Reinstatement among possible outcomes for fired captain

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR AND ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy’s top admiral will soon decide the fate of the ship captain who was fired after pleading for commanders to move faster to safeguard his coronavirus-infected crew on the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

In the glare of a public spotlight, Adm. Mike Gilday will decide whether Navy Capt. Brett Crozier stepped out of line when he went around his chain of command and sent an email pushing for action to stem the outbreak. As of Friday, 660 sailors on the aircraft carrier, now docked at Guam, had tested positive for the virus and seven were hospitalized. One sailor has died, and more than 4,000 of the ship’s 5,000 crew members have been moved onto the island for quarantine.

Gilday’s review won’t be limited to Crozier. It will also look at the command climate on the ship and higher up within the Pacific-based fleet, to determine if there are broader leadership problems in a region critical to America’s national security interests.

Gilday has many options as he reviews what was an extraordinarily rapid investigation by Adm. Robert Burke, the vice chief of naval operations. Burke and his staff finished the review in about a week, conducting interviews almost entirely online and by phone between Washington and Guam.

A look at some of Gilday’s options, and their benefits and
SEE FIRED ON PAGE 4

RELATED
France reports over 1,000 virus cases on aircraft carrier
Page 5

Go online to read all the latest news on the virus outbreak
stripes.com/coronavirus
Hope takes reins as stocks rally worldwide

Investors latched onto several strands of hope about progress in the fight against the coronavirus. They included the White House’s release of guidelines for states to reopen their economies and a very early but encouraging report on a possible treatment for COVID-19. Those events dovetailed with recent numbers that raised hopes for a leveling off of infections in some of the world’s hotspots.

The gains came even as data piles higher showing the severe economic and human toll of the outbreak.

The virus has killed more than 150,000 worldwide and forced the formerly high-flying Chinese economy to shrink a crunching 6.8% last quarter.

The S&P 500 rose 75.01 points to 2,874.56. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 704.81, or 6.8% last quarter. The Nasdaq Composite added 117.78, or 1.4%, to 8,650.14.

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USAF changing up Guam bomber rotation for less predictable plan

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

Just days after showing off a runway parade of fighter jets on Guam, the U.S. Navy has announced plans to monitor jet noise around the island.

The service said it is mixing the six-month rotations in place since 2004 in favor of a less predictable global deployment regimen.

On Thursday, five B-52H bombers flew back to their home station at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., according to Aircraft Spots, an online military aircraft tracker.

Over the past 15 years, bomber patrols from Guam over the East and South China Seas have served as a means of projecting U.S. airpower and resolve to North Korea, China and Russia.

“In line with the National Defense Strategy, the United States has transitioned to an approach that enables strategic bombers to operate forward in the Indo-Pacific region from a broader array of overseas locations, when required, and with greater operational resilience, while these bombers are permanently based in the United States,” Maj. Kate Atanasoff, a spokesperson for U.S. Strategic Command, said in a statement.

Strategic bombers will continue to operate in the Indo-Pacific, including Guam, “at the timing and tempo of our choosing,” she said.

The Air Force will maximize its opportunities to train with allies and partner nations to “bolster our collective ability to be operationally unpredictable,” Atanasoff said.

“We continuously reassess our overseas posture and adjust to meet the requirements of the Joint Force and combatant commanders as well as our treaty commitments,” she said.

The Air Force’s end of continuous bomber support from Guam was first reported by the Defense Department.

In response to a query by Stars and Stripes, Atanasoff said in an email that this “adjustment to our posture was long-planned and completely unrelated to the (coronavirus) pandemic.”

She did not have a specific list of alternate locations to which bombers would rotate but added that the Air Force has and will continue to operate globally in multiple areas.

The bomber missions will support the Pentagon’s strategy of “opportunistic and unpredictable” operations by using a mix of aircraft that include B-52, B-1 and B-2 bombers from bases throughout the U.S. as well.

On Monday, 14 aircraft paraded in an “elephant walk” formation along the runway at Andersen Air Force Base from the five Stratotankers that refuel B-52, B-1 and B-2 bombers, from bases throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

“Without this modern fighter force, today’s missions would not be possible,” Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett said in a statement.

“As we look to the future, our service continues to rethink the timing of the deployments out of concern for the health and safety of our service members,” she said.

The service controls to protect the workforce have been enhanced, it was determined that over the long term, the U.S. is positioned to take advantage of the disruption in narcotics supply chains caused by the virus as drug cartels scramble to source precursor chemicals and other inputs.

“We thrive in uncertainty and are going to try and capitalize on that,” said Faller.

He cited two “quick wins” since the start of the deployment — a 1.7 metric ton secateurs, the first of its kind, in the Pacific Ocean near Costa Rica last week and another 2.1-ton interdiction a few days ago.

He said growing instability in Venezuela is leading to an “upick” in piracy in the Caribbean, although he didn’t cite any statistics or evidence to back the assertion.

He said the recent sinking of a Venezuelan naval ship after it allegedly rammed an Antarctic-harried cruise ship without passengers near Curacao was indicative of the readiness of Maduro’s armed forces.

“It was a bad day for them,” he said. “Their lack of seamanship and lack of integrity is indicative of how it all played out.”

Navy plans to monitor jet noise in Wash.

Associated Press

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. — The U.S. Navy has announced plans to monitor jet noise around Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state and a base in California.

The Navy submitted the plan to Congress on March 19, outlining a general timeline and the terms for monitoring, including the use of 10 or more sound level monitors in the vicinity of usual flight paths, the Skagit Valley Herald reported.

The American National Standards Institute and the Acoustical Society of America assisted in crafting the plan.

The Navy will next submit a monitoring report including test results, comparisons of the results to previous noise modeling, and any potential changes to operations.

The projected timeline is expected to be delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The details of the meters, their placement, and specific site requirements are not yet known to the Navy,” Navy news desk officer Emily Wilkins said. Exact locations for the sound monitoring equipment and kind of equipment used will be coordinated with local officials and through a contractor agreement, she added.

“We want to make sure our noise monitoring effort is comprehensive and that the data collected meets our requirements and addresses local concerns,” said Lucian Nieneyer, acting assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment.

Residents in nearby neighborhoods, including Coupeville and Oak Harbor, have raised concerns about the effect noise from military aircraft will have on residents’ health and the surrounding environment.

The Navy has said the plan is intended “to ensure community concerns are addressed,” so no public meetings are scheduled to discuss its details.

US: Naval buildup in Caribbean not to oust Maduro

BY JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

MIAMI — The top U.S. military commander for Latin America said Friday that the Trump administration isn’t looking to use military force to remove Nicolas Maduro even as it expands counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean.

Adm. Craig Faller, head of U.S. Southern Command, said in an interview that the recent decision to double anti-narcotics assets in Latin America was months in the making and not directly tied to Maduro’s indictment in New York on charges of leading a narco-terrorism conspiracy that sent 250 metric tons of cocaine a year to the U.S.

Faller said economic and diplomatic pressure — not the use of military force — remains the U.S.’ preferred tools for removing Maduro from power.

“This is not a shift in U.S. government policy,” said Faller, who nonetheless celebrated that enhanced interdiction efforts would hurt Maduro’s finances and staying power. “It’s not an indication of some sort of new militarization in the Caribbean.”

The deployment announced this month is one of the largest U.S. military operations in the region since the 1989 invasion of Panama to remove Gen. Manuel Noriega from power and bring him to the U.S. to face drug charges. It involves assets like Navy warships, AWACS surveillance aircraft and on-ground special forces seldom seen before in the region.

Faller said the coronavirus did force some in the Pentagon to rethink the timing of the deployment out of concern for the safety of service members. While controls to protect the workforce have been enhanced, it was determined that over the long term, the U.S. is positioned to take advantage of the disruption in narcotics supply chains caused by the virus as drug cartels scramble to source precursor chemicals and other inputs.

“We thrive in uncertainty and are going to try and capitalize on that,” said Faller.

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$41M contract awarded for new hangar at Dover AFB

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — An approximately $41 million contract has been awarded for construction of a new aircraft maintenance hangar at Dover Air Force Base, according to Delaware’s congressional delegation.

The project will enable the base to perform maintenance in any weather on its C-5M Super Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper and Chris Coons and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester said in a statement Friday.

The contract was awarded to Archer Western Federal JV.

“For too long now, our world-class Dover Air Force Base has not had a hangar large enough to fully enclose its aircraft so maintenance can be performed in any day of the year, regardless of weather,” Carper said in the statement, which said the hangar will increase maintenance efficiency rates.
Navy, CDC to launch study on Roosevelt virus outbreak

BY ANDREW DYER
The San Diego Union-Tribune

The Navy is coordinating with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in an investigation into the novel coronavirus outbreak on board the San Diego-based aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, the Navy announced Friday.

The outbreak on the Roosevelt is the single largest in the military, with 600 members of its crew testing positive for the novel coronavirus, seven in the hospital and 4,000 sailors have been quarantined off the ship.

Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham said Friday that officials hope the study will help the Navy and the country better understand how the virus behaves.

“The results of this investigation will inform medical professionals to support better public health decisions for the ship,” Gillingham said in a call with reporters.

The investigation will be done by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Command in partnership with the CDC.

They will begin gathering data Monday and spend about a week surveying sailors. The Navy is asking for 1,000 volunteers from the Roosevelt’s crew to undergo additional saliva tests and antibody blood tests.

The Roosevelt left San Diego in January for a routine deployment.

This would avoid sending him back into the chain of command that likely felt betrayed by his memo. But it doesn’t provide the emotional lift of seeing a popular captain fired for the ship for which he risked his career.

■ Administrative actions: Gilday could fault Crozier for doing the right thing the wrong way. He could determine that Crozier was unfairly fired, but that he acted rashly and went outside his chain of command and therefore did not exhibit good leadership.

■ Fire one, fire all: Gilday could determine that firing Crozier was appropriate. Unless that’s overturned in an appeal process, that would end Crozier’s Navy career.

In most cases, senior officers simply retire after being relieved of command, but Gilday could also decide that the ship’s problems extended beyond Crozier. He could recommend that Baker be fired or punished for not being receptive to Crozier’s concerns.

■ Gilday may worry that putting Crozier back on a ship would put him back together with Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group of which the Roosevelt is the lead ship. Officials say they didn’t have a good relationship and that was among the problems that triggered Crozier’s memo.

■ Fire Gilday: If Crozier fired, Gilday could absolve him of the consequences for his crew if the Navy did not move them off the ship that was leaked to the media and widely publicized. COVID-19 testing of the Roosevelt’s crew is ongoing but has stalled at about 94% tested.

The skeleton crew left behind on board won’t be tested until they rotate off to spend 14 days in quarantine, Gillingham said. They have been keeping watch on the ship’s two nuclear reactors and disinfecting the ship. The Navy and CDC expect results from the study in about a month, Gillingham said.

Correction
A story in Saturday’s edition about this year’s Air Force Academy graduation should have said cadets would gather at The Terrazza pavilion, instead of in Falcon Stadium.

THE ROOSEVELT
Fired: A look at options

FRONT PAGE
pitfalls.

■ Reinstatement: Gilday could decide that Crozier acted in the best interests of his crew and was unfairly relieved of command. He could reinstate him as captain of the Roosevelt.

That could generate a lot of support.

In a widely viewed video, Roosevelt crew members applauded and chanted Crozier’s name as he walked off the ship after being fired. When Thomas Modly, the acting Navy secretary who fired Crozier, traveled off the ship and criticized him in a speech to the crew, he came under fire and had to resign.

President Donald Trump even suggested that while Crozier shouldn’t have sent the memo, he shouldn’t be destroyed for having a “bad day.”

But reinstating Crozier has its problems.

It would put him back on a ship with Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group of which the Roosevelt is the lead ship. Officials say they didn’t have a good relationship and that was among the problems that triggered Crozier’s memo.

Gilday may worry that putting them back together would exacerbate the ship’s toxic command climate.

■ Forgive and move on: Rather than return Crozier to the Roosevelt, Gilday could absolve him of wrongdoing and recommend he move on to another job. Crozier could retain his rank and standing and perhaps command another ship, leaving open the possibility that he could gain promotion and continue his Navy career.

But Gilday could also decide that the ship’s problems extended beyond Crozier. He could recommend that Baker be fired or punished for not being receptive to Crozier’s concerns.

Gilday’s review could also delve out criticism for leaders who may have taken too long to recognize the Roosevelt’s outbreak as the deadly problem it became. Those would include the 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. William R. Merz; the Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. John C. Aquilino; or the most senior admiral in the Pacific, Adm. Phil Davidson, head of Indo-Pacific Command.

William Fallon, a retired four-star admiral and former commander of U.S. Pacific Command, says Gilday’s decision is important to American interests in the Asia-Pacific region, where an aircraft carrier presence is central to U.S. strategy.

“He’s making an administrative decision back here, but it has profound implications,” Fallon said.

■ And then there’s the politics: The backdrop to Gilday’s decision is a fraught political environment in Washington that has taken a toll on the Navy.

Modly became acting secretary last November when his predecessor, Richard Spencer, was forced out in a clash with the White House over Trump’s intervention in the war crimes case of former Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher. And Gilday had abruptly become chief when Spencer pushed out the admiral who was in line for the job.

Gilday, known as an honest, straightforward, no-nonsense officer, is expected to make a decision based on the facts and his judgment of what is best for the ship’s crew and the Navy. But the decision expected early next week can’t be separated entirely from politics.

When Gilday reaches a decision, he will relay recommendations to acting Navy Secretary James McPherson. They will also go to Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

More importantly, the Navy will alert members of Congress and the White House.

Any of those could weigh in on the matter. Or, in Trump’s case, he could revert to a “bad day.”

Trump has expressed seemingly contradictory views on Crozier.

On April 4, he publicly blasted the captain, saying Crozier’s letter pleading for more urgent action was “terrible.” Trump also criticized Crozier for the ship’s port visit in Vietnam, where crew members may have picked up the coronavirus, even though the Navy says that decision was made by Davidson.

Two days later, Trump took a more empathetic tack, saying, “I’m not looking to destroy a person’s life, who’s had an otherwise stellar career, as I understand it.”

Trump said that as far as he could tell, Crozier had simply “had a bad day.”
**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**French navy starts probe into cause of ship outbreak**

PARIS — The French navy is investigating how the coronavi- rus infected more than 1,000 sailors aboard the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, amid growing pressure on government leaders to explain how it could have happened.

The ship, France’s biggest carrier and the flagship of its navy, is undergoing a lengthy disinfection process since returning to its home base in Toulon five days ago.

One person remains in intensive care, and some 20 others are hospitalized, navy spokesman Cmdr. Eric Lavault told The Associated Press.

Two of four U.S. sailors serving aboard the Charles de Gaulle as part of an exchange program also tested positive, according to the White House.

A British sailor was aboard another vessel, Lavault said, refusing to reveal the sailor’s health status.

Lavault insisted that the aircraft carrier’s commander sought to increase the physical distance among the crew on the vessel, where there was no testing equipment and for most of its three months on operations, no masks.

It is “very difficult to apply social distancing measures on a combat vessel,” Lavault said. But “security of the crew is the first concern. A combat ship, especial- ly an aircraft carrier, is nothing without its crew.”

A similar outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and a dispute about how the at-sea health crisis was handled led to the firing of its captain and the resignation this month of the acting U.S. Navy secretary.

The French navy has been spared major controversy so far, but the defense minister and the head of the French military’s health service arm were questioned Friday about the infections at parliamentary hearings.

The Pentagon especially wants to ensure that the ship’s crew revealed that more than half of the sailors who tested positive were asymptomatic. But the disease has also hospitalized several members of the crew, including Thacker. Seven Roosevelt crew members were hospitalized for the virus without symptoms, includ- ing one sailor who was in intensive care, the Navy said.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday that the de- partment aimed to improve its testing capacity from about 8,700 tests per day to about 65,000 within 45 days, citing the need to ensure asymptomatic carriers were not spreading the virus un- knowningly within their units.

The Pentagon especially wants to ensure that the carrier is able to defend its members of its top-tier special operations units and other respon- sible for its nuclear capabili- ties, Milley said.

**Infections among US service members nearing 3,000**

By COREY DICKSTEIN

**WASHINGTON — Nearly 3,000 U.S. service members had tested positive for the coronavirus by Friday, according to new Pentagon data that showed the number of military-affiliated people infected by the virus nearing 3,000.**

The data released Friday showed that more than 22% of the 2,986 service members diagnosed with the fast-spreading virus have recovered from the disease. Forty-four troopers are now hospi- talized by the virus, which has killed two service members, in- cluding 41-year-old Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., who died Monday in a Guam hospital after contracting the virus aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Overall, the Navy reported 1,017 positive cases among its personnel, the most any of the military services. The Army re- ported the second highest total with 725 cases among its active- duty and Reserve soldiers. The Air Force reported 328 cases, the Marines reported 236, and the National Guard reported 609 coronavirus-positive troops across its Army and Army Guard members.

Top Pentagon officials pledged this week to increase testing among its troops worldwide, es- pecially after testing of the Roose- evelt’s crew revealed that more than half of the sailors who tested positive were asymptomatic. But the disease has also hospitalized several members of the crew, in- cluding Thacker. Seven Roosevelt crew members were hospitalized for the virus without symptoms, includ- ing one sailor who was in intensive care, the Navy said.

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**Members of the military assemble some of the beds April 1 for use at the TCF Center in Detroit to accommodate an overflow of patients with the coronavirus.**

**Army Corps of Engineers plans to continue adding hospital space**

**By ROSE L. THAYER**

The Army Corps of Engineers is working to provide extra hospi- tal space to cities and states concerned that the coronavirus pandemic could peak in rural areas during the summer or re- turn in the fall, Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite said Friday.

“The virus is getting a vote,” the commander of the Army Corps of Engineers told reporters at the Pentagon. “The virus has changed” in the last month.

In March, many officials be- lieved the coronavirus would cause a huge spike, followed by a quick drop, which led to rush- ing to slow the spread of the virus. This has allowed more time because of prevention ef- forts to slow the spread of the virus. Army engi- neers have conducted 1,099 of the expected to go unscathed.

In other instances, govern- ment and for most of its three months on operations, no masks.

So far, 350 crew members have been grilled about their move- ment and for most of its three months on operations, no masks.

“A very difficult to apply social distancing measures on a combat vessel,” Lavault said. “We are and will be transpar- ent about the health situation,” the health director Maryline Gygax Genero told the parlia- mentary hearing.

Lavault said the carrier was being cleaned top to bottom, first with high-pressure water at 140 degrees, then with an anti-viral product, a process that could take weeks. He said the goal is to get the carrier back to sea sometime in May.

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**Stars and Stripes**

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Defense Minister Florence Parly told lawmakers that 1,081 of the 2,300 people aboard the Charles de Gaulle and its ex- cort vessels have tested positive so far — nearly half the overall projected to open Saturday at an ongoing projects have been im- pacted by pandemic work. That is mostly due to stay-at-home direc- tives from area governments that limit construction.

Otherwise, work at military bases and along U.S. waterways remains steady, as does about $8 billion worth of construction for Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals.

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**Associated Press**

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Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday that the de- partment aimed to improve its
Halt on military moves to last through June

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

A new directive on the movement of military personnel and their families will bar troop moves through June 30, but create more flexibility to allow for the deployment of troops serving overseas and some priority troops to change duty stations, a Pentagon official said Saturday.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has yet to issue the order, which aims to curb the spread of the coronavirus by keeping service members and their families in place, according to Matthew Donovan, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. However, Esper is expected to sign it into effect Monday, Donovan said.

The new order will replace the travel restrictions put into place in March that have stopped thousands of military moves and forced some deployed units to remain overseas longer than anticipated.

The new order applies to service members, civilians and their families and comes as the military prepares for summer, its peak moving season. Without reversing many details, Donovan said the new directive is "more liberal" and allows more exemptions and waivers.

"You'll see it's a little looser, because we know more about [the coronavirus] and can get projections on potential hotspots and more information on nations where [troops] are moving to," he said.

Each move will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, looking at the departure and arrival locations carefully and determining whether local governments for those areas allow for such movement, including the ability to hire movers. Waivers for travel will only be granted for missions deemed essential, humanitarian relief or personal hardship. Personal leave will only be granted for the local area where service members are located now.

The services are now preparing for the new order by identifying personnel moves that are the highest priority, Donovan said.

In an average year, U.S. Transportation Command supports about 400,000 moves, with about a quarter of those moves occurring during the month of June, Donovan said.

In light of March's halt on moves, military personnel are only moving at about 30% of the normal rate. Each service is only seeing about 10% of normal movement.

For those troops and civilian personnel who are granted the ability to move under Monday's pending order, it is hoped they could have to isolate themselves once they arrive at their new location. That will depend on where they left and what the local authorities in that state or host country require, Donovan said.

Protest: Some Americans weary of quarantine orders take to the streets

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump's tweets come as the right-wing media has amplified the protests and conservative groups have formed plans to jointly press for a reopening of the economy. The groups include several veterans of the tea party era, activism that was powered by a network of right-wing and corporate financiers interested in reducing taxes and regulations on industry.

Protesters railed against policies that call for nonessential businesses and schools to be closed, restaurants limited to carryout service and people to stay largely in their homes except for emergencies. They argue that the nation has sacrificed the economy, with unemployment at record levels, and people have upended their lives for something many do not see as an existential threat to society.

"I think there's a boiling point that has been reached and exceeded," said Stephen Moore, a conservative economist. Moore is a member of both the White House council to reopen the country and a coalition of conservative leaders and activists seeking to push government officials to relax stay-at-home orders.

"I call these people the modern-day Rosa Parks — they are protesting against injustice and a loss of liberties," Moore said of the protesters.

Moore described himself as a radical when it comes to getting Americans to work during a 2016 Freedomworks debate on the minimum wage.

"I'm a radical on this," he said while debating the Center for American Progress' David Madland. "I'd get rid of a lot of these child labor laws. I want people upending their lives for something many do not see as an existential threat to society."

In Michigan, hundreds of people clogged traffic in cars or marched in the snow to protest Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, who last week added additional restrictions to the state's stay-at-home order. Protesters waved American flags, Trump flags and an occasional Confederate flag. Many screamed "Lock her up!" and "We will not comply!"

Protest leaders said the demonstrations evolved organically into a collective call for rolling back emergency measures that they think infringe on personal freedoms and further decimate the economy.

"I feel terrible about the lives lost, but at some point, we have to say 'mission accomplished' and come up with the next phase of this that doesn't have us continuously locked inside our homes," said Matthew Seely of the Michigan Conservative Coalition, which organized the protests.

Michigan has been one of the states hardest hit by the virus, with more than 30,000 confirmed cases and over 2,200 deaths.

State incorporation records show the nonprofit coalition also goes by another name: Michigan Trump Republicans. The group's president, Rosanne Ponkowski, identified herself as a homemaker last year in federal campaign finance records. But the group's other directors are longtime GOP insiders, according to state records. They include Marian Sheridan, the state Republican Party's vice-chair of "grassroots" efforts.

Sheridan has "worked in Michigan grassroots for the last 10 years" and started her political career as a tea party leader and organizer, according to the state GOP's website.

"In my mind, it looks a lot like the tea party," she said. "It almost seems like an excuse for getting out and rallying against politicians they oppose."

Some politicians believe Trump's egging on of the protesters is dangerous.

"The president is fomenting domestic rebellion and spreading lies even while his own administration says the virus is real and is deadly and that we have a long way to go before restrictions can be lifted," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, said. A protest against his stay-at-home order, which lifts May 5, is scheduled for this weekend.

Tyler Miller, who organized the Washington state protest, said he is urging attendees to wear personal protective equipment, practice physical distancing and not attend if they are in a high-risk category or feeling sick.

Public health experts have said any premature easing of stay-at-home orders could lead to a second wave of pandemic, erasing the social distancing progress, returning the population to quarantine, deepening the economic turmoil and resulting in more lives lost.

Some said they are protesting mainly because of the severe economic impact caused by the virus. More than 22 million people have lost their unemployment since Trump declared a national emergency last month.

While 100 protesters did not practice social distancing as they pushed up against the glass doors of the statehouse this week, Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, announced he was assembling plans to safely reopen the economy ahead of the expiration of his stay-at-home order by May 1. DeWine and Amy Acton, director of the Ohio Department of Health, have said reopening will come in phases.

State Sen. Andrew Brenner, a Republican, said DeWine was right to close schools and businesses early, decisions that Brenner said are bringing the state closer to reopening.

Brenner's district near Columbus is one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation. He said the pandemic has wiped out its economic gains.

"People are calling me crying because their businesses are closed and the government stimulus checks are not going to keep people going long-term," saidfrared, adding more people will need government assistance.

"The next thing that's going to happen is that revenue needed to maintain vital services, such as education and Medicaid, will plummet."

In Ohio, where 100 protesters march in the snow to protest Gov. Mike DeWine's stay-at-home order.
Hard-hit nations debate easing lockdowns

Associated Press

BERLIN — Facing rising unemployment and with many of their citizens struggling to make ends meet, governments around the world are wrestling with when and how to ease the restrictions designed to control the coronavirus pandemic.

Mandates to stop the spread of the new virus, which has so far infected more than 22 million people and for which there is no vaccine, have brought widespread hardship.

In a joint statement Saturday, a group of 13 countries including Canada, Brazil, Italy and France announced that they would work with global cooperation to lessen the economic impact of the pandemic.

"It is vital that we work together to save lives and livelihoods," they said.

The group, which also includes Britain, France Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, South Korea, Singapore and Turkey, said it was committed to "work with all countries to coordinate on public health, travel, trade, economic and financial measures in order to minimize disruptions and recover stronger." This includes maintaining "air, land and marine transportation links" to ensure the continued flow of goods including medical equipment and aid, and the return home of travelers, they say.

In the United States, the debate has taken on partisan tones ahead of this fall's presidential election. "Public health officials are resorts to a kind of rhetoric some have used to demand an end to stay-at-home orders that have thrown millions out of work," CNN's Acosta reported Friday.

The official death toll in the U.S. has topped 35,000, with more than 700,000 confirmed infections. The group includes the U.S. among others that have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

In France and Spain, some field hospitals were starting to be dismantled, while Germany said the number of people infected by each person with COVID-19 fell below one for the first time this week.

But "there's clearly an issue with attendance," Katz said. "It's wrong, sensationally wrong to communicate that there is a kind of conflict with health and safety on one side and economic resumption," said Domenico Arcuri, Italy's extraordinary commissioner for the coronavirus emergency.

Arcuri told reporters Saturday that "without health, the economic revival will disappear in the batting of an eyelash."

The Italian government's decree, shutting down nonessential industries and businesses, runs through May 3. Health experts are advising that any easing must be gradual in the country that's seen the most deaths so far in Europe, with nearly 23,000 fatalities and over 172,000 known cases.

Some Asian nations that until recently appeared to have the outbreak under control, including Singapore and Japan, reported a fresh surge in cases Saturday.

Japan's total case number rose above 10,000 on Saturday. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed concern Friday that people were not observing social distancing and announced a 100,000-yen ($930) cash handout to each resident as an incentive to stay home.

Iran, hit hard by the virus and international sanctions, allowed some businesses in the capital and nearby towns to re-open Saturday after weeks of lockdown. Gyms, restaurants, shopping malls and Tehran's grand bazaar will remain closed.

In Africa, one of the world's poorest regions, the pandemic is only just getting underway. The continent has now recorded more than 1,000 coronavirus deaths, among them the Nigerian president's chief of staff.

Children wait to receive free food distributed in a slum during a lockdown to check the spread of the new coronavirus in Mumbai, India, on Saturday.

Virus forced schools online, but many students didn’t follow

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — During the first week that her San Diego public school was shuttered to slow the spread of the coronavirus, not one of Elise Samaniego’s students logged on to her virtual class.

Three weeks in, the teacher still hadn’t connected online with roughly two-thirds of the students in her third- and fourth-grade combo class at Paradise Hills Elementary. She fears the pandemic will exact a devastating toll on education in the United States, especially at low-income schools like hers.

“I do have several students below grade level, and this is just going to make it worse,” said Samaniego, who has been emailing and calling families to get her 22 students to participate.

Teachers across the country report their attempts at distance learning are failing to reach large numbers of students. Hundreds of thousands of students have gone months without computers or internet access. Those who do log on have complained about poor internet access, babiesitting siblings, sharing laptops, lying in bed during lessons. Others log on only to walk away.

With schools closed for the rest of the year in at least 23 states, the uneven progress with remote learning is raising concerns that those who already were struggling will be left further behind.

“The pandemic is an educational equity crisis for vulnerable students who were too often underserved by our education system in ‘normal’ times,” said Ian Rosenblum, executive director of The Education Trust-New York.

Not all schools are struggling. Those accustomed to technology transitioned smoothly. Derek Blunt, a math teacher at Making Community Connections Charter School in Keene, N.H., said students are issued iPads in normal times and regularly use Google Classroom and other platforms.

A week after the school closed, nearly all of his 65 students were doing their work.

In contrast, students at Sanamiego’s school faced several hurdles before learning could begin. Some had little internet access through their parents’ phones.

“They can’t tell me even where to turn,” she said. “Do you have a computer? That’s step 1. Then you have to download Chrome. That’s step 2.”

In New York City, the nation’s largest school district, tens of thousands of tablets and laptops have been lent to students, and the plan is for everyone to have a device by the end of April.

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, the country’s second largest, as many as 40% of elementary school students had not logged on even once as of the first week of April — three weeks after the system closed.

As for those who have made an appearance, superintendent Austin Beutner, cautioned that merely logging in does not tell us anything more than the student turned on their computer.

In ordinary times, some 16% percent of public school students nationally are chronically absent, with higher rates among high school, black and Hispanic students, according to the U.S. Education Department.

Many districts are now not tracking attendance because it tells them so little. But attendance is usually critical: Absenteeism is linked to a significant increase in the risk of dropping out of school.

And attendance is only one part of the puzzle.

Noelle Starks, a math teacher at the public Northridge Academy High School in the Los Angeles area, revamped lessons so they would work online. Most students in her Algebra II and pre-Calculus classes are doing their work. But only about half of her 10th grade geometry students are logging on, and even some of them aren’t handing in assignments.

“When they were in class, you could get on their back and ask them about what was going on, where is the work?” Katz said. “It’s hard from a distance.”

Adding to her frustration was a student who interrupted a virtually class with yelling and profanity five times.

Schools are responding by making accommodations. San Diego Unified School District said this month is for working out the kinks, and instruction officially starts April 27. Some schools are adopting pass or fail systems or “no harm grading,” in which grades will not be lowered during distance learning but can go up.

Given the difficulties of conceiving lessons and science labs that are effective virtually, some assignments feel like busy work to Emily Weinberg, a senior at Lexington High School, a public school in Massachusetts.

“I had to try to figure out what the kinetic energy of a dime was when I pushed it,” she said. “I felt like this is wasting my time.”

Even so, she’s completing all her work.
LOS ANGELES — California recorded more than 1,000 deaths from the coronavirus Friday as the pandemic pushed the state into recession, despite signs that have emerged of an improving outlook for the virus.

The state topped a number it once hoped to avoid, reaching 1,021 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The death toll came after California recorded its greatest number of deaths in one day, 95, on Thursday, eclipsing the previous mark of 71.

The state also reported for the first time that 3,300 cases are in nursing homes or adult care facilities, where the most vulnerable people reside and infections have spread quickly. That figure reflects about 12% of more than 27,500 cases the state reported.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has promised a task force Friday to help the state recover economically after the coronavirus lockdown and the business closures and unemployment figures ended a record 10-year economic growth streak. Newsom said: “These are sober and challenging times.”

The growth period ended as the state lost 100,000 jobs in March, a figure that barely begins to account for damages done to the world’s fifth-largest economy.

Those March job losses occurred before the governor issued a stay-at-home order that only allows essential employees to go to work, effectively closing most shops, bars and restaurants that don’t offer takeout food.

In order to begin lifting restrictions, the state priority will need to test 25,000 people a day and track down those may have infected, a big task in the nation’s most populous state with 40 million residents.

ILINOIS
CHICAGO — Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Friday ordered schools throughout the state closed for a while, as a precaution of the lingering threat of the coronavirus.

Pritzker announced the move during his daily briefing in Chicago, extending lockdown orders past the April 30 date he had set earlier. As of Friday, Illinois had recorded 2,575 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,134 deaths.

Issuing his latest order, Pritzker acknowledged the disruption it would cause to students and their families.

The Gov. Pritzker salary remains unchanged. How do we save the most lives during this very difficult time?” Pritzker said. “The answer to that question leaves us with only one path forward.”

The small herd’s March 17 amid growing concern over the virus, idling more than 2 million children midway through the spring semester, including 355,000 in Chicago’s public school district, which is the third largest in the nation.

LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana is working to make more clinic and hospital space available again for elective surgeries and other nonemergency medical care before May 1, Gov. John Bel Edwards said Friday.

Elective surgeries and other procedures were largely put on hold as hospitals converted some space and clinic personnel were diverted to other jobs as Louisiana rushed to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. The state now has the third-highest rate of cases in the country, Edwards said.

The state’s reliant on re-qualifying hospitalization and ventilators has declined in recent days, raising hopes that an easing of economic restrictions will free up hospital space and home orders and business shutdowns may soon be in sight.

Edwards said details on the return of more nonemergency services would be released next week.

“We’re going to open that up sooner rather than later and, in all likelihood, by May 1,” he said during a news conference at LSU’s Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

MICHIGAN
LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Friday that she hopes to begin gradually reopening Michigan’s economy on May 1 after weeks of a strict stay-at-home order during the coronavirus crisis that has crippled businesses and caused more than 1 million unemployed people to seek aid.

Meanwhile, the number of new virus cases statewide rose 2%, a much slower pace. In Detroit, where nearly 600 people have died, Mayor Mike Duggan reported upbeat news from hospitals, declaring: “We are beating this virus.”

Whitmer didn’t identify which businesses may be allowed to open but said the restrictions will relax in phases. She said there would be many factors: indoor work or outdoors; the number of employees; their age; their proximity to each other; and their interaction with the public.

“The pandemic is over, facts, science and what is the best medical advice we can get,” Whitmer said.

MISSOURI
O’FALLON — A lawsuit filed by civil rights groups on Friday seeks to allow all Missourians to vote absentee in upcoming elections to help reduce the risk of catching or spreading the coronavirus.

The lawsuit was filed in Jefferson City by the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition on behalf of the NAACP, the League of Women Voters and several residents. It claims that requiring voters to appear at traditional polling places during the pandemic puts lives at risk.

“We are now in a pandemic-in-a-pandemic moment, and the need to make changes is extraordinary,” said Sophia Lin Lakin, deputy director of the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project, said in a statement.

“Expanding absentee ballot access to all registered voters during the pandemic is a common-sense solution that protects people’s health and their right to vote.”

NEW MEXICO
SANTA FE — New Mexico reported seven new deaths across the state linked to the coronavirus Friday, the state’s largest number in a day.

Health officials said deaths linked to COVID-19 increased by five, with 1,171 people testing positive.

Two new deaths involving residents of Las Vida Llena retirement facility in Albuquerque raised the death toll at the facility to a dozen people. The state attorney general says operators of the facility initially discouraged personnel from wearing personal protective equipment and did not warn medical providers in advance that patients from the retirement community had either tested positive or had been exposed to the virus.

Pennsylvania
HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania has managed to avoid the worst of the pandemic and it’s now time to start talking about a gradual reopening of the state’s battered economy, Gov. Tom Wolf said Friday as he offered a set of guiding principles, but few specifics, on how he plans to get legions of unemployed residents out of their homes and back to work.

Cautioning that serious obstacles remain, Wolf said he would unveil a “framework” this week outlining guidelines and economic models that will help the governor decide when it’s safe.

The plan released by his administration offered no timetable. It also did not spell out the metrics by which Wolf and his administration will determine when Pennsylvania can begin emerging from the pandemic after weeks of social distancing.

Wolf called Friday’s release a “framework” and said he would lay out more concrete steps next week. The state needs to be careful and deliberate in reopening the economy, the governor said, with the flexibility to respond to new outbreaks. Doing otherwise, he contended, would prolong the crisis.

TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE — A federal judge Friday night ruled that Tennessee has to continue allowing abortions amid a temporary ban on nonsurgical medical procedures that’s aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The plan released by his administration offered no timetable. It also did not spell out the metrics by which Wolf and his administration will determine when Pennsylvania can begin emerging from the pandemic after weeks of social distancing.

Tennessee women will face impose a ban on nonessential medical procedures that’s aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

The U.S. District Judge Bernadette Mahoney said that Wolf and his administration would need to show that any appreciable amount of personal protective equipment, or PPE, would be saved if the ban is applied to abortions.

In a hearing by phone Friday, attorneys representing several state abortion clinics argued that Tennessee women will face immediate harm if the ban on abortions is not lifted.

Alex Rieger, arguing for the Tennessee attorney general’s office, said abortions are not being singled out but treated like any other procedure that is not necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury. Gov. Bill Lee issued an emergency order on April 8 banning those procedures for three weeks.

Utah
SALT LAKE CITY — Utah will aim to reopen restaurants and gyms and resume elective surgeries in early May, under a plan unveiled Friday by Gov. Gary Herbert to gradually reopen the economy that has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Herbert said at a news conference that the plan is dependent on continued adherence to hygiene and social distancing rules but said the state has done a good job containing the outbreak of COVID-19 and leaders must help the thousands of people suffering without psyches.

The Republican governor said the plan, which has been in the work for weeks, mirrors guidelines already put in place by President Donald Trump on Thursday.

Virginia
BON AIR, Va. — Coronavirus has erupted inside a juvenile detention center in Virginia with 25 kids testing positive, accounting for a quarter of all cases reported at youth facilities nationwide, officials said Friday.

Children’s rights advocates and health experts have warned state officials for weeks that it was just a matter of time before the virus took off inside juvenile facilities. They have called on Gov. Ralph Northam to start releasing as many children as safely possible from centers, including at the newly hit Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center outside Richmond.

On April 2, officials in Virginia announced two staffs at Bon Air had tested positive, but contact tracing was already underway. At least a later, 6 kids started showing symptoms and later tested positive.

Chris Moon, chief physician at Virginia’s Department of Juvenile Justice, said 21 of the 25 infected kids in Bon Air exhibited no outward symptoms and only four showed signs that were more severe than a cold or a flu.
**NATION**

**Smugglers target border wall in San Diego**

**By Nick Miroff**
*The Washington Post*

Smugglers sawed into new sections of President Trump’s border wall 18 times in the San Diego area during a single one-month span late last year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection records obtained by The Washington Post via a Freedom of Information Act request.

The breaches and attempted breaches were made between Sept. 27 and Oct. 27, according to CBP records, with five of the incidents occurring on a single day, Oct. 30, but CBP provided data for the time period spanning Jan. 1 to Oct. 27. The agency’s figures show all 18 breaches and attempted breaches occurred between Sept. 27 and Oct. 27, with none recorded during the nine months prior.

A label indicating the absence of PFAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on pans is seen in Washington in June.

**White House moves to weaken EPA rule on toxic compounds**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump White House has intervened to weaken one of the few public health protections pursued by its own administration, a rule to limit the use of a toxic industrial compound in consumer products, according to communications between the White House and Environmental Protection Agency.

The documents show that the White House Office of Management and Budget formally notified the EPA by email last July that it was stepping into the crafting of the rule on the compound, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, used in nonstick and stain-resistant frying pans, rugs, and countless other consumer products.

The White House repeatedly pressed the agency to agree to a major loophole that could allow substantial imports of the PFAS-tainted products to continue, greatly weakening the proposed rule. EPA pushed back on the White House demand for the loophole, known as a “safe harbor” provision for industry.

Pushed again in January, the White House responded, “EPA opposes proposing a safe harbor provision, but is open to a neutrally-worded request for comment from the public” on the White House request.

The rule is one of the few concrete steps that the Trump administration has taken to deal with growing contamination by PFAS industrial compounds. The EPA has declared dating back to 2016 that consumer exposure to the substances was a “national priority” that the agency was confronting “aggressively.”

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the ranking Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, who obtained the documents revealing the White House intervention, and public-health advocates say the White House action was led by Nancy Beck, a former chemical industry executive now detailed to President Donald Trump’s Council of Economic Advisers.

In a letter sent Friday to the EPA, Carper charged the White House pressure amounts to unusual intervention in what had been the EPA’s in-house efforts to regulate imports tainted with the compound. Trump has nominated Beck to lead the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a government panel charged with protecting Americans from harm by thousands of kinds of consumer goods.

Asked about the White House actions, EPA spokeswoman Cerrr Schierrmeyer said in an email that “consulting with other federal agencies on actions is a normal process across government,” and that “EPA is often required to engage in an interagency review process led by OMB.”

“It is routine for the agency to receive input from all of our stakeholders, including our federal partners,” Schierrmeyer wrote.

The EPA did not respond to a question about whether Beck led the White House intervention. Emails sent for comment to the White House, the White House Office of Management and Budget and Beck were not immediately answered.

**Biden angling to let Sanders keep delegates**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking to avoid the bitter feelings that marred the 2016 Democratic convention, Joe Biden’s campaign is angling to allow Bernie Sanders to keep some of the delegates he would otherwise forfeit by dropping out of the presidential race. Under a strict application of party rules, Sanders should lose about a third of the delegates he’s won in primaries and caucuses as the process moves ahead and states select the actual people who will attend the Democratic National Convention. The rules say those delegates should be Biden supporters, as he is the only candidate still actively seeking the party’s nomination.

Quiet talks between the two campaigns center on allowing Sanders to keep some of his delegates, essentially a goodwill gesture from a presumptive nominee seeking to court Sanders’ progressive supporters and unite the party. It is not yet settled how many.

“We feel strongly that it is in the best interest of the party to ensure that the Sanders campaign receives statewide delegates to reflect the work that they have done to contribute to the movement that will beat Donald Trump this fall,” said a Biden official, who wasn’t authorized to discuss private negotiations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity: “We are in discussion with them now on how to best accomplish that.”

Sanders’ campaign declined to comment on the talks. “Nothing to add from us,” said Sanders spokesman Mike Casca.

In some ways, the delegate count is a moot point. While he has yet to formally win the 1,991 delegates needed to clinch the nomination on the first ballot at the party convention, Biden is the Democrat’s presumptive nominee. All of his rivals — including Sanders — have endorsed him after ending their own campaigns.

But with the nomination essentially decided, who has how many delegates takes on a new meaning. In 2016, rowdy Sanders supporters booed some speakers and any mention of nominee Hillary Clinton at the party’s Philadelphia convention. The disruptions were so embarrassing to the party that Sanders pleaded with his supporters not to stage protests on the floor.

By claiming the delegates that ought to belong to him, under party rules, Biden could cut down on the number of Sanders’ backers — some of whom have been slow to embrace the former vice president — who could stage a replay of that divide. Instead, he’s decided to try to attract Sanders’ supporters.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, left, and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., right, greet one another before they participate in a Democratic presidential primary debate in Washington last month.
US, Russia discuss arms control pact, strategic security

By Vladimir Isachenkov

MOSCOW — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed arms control and other issues Friday as Moscow has taken renewed readiness to include some of its latest nuclear weapons in the last remaining arms control pact between the two countries if Washington accepts the Kremlin's offer to extend it.

The State Department said the two top diplomats discussed the next steps in the bilateral strategic security dialogue. Pompeo emphasized that any future arms control talks must be based on U.S. President Donald Trump's vision for critical dialogue. The Trump administration has pushed for a new pact that would include China as a signatory.

Russia has described that goal as unrealistic given Beijing's reluctance to discuss any deal that would reduce its much smaller arsenal.

Separately, the State Department said a report on Russian compliance with the treaty. The report said that although Moscow is abiding by its terms, the accord does not cover enough weapons systems and leaves China with a free hand. It added, however, that the Trump administration has not yet made a decision on whether to extend it.

"While continuing implementation of New START remains in the national interests of the United States depends on a policy judgment taking into account a number of factors," the report said, listing several considerations including the impact that withdrawal would have on both the U.S. and Russian arsenals as well as the impact on American allies.

"The administration is seeking arms control that can deliver real security to the United States and its allies and partners and has not made a decision on whether and how extension of the New START Treaty will be an element of that effort," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

During the call with Pompeo, Lavrov reiterated his country's interest to extend New START, saying that Russia is ready to discuss possible new agreements but considers it important to preserve the existing treaty as a "cornerstone of global security," the Russian Foreign Ministry said. It added that the top diplomats agreed to intensify the U.S.-Russian arms control dialogue.

On Friday, Lavrov reiterated Moscow's offer to extend New START re-

amention of New START re-

New START is the only U.S.-Russia arms control pact still in effect after both Moscow and Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty last year.

"Arms control advocates have warned that its demise could trigger a new arms race and upset strategic stability," Ryabkov said in an interview with the Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn magazine that other prospective agreements are needed to keep the two countries from a nuclear arms race.

The treaty, which can be extended by another five years, envisages a comprehensive verification mechanism to ensure compliance, including on-site inspections of each side's nuclear bases.

China is not a party to the same treaty, allowing Moscow to push for a new arms control pact that includes China as a signatory.

Former pro-democracy lawmaker Martin Lee, 81, second right, leaves a police station in Hong Kong, on Saturday. Hong Kong police arrested at least 14 pro-democracy lawmakers and activists on Saturday on charges of joining unlawful protests last year calling for reforms.

Police in Hong Kong arrest 14 involved in 2019 reform protests

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police arrested at least 14 veteran pro-democracy lawmakers, activists and a media tycoon on Saturday on charges of joining unlawful protests last year calling for reforms.

Among those arrested were 81-year-old activist and former lawmaker Martin Lee and democracy advocates Albert Ho, TV tycoon Jimmy Lai, and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

Lai, Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeung Sum — a former lawmaker from the Democratic Party — were charged in February over their involvement in a mass anti-government demonstration on Aug. 31 last year. The protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory against proposed extradition legislation exploded deep divisions between democracy-minded Hong Kongers and the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing.

The bill — which would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial — has been withdrawn, but the protests continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

While the protests began peacefully, they increasingly descended into violence after demonstrators became frustrated with the government's response. They feel that Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has ignored their demands and used the police to suppress them.

The League of Social Democrats wrote in a Facebook post on Saturday that its leaders were among those arrested, including chairman Raphael Wong. They were accused of participating in two unauthorized protests on Aug. 18 and Oct. 1 last year.

Smoke from Chernobyl wildfires engulfs Kyiv, worsens city's air pollution rank

KYIV, Ukraine — Smoke from wildfires in the contaminated evacuation zone around the wrecked Chernobyl nuclear power plant has engulfed Kyiv, placing the Ukrainian capital near the top of the global air pollution index.

The authorities said Friday that radiation levels in Kyiv have remained normal, but they advised residents to stay home and close their windows. About 1,000 firefighters backed by aircraft have been deployed to battle the forest blazes near the site of the world's worst nuclear accident, which took place 34 years ago.

Wildfires erupted in the forests around Chernobyl on April 4, accidentally sparked by residents who were burning trash. The firefighting teams managed to contain the initial blazes, but new fires erupted Thursday, sweeping into wider areas thanks to strong winds.

Live air quality data on iqair.com placed the Ukrainian capital right behind several cities in China in air pollution on Friday.

The authorities in Kyiv said radiation levels in the capital, which is about 60 miles south of the plant, were within norms. They also insisted that the wildfires were posing no threat to radioactive waste dumps and other facilities in Chernobyl, but advised Kyiv residents to drink a lot of water and cover windows with wet fabrics if they open them.

The fires are in the 1,000-square-mile Chernobyl Exclusion Zone that was established after the 1986 disaster at the plant that sent a cloud of radioactive fallout over much of Europe.

The zone is largely unpopulated, although about 200 people have remained despite orders to leave. Fires in the area raise concerns that they could spread radioactive material.
head: ‘You have to wonder what goes through the mind of a man like ____ ____.’ (I didn’t have a name for him yet.) I was baffled. Why should I have to wonder? I thought, and answered the next sentence: ‘He lives alone; he keeps to himself...’"

“The rest of the book was up to me, but at least I was on my way.”

The computer man’s name is Micah Mortimer. He lives alone and wonders if he’s meant to be that way as he alienates his current girlfriend and unexpectedly reconnects with the woman he loved — and drove away — back in college. Tyler tries to minimize politics and topical references in her books, but is quite specific about locations, mentioning Micah in north Baltimore, in a three-story home near York Road, with an “incongruous front porch” and a “splintered front porch swing that nobody ever sits in.” During her recent AP interview, the 78-year-old Tyler talks about life in Baltimore and features the family and romantic entanglements and other narrative touches Tyler fans know well. But the story’s main character, a self-employed tech consultant/repairman confronting the fallout of decisions made years before, pretty much came out of nowhere.

“...[Micah] is either wholly irrelevant or just what we need — or possibly both. Slight and slightly charming, it’s like the cherri Jell-O that Mom serves when you’re feeling under the weather. Not much of a meal, perhaps, but who could handle more now?”

The milque-toast protagonist is Micah Mortimer, “a tall, bony man in his early 40s with not-so-good posture.” He lives in a basement apartment in Baltimore, which over the course of more than 20 novels has become Tyler’s Yoknapatawpha. Gilded with a patina of quiriness, Micah is a self-employed computer fix-it guy. Tellingly, he calls himself the Tech Hermit. He repairs elderly folks’ PCs, sometimes by turning them off and turning them back on. “His routine is etched in stone,” Tyler writes. “He rises, runs, eats breakfast and answers a few calls. Monday is trash night. Micah prided himself on his housekeeping.” He may not have a pulse, but he does have a girlfriend. “She was matronly,” Tyler writes, “which Micah found kind of a turn-on.” That marks the erotic peak of this novel. “He and Cass had been together for three years or so, and they had reached the stage where things had more or less solidified: compromises arrived at, incompatibilities adjusted to, minor quirks overlooked. They had it down to a system.” Or so Micah assumes.

In the first chapter, Cass fears she’s about to be evicted from her apartment. When Micah reacts with insufficient sympathy, she breaks up with him.

I have switched dry cleaners with more drama. Of course, there’s also a sweet and somewhat amusing family in this novel, and of course, they have sweet and somewhat amusing rituals involving food. “The table itself was bare,” Tyler writes, “except for a portable Ping Pong net that had been stretched across the center.” If you’ve read and adored as many of Tyler’s novels as I have, such idiosyncrasies convey all the reassuring warmth of an old hymn.

Micah’s four sisters — all lifelong in college years, Brink is convinced that Micah must be his real father. Alas, the calendar won’t support that conclusion. Tyler spins a small story about a man perplexed by the tepid state of his life. He had no one, he realized. “His entire life ran in a rut.” But maybe, he thinks, he just doesn’t want all the “fuss and bother” of being close to someone.

There is nothing necessarily objectionable about a novel focused on “such a narrow and limited man,” writes Ron Charles/The Washington Post. Writers as diverse as Sinclair Lewis and Anita Brookner have found profound comedy and pathos in the lives of apparently dull people. But in this case, the mold growing on Micah’s airless character seems to have spread to the narrative itself.

Tyler’s best novels are so wonderful that they’ve tended to eclipse her short stories, but that would have been a more effective form for “Redhead by the Side of the Road.”

— Ron Charles/The Washington Post
After a ‘really, really hard year’ that included the death of his best friend and collaborator, jazz-funk bass virtuoso Thundercat beat his demons and made peace with himself

By Jeff Weiss • Special to The Washington
The September 2018 death of rapper Mac Miller — Thundercat's best friend and close collaborator — has colored almost every day since then. Miller's death, at age 26, by accidental overdose, occurred roughly one month before the pair were set to embark on a national tour, which would have featured Thundercat on the opening dates of Miller’s ’The Divine Feminine’ tour.

The tragedy forced Thundercat to grapple with his own demons involving alcohol abuse, triggering a newfound but hard-fought and shaky sobriety. During this same time, he decided to go vegan and lost 100 pounds. (“I didn’t notice until I saw a picture of myself, and it freaked me out. It’s still kind of hard to process.”) Shortly thereafter, he experienced an emotional ransacking of a breakup. Somewhere in the fog, he found the clarity to finish his fourth studio album, the typically brilliant ‘It Is What It Is,’ which cements his unlikely but deserved ascent to the ranks of jazz-funk fusion superstar — roughly 35 years after critics read the genre’s last rites.

Thundercat’s bass line is both the hero and the heart of the album. It’s slippery, supple, and free to unfurl. It’s a bassist’s dream, and Thundercat’s is the kind of instrumental virtuosity that can also serve as emotional release. ‘It Is What It Is’ was a place where he could channel his sorrow, make peace with the demons that had plagued him for years, and transform them into the music that has earned him his first Grammy nomination.

When Mac died, I realized I couldn’t drink my way through it. I sat with it, let the pain in, and accepted that this would be a roller coaster. I needed to feel every part of it, and I still don’t know how to feel. There are moments when I break down about it.

To understand Thundercat, you need to accept his musical dualism. In one moment, he is the typically brilliant “It Is What It Is,” which cements his unlikely but deserved ascent to the ranks of jazz-funk fusion superstar — roughly 35 years after critics read the genre’s last rites.

Thundercat

FROM PAGE 12

It’s fitting that he feels perfectly at ease in Pinz, enjoying a sport whose peak popularity came during the Watergate era. “People automatically associate bowling with fun, but there’s something relaxing about it to me. Some people love to get competitive, but there’s no pressure to win. I’m only competing with myself,” he says, breaking down his love affair with the lanes. “There’s a real Zen quality to it, it’s similar to music in the sense that you have to be okay with your style and learn to be in tune with yourself.”

He removes his sweater, revealing a Mac Miller T-shirt underneath. Knuckles are cracked. It’s time to bowl. As a musician, Thundercat is always dazzling, unleashing perfect-pitch wails that sound like tears from heaven splashing on an open-collared white leisure suit; his bass riffs are as chunky and rumbly as King Hippo. But as a bowler, he is solid, workmanlike, straightforward. There is no chimerical spin to his throws, but he has precision aim and cruises through the first half of the game with series of nines, a spare and a strike.

Erykah Badu and Snoop Dogg, and as a member of Thundercat refined his trademark Richter-wobble backing up venerable L.A. punk trashers, Suicidal Tendencies.

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Thundercat

On the death of his friend and collaborator Mac Miller
CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

DOUBLE TALK
BY JIM PERDO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Orchestra heavyweights
6 Mushroom in moms
11 When tripped, a comment of annoyance
14 “Oh, my!”
18 It has a very big bed
19 One of a pair of explorers on the Mariner II spacecraft
20 Spring feature
21 Golden-rule word
22 Run-on sentence?
25 ___ by date
26 Common female middle name
27 Wax theatrical
28 Slippery,shorewise?
30 Boring events
32 Bit of containing
34 Five-letter word capital that locals spell as two words
35 Tempe neighbor
36 Punning comment?
38 Riding the waves
41 Something a bib catcher
43 Busy box, for short
44 Single quote
50 Doesn’t touch
51 Head to bed
56 Surreal finals?

57 Big name in student grants
59 Order to attack
60 ___ Paris, “On the Road”
61 Weapon associated with the film quote “Here’s Johnny!”
63 Sack cloth
64 Hats, slanting
66 Jun saying?
67 Roddenberry, first TV writer on the Hollywood Walk
68 Ancient Greek poet sometimes called the Tenth Muse
74 Smear
75 Preschooler
77 Nickname for Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks
79 When tripped, “excit!”
80 Biblical TV spot, for short
83 Square dance move
85 Firesplace item
87 Stock phrase?
90 Not commercial: Able
92 Baby
93 Bring in
94 Self-expression
103 Trade jargon
104 Sports venue
105 “Outta luck!”
106 Magical powder
110 Prepped for surgery
112 Children’s song refrain
113 Una Thurman’s role in “Pulp Fiction”
114 Yoder, in dialect
115 Old saw!
119 Anger
120 Spew anger
121, 123 Mitchel, creator of the Tony-winning musical “Hedwig and the Angry Inch”
122 Handle
123 “What are the ___?”
124 Deli sandwich, hold the wowitz
125 Like stereotypical Seattle weather
126 Symbol of the National Audubon Society

DOWN
1 Coverings on ancient Roman statue
2 Women’s basketball powerhouse, for short
3 Get shaving head
4 “What a relief!”
5 “I’d down-choo”!
6 Prepoem about a mythical quest
7 Sources near streams
8 Minor cut, say
9 Makeup holder
10 Suffer with Black or brown
11 “Can’t deal with that right now!”
12 Lacking focus
13 Unbridled joy
14 Composer Mahler
15 Love tie
16 Canonical-fiftieth century pope called “the Great”
17 “Stop right there!”
18 Adorable one
19 ___ Research Center
20 Org. tracking workplace accidents
21 English setting for a series of Impressionist paintings by Monet
22 Neighbor of an Emirati
23 Young weasled pig
24 Mark’s digs
25 Word with tipical or twinkie
26 “I’d down-choo”!
27 “I’d down-choo”!
28 Game-ball material
29 The seat got her tongue, you might say
30 Where bills pile up
31 Low-end-extremity affliction
32 Secret target
33 Cap’s assistant, maybe
34 Milk? Fl
35 Where the meaning of life was sold in 2000 for $3.26
36 Part of a job application
37 European museum whose name means “meadow”
38 Sign on again
39 Another name for the moonship
40 Common wedding hairstyle
41 Undergo rapprochement
42 Stem’s opposite
43 “Today” rival, for short
44 “Old ___ Road,” longest-running No. 1 single in Billboard history (19 weeks)
45 You might open one at a pub
46 Kind of book or ad
47 Didn’t just float
48 Home of 77-Down
49 Mortimer, dumpy old radio and TV
50 Oddly, informally
51 Org. in charge of the 23-Down
52 “Not worry”
53 Country whose most widely spoken language is Wolof
54 Democratic-politician alphabet
55 Flower for a cottage
56 First name in the 1970s White House
57 Gets used to
58 Goblet e.g.
59 Fighter pilot’s wear
60 (head slap)
61 Musicians’ pleasure
62 Generate, as suspicion
63 Peaceful protest
64 Brown shade
65 Evening hour in Spain
66 Cartier’s neckerchief
67 Painted remark
68 Actor Morales
69 Battle
70 “___, you poor fo!” (Rossini aria)
71 One of The March sisters

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

GUNSTON STREET

“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.
Built to withstand anything

The internet is working the way Cold War-era designers intended

By Craig Timberg
The Washington Post

Coronavirus knocked down — at least for a time — internet pioneer Vinton Cerf, who offers this reflection on the experience: “I don’t recommend it ... It’s very debilitating.”

But Cerf, 76 and now recovering in his northern Virginia home, has better news to report about the computer network he and others spent much of their lives creating. Despite some problems, the internet overall is handling unprecedented surges of demand as it helps keep a fractured world connected at a time of global catastrophe.

The internet pioneers are 50 years old, and everyone is online,” Cerf noted in a video interview over Google Hangouts, with a mix of triumph and wonder in his voice. “And the thing is not collapsing.”

The internet, born as a Pentagon project during some of the chillier years of the Cold War, has taken such a central role in 21st century civilization, society, culture and business that few pause any longer to appreciate its wonders — except perhaps, as in the past few weeks, when it becomes even more central to our lives.

Many facets of human life — work, school, banking, shopping, flirting, live music, government services, chats with friends, calls to aging parents — have moved online in this era of social distancing, all without breaking the network. It has groaned here and there, as anyone who has struggled through a glitchy video conference knows, but it has not failed.

“Resiliency and redundancy are very much a part of the internet design,” explained Cerf.

Comcast, the nation’s largest source of residential internet, serving more than 28 million homes, reports that peak traffic was up by nearly one third in March, with some areas reaching as high as 60% above normal. Demand for online voice, video and VPN connections — all staples of remote work — have surged, and peak usage hours have shifted from evenings, when people typically stream video for entertainment, to daytime work hours.

But so far, internet industry officials report that they’ve been able to manage the shifting loads and surges. To a substantial extent, the network has managed them automatically because its underlying protocols adapt to shifting conditions, working around trouble spots to find more efficient routes for data transmissions and managing glitches in a way that doesn’t break connections entirely.

Some credit goes to Comcast, Google and the other giant, well-resourced corporations essential to the internet’s operation today. But perhaps even more goes to the seminal engineers and scientists like Cerf, who for decades worked to create a particular kind of global network — open, efficient, resilient and highly interoperable so anyone could join and nobody needed to be in charge.

“They’re deservedly taking a bit of a moment for a high five right now,” said Jason Livingood, a Comcast vice president who has briefed some members of the internet’s founding generation about how the company has been handling increased demands.

Cerf was a driving force in developing key internet protocols in the 1970s, while working for Stanford University and, later, the Pentagon’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which provided key early research funding but ultimately relinquished control of the network it Spawned.

“You’re seeing a success story right now,” said David Clark, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology computer scientist who worked on early internet protocols, speaking by videoconferencing service Zoom. “If we didn’t have the internet, we’d be in an incredibly different place right now. What if this had happened in the 1980s?”

Such a system carries a notable cost in terms of security and privacy, a fact the world rediscovers every time there’s a major data breach, ransomware attack or controversy over the amount of information governments and private companies collect about anyone who’s online — a category that includes more than half of the world’s almost 8 billion people.

Some of the early internet architects — Cerf among them, from his position at the Pentagon — were determined to design a system that could continue operating through almost anything, including a nuclear attack from the Soviets.

That’s one reason the system doesn’t have any preferred path from Point A to Point B. It continuously calculates and recalculates the best route, and if something in the middle fails, the computers that calculate transmission paths find new routes — without having to ask anyone’s permission to do so.

Steve Crocker, a networking pioneer like Cerf, compared this quality to that of a sponge, an organism whose functions are so widely distributed that breaking one part does not typically cause the entire organism to die.

“You can do damage to a portion of it, and the rest of it just humbers forward,” Crocker said, also speaking by Zoom.

GADGET WATCH

Speaker has vintage look, modern sound and ports

By Gregg Ellman

With an attractive vintage look, Electrohome Birmingham’s retro Bluetooth speaker seeks to bring back the era of mop tops and mullets from the golden age of rock ‘n roll. I prefer to say it reminds me of a hi-fi stereo system my dad had long ago.

While the look takes you back in time, the sound and features are up to date and forward marching. A 4-inch woofers produce room-filling sound from any play list or can stream any music service with a Bluetooth connection from your smartphone, tablet or computer.

The exterior is hand-crafted from engineered MDF wood with a carrying handle built into the top. The input for a direct connection and USB charging port to connect your cable for device charging.

Work as a Bluetooth speaker is the primary function of the Birmingham, but there’s an appealing feature for guitar players who want to jam along. Since I have zero musical talents, I couldn’t try it, but if you’re a guitar player, you can plug into the built-in input and customize the live sound with the volume and gain control.

Online: electrohome.com, $149

Rather than having to remember a combination or have a key to open it, the Tapplock Lite uses your fingerprints.

The smart fingerprint portable padlock opens in less than one second after being programmed with your fingerprint. You can store up to 100 fingerprints for each lock, which are managed in the Tapplock app.

In addition to the fingerprints, you can use the Tapplock app to open the lock with Bluetooth or a combination used to access your phone.

Through the app, you can remotely manage the Bluetooth access on any other stored fingerprints. Specific dates and times can be set, and access can be granted.

The Tapplock Lite is built with a metal chassis and an IP67 rating, making it perfect for the outdoors since it can withstand being fully submerged in water or even sweaty/wet fingerprints.

Inside is a rechargeable battery, good for 8 months or 1,200 unlocks. The app shows the battery level and when it needs a charge. A blinking light goes on the lock when the level is below 10 percent. One feature allows it to unlock with just an 8-second charge with a portable battery, in the event the lock’s battery goes totally dead.

Online: tapplock.com; $39 each, 2-pack for $72 and a 3-pack is $105

Tapplock Lite uses your fingerprint as security.

Twelve South’s limited edition AirBag for AirPods and AirPods Pro will store, carry and protect the expensive earbuds in a unique style. The mini satchel bag can be worn over your shoulder, around your neck or just take the leather strap off to carry it with the leather top handle or just carry it in a purse, pocket or backpack. Your AirPods will stay in the AirBag securely when closing the front-sided metal snap button, which also allows wireless charging for the AirPods Pro.

There’s also an opening for a Lightning cable for charging.

The limited edition AirBag is made with full-grain leather and protects all sides of the AirPod case.

Online: twelvesouth.com; $49.99

GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY

Sunday, April 19, 2020

*STARS AND STRIPES*

"Resiliency and redundancy are very much a part of the internet design," explained Cerf.
The Appalachian Trail has closed due to the pandemic, forcing hikers to head home

When Alexandra Eagle first mentioned plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alongside her new husband, her sister told her they’d either be divorced in five months or married forever.

Eagle, 33, and Jonathan Hall, 36, had just moved out of their Brooklyn apartment when they married on March 2, the third anniversary of the blind date that launched their relationship and a honeymoon, they decided to talk about the Appalachian Trail in their first conversation.

“Eagle and Hall never considered any scenario but finishing,” said Selvage, 51, who thrives on the roar of the woods and the challenge of maintaining a tent on the trail, especially as New York fell under restrictions to prevent the virus’ spread.

“We always figured that being out on the trail and seeing a dozen people a day was a fine position to be in,” Hall said.

As the pandemic grows, hikers face the difficult decision to postpone their dreams or ignore warnings and forge ahead. Like virtually every other entity in the U.S., the Appalachian Trail Conservancy began issuing COVID-19 safety guidance in March. But social distancing and hand-washing suggestions soon shifted to urging all hikers to leave the trail immediately. Shelters and privies were shut down, and volunteer programs were halted. On April 1, the conservancy and 29 other trail-maintaining clubs asked federal officials to close the trail until the end of the month.

“Even right now, I don’t know if we’re doing the right thing,” Eagle said through tears.

Their decision came down to the small chance that they might catch and spread the virus, something Eagle said she couldn’t live with. For now, they’ll stay with her parents in Louisiana, which has more than 12,000 confirmed cases.

“Is that better? That’s hard to say,” she said.

They’ll try to stay in shape while they wait for the all-clear. Hall joked about looking into a treadmill sale he saw online.

But as the timeline becomes grimmer with each passing day, he thinks they might be saying goodbye to the trail for good.

His wife disagrees and sees the full experience when it was less controversial.”

Selvage rented an SUV and drove back home to Las Vegas. She slept in the back of the car. Now, she’s renting out a room in a friend’s house until the all-clear is given to hike again.

“I still think I was safer on the trail,” Selvage said.

For Eagle and Hall, deciding to stay or go was brutal. The couple debated day after day as they hiked over rocks and waterfalls. They hadn’t yet come to terms with their choice when they loaded their backpacks into the trunk of a rental car in Tennessee.

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His wife disagrees and sees them starting again in a few months. Until then, she’s trying to keep her disappointment in perspective.

“I’m just trying to focus in on the fact that we are in such a better position than most of the world,” she said.

BY SARAH BLAKE MORGAN
Associated Press

The Appalachian Trail has closed due to the pandemic, forcing hikers to head home

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Four years ago, when “Master of None” co-creator Alan Yang started writing a film loosely based on his Taiwanese father, Hollywood wasn’t exactly clamoring for Asian American stories. “Crazy Rich Asians” had not made more than $200 million, “The Farewell” was only a “This American Life” episode, and “Parasite” hadn’t yet swept the Oscars. It was a long shot that “Tiger-tail” would even get made, let alone with a partner like Netflix, where it is currently available to stream.

“This was a crazy, crazy choice on my part to write a movie with no white people in it,” said Yang from his home in Los Angeles. “This is the only movie I know that starts in Taiwan, segues into Mandarin and ends in English.”

But he carried on, winnowing down the 250-page odyssey to something more focused: A story about a Taiwanese man named Pin-Jui who leaves his great love for an arranged marriage and a new life in America. It splits between his life as a young man in the 1960s and the present day with his now-grown daughter.

Yang has described it as his “fever dream of my dad’s stories melded with some Wong Kar-Wai and some Hou Hsiao-Hsien.”

Thanks to “Master of None,” Yang had a pre-existing relationship with Ted Sarandos, the streaming giant’s chief content officer. So while it was easy to get the script to him, anything beyond a read was hardly a guarantee.

“It’s an art house-influenced movie that’s almost entirely in Mandarin and Taiwanese and it features no Marvel stars,” Yang said with a laugh about its marketability.

But Sarandos didn’t need convincing: He loved the script and that was that. The movie was a go.

“I’m incredibly grateful to Netflix for taking a chance and allowing us to make the movie in the way we saw fit,” Yang said. That included shooting the past on 16mm film to give it a dreamier feel and the present on digital.

Yang cast Chinese-American actor Tzi Ma to play Pin-Jui (also called Grover) in the present day. Ma, who recently played a version of filmmaker Lulu Wang’s father in “The Farewell,” knew that his character was inspired by Yang’s father, but said that’s where the similarities end.

“The first thing Alan told me was his dad was a doctor,” Ma said. “Already I know this is a huge departure. (Pin-Jui) is a common man. This is a common man’s journey.”

Regardless, Ma knew just who this character was. “This character is modeled after my brother,” Ma said.

His brother was an architect in Hong Kong before their family immigrated to the United States, where his degree wasn’t recognized.

“Basically, in the ’60s there were two businesses we could get into as Asian Americans, Chinese Americans in particular: Restaurants and laundry,” Ma said. “So we bought a restaurant on Staten Island and he became the cook.”

When they moved, Ma remembers a distinct change in his brother, who was once so vibrant and full of life.

Actress Christine Ko, who plays his grown daughter, Angela, in the present-day scenes, had a similarly personal connection to the material.

“It felt like therapy for me, two years of therapy,” Ko said. “I grew up in a home that was a little more strict and wasn’t as emotionally forthcoming with discussions of feelings and all that, so I felt like I could really relate to the distance that Angela has with her father.”

Netfl ix had planned on having a premiere and a simultaneous theatrical release for “Tigertail” before theaters shuttered due to coronavirus. Yang said he was a little disappointed that he wouldn’t be able to celebrate with everyone who worked on it, but that there are discussions to hold some select screenings down the line and maybe even a make-up premiere.

It also means he won’t even be able to watch it with his family.

“I just told my family, this movie is a love letter to you guys, and please don’t take offense at anything,” Yang said. Even though things are strange right now, everyone is excited to be working in this moment where Asian American films are having such mainstream success.

“For the first time it feels like we have solid footing, whereas in the past it always felt like we’re the flavor of the month,” Ma said. “The talent has always been there; they’ve just not had the opportunity to show the world how wonderful they are.”
**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Block falls through ice in sign of spring**

**VT** DANVILLE — A cinder block fell through the ice on Joe's Pond in West Danville last week, an official sign of spring in northeastern Vermont.

Each year, people buy tickets to guess when that happens in the Joe's Pond Ice Out Contest.

The block went through the ice disconnecting a clock at 6:07 a.m., Michelle Walker of the Joe's Pond Association said in an email. The winner had not yet been determined. The prize is a little less than $4,500, she said.

This is the 33rd year of the contest, which was started in the 1980s due to cabin fever.

**Police say man teased cops about having gun**

**NM** LAS CRUCES — A New Mexico man faces charges after police said he teased officers about having a gun.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reported that Asher Madrid was arrested following a domestic violence call in Las Cruces.

Court documents said Madrid, 37, asked an officer to run his name through central dispatch to check if he had felony warrants.

Documents said Madrid asked the officer what would happen if he had felonies and was also in possession of a gun. The officer then asked Madrid if he had a gun on him. Madrid allegedly responded that he did not this time, but would the next time he had an encounter with police.

As officers were walking away, court documents said Madrid threw his hand behind his back. Court documents state the officers on the scene then drew their guns on Madrid, who was searched to make sure he didn’t have any weapons.

**Store brawl ends with 2 arrested, bystander shot**

**NJ** HACKENSACK — A dispute between two customers at a northern New Jersey convenience store ended with a bystander being shot and both customers being arrested, authorities said.

The men began arguing in the store and one of them pulled out a gun, authorities said.

As the two men wrestled for control of the gun it went off, with the bullet striking the torso of an bystander.

The bullet striking the torso of an bystander was not a customer.

As officers were walking away, court documents said Madrid threw his hand behind his back. Court documents state the officers on the scene then drew their guns on Madrid, who was searched to make sure he didn’t have any weapons.

**Bundled up brothers**

Kari Bangston of Minturn, Colo., pushes Owen, 2, left, and Bradley, 5, home after snowboarding and sledding in Maloit Park in Minturn, Colo. The two brothers were tucked out after a day of playing in the snow.

**The Census**

**$400K** The amount given to restore a school built 100 years ago to educate African Americans in South Carolina. Dorchester County Council approved the money for repairs on the St. George Rosenwald School as part of a larger package for parks and tourism projects, The Post and Courier of Charleston reported. The school was one of about 5,000 across the nation and 500 schools across the state built in the 1920s with help from well-known educator Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, the philanthropic president of Sears & Roebuck.

**Man apologizes, pays fines for slapping seal**

**HI** HONOLULU — The at-torney for a man who slapped a Hawaiian monk seal while visiting Oahu issued an apology on behalf of his client, who paid fines issued by federal and state agencies.

Attorney Blake Long in North Carolina said the man paid the fines following an investigation of a video shared on social media.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

The video showed a man ap-proaching a monk seal from behind and slapping its headquar-ters, which is a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

**City orders tourist birth motel to shut down**

**CA** ORANGE — A Calif ornia city ordered the shutdown of a motel that caters to pregnant Chinese women who travel to the United States to deliver their babies.

The Orange County Register reported that council members in the city of Orange revoked the JR Motel’s conditional use permit.

Officials said the motel doesn’t take reservations from the public but rather hosts Chinese women who travel to the country to give birth to babies that automatically have American citizenship.

**Man threatened to bomb ‘Alice’ statue**

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City man was ar-rested after he tested several friends that he was going to blow up a statue of Alice in Wonderland in Central Park with a pipe bomb, authorities said.

**In the region**

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City man was arrested after he tested several friends that he was going to blow up a statue of Alice in Wonderland in Central Park with a pipe bomb, authorities said.

Kevin Fallon, 30, was arrested after police found what appeared to be three pipe bombs in his apartment, according to court documents. The bombs turned out to be empty. Police also found rifle ammunition and several knives taped together, the court papers said.

According to the criminal com-plaint against him, Fallon sent a text to several people on April 9 threatening to blow up the Central Park statue of Alice, the Mad Hatter and other guests at her fa-mous tea party.

**Flies that crawl into noses, ears infest state**

**LA** BATON ROUGE — It’s that time of year again when flies that bite and crawl into people’s bodies infest areas with standing water in Louisiana.

Residents should expect these “annoying” black flies to be around until the weather be comes warmer, East Baton Rouge Parish’s Mosquito Abatement and Rodent Control department said in a Facebook post. It said the flies, also known as “buffalo gnats,” will try to crawl into people’s ears, noses and eyes.

Insect spray, including those used for mosquitoes or other insects, is not effective on them.

**Woman arrested for scam 2 years later**

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota woman wanted in an alleged ginseng scam was arrested after evading capture for more than two years.

Hennepin County prosecutors said Mai Vu Vang, 51, of Brooklyn Center, was arrested in Georg ia and extradited to Minnesota. Vang made her first court appear-ance, where bail was set at $500,000 without conditions. She remains in jail.

Vang was charged in 2017 with six counts of theft by swindle for allegedly duping several mem-

bers of the Hmong community into investing in a nonexistent ginseng farm, the Star Tribune reported.

Prosecutors allege that be-tween 2012 and 2014, Vang per-suaded nine Minnesota victims to give her more than $450,000 for a purported farm near Wausa, Wis. One couple who knew Vang from church allegedly gave her their life savings.

**Police search for man suspected of firebomb**

**GA** BRUNSWICK — Authori ties issued an arrest warrant for a suspect ac-cused of hiding a makeshift explo-sive device underneath a Georgia woman’s car and dousing the ve-hicle in gasoline, police said.

Brunswick police and a Geor gia Bureau of Investigation bomb squad were called to a neighbor-hood when a woman spotted a suspicious package underneath her car and noticed gasoline on the vehicle, Chief Kevin Jones said.

The squad used a robot to re-trieve the firebomb, which was made out of a firework that was at least 4 inches in diameter, Jones said. Investigators also found another large firework, a bag of smaller fireworks and a bottle of accelerant beneath the car, ac-cording to officials.

From wire reports
OPINION

Vital to acknowledge virus’ effect on youth

BY ASHLEY Y. SHAW, JOSEPH K. YUN AND NISARG A. PATEL

Special to The Washington Post

In less tumultuous times, pediatric emergency departments evaluated and treated children with a variety of issues. These patients included children with a history of being neglected, those who had physical or emotional abuse, or those who had experienced trauma. The pandemic has brought health authorities to emergency departments nationwide: children left alone — often in isolation rooms to minimize the risk of infection spread — because there is no one to take care of them.

Families exposed to the new coronavirus experience additional challenges at hospitals, where health care workers must separate parents from children because both are at risk for contamination. Children usually experience milder symptoms than adults, but they are not unharmed by the virus. Some 40% of U.S. hospitals have special pediatric wards, where children are isolated and their parents are denied symptoms or wait, alone, because their loved ones have been admitted.

At our hospitals and others nationwide, the toll of family separation is clear. Younger children are placed in single rooms in the department bay for hours while healthy, younger siblings are kept locked away or try to distract them with toys or cajole them to stay inside. Often, older children stand against walls, not saying certain names for fear of faces and posture betraying anxiety about their loved ones.

Children are assumed to be positive when the caregivers arrive with which are hospitalized for COVID-19. To be observed or tested, these children are often admitted to inpatient pediatric wards as “suspected admissions,” a category typically used for children with concerns for adults, but they are not spared by the disease. During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents and children experienced varying degrees of depression and anxiety as a result of family separation and hospital isolation policies implemented to contain disease spread. The developing neurological pathways in children are particularly sensitive to stressors. In the absence of support and tenacity you give your patients and their families, the psychological trauma of COVID-19 will remain and most affected by COVID-19 will remain and most likely recur.

We cannot completely shield children from the consequences of this pandemic, but acknowledging its effect and providing support and taking away meaningful actions might lessen their scars.

As health care providers, we are doing what we can right now: We fight the solitude these children face with our company. We point out murals of animals, animals, and animals, and we talk about favorite television shows and school subjects. We joke until we begin to laugh together, cutting through the tension heavy in many hospitals of late. When our shifts end, we update our colleagues so the children can make new friends. We aim to help them understand that regardless of what lies ahead, we will continue to care for them — and that they are not alone.

As health care providers during the trauma of COVID-19, the disease’s psychological impact on patients and their relatives is severe. The American Academy of Pediatrics, in 2003 SARS outbreaks, parents and children experienced varying degrees of depression and anxiety as a result of family separation and hospital isolation policies implemented to contain disease spread. The developing neurological pathways in children are particularly sensitive to stressors. In the absence of support and tenacity you give your patients and their families, the psychological trauma of COVID-19 will remain and most likely recur.

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Players’ salaries being cut 25%  

Still no plan in place for games to resume  

By Tim Reynolds  
Associated Press  

Commissioner Adam Silver said it remains impossible for the NBA to make any decisions about whether to resume this season and that it is unclear when that will change.

But in a clear sign that at least some of the 259 remaining regular-season games that were not played because of the coronavirus pandemic will not be rescheduled, the league announced Friday it will withhold 25% of player pay starting with their May 1 checks. Silver, speaking after the league’s regularly scheduled April board of governors meeting — one that took place through video conferencing and not the usual in-person setting in New York — said all options remain on the table for trying to resume play and eventually crowning a champion.

“I think there is a sense that we can continue to take the lead role as we learn more in coming up with an appropriate regimen and procedures regarding to bringing the league back,” Silver said. “There’s a recognition from (owners) that this is bigger than our business; certainly, bigger than sports.”

The salary decision was made in concert with the National Basketball Players Association, the league saying it would “provide players with a more gradual salary reduction schedule” if games are officially canceled or the rest of the season is totally lost. But the NBA paid players full on May 1.

The cutback in salary has been expected for some time in response to the NBA’s shutdown that started March 11, and has no end in sight.

Silver said the league will weigh several factors as it continues to try to save the season, among them whether the infection rate of COVID-19 declines as Planned, the availability of large-scale testing and progress on the path toward a vaccine.

The NBA playoffs would have started Saturday. If none of the 259 outstanding regular-season games are played, the league’s players would lose about $800 million in gross salary. In other matters Silver discussed Friday:

More player positives

Ten players were known to have tested positive for coronavirus as of late March: four from the Brooklyn Nets including Kevin Durant, two from the Los Angeles Lakers, Christian Wood of the Detroit Pistons, Marcus Smart of the Boston Celtics, and Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz.

More players have tested positive since, Silver said.

“Farcical reasons, we’re not reporting” any other positive tests, Silver said.

No deadlines

Silver said there is no cutoff date in mind for a decision to be made about playing some games or calling everything off.

“All rules are off at this point during the situation we find ourselves in and the country is in,” Silver said. “If there is an opportunity to play, even if it looks different than what we’ve done historically, we should be modeling it. ... We don’t have a good understanding of exactly sort of what those standards are that we need to meet in order to move forward ... because the experts don’t necessarily, either.”

Return-to-play sites

The NBA is still listening to ideas from those pitching so-called “bubble” scenarios as a way to resume play. Teams would be brought to a site or sites to finish a season in a way that theoretically could minimize exposure risks.

Sites such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles and the Disney complex near Orlando have been mentioned as possibilities. But Silver said the league isn’t actively pursuing any such “bubble” plan yet, again citing so much uncertainty in so many areas.

Last: Bulls knew 1997-98 season was their last together

The documentary has been billed to include never-before-seen footage from that season, during which the team chased its sixth championship.

But the documentary covers more than just the final season.

The documentary shows Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf and Jordan arguing about a foot injury he suffered during his second NBA season.

Jordan wanted to play through the injury after doctors told the team there was a 90% chance he would recover.

Reinsdorf, however, did not want the star guard to play for fear it might ruin his career.

“I said to Michael, ‘you’re not thinking about the risk-reward ratio,’” Reinsdorf said in the clip aired by GMA. “‘If you had a terrible headache and I gave you a bottle of pills and nine of the pills would cure you and one of the pills would kill you, would you take a pill?’”

Jordan replied that “it depends on how (expletive) bad the headache is.”

Reinsdorf ultimately won out; Jordan sat out that season before returning for the playoffs.

Jordan also talks about his time at the University of North Carolina where he would write his mother asking for money for postage stamps so he could send her letters and to pay his phone bill.

“It’s a little different today,” Jordan said.

“I had a phone bill in college that was $60 or less, but I only had $20 in my account. The thing that people will learn, and my kids will laugh about when they see it, is we used postage stamps back in those days. Looking at the video you will see things that people have forgotten, that life was this way.

“We didn’t have Instagram or Twitter, so you had to live life as it came. ... Spending time with friends and family, it wasn’t the phone. It was in presence — and you wrote letters.”

Jordan discussed his parents during the interview with Good Morning America, saying they were the biggest influence in his life. He said he learned many valuable lessons from them, including the ability to learn from the negatives in life and turn them into positives.

The series will also include extensive profiles of Jackson, and some of Jordan’s key teammates, including Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman and Steve Kerr.

Mentally it tugged at you that this had to come to an end, but it also centered our focus to making sure we ended it right.

Michael Jordan  
Hall of Famer on final season with Bulls

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A four-year starter at Washington State, Weaver wasn’t among the names getting a lot of buzz heading into the January draft. “He told me and I was like, ‘OK, right. Whatever. I don’t believe you,’” she said, recalling the conversation she had before her name was announced. “Then it actually happened.”

Weaver went to the Portland Thorns, who also got the first overall pick, Sophia Smith out of Stanford.

Weaver said one of her greatest strengths as a player is that she’s a good learner. But for now, like the rest of the NWSL’s players, she’s learning to be patient.

The league was supposed to start its eighth season this weekend. The unseeded Cougars were the tournament’s Cinderella after knocking off top seed Virginia in the second round, downing West Virginia 3-0 and blanking South Carolina 1-0 in the quarterfinals. The run came to an end in the Final Four, when Washington State fell 2-1 to North Carolina.

“We knew we had it in us and I knew that we had the fight and the grit. I think we just all had to believe in ourselves — I think that’s what happened,” Weaver said. “Once we hit the tournament, we all believed in each other, knew what we had to do to get to that spot. And I think that was what helped us through everything.”

Weaver had already reported to her first pro training camp when the NWSL shuttered. Currently, she spends her days working out with her roommate, Thorns defender Christen Westphal.

“It’s just now, what’s been going on,” she said. “Everyone just needs to stay safe and I think that’s been more important than starting this season.”

Kyle Larson was fired by Ganassi this week for using a racial slur during a virtual race. Bubba Wallace lost a sponsor for “race quitting” the game a week earlier. And NASCAR’s iRacing event this Sunday is drawing criticism after the series decided to trim the field of lesser-known drivers.

The decision was intended to avoid the wreckfest of two weeks ago at virtual Bristol Motor Speedway. But it came at the expense of drivers such as Landon Cassill and Michael McDowell, who have sponsorship for the events and then learned they were not invited to compete on the virtual Richmond track. Tired star Dale Earnhardt Jr even pulled out in an effort to give his spot to one of the excluded drivers, but it was clear the shine is wearing off.

NASCAR came up with a solution: A heat race Sunday morning for drivers not already invited, with the top two finishers eligible to compete in the nationally televised virtual race and two other drivers selected by broadcast partner Fox.

It seemed a fair concession for Cassill, who does not currently have a Cup Series ride. He has competed in the first three official NASCAR virtual races, hosted other virtual events and signed topical pain reliever Blue-Emu — the sponsor that dropped Wallace — as a backer.

“The best thing that I’ve learned from this week is that my sponsor Blue-Emu is behind me 100% and ultimately that relationship is what will scale these iRacing events from the virtual world into opportunities in the real world,” Cassill said. “That I have to qualify in this week is just another opportunity to prove myself as a racer.”

It’s become very messy in the month since NASCAR pivoted from real racing to iRacing, which has twice set esports viewership records on Fox and its cable channel. IndyCar launched a league with Saturday races now aired by NBCSN, and IMSA hosted a huge field of sports car drivers Thursday in a race that was streamed.

Virtual racing has become the only way for drivers to promote their partners during stay-at-home orders, and teams have recognized the value in having their drivers participate. But what started as fun became very serious business and snowballed Sunday night when Larson used the N-word while trying to communicate with his spotter. Almost all of his sponsors dropped him the next day, and he was fired by Ganassi.

IndyCar Series owner Roger Penske urged team owners to caution their drivers about their conduct while virtual racing — a message delivered after Penske driver Will Power had his stream muted by the service for calling Dixon a “wanker.”

NASCAR on Friday postponed its next scheduled event, May 9 at Martinsville, Va., and is exploring racing at venues without spectators. IndyCar’s next scheduled race is June 6 at Texas Motor Speedway.
**WNBA Draft/NHL**

Ionescu goes No. 1 to New York Liberty

**Oregon star set NCAA record for triple-doubles**

**By Doug Feinberg**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oregon star Sabrina Ionescu was the No. 1 pick in the WNBA Draft, as expected. When she’ll play for the New York Liberty is unclear.

With sports on hold during the coronavirus pandemic, it was a draft Friday like no other — with players in their own homes instead of a central location. Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced selections from her home in New Jersey, holding up the jersey of the player being chosen.

"Of course it was different than I had expected, and just excited to be able to be here with my family and the people closest to me and able to spend this time," Ionescu said from her home in California. "Making the most out of what’s going on in today’s society. Just really happy to be able to spend this moment with them and excited to have gone through this process." Ionescu set the NCAA record for triple-doubles and was the first college player to have over 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists in her career. Ionescu was one of three first-round picks for New York, which also had Nos. 9 and 12.

"I’ve been working for this for my entire basketball career and was very excited to see that come to fruition," Ionescu said. "I’m very humbled and excited for the opportunity." Ducks teammate Satou Sabally, one of three juniors to enter the draft, went second to Dallas. It’s the third time in the history of the draft that the top two picks were college teammates.

"To go 1-2 with Satou is a really cool feeling and shows all the hard work we went through this year paid off," Ionescu said.

"Really proud of her and what we were able to do as teammates and excited to see her future in the pros."

Lauren Cox went third to Indiana and Kennedey Alarie was the fourth pick by Atlanta. Dallas took Bella Alarie with the fifth pick. The Princeton star was only the second Ivy League player to be drafted that high. Harvard star Allie Farster was also selected fifth in the 1998 draft by the Los Angeles Sparks.

South Carolina players Mikiah Herbert Harrigan and Tyasha Harris went sixth and seventh to Minnesota and Dallas. The Gamecocks finished No. 1 in the AP poll this season. Chicago chose Ruthy Hebard with the eighth pick — marking the fifth consecutive season and ninth overall that three college teammates were taken in the opening round.

"Really proud of what kind of environment we had at Oregon," Sabally said.


The Liberty also made two trades after the draft, acquiring Willoughby for Shatori Walker-Kimbrough. New York also traded Erica Ogwumike, who they drafted in the third round, to Minnesota for Stephanie Talbot.

The WNBA tried to create a draft-like experience for the players, sending them a care package. One team made sure all 12 teams, a WNBA sweatshirt, confetti and a few other items.

**Jets, Byfuglien agree to terminate contract**

**By Stephen Whyno and John Wawrowa**

Associated Press

Dustin Byfuglien and the Winnipeg Jets agreed to mutually terminate his contract Friday, potentially marking the end of a playing career for “Big Buff.”

The agreement ended a lengthy dispute between Byfuglien and the organization over his absence this season. Because there was no financial settlement as part of the termination, the defensemen walked away from the $14 million remaining on his contract with no guarantee he’ll play again.

This was never our desired outcome or ending with Dustin,” Winnipeg general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said on a conference call with reporters. “If we were the Jets writing the perfect script, it would’ve ended with Dustin holding a great, big silver trophy over his head at center ice and flashing that great, big smile of his.”

In reality, it ended seven months after Byfuglien told the Jets he’d lost the desire to play and following surgery in October to repair an ankle injury, which prompted a grievance filed through the NHL Players’ Association and settled Friday.

It wasn’t clear how much Byfuglien wavered about returning to play. Cheveldayoff broached the possibility of trading him on multiple occasions, and came away questioning whether a change of scenery would make a difference for Byfuglien.

Cheveldayoff said, “There’s only one person and one person only who actually knew he’ll ever play again, and that’s Dustin.”

Agent Ben Hankinson told The Associated Press by email that Byfuglien doesn’t have anything to say “will take some time to decide” on his future.

The 35-year-old Byfuglien battled the ice at multiple positions for the Jets and was a leader of his teammates with a rare blend of size, skill and power. He hasn’t played since Winnipeg’s first-round playoff series last April and is now an unrestricted free agent. It’s unclear when he would be allowed to sign with any team because the NHL’s season is on hold due to the new coronavirus pandemic.

The league hasn’t decided when it will resume play and whether it will skip the remainder of the regular season and open with the playoffs. At the very least, Byfuglien would be ineligible to compete in this year’s playoffs.

A person familiar with the situation told The AP that Byfuglien was healthy enough to return playing, which is why he was no longer eligible to collect on his contract. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because that information was not revealed in the announcement released by the NHL and union.

“Dustin’s choice was to be true to himself and not put himself and maybe the team and everybody in a difficult situation,” Cheveldayoff said. “Dustin and I both certainly didn’t have it in him to continue to play, that’s probably the most honest thing that he could say.”

If Byfuglien hangs up his skates, his legacy will be that of a Stanley Cup winner who switched positions and became one of the most feared blueliners of this era. Big hits and powerful slap shots allowed Byfuglien to make a difference all over the ice.

“He was a force of nature,” Cheveldayoff said.
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.