kanisha Nicole Fuller, news outlets reported. Fluker was also charged with the attempted murder of Detective Mario Theodore White, her coworker on the Birmingham Police Department’s Crime Reduction Team.

Officers responding to a reported shooting at a Birmingham park found Fuller, 43, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. She was hospitalized and later pronounced dead.

Fuller was found inside an unmarked Birmingham police vehicle that was assigned to White. Birmingham Police Chief Patrick Smith said White was there too, but he wasn’t wounded. There is no indication White called 911 following the shooting, authorities said.

Investigators determined Fluker was the shooter and she was arrested Saturday morning. It’s unclear whether Fluker had an attorney who could comment on her behalf.

Fluker has been with the department for about 15 years. White has been a detective since 2008.

Smith said he didn’t know the exact relationship between White, Fluker and Fuller but said both women at one point were in a relationship with White.

“It’s something that’s been going on for a little while,” he said, “but without our knowledge.”
Police probe robbery by men wearing face covers

DE WILMINGTON — Delaware State Police are investigating an armed robbery by two men wearing face covers. Authorities said the suspects entered a Dollar General store in Wilmington. Both were wearing face covers, and one was armed with a gun.

Masks and face covers have become a common sight in stores and on streets amid the coronavirus epidemic.

Police said the suspects corralled employees and customers together inside Dollar General before ordering an employee to open the safe and cash registers. They also demanded that all the individuals turn over their money.

Cremation bag among beach trash finds

NJ SANDY HOOK — Items plucked from New Jersey’s beaches during spring and fall cleanups each year help illustrate trends going on in the state and the nation.

Empty cartridges used with electronic cigarettes, known as “vaping pods,” are showing up in increasing numbers as vaping continues to grow, particularly among young people.

Some of the items found on the beaches included a full jar of pickles and an empty bag that had held cremated human remains.

And a $6,000 diamond engagement ring, found on the sand in Asbury Park in October 2019. It was returned to its owner after some amateur sleuthing.

State given ownership of last US slave ship

AL BIRMINGHAM — The last slave ship known to have landed in the United States more than 150 years ago has a new owner: the state of Alabama.

A federal judge granted ownership of the Clotilda shipwreck to the Alabama Historical Commission in a one-page order.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Kristi DuBose means the state will have final say over remains of the ship.

The Clotilda, a two-masted Gulf schooner, sailed to West Africa on an illegal trip financed by a wealthy white businessman as a nation divided over slavery was building toward Civil War. It delivered about 110 kidnapped Africans to Mobile before it was burned in a bayou in 1860 to hide evidence of the crime.

A few pieces of the ship were removed from the river and will be part of an exhibition planned to open later this year in Mobile.

Driver rescued from truck dangling over river

VA CHESAPEAKE — Firefighters rescued a truck driver whose tractor-trailer was nearly blown off a bridge in Virginia, leaving his cab dangling 70 feet over a river.

A large wind gust caused the driver, Wayne B. Boone, to lose control. Virginia State Police Sgt. Michelle Anaya told news outlets.

He had to be pulled from his cab, which was dangling off the side of Interstate 64’s High Rise bridge over the Elizabeth River, the Chesapeake Fire Department said in a Twitter post.

It said firefighters used a series of complex rope maneuvers to reach the driver and pull him to safety.

Make like Rocky

A woman gestures to a child wearing a protective face mask to pose for a photograph with the Rocky statue outfitted with a mock surgical face mask at the Philadelphia Art Museum in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

State launches drive for use of lead-free sinkers

MN ST. PAUL — Minnesota officials are launching a campaign to encourage anglers to stop using lead sinkers because they most likely cause the fatal poisoning of swans.

 Officials want to persuade anglers to switch to non-lead tackle and sinkers to protect swans, loons and other birds that mistake sinkers for small stones usually consumed to help digestion, the Star Tribune reported.

The University of Minnesota conducted necropsies that determined lead poisoning was the cause of death for several birds.

Woman charged in ID theft over 2 years

MS OCEAN SPRINGS — Police said a Mississippi woman faces charges for illegally buying $140,000 in goods and services using the personal information of a 77-year-old woman she assisted with bills and shopping.

Tammie Scott, of Vancleave, had access to the victim’s bank accounts and credit cards and used the victim’s personal information to open additional accounts and lines of credit, spending thousands over two years, Ocean Springs Police Capt. Ryan LeMoine told WLOX-TV.

Scott was charged with exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

New island replaces old one off coast

NC NAGS HEAD — Two years after a newly formed North Carolina island was lost to storm surge, a new one appears to be rising in its place on the Outer Banks, park officials said.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore said the nearly 100-foot high ship, named Ocean Pursuit, was grounded at Cape Hatteras National Seashore March 1. “We have received multiple reports that groups of people are boarding the vessel,” Cape Hatteras spokesman Mark Barber told McCleary News. “Visitors must not board the shipwreck due to safety concerns.”

The length in feet of a fishing vessel that ran aground on North Carolina’s Outer Banks and has become a tourist attraction. The Charlotte Observer reported that the ship, named Ocean Pursuit, was grounded at Cape Hatteras National Seashore March 1. “We have received multiple reports that groups of people are boarding the vessel,” Cape Hatteras spokesman Mark Barber told McCleary News. “Visitors must not board the shipwreck due to safety concerns.”

Fishery charged with wasting game fish

OH COLUMBUS — An Ohio fishery was charged with wildlife violations after investigators observed abuse and waste of game fish, officials said.

Investigators from the state Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife recorded employees from Szuch Fishery Inc. intentionally injuring a rare trophy-size fish after it was removed from a commercial fishing net in western Lake Erie, the Dayton Daily News reported Sunday.

Employees were also seen removing several fish from commercial nets, breaking their spines and throwing them back in the lake, according to the department.

The fishery will appear in court on charges of causing intentional injury to a noncommercial fish species, 10 counts of stream littering and 10 counts of disposing of dead fish.

From wire reports
Trebek to publish a memoir while fighting pancreatic cancer

By Dorany Pineda

Los Angeles Times

Alex Trebek will soon share his life story with the world.

Simon & Schuster announced on Tuesday that the publisher will release "The Answer Is: Reflections on My Life," a memoir by the beloved and longtime "Jeopardy!" host that will hit shelves July 21 — one day before his 90th birthday.

"I want people to know a little more about the person they have been cheering on for the past year," writes Trebek in the book.

The host had resisted writing a memoir for decades, but the outpouring of support he's received from fans since his Stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis in 2019 inspired him to write one.

The book weaves personal anecdotes with ruminations on education, parenthood, marriage, money, and music, according to a news release from the publisher.

The memoir's chapters are titled in the form of questions, a structure inspired by the long-running TV show. The book will also feature dozens of never-before-seen photos of Trebek.

Trebek is in his 36th season as "Jeopardy!" host, which has earned him seven Daytime Emmy Awards — including a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Despite his ongoing fight with cancer, Trebek is still hosting the TV game show.

Options dwindle for 2020 Cannes

The Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday abandoned plans for a postponed 2020 edition in June or July but declined to give up entirely, saying it will explore other options.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday extended France's national lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic until mid-July. That essentially dashed the hopes of Cannes organizers who last month said they would aim to move the annual May event a month or two.

"It is clearly difficult to assume that the Festival de Cannes could be held this year in its original form," according to a statement from festival planners.

"Since yesterday evening we have started discussing all possible options, profes-

sionals, in France and abroad," said the statement. "They agree that the Festival de Cannes, an essential pillar for the film industry, must explore all contingencies allowing to support the year of Cinema by making Cannes 2020 real, in a way or another."

What that might entail was unclear.

Several other film festivals, including SXSW and the Tribeca Film Festival, have introduced plans for virtual editions.

Such a path would be seemingly inconceivable for Cannes. The French festival not only plays a larger role in the launch of films from around the world, but Cannes has long been a staunch guardian of cinema history and the theatrical experience. It has famously ruled out Netflix films from competing for its top prize, the Palme d'Or.

"When the health crisis, whose resolution remains the priority of all, passes, we will have to reiterate and prove the importance of the cinema and the role that its work, artists, professionals, film theaters and their audiences play in our lives," said the statement.

Essence Fest shifts sights toward 2021 for new dates

Amid the spread of the coronavirus, the organizers of Essence Festival said Wednesday they would move their festival to next year after the New Orleans mayor suggested that major spring and summer festivals that had been postponed to later this year should not be held at all in 2020.

The mayor said it would honor all tickets that had already been sold for the 2020 festival if people wanted to use them in 2021 or could people could use a refund. They did not specifically say when the festival would be held in 2021. The festival is generally held over the July 4th weekend every year and is a major draw during what is usually a slow summer period.

Other news

□ NBCUniversal says its video-streaming service Peacock will launch nationally in July as planned, even though a handful of its original series. The service was meant to have a mix of originals, classic shows and movies, and current NBC programs airing the same day as the late-night shows and "Law & Order: SVU."

□ British performer Tim Brooke-Taylor, a member of comedy trio The Goodies, died April 11 after contracting the new coronavirus. He was 79.

Brooke-Taylor was part of Cambridge University’s Footlights revue, the breeding ground of several generations of British comic talent.

Trebek to publish a memoir while fighting pancreatic cancer

By Dorany Pineda

Los Angeles Times

Alex Trebek will soon share his life story with the world.

Simon & Schuster announced on Tuesday that the publisher will release "The Answer Is: Reflections on My Life," a memoir by the beloved and longtime "Jeopardy!" host that will hit shelves July 21 — one day before his 90th birthday.

"I want people to know a little more about the person they have been cheering on for the past year," writes Trebek in the book.

The host had resisted writing a memoir for decades, but the outpouring of support he's received from fans since his Stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis in 2019 inspired him to write one.

The book weaves personal anecdotes with ruminations on education, parenthood, marriage, money, and music, according to a news release from the publisher.

The memoir's chapters are titled in the form of questions, a structure inspired by the long-running TV show. The book will also feature dozens of never-before-seen photos of Trebek.

Trebek is in his 36th season as "Jeopardy!" host, which has earned him seven Daytime Emmy Awards — including a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Despite his ongoing fight with cancer, Trebek is still hosting the TV game show.

Options dwindle for 2020 Cannes

The Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday abandoned plans for a postponed 2020 edition in June or July but declined to give up entirely, saying it will explore other options.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday extended France's national lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic until mid-July. That essentially dashed the hopes of Cannes organizers who last month said they would aim to move the annual May event a month or two.

"It is clearly difficult to assume that the Festival de Cannes could be held this year in its original form," according to a statement from festival planners.

"Since yesterday evening we have started discussing all possible options, professionals, in France and abroad," said the statement. "They agree that the Festival de Cannes, an essential pillar for the film industry, must explore all contingencies allowing to support the year of Cinema by making Cannes 2020 real, in a way or another."

What that might entail was unclear.

Several other film festivals, including SXSW and the Tribeca Film Festival, have introduced plans for virtual editions.

Such a path would be seemingly inconceivable for Cannes. The French festival not only plays a larger role in the launch of films from around the world, but Cannes has long been a staunch guardian of cinema history and the theatrical experience. It has famously ruled out Netflix films from competing for its top prize, the Palme d'Or.

"When the health crisis, whose resolution remains the priority of all, passes, we will have to reiterate and prove the importance of the cinema and the role that its work, artists, professionals, film theaters and their audiences play in our lives," said the statement.

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FACES
Cardinal links corruption to child abuse charges

**By Rod McGuirk**
Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia** — Cardinal George Pell has linked his fight against corruption in the Vatican with his prosecution in Australia for alleged child sex abuse.

Pell was regarded as the third highest-ranking Vatican official in 2018 when he became the world’s most senior Catholic to be convicted of child sex abuse. He served 13 months in prison before Australia’s highest court cleared him of child sex crimes.

Rome didn’t believe the stories,” Pell said.

Pell said that neither Francis nor Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin were corrup, that he said they were” linked to the prose- thetical to financial reforms believe scepted that a man who swore he had been abused by Pell as a 13-year-old choirboy more than two decades ago had been “used.”

Pell said that Francis had “ab- solutely” supported him, even though “My theological views … don’t line up exactly with Pope Francis.”

I think he values my honesty and perhaps that I would say things that some other people mightn’t say, and I think he re- spected me for that,” Pell added.

Pell said that neither Francis nor Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin were corrupt, but that he did not know how high Vatican corruption rose.

“Just how high up it goes is an interesting hypothesis,” he said.

Pell said that he’ll return to Rome after the coronavirus pan- demic to pack up his apartment, but that he plans to make his home in Sydney, where he had been archbishop.

Victoria police refused to comment on newspaper reports Tuesday that they have begun investigating another child abuse allegation against Pell dating back to the 1970s.

Pell said he was “ashamed” of his church over its child abuse crisis.

“There are two levels. One is the crimes themselves and then the treating it so inadequately for so long,” Pell said.

He warned in child abuse cases that “guilt by accusation” was “not a sign of a civilization.”

“The pendulum 30 or 40 years ago was massively against anybody who said that they’d been at- tacked,” Pell said.

“Nowadays, we don’t want it to swing back so that every accusation is regarded as gospel truth. That would be quite unjust and inappropriate.”

Pell’s accuser in his trial, a man in his 30s whose identity is concealed by law, said in a state- ment last week that he hoped Pell’s acquittal would not deter child abuse victims from report- ing to police.

“I would like to reassure child abuse survivors that most people recognize the truth when they hear it,” said the man, described in court as Witness J. “They know the truth when they look it in the face. I am content with that.”

Australian courts rule search warrant on journalist to be invalid

**By Rod McGuirk**
Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia** — Australian Highest Court ruled Wednesday that a search warrant to be destroyed, meaning that police could still use it as evidence against her.

The raid followed an article written by Smethurst and pub- lished in April 2018 that was based on classified government documents. The article reported that the Defense Department and Home Affairs Department bosses had canvassed giving a security agency new legal powers to spy.

A day after the Canberra raid, police executed warrants on the Sydney headquarters of Australia- lian Broadcasting Corp. in search of unrelated leaked government documents.

ABC journalists Dan Oakes and Sam Clark — who reported in 2017 that Australian troops had killed unarmed men and children in Afghanistan in a po- tential war crime — as well as Smethurst could be charged over their reporting.

Australia’s Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw said that the evidence taken from Smethurst had been “quaran- tined” from the investigation for the moment.

“So what we’ll do carefully and correctly is take legal advice on the Department of Defence,” Kershaw told reporters. “Investigators are not able to look at that.”

News Corp. Australia Executive Chairman Michael Miller called on the government to change the law so that media organizations can contest such warrants in court before they are executed.

“The High Court ruling sends an indisputable message that the Federal Police must obey the law and that their raid on Annika Smethurst’s home was illegal,” Miller said in a statement. “Annika Smethurst should not be pros- ecuted for simply doing her job as a journalist to rightly inform Australians on serious matters of public interest.”

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Email: enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk
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W

OMBUDSMAN
Ernie Gates

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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 Heap
5 Physiques
9 USMC rank
12 Persia, today
13 Sitarist
Shankar
14 Reaction to a light show
15 Vacation mailings
17 — Lanka
18 Main dish
19 Ancient Mexican
21 Pacino of “The
Irishman”
22 Dutch bloom
24 Reindeer herder
27 Fortify
28 Prying
31 Fuss
32 Illustrations
33 Born
34 Stinger
36 Judge Lance
37 Bump into
38 Squads
40 That guy
41 Reading lights
43 Like an atrium
47 Lyricist Gershwin
48 Quickly
51 Blemish
52 Actress Falco
53 Blanchett of
“Elizabeth”
54 Caribou kin
55 Tide type
56 Thames town

DOWN
1 Prop for Sherlock
2 Pressing need
3 Endure
4 Catch
5 Scottish slope
6 Soul need
7 Movie format
8 Twine fiber
9 Put off
10 Goller’s cry
11 Swank
12 Carlson
frame
20 California
wine, for short
22 Small fruit pies
23 Golden rule
preposition
24 Attorney’s
field
25 Nabokov novel
26 Stamp on a letter
27 Hurt severely
29 Observe
30 However
35 Zing
37 Threat
38 Colorado
ski resort
40 “Say what?”
41 Gilnet
42 Asia’s — Sea
43 Dance move
44 Aspiring
attie’s exam
45 “Suffice —
say…”
46 Adolescent
49 Poem of
praise
50 “Chandelier”
singer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACCT TRASP AM
GLUE OIL WOVE
HOT SAUCE ATIT
AYES IRRAHRAH
ARI CHICH
OWN ESC SLACK
ROOT TUE ISEE
GOTHESELF TEN
QUADE RA
BOUNCE COFFEE
IBID GOTGOING
ROTE AVE ONTO
DEER SAD TKOS

CRYPTOQUIP

Y H N N - Z K G Y K A B H K X D V B I U O I
Y D G T V U K I H L V T N H I D G B V G A
A N F A A Q O Z Q A G B C V I U G K O:
X N G F L C G K H I.
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF A SNAKE IS SUFFERING FROM ALLERGY SYMPTOMS, I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT TAKE AN ANTI-HISS-TAMINE.
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L
Majestic League Soccer says the chances of returning to action in mid-May now look extremely unlikely and that achieving its goal of getting in a full 34-game regular season is also becoming increasingly difficult.

“Looking back, we obviously hoped to return around the second full week of May following what would have been an eight-week absence from game action. The league currently has a training moratorium for players through April 24 with the expectation that it will be extended. “Although we hoped to return to play in mid-May, it is extremely unlikely based on the guidance of federal and local public health officials that we will be able to resume play Tuesday. “Our goal remains to play as many games as possible, and while we currently have enough dates to play through mid-June, we recognize at this time that it may become difficult to do so. It looks like it’s not going to be May 21, ESPN, MLS Commissioner Don Garber said there likely will be games without fans when play does resume and that multiple formats are being examined.

Los Angeles FC coach Bob Bradley has the unique perspective of having watched his team in a 2021 World Cup qualifier against Mozambique that was held in an empty stadium.

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He said if MLS games begin without fans in the stands, there will need to be a way to try to connect with supporters.

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

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USADA tries out do-it-yourself drug testing for some

15 U.S. athletes are in agency’s pilot program

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

DENVER — The typical day for Noah Lyles now looks something like this:

Drive to park. Unload weights from truck. Sprint on grassy field. Lift. And, now and then, head home and take a doping test.

The world champion sprinter is one of 15 American athletes who have volunteered to conduct in-home drug tests as part of a pilot program being run by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. With anti-doping collections severely curtailed across the globe because of the coronavirus pandemic, USADA is looking at new options, in this case by asking a group of leading Americans to give urine and small dried blood samples at home.

“They asked me to do it, and I wasn’t opposed to doing it,” Lyles said. “It’s a way to get my drug test in.”

Athletes are still required to fill out their whereabouts forms, and under this program, a doping control officer will connect with an athlete via Zoom or FaceTime during a prescribed window.

Athletes receive test kits at home and head into their bathroom to give urine samples while leaving their laptops outside the room. Under normal circumstances, the officer would come to the house (or wherever the athlete was at the time) and stand outside the bathroom. In this case, the officer looks on via the camera while the athletes are timed and their temperatures are monitored to ensure they are giving the samples in real time.

The blood test uses a new technology: dry blood sampling — in which athletes prick their arms and small droplets of blood funnel into a container. Athletes are responsible for packaging the samples and sending them back to testing labs.

USADA CEO Travis Tygart says the program gives clean athletes a chance to prove they have remained clean during a time in which anti-doping regulators are having a difficult time reaching the numbers of athletes they normally would. It’s an issue that will make the return to play — the Olympics are rescheduled for 2021 but other events are expected to come back sooner — that much more difficult to navigate.

“It was going to unnecessarily create a question when those athletes went to Tokyo and won, where people would say, ‘You won but you weren’t tested,’ during the pandemic,” Tygart said. “How unfair is it for athletes who will be in those circumstances?”

Others taking part in the USADA program include Allyson Felix, Katie Ledecky, Emma Coburn and Sydney McLaughlin.

USADA hasn’t been shy about publicizing these sort of test programs in the past. In 2018, it launched a pilot project that involved testing the efficacy of biological passports — which allows authorities to track athletes’ blood over time for abnormal changes — the likes of which are in common use today.

Tygart concedes the new system depends on athletes to do the right thing in an industry that has been rife with cheating.

“The people who play clean want to be true heroes and role models,” Tygart said. “We also know there are some bad folks out there who will attempt to exploit it... For the good of the athletes, anti-doping has to reinvent itself in times like these to stay relevant.”

Governor OK with Arizona hosting MLB

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey says his state is well-equipped to host all 30 major league teams at the time public health concerns allow, which eventually could lead to the start of the baseball season primarily in empty spring training ballparks.

MLB and the players’ association have had preliminary discussions of potential ways for the season to start if given the go-ahead by federal, state and local governments and health officials. Having all teams based in the Phoenix area is among the contingency plans being examined. There are 10 spring training parks plus the Diamondbacks’ Chase Field, which has a retractable roof, and several college facilities.

“Arizona, at the right time, is very open minded to hosting whatever Major League Baseball would like from the state,” Ducey, a Republican, said Tuesday. “At the time that it would be appropriate for public health, if Arizona were in a position to open, we have the facilities that are here.”

“We have the hotel space that is here,” he said. “We all want to make certain that the metrics and the data are proper before we’re able to go forward, but I think two words that would allow the country and the state of Arizona to know that things were headed back to normal would be: ‘Play ball!’

MLB also said Tuesday it is cutting the salary of senior staff by an average of 35% for this year and is guaranteeing paychecks to its full-time employees for its central office through May.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement Tuesday in a memorandum to staff, a copy of which was obtained by Associated Press. Manfred also said the commissioner’s office will make all planned distributions to teams through May.

“As part of our effort to protect the organization, my senior staff and I have decided to reduce our compensation by an average of 35% for 2020 to help the organization weather this terrible storm,” Manfred wrote. “As a result of these developments, I am pleased to be in a position to ensure that all employees that received regular pay checks in April will continue to be paid through May 31,” he wrote. “I am deeply grateful to the owners for supporting my decision to continue to support all of our employees in an environment where the owners and the clubs are facing their own very difficult financial issues.”

MLB’s season was to have started March 26, and teams agreed to advance $170 million to players in salary for the first 60 days of the season. As part of the deal, players agreed to give up claims to the remainder of their roughly $4 billion in salary if no games are played.

MLB and the union have had only a preliminary discussion of potential ways for the season to start if given the go-ahead by federal, state and local governments and health officials. Having all teams based in the Phoenix area is among the contingency plans being examined.

“As you would expect, we are considering and analyzing a number of possibilities,” Manfred wrote. “Only one decision, however, has been made with respect to the 2020 season: Major League Baseball will return to the field only when public health officials agree that it is appropriate to play and when we are convinced that our return to the field is safe for players, employees and fans. Moreover, we will never, in an effort to begin play, divert resources that are more appropriately devoted to public health initiatives and health care.”
The Masters is so intertwined with Augusta, they added an extra day to spring break.

You see, the first full week of April isn’t just a blip in time for this place. It’s the identity, their way of life, their cart path to success. A restaurant or bar can take a huge step toward profitability off the business it generates in a single week. An ahead-of-its-time industry sprung out of the locals renting their homes to strangers to accommodate the influx of fans, sponsors and media. From ticket brokers to impromptu parking-lot attendants, it seems everyone in the east Georgia city of 200,000 has figured out a way to make a buck off the first major golf championship of the year. But the Masters is more than just commerce. Relationships are made out on the course, over a pimento cheese sandwich perhaps. Or afterward, over a late-night bourbon and cigar. Then, the whole cycle repeats itself, year after year, decade after decade.

In some ways, it has the feel of a family reunion.

“We obviously do a lot of business that week,” said Mark Cummins, who 35 years ago co-founded one of the city’s most famous restaurants, TBoz Steakhouse, right down the road from Augusta National Golf Club. “But it’s not just the money. People have been coming for a long time. We like ‘em. Even though it’s a busy, busy week, it’s a good time. That’s what makes the Masters special.”

Of course, this tradition unlike any other is on hold at the moment. The coronavirus pandemic has killed thousands, forced nearly everyone to hunker down in their homes, and shut down sporting events around the world.

For the first time since a three-year hiatus during World War II, the Masters wasn’t held in its usual slot on the calendar, forcing an as of an unofficial kickoff to spring.

The tournament is now set for November, when all those booming drives and tricky putts will be accompanied by the changing leaves of fall rather than azaleas blazing forth in all their colorful glory, the hope of spring replaced by the gloom of an approaching winter.

Everyone wonders what an autumn Masters will look like, what the world will look like in seven months. “We don’t what the know rules will be,” Cummins said. “Are people even going to want to go out to crowded places?”

Until now, Masters week always coincided with spring break for Augusta’s schools, largely to accommodate another tradition that predates the Airbnb era. Many locals clear out of their homes for the week, heading off on vacation and freeing up space for all those visitors who couldn’t possibly be handled by the city’s limited hotel space.

Even that comes with an extra Augusta touch.

Since the tournament doesn’t end until early Sunday evening, and most of those renters need to stay on until the next morning, the schools tacked on an extra day to the week-long break. The kids don’t have to resume classes until the Tuesday after the Masters.

“My friends, I would say probably 90% rent out their homes, and have been for years,” said Suzi Hall, whose two-story townhouse home is just a few miles from the course. “It’s a huge industry.”

For at least 15 years, Hall and her husband have rented their five-bedroom house to a contingent of AP reporters and editors covering the Masters. Their two daughters were little girls when that tradition began.

Now, one is married, the other just completed graduate school.

Washington Road is usually the epicenter for Masters week, a hodgepodge of sprawling strip malls, fast-food joints and, of course, John Daly, who sets up his camp in the Hooters parking lot to sign autographs, pose for pictures and sell all sorts of kitschy merchandise.

Last week, the parking lot was empty other than barriers adorned with hastily drawn signs, showing customers where they can pick up to-go orders.

The hoopla of the Masters stretches beyond Washington Road. A few miles away, the French Market Grille would normally be in the midst of doling out spicy Cajun cuisine to packed houses. Instead, owner Walter Clay has been making dinners for laid-off employees who need all the help they can get.

Athletes, coaches use lockdown to reconnect with family

Blake Wheeler and the Winnipeg Jets would have likely been in the playoffs last week, but for the coronavirus shutdown. Now the seven-time All-Star forward is home full-time, dinner each night with his family.

And for the activities, all afternoons. And the teaching, policing and entertaining every morning with his wife, Sam; 7-year-old son, Louie; 4-year-old daughter, Leni; and 2-year-old son, Mase.

“Mase, since he’s been born, he doesn’t want anything to do with me, really until a month ago,” Wheeler said. “Now that I’m here all the time, he’s starting to realize that I am his dad.”

The 82-game NHL schedule, with half of those on the road, means Wheeler is absent from trick-or-treating and Thanksgiving turkey more often than not. He is normally away from home more than one-third of every night in any given year. Thousands of athletes know that sting. For all the wealth, privilege and rewards elite sports can provide its participants, few vocations require more time away from loved ones. This is what they signed up for, but some parts of life can’t be priced out.

I appreciate the gift of time. I’m able to spend it with my family,” said Maryland women’s basketball coach Brenda Frese, whose fourth-ranked Terrapins might well have been in New Orleans earlier this month for the Final Four.

When the NCAA Tournament was canceled, Frese hunkered down with her husband, Mark, and their 12-year-old twin boys. She is a middle school tutor now, too.

For all parents, there is no denying homebound days have been draining.

“Three girls get up by about 8 on a good night, and then there’s a half hour of just numbness,” Wheeler said.

St. Louis defenseman Alex Pietrangelo and his wife, Jayne, have 20-month-old triplets. Like many of his peers, Pietrangelo has been reminded anew how much there is to handle while dad is at the rink.

“There’s not enough time in the day. I’m not even working right now, and I can’t even find enough time to do something for myself,” Pietrangelo said on a conference call as his kids were clamoring for more time outside.

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“My 2-year-old gets up at about 5 in the morning,” Minnesota Wild forward Zach Parise said. “He naps from like 1 to 3, and that’s our time to take a deep breath.”

Parise and his wife, Alisha, also have 6-year-old twins to look after. He recalled falling asleep watching television at 8:30 one night — a similar tale to that of his Central Division rival.

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When the NCAA Tournament was canceled, Frese hunkered down with her husband, Mark, and their 12-year-old twin boys. She is a middle school tutor now, too.

For all parents, there is no denying homebound days have been draining.

“My 2-year-old gets up at about 5 in the morning," Minnesota Wild forward Zach Parise said. “He naps from like 1 to 3, and that’s our time to take a deep breath.”

Parise and his wife, Alisha, also have 6-year-old twins to look after. He recalled falling asleep watching television at 8:30 one night — a similar tale to that of his Central Division rival.

“We get ‘em all down by about 8 on a good night, and then there’s a half hour of just numbness,” Wheeler said.
Improving her BRAND

Oregon's Ionescu looks ahead to WNBA career

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore.

With the spotlight on her growing ever brighter, Sabrina Ionescu is aware she's becoming her own brand.

One of the most decorated players in women's college basketball, Ionescu is about to go pro with the WNBA Draft coming up Friday. She's widely expected to be selected No. 1 by the New York Liberty.

She's also being courted by shoe companies for what could be an unprecedented endorsement deal. On top of it all, she's finishing her master's degree, fittingly in advertising and brand responsibility.

“I think it's going to be a learning process of just going into a bigger market with so many things going on,” Ionescu said on a video call with reporters Tuesday.

Ionescu, who won AP All-American honors three times, shattered the NCAA career triple-double mark (for both men and women) with 26 and became the first player in college history to have 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists.

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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.