WASHINGTON — Capt. Brett Crozier, the former commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, will not be reinstated and the promotion of his senior officer will be delayed following a Navy investigation into the coronavirus outbreak aboard the aircraft carrier that left the ship docked in Guam for nearly two months, Adm. Michael Gilday, chief of naval operations, said Friday.

"Both failed to tackle the problem head on and to take charge. And in a number of instances, they placed crew comfort in front of crew safety," Gilday said about the investigation’s findings during a news briefing at the Pentagon.

The decision is a result of the Navy’s second investigation into the service’s response to the outbreak aboard the Roosevelt and the conduct of Crozier after the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived in Guam on March 27 as the virus spread among the ship’s crew of more than 4,800 sailors, eventually infecting 1,273 sailors and killing one on April 13.

Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite and Gilday discussed the investigation’s results during the announcement.

Navy spokesman Clay Doss called the decision "a difficult one.

"The investigation determined that Capt. Crozier had placed his focus correctly on crew health and welfare," Doss said. "Unfortunately, his approach and execution was not effective in containing the spread of the virus."
Apple re-closes stores where virus cases surge

Associated Press

Apple’s Friday decision to close stores in four states with surging coronavirus cases highlights a question that other businesses may soon face: Stay open or prepare for more shutdowns?

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Many other businesses, including manufacturing, travel, dining, and entertainment, have been steadily reopening where they can while taking health precautions.

But some have recently pulled back or paused their plans. The Cruise Lines International Association, for instance, announced Friday that ships will not be sailing from U.S. ports until at least Sept. 15, extending a pause put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The auto industry, meanwhile, has seen its efforts to restart production hampered in part by infected workers.

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The move heightens concerns that the pandemic might keep the economy in the doldrums longer than expected. Those worries sent stocks on Wall Street lower. It’s not clear whether other retailers will follow on mass, although one analyst expects hard-hit stores to stay open unless forced to close by local authorities.

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Army, Virginia police investigate death of senior enlisted soldier

BY COREY DICKSTEIN | Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army investigators in Virginia are probing the sudden death Tuesday of a Fort Belvoir-based senior enlisted soldier, military officials said Friday.

Fairfax County police and the Army's Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the cause of Command Sgt. Maj. Eric M. Schmitz's death, Army officials said in a statement. Schmitz was the top enlisted soldier for the Army's Intelligence and Security Command, known as INSCOM, a position he had held since 2017.

Army officials declined to provide additional information about those investigations, including what was suspicious about his death.

Schmitz served 28 years in the Army, primarily in intelligence operations, according to his biography. He was a 2005 inductee into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, an honor for the Army's top noncommissioned officers, selected by their peers. Schmitz's awards included the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals and three Army Commendation Medals, according to his biography.

Before he became the top enlisted soldier for INSCOM in September 2017, Schmitz served as the top enlisted soldier in Army Forces Command's G-2 intelligence shop.

“Schmitz was a great soldier,” Maj. Gen. Gary W. Johnston, INSCOM commander, said in a statement. “Eric was a tireless partner leading INSCOM’s 17,500 soldiers, largely through physical activities including athletic competition, scuba diving and skydiving, according to the organization’s website.

The noncommissioned officer who died Tuesday was last seen April 22 in the parking lot of the armory room where she worked earlier in the day. “I opened an investigation concerning the information provided by the Guillon Family that Pfc. Vanessa Guillon was harassed prior to her disappearance,” said Col. Ralph Overland, Commander of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, in a statement obtained by Fox.

Fort Hood officials said in a news release earlier this week they have not yet uncovered any "credible information" to suggest Guillon was "sexually assaulted.”

During an appearance on "Dateline" earlier this week, her sister, Mayra Guillon, said her sibling had previously claimed she felt unsafe at the Fort Hood base. And it’s not the first time Guillon’s family has raised questions about alleged sexual misconduct on the base. On a website aimed at finding the missing soldier, there is a passage written as though it were from her perspective, though it does not name the alleged harasser.

"My mom tried to convince me to give her the name of the person who was harassing me, but I didn’t want to get in trouble. My mom told me that she would report it for me, but I told her that I knew of other female soldiers that had reported sexual harassment and that the US Army didn’t believe them,” it reads.

"I told my mom how the same thing happened to me, and I told her that I could not say anything for fear of being punished. My mom told me that she would keep a stop to it, but I told her I would take care of it myself.”

The Air Force said she has also served deployments in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Service officials said 12 chief master sergeants were considered for Wright's replacement, but Bass was a clear choice because of her "chemistry" with Brown.

Wright, Southcom's selection, as well, saying he has known Bass for many years.

"This is a historic moment for our Air Force and she is a phenomenal leader who'll bring new ideas and her own style to the position," he said. “She’ll do great things for our airmen and she’ll blaze her own trail as our CMSAF.”
Dismissal: Events recommended as response case study

FROM FRONT PAGE

at the Pentagon on Friday afternoon. Defense Secretary Mark Esper was also briefed earlier in the day on the findings and supported the Navy’s decisions, according to a statement by Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman.

The investigation found Crozier’s actions did not meet the expectations of command, Gilday’s memorandum about the investigation states. He did not forcefully or quickly act on the best plans available to him or communication through his chain of command his concerns despite a number of opportunities. Crozier also did not ensure that he understood all the facts regarding the situation or include important members of his command in the communication chain expressing his concerns.

Gilday’s memo also recommended every regimental level leadership of Roosevelt be used as a case study to “identify, analyze, and publish lessons learned regarding the importance, forthright, appropriate communication during crisis action planning and crisis response execution.”

The House Armed Services Committee is also investigating the outbreak aboard the Roosevelt “in order to better understand the full range of mistakes that were made clear, forthright, appropriate communication during crisis action planning and crisis response execution.”

Observers also fear the high-ly contagious coronavirus has spread throughout the country with the return of nearly 300,000 Afghans from Iran, the hardest hit country in the region. Iran has recorded more than 200,000 cases and 9,392 deaths.

Few of the Afghans who re-tumed from Iran were tested before they fanned out across the country to their homes.

Earlier this month the International Rescue Committee warned Afghanistan was on the brink of a humanitarian disaster mostly because the government does not have the capacity to even test 80% of coronavirus cases.

Until now a handful of NATO contractors and locally employed staff.

Infection: Testing in Afghanistan is limited

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Infection: Testing in Afghanistan is limited

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, is seen after it was hit by rocket fire in 2013. The U.S. State Department said Saturday that COVID-19 infections have been reported at its embassy in the Afghan capital and the staff who are affected include diplomats, contractors and locally employed staff.

4 rockets explode inside Baghdad’s Green Zone

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Four rockets exploded inside Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone near the American embassy, Iraq’s military said Thursday, in the third such at-tack since the U.S. embarked on strategic talks with Iraq’s new government.

It wasn’t immediately clear who was responsible for the attack, which caused no casualties or damage, but the U.S. has blamed Iran-backed militia groups for a recent quick succession of rocket attacks targeting the American presence in Iraq.

The attacks are proving to be a key challenge for the administration of Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, whose government has promised to take action against militias who attack the U.S. Thursday’s attack was the third since strategic talks were launched last week.

In a tweet following the attack, al-Kadhimi said it aimed to “undermine our stability and future” and was “unacceptable.”

“I will not tolerate rogue groups hijacking our homeland to create chaos and find excuses to main-tain their narrow interests,” he said.

The first session of the much-anticipated talks between the U.S. and Iraq began last week and laid the agenda for the months ahead, including the issues of the presence of U.S. troops in the country, militia groups acting outside of state authority and Iraq’s dire economic crisis.

During the talks, Iraq com-mitted to “moving ahead and undertaking their obligations” to protect the American presence against militia attacks, said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Schenker. But attacks have continued in an apparent defi ance of that promise.
US attorney refutes claim he's resigning

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department moved abruptly Friday night to oust Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan overseeing key prosecutions of President Donald Trump's allies and an investigation of his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani. But Berman said he was refusing to leave his post and his ongoing investigations would continue.

“I have not resigned, and have no intention of resigning, my position,” Berman said. His statement came hours after Attorney General William Barr said Berman was stepping down from his position.

The standoff set off an extraordinary clash between the Justice Department and one of the nation's top districts, which has tried major mob and terror cases.

Barr offered no explanation for why he was pushing out Berman in the statement he issued late Friday. The White House said it was nominating the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission to the job, a lawyer with virtually no experience as a federal prosecutor.

Hours later, Berman issued his own statement saying he had learned that he was being pushed out through a press release. He vowed to stay on the job until a Trump nominee is confirmed by the Senate, challenging Barr's power to remove him from office because he was appointed to the job by federal judges, not by the president.

Under federal law, a U.S. attorney appointed by district court judges, not by the president. Trump could move him from office because he was appointed to the job by federal judges, not by the president. Under federal law, a U.S. attorney appointed by district court judges can serve "until the vacancy is filled."

A senior Justice Department official said the department was pressing forward with its plans and will have Craig Carpenito, the U.S. attorney in New Jersey, take over the office temporarily, starting on July 3. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the issue and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Democrats have repeatedly accused Trump's Justice Department of political interference, and those concerns have also been pervasive among some rank and file officials in the agency. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler said his committee was investigating Berman to testify next week.

Federal prosecutors in New York have overseen numerous prosecutions and investigations related to Trump in recent years. That includes an ongoing investigation into Giuliani's business dealings, including whether he failed to register as a foreign agent, according to people familiar with the probe. The people were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The office has also prosecuted a number of Trump associates, including Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen, who served a prison sentence for lying to Congress and campaign finance crimes.

Berman has also overseen the prosecution of two Florida business- men, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, who were associates of Giuliani and tied to the Ukraine impeachment investigation. The men were charged in October with federal campaign finance violations, including hiding the source of $325,000 donation to a group supporting Trump's reelection.

Trump looks to reset campaign with Tulsa rally

WASHINGTON — Pressing ahead during a pandemic, President Donald Trump looked to reverse a decline in his political fortunes Saturday by returning to the format that has so often energized himself and his loyal supporters: a raucous, no-holds-barred rally before tens of thousands of adoring fans, this time in Tulsa, Okla.

The rally was shaping up to be one of the biggest indoor events in the U.S. since large gatherings were shut down in March because of the coronavirus, and it was scheduled over the protests of local health officials and as COVID-19 cases spike in many states. The event was expected to draw crowds of protesters to the area as well.

It's been more than three months since the nation last saw a Trump rally. The unemployment rate stood at about 3.5% that March 2. The number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. was estimated at 91. "Our country is stronger than ever before," Trump declared.

Now, the unemployment rate stands at 13.3% and is one of the most recent monthly report. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases has soared to about 2.2 million. The number of deaths reported in the U.S. has surpassed 119,000. Outrage over the criminal justice system's treatment of minorities following the death of George Floyd and other African Americans has spilled protests around the nation. Only a quarter of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction.

Trump understands the stakes and was determined to return to his signature campaign events. He dismissed complaints that bringing together throngs for an indoor rally risked spreading the coronavirus as nothing more than a political ploy.

Mike Pellerin joins other Trump supporters Friday in downtown Tulsa, Okla., ahead of President Donald Trump's Saturday's campaign rally.

"Big crowds and lines already forming in Tulsa. My campaign hasn't started yet. It starts on Saturday night in Oklahoma!" Trump tweeted Friday.

Trump's visit has also raised fears of clashes between protesters and Trump supporters. Officials expect a crowd of 100,000 people or more in downtown Tulsa. Trump will speak inside the BOK Center as well as an outdoor stage. But his audience also will be voters in battleground states such as Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida.

Republican strategist Alex Conant said the rally gives the president a chance to reset his campaign after a couple of tough months.

"The Tulsa rally is trying to ignite some momentum in a campaign that's been going nowhere," Conant said. "When you look at the polls and then you look at the calendar, you realize he has to do something to try to reframe the election."

The events in Tulsa will go a long way to determining how the campaign plays out in coming months. A success lays the groundwork for Trump to take his show to states that will determine the presidential election. A spike in coronavirus cases coming out of Tulsa would make his reception in those states more contentious. The campaign said it will hand out masks and hand sanitizer, but there is no requirement that participants use them. Participants will also undergo a temperature check.

The president’s campaign views his rallies as critical to his appeal. They provide a preelection level of his supporters and often lead them to donate, knock on doors and make phone calls on the president’s behalf.

Trump has generally held his campaign rallies in swing states or in Democratic-leaning states such as Colorado or New Mexico that he hopes to flip this November. Oklahoma fits none of those categories. The last Democratic candidate to emerge victorious there in a presidential election was Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Trump won the state with more than 65% of the vote in the 2016 election. The Republican stronghold gives Trump more assurance that he’ll face little resistance to his efforts from top state officials.

"It’s going to be safe,” said Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican. “We have to learn how to be safe and how to move on.”

Tulsa resident Sue Williams picked her place in line Thursday afternoon. “I've been praying, and I don't believe I'm going to get the coronavirus,” Williams, 72, said, adding that she signed a waiver on her ticket application amid the risks involved in going inside.

Mark Kelleher, of Oklahoma City, dismissed the threat of the virus as “fear porn.”

"I think it's all a hoax, to tell you the truth,” Kelleher said.

The rally was scheduled for Friday, but it was moved back a day following an uproar that it otherwise would have happened on Juneteenth, and in a city where a 1921 white-on-black attack killed as many as 300 people.

Campaign officials said that Trump would focus on what they call the “great American come- back.” White House officials continue to project strong growth numbers for the U.S. economy in the third and fourth quarters. They want to give Americans a reason for optimism. "We are back and we will be better," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Friday.

Only one said he anticipates a lot of the speech will focus on presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

“Eight right now the election is a referendum on Trump, and he’s losing,” Conant said. "I think he needs to make a very strong case for why Biden would be a worse president."
Many get day off as awareness of Juneteenth rises

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A unprecedented number of U.S. companies gave employees off for Juneteenth on Friday, raising hopes that the day commemorating the end of slavery could someday become a true national celebration.

The momentum could hinge, however, on whether the country’s largest employer — the federal government — joins the trend. The date — June 19th — is not a federal holiday, and many non-Black Americans have only recently become aware of the day.

More than 460 companies, including Nike, Twitter and Lyft, have committed to observing Juneteenth, with the majority offering a paid day off, according to Hello Creative, a group of Black creative professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area that launched an initiative to galvanize corporate support for making the day an official holiday.

It’s a potential sea change, spreading awareness of the date beyond African Americans who have long celebrated it with cookouts, parades and community festivals.

“We’ve explained our lives away as Black people. We’ve had to explain and define Black history,” said Miles Dotson, co-Founder of Hello Creative. “Our hope is that we’ve said it enough times that folks outside of ourselves see that they are equally part of this picture.”

Juneteenth commemorates the day when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free 155 year ago in Galveston, Texas, where Union soldiers brought them the news they were free 155 years ago in Galveston, Texas.

Juneteenth was expected to be a day of racial justice protests, a key driver behind companies deciding to mark the day. Other prominent corporations giving employees off include Target, J.C. Penney, Best Buy, the NFL and J.P. Morgan Chase.

“As a Black person, I have been ‘saddled’ by older relatives and the stories of disenfranchisement, discrimination, and the multiple exclusions they faced,” said Phillip Thompson, a team leader at stock images provider Shutterstock, which declared Juneteenth a permanent company holiday.

“After 155 years, it is truly an emotional moment to know that society is beginning to acknowledge Black freedom struggles,” he said.

Smaller businesses are following suit, particularly those whose employees have engaged in the Black Lives Matter movement, which has reverberated worldwide after Floyd’s death and inspired multiracial protests.

Lori Rosen, owner of a small public relations firm in New York City, had never heard of Juneteenth until recently. But she decided to give her 16 employees the day off when she saw big tech companies doing it, and after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared it a holiday for state employees. Several of her employees are spending the day volunteering for the Juneteenth Freedom Banknotes, an initiative encouraging Census participation.

“I thought to myself, ‘How did I not know about this all these years?’” said Rosen, 64, who is white. “I started wondering, is this another example of how a national holiday is formed?”

People film the only statue of a Confederate general, Albert Pike, in the nation’s capital after it was toppled by protesters and set on fire Saturday.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Protesters toppled the only statue of a Confederate general in the nation’s capital and set it on fire on June 19th, the day marking the end of slavery in the United States, amid continuing anti-racism demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Cheering demonstrators jumped up and down as the 11-foot statue of Albert Pike — wrapped with chains — wobbled on its high granite pedestal before falling backward, landing in a pile of dust. Protesters then set a bonfire around it in a circle as the statue burned, chanting, “No justice, no peace!” and “No racist police!”

Eyewitness accounts and videos posted on social media indicated that police were on the scene but didn’t intervene. President Donald Trump quickly tweeted about the toppling, calling out D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and writing: “The DC police are not doing their job as they watched a monument Friday night and hanged one of the toppled statues from a light post.

Demonstrators used a strap to pull down two statues of Confederate soldiers that were part of a larger obelisk near the Supreme Court, news outlets reported.

Police officers earlier in the evening had failed the protesters’ previous attempt to use ropes to topple the statues. But after the officers cleared the area, protesters mounted the obelisk and were able to take down the statues.

They then dragged the statues down a street and used a rope to hang one of the figures by its neck from a light post.

The other statue was dragged to the Wake County courthouse, according to the News & Observer.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of demonstrators had marched through downtown Raleigh and Durham to protest against police brutality and to celebrate Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

Numerous Confederate statues have been vandalized or torn down across the South in recent weeks following the death of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes.

North Carolina protesters topple, hang sculpture

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Protesters in North Carolina’s capital pulled down parts of a Confederate monument Friday night and hanged one of the toppled statues from a light post.

Demonstrators used a strap to pull down two statues of Confederate soldiers that were part of a larger obelisk near the state capitol in downtown Raleigh, news outlets reported.

Police officers earlier in the evening had failed the protesters’ previous attempt to use ropes to topple the statues. But after the officers cleared the area, protesters mounted the obelisk and were able to take down the statues.

They then dragged the statues down a street and used a
 Judge approves publishing of Bolton’s book

 **By Eric Tucker**
 Associated Press

 WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Saturday that former national security adviser John Bolton can move forward in publishing his tell-all book despite efforts by the Trump administration to block the release because of concerns that classified information could be exposed.

 The decision from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth is a victory for Bolton in a court case that involved core First Amendment and national security concerns. But the judge also made clear his concerns that Bolton had “gambled with the national security of the United States” by opting out of a prepublication review process meant to prevent government officials from spilling classified secrets in memoirs they publish.

 The ruling clears the path for a broader election-year readership and distribution of a memoir, due out Tuesday, that paints an unflattering portrait of President Donald Trump’s foreign policy decision-making during the turbulent year-and-a-half that Bolton spent in the White House.

 Nonetheless, Lamberth frowned upon the way Bolton went about publishing the book. Bolton took it “upon himself to publish his book without securing final approval from national intelligence authorities and perhaps caused irreparable harm to national security, Lamberth said.

 But with 200,000 copies already distributed to booksellers across the country, attempting to block its release would be futile, the judge said.

 “A single dedicated individual with a book in hand could publish its contents far and wide from his local coffee shop,” Lamberth wrote. “With hundreds of thousands of copies around the globe — many in newsrooms — the damage is done. There is no restoring the status quo.”

 **White House backs Idaho transgender sports ban**

 **By Keith Ridler**
 Associated Press

 BOISE, Idaho — A recently passed Idaho law banning transgender women from competing in women’s sports — the first such law in the nation — passed overwhelming support in Idaho’s Republican-dominated House and Senate and was unanimously opposed by Democrats. It takes effect during the turbulent year-and-a-half that Bolton spent in the White House.

 The ban prohibits transgender students who identify as female from playing on female teams sponsored by public schools, colleges and universities. The ban does not apply to men’s teams.

 The American Civil Liberties Union and Legal Voice women’s rights group that filed the lawsuit in April, contending the law violates the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause because it is discriminatory.

 The Justice Department wrote that “the Equal Protection Clause does not require states to abandon their efforts to provide biologically women with equal opportunity to compete for, and enjoy the life-long benefits that flow from, participation in school athletics in order to accommodate the team preferences of transgender athletes.”

 Republican Gov. Brad Little on March 30 signed into law the measure that received overwhelming support in Idaho’s Republican-dominated House and Senate and was unanimously opposed by Democrats. It takes effect July 1, though the lawsuit seeks a preliminary injunction to prevent that.

 Ritchie Eppink, legal director for the ACLU of the United States, which represents the plaintiffs in the Idaho case, said the arguments in the Justice Department filing are anti-transgender arguments that have been used before and will ultimately fail.

 “The Trump administration has been attacking trans folks in the United States since basically inauguration day,” he said. “It’s not surprising they made this a part of their anti-trans agenda as well.”

 Two plaintiffs are bringing the lawsuit. One is an unnamed Boise area high school student who is cisgender. Cisgender refers to someone whose gender identity corresponds with the sex the person was identified as having at birth.

 The other is Lindsay Hecox, who will be a sophomore this fall at Boise State University and hopes to qualify for the women’s cross-country team. She was on the boys’ team at a Moorpark, California, high school before transitioning.

 The NCAA has a policy allowing transgender athletes to compete. But the sponsor of the Idaho law, Republican Barbara Ehardt, has called the NCAA policy “permissive.”

 Ehardt said that allowing transgender athletes on girls’ and women’s teams would negate nearly 50 years of progress women have made since the landmark 1972 Title IX federal legislation credited with opening up sports to female athletes plus scholarships and other opportunities.

 Backers cite Title IX as a legal defense to the new law, but the lawsuit contends that the new law is a violation of Title IX, which bans sex discrimination in education.

 Alliance Defending Freedom, a Christian group that defends against what it identifies as threats to religious freedoms, is seeking to intervene in the case on behalf of two female athletes at Idaho State University and welcomed the involvement of the Department of Justice.

 “We commend the DOJ for supporting a level playing field for female athletes,” the group said in a statement.

 Hiring climbs in 46 states in May

 **By Christopher Rugaber**
 Associated Press

 WASHINGTON — Employers added jobs in 46 states last month, evidence that the U.S. economy’s surprise hiring gain in May was spread broadly across the country — in both states that began reopening their economies early and those that did so only later.

 Unemployment rates fell in 38 states, rose in three and were largely unchanged in nine, the Labor Department said Friday.

 The disparities ranged from Nevada, with the highest rate (23.5%), to Hawaii (22.6%) and Michigan (21.2%) to Nebraska (5.2%), the lowest) and Utah (8.5%). The overall U.S. unemployment rate in May was a still-high 13.3%, a decline from 14.7% in April.

 As a whole, the figures illustrate the unusually broad nature of the recession, with all states enduring unemployment rates that soared in April as the coronavirus forced business closures and then generally fell in May but remained painfully high.

 At the same time, the viral outbreak has sharpened disparities among the states, with Nevada, with its hard-hit tourism industry, and Michigan, heavily affected by the auto industry, seeing the largest increase — 5.2% in Michigan, the second-largest gain. Michigan’s gain in May, behind Vermont’s 6.4% gain. Michigan’s gain

 "I think a lot of people were sick of being cooped up inside for three months," Moscove said.

 Kamins also noted that the state-level data shows that both early-opening states and those that remained closed longer managed to post solid job gains and lower unemployment rates in May. Georgia, Mississippi and Texas, which reopened faster than other states, enjoyed solid hiring gains.

 But so did New York, Michigan, and Massachusetts, which opened later than most other states. Hiring rose 5.2% in Michigan, the second-best job growth in the country in May, behind Vermont’s 6.4% gain. Michigan’s gain in part reflects the recall to work of many autoworkers last month.

 The state also posted a sharp increase in construction jobs. Montana and Pennsylvania each reported a job gain of 4%, the third-largest increase, though Montana allowed businesses to restart earlier than Pennsylvania did.

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**StARS AND STRIPES**

**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**Signs of relief seen in Beijing but not in Americas**

**Associated Press**

**BELING — Authorities in China appeared to be winning their battle against an outbreak of the coronavirus in Beijing on Saturday, but in parts of the Americas the pandemic raged unabated. Brazil surpassed 1 million confirmed infections, second only to the United States.**

Europe, in contrast, continued to emerge gradually from lockdown, with hard-hit Britain considering easing social distancing rules to make it easier for restaurants, pubs and schools to reopen. Italy, once the pandemic’s European epicenter, Pope Francis told medics that their herculean efforts during the outbreak would help the country forge a future of hope and solidarity.

The head of the World Health Organization said Friday that the pandemic is “accelerating” and that more than 150,000 cases were reported the day before — the highest single-day number so far.

Tedesco Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that nearly half of the newly reported cases were from the Americas, with significant numbers from South Asia and the Middle East.

The global battle against COVID-19 is a patchwork of successes and setbacks at this point in the pandemic, quantified by the trajectory of the coronavirus in different countries.

In China, where the virus was first identified under lockdown mea-

**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

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**Sunday, June 21, 2020**

**Small Business Administration to release relief loan data**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON — The Trump administra-

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Phoenix mandates wearing masks amid surge of cases

**Associated Press**

PHOENIX — The city of Phoenix on Friday approved a measure requiring residents to use face masks in public to ward off the spread of the coronavirus as Arizona hit an all-time high for new daily cases.

In an emergency meeting called by Mayor Kate Gallego, the City Council voted 7-2 in favor of making masks or face coverings mandatory. The order goes into effect at 6 a.m. Saturday.

“Public health professionals tell us there are steps we can take to slow the spread. With today’s vote, the Phoenix City Council is moving forward to protect our community,” Gallego said.

The Phoenix ordinance applies to all public places, including public transit, in the nation’s fifth-largest city. Restaurants and other businesses will have the right to refuse service to people who do not wear masks or face coverings.

As exempted from the order are children under age 6, people with religious beliefs against covering their faces and restaurant patrons who are eating or drinking. The restaurant patrons must wear masks while entering and exiting and moving around in the establishments.

Police are tasked with enforcing the mandate. Chief Jeri Williams said officers have been told to “lead with education” and let violators off with warnings first. Citations will be used as a last resort, she said. A spokesman for the police department did not immediately respond to a request asking about the amounts of the fines.

People who called in to express their views about the mandate said they voted the way they did because they were against it and opposed why the vote was split between those who spoke in favor of it and opponents who were against it.

In an emergency meeting that Waipahu gathering, state of Hawaii Department of Health also announced that Waipahu gathering, state of Hawaii has seen the highest daily number of cases Hawaii has seen since the outbreak began was 34.

“We are monitoring an unprecedented number of claims applications,” said in a written statement. “The consumer contact center will help us more quickly get benefits out to people while still protecting the system from fraud.”

Of the 635,772 applications received, the department has processed 617,296 of them.

**Hawaii**

HONOLULU — Hawaii’s Department of Health reported 27 new cases of coronavirus Friday, the expectation is to release since April in what officials say is an expected spike as places such as restaurants, gyms and churches re-open.

“Many of these cases are associated with community clusters in large groups, crowded conditions, adult care and long-term nursing facilities, and with a church group,” the state said in a statement announcing Friday’s cases.

“We want to keep employees and staff in the communities and provide community education,” state officials said.

**Illinois**

SPRINGFIELD — School will be different when a new academic year starts this fall, but whether students are still learning remotely or the number of days per week they attend class is likely to vary by location and district.

The Illinois State Board of Education is releasing its health and safety guidelines by the end of June for districts trying to prepare for fall during the coronavirus pandemic, some will be requirements, such as wearing masks or cleaning regimens for schools.

But Illinois State Schools Superintendent Carmen Ayala said there won’t be a one-size-fits-all approach.

“Because community A in southern Illinois is not the same as community B in suburban Illinois or in urban Illinois,” Ayala told WUIS-FM. “As much as we have tried to provide some common things, it still will remain the district’s ability, given their community context, to make the best reopening plan to meet the needs of the community and children that they serve.”

The districts will have the option of continuing remote learning, bringing students and staff back to buildings, or doing a combination of the two. Some students are in a classroom at one time.

**Michigan**

DETROIT — Dozens of people in the Detroit area were bailed out of jail during the coronavirus pandemic by nonprofits pushing to dismantle the cash bail system.

The immediate release from jail before trial for low-income people grew urgent with the arrival of the COVID-19 virus for nonprofits advocating to transform the criminal justice system, a system that disproportionately harms communities of color.

Roughly 55 people in the area have been bailed out of jail during the past week as part of a phased-in approach to the opening of all sports.

“Learning to live with COVID-19 means finding ways to balance risks and benefits, and that’s what we are seeking to do with this guidance,” Malcolm said in a news release.

**Pennsylvania**

HARRISBURG — Heavily populated regions of Pennsylvania that were among the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic will move next week into the “green” phase of Gov. Tom Wolf’s reopening plan on Friday, salons and barbershops are allowed to open at 50% occupancy and by appointment only.

Anthony Rodriguez trims the hair of James Casimi at Father and Sons II Barber Shop in Pottsville, Pa., on Friday. For coronavirus safety, masks and gloves are being worn and each station is separated with clear plastic curtains. Schuylkill County moved into the green phase of Gov. Tom Wolf’s reopening plan on Friday.

**Minnesota**

ST. PAUL — Youth outdoor sports can return to games and scrimmages on Wednesday after being on pause during the coronavirus pandemic, Minnesota health officials said Friday.

The Minnesota Department of Health also announced that indoor youth sports can resume games and practices on July 1.

“People need to compete in order to perform at their best. The full team practices for all sports can start Wednesday,” the Health Department recommended a phased-in approach to the reopening of all sports.

“I think it was a deliberate and intentional rollout,” said Todd Johnson of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. “They just wanted to get it right.”

Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said it’s important to look for opportunities to engage in activities that promote health and well-being.

“Learning to live with COVID-19 means finding ways to balance risk and benefits, and that’s what we are seeking to do with this guidance,” Malcolm said in a news release.

**Washington**

SEATTLE — Washington state’s most populous county has been approved to move into Phase 2 of reopening from Gov. Jay Inslee’s coronavirus restrictions.

King County, which has about 2.2 million residents, as of Friday will be allowed to relax rules for businesses like restaurants, bars and retail operations.

Also Friday, the Department of Health released a report that showed more than one in three COVID-19 infections in the state have occurred in people who work in the Health Care and Social Assistance industries.

Through May 27, 2,375 cases or 37% of overall cases were from people working in those fields. The second highest industry for infections was manufacturing, at 9%, a sector that includes food processing facilities. In a statement the Department of Health said the report did not determine how or where people got infected and noted health-care workers have received more tests than the general population since the start of the pandemic.

Health authorities also announced Friday morning that Island, Lewis and Mason counties will be allowed to transition to Phase 3.
China lays claim to disputed Galwan Valley

**By Emily Schmall**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — China said the Galwan Valley high up in the Himalayan border region where Chinese and Indian troops engaged in a deadly brawl this week falls entirely within China, boldly renewing claims on the disputed area as the Asian giants continued using military and diplomatic channels to try to reduce tensions on Saturday.

The confrontation in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier, was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years. India blames China for instigating the fight by developing infrastructure in the valley, which it said was a breach of the agreement of what area remained in dispute.

In a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in a statement Friday that “the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in the west section of the China-India boundary.”

She added that the zone had been administered by the Chinese government for years. China has not said whether it suffered any casualties.

Soldiers braved with clubs, rocks and their fists in the thin air at 14,000 feet above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The officials carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in the border dispute.

Indian security officials have said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The valley falls within remote stretch of the 2,100-mile Line of Actual Control — the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arun Srivastava repeated on Saturday that China’s claims to the valley were “exaggerated and untenable.”

“They are not in accordance with China’s own position in the past. Indian troops are fully familiar with the alignment of the (Line of Actual Control) in all sectors of the India-China border areas, including in the Galwan Valley. They abide by it scrupulously here, as they do everywhere,” Srivastava said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a meeting with party leaders on Friday that no one “has intruded into our territory, nor taken over any part.”

Modi said India was “hurt and angry” about the deaths of its troops. He said India wanted peace and friendship, but had the “capability that no one can even dare look toward an inch of our land.”

Also on Friday, Zhao, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said that China was not holding any Indian soldiers, without addressing media reports released 10 of them late Thursday.

“My information is that at present there are no Indian personnel detained on the Chinese side,” Zhao said, according to an English version of his daily briefing posted on the ministry’s website.

Indian officials have denied that any soldiers were in Chinese custody.

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**Chinese legislative session ends without word on Hong Kong law**

**Associated Press**

BEIJING — The body that handles most lawmaking for China’s top legislative body closed its latest meeting Saturday with no word on whether it had passed a highly controversial national security law for Hong Kong.

The bill — which has been strongly criticized as undermining the semi-autonomous territory’s legal and political institutions — was raised for discussion at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress but there was no further word on its fate, China’s official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Tian Yi-chung, Hong Kong’s sole delegate on the Standing Committee, told Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK that the law was reviewed but no vote had been taken, and that it hasn’t cleared when it would be further debated.

The Standing Committee meets every two months.

The law was introduced Thursday for deliberation, covering four categories of crimes: succession, subversion of state power, local terrorist activities and collaboratively with foreign or external foreign forces to endanger national security.

Beijing has repeatedly said it is determined to press ahead with the legislation despite heavy criticism from within Hong Kong and abroad, including from the U.S., which says it will revoke some of the preferential conditions extended toward the city after its transfer from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Beijing has said it will offer passports and a path to citizenship to as many as 3 million Hong Kong residents. Group of Seven leaders economies called on China to reconsider its plans, issuing a joint statement voicing “grave concern” over the legislation that is said would breach Beijing’s international commitments as well as the territory’s constitution. Beijing has repeatedly denounced the moves as rank interference in its internal affairs.

Li Zhanshu, the ruling Communist Party’s third-ranking official and head of the National People’s Congress, presided over the meeting of the Standing Committee, which handles most legislative tasks in between the annual sessions of the full and largely ceremonial congress.

In its full session last month, the congress ratified a decision to enact such legislation at the national level after Hong Kong’s own Legislative Council was unable to do so because of strong local opposition. Critics say the law could severely limit free speech and oppositional political activity. Legal experts say Beijing’s justifications for the law are debatable.

‘The Hong Kong Bar Association on Friday called on the city’s government to reveal details of the bill and warned that the law’s enforcement in Hong Kong risked setting up a system of conflicting parallel legal standards dominated by Beijing.

“It raises the question whether individuals will be tried within the criminal justice system in (Hong Kong) by the Hong Kong courts or sent to the Mainland for trial and serve any terms of imprisonment in Mainland prisons,” the bar association said in a statement emailed to reporters.

China acted following widespread and sometimes violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year that Beijing saw as a dangerous campaign to split the territory from the rest of the country.

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**Zimbabwe health minister accused of COVID bribery**

**By Farai Mutsaka**
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe’s health minister was charged Saturday with criminal abuse of duty as a public officer, accused of illegally awarding a multi-million-dollar contract for COVID-19 medical supplies to a shadowy company that sold the government $28 face masks and other materials at inflated prices.

The country’s anti-corruption agency arrested Obadiah Moyo on Friday and the government cancelled the contracts following public uproar.

One of President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s sons was forced to issue a statement denying a link to the company after pictures emerged of the Zimbabwean representative of the firm enjoying the company of the president and his wife and sons at several events.

The representative, Delish Nguwanyi, and some top officials of the national drugs procurement agency are already facing criminal charges related to the scandal.

Nguwanyi is accused of lying in saying the company was a drugs manufacturing company based in Switzerland, “whereas it was merely a consulting company with no experience in the manufacture of drug and medical products,” according to the charge sheet.

The health minister, a former hospital administrator, faces a fine or up to 15 years in prison if convicted. He was granted bail and will be back in court on July 31. The prosecution originally opposed bail, arguing he could flee before the conclusion of the case, but did not request that in court.

According to the charge sheet, Moyo “exerted pressure” on his subordinates to award the contracts worth $60 million last year and this year.

The scandal comes as health professionals including nurses and doctors in Zimbabwe are on strike demanding to be paid their salaries in U.S. dollars. They are also striking that inflation that is now above 750% and the erosion of the value of currency have rendered incomes worthless. Most traders charge for their goods in U.S. dollars in the southern African country that has long faced economic collapse.

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**Dar Yasin/AP**

Bharatiya Janata Party members shout slogans as they burn an effigy of Chinese President Xi Jinping during a protest against China in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Friday.
By John Briley  
Special to The Washington Post

Pandemic life has a way of revealing our weaknesses. For those of us of a certain age, I mean that literally. If you are feeling like certain and says he aspires, even as he competed in Iron Man triathlons quest: He has run 35 marathons, injury. You’re essentially getting do the same amount of work bodies — namely our hip flexors and upper back — to keep working, and those areas become weak and inhibited. All the sitting we’re doing at home could be making things worse.

The first thing to do if you’re starting or resuming strength training, says Stanforth, a 60-year-old personal trainer and “avid athlete,” is to target major muscle groups, especially the glutes and back.

“Glutes are tremendously important, because they activate the ‘rear chain’ of the body and can produce a lot of power for movement,” Stanforth says. Rear chain muscles are critical for posture, balance, running, jumping and — yes — lifting heavy things. To strengthen those muscles, Stanforth says squats, rows and leg presses are all good, because they engage the core and require movement in multiple joints.

She advises strengthening front-facing muscles (chest, abs, biceps and quadriceps, for example), but also devoting extra time to stretching them because of how tight they become in our typical position at the nadir of the up position during interval training, or HIIT — short, punishing bursts of activity usually lasting 30 to 90 seconds with recovery breaks in between. “I do HIT with people in their 70s and 80s,” he told me. “We all change over the decades, but I don’t want people to be afraid of intensity.”

In fact, Metzl says, we should be increasing intensity as we age to “better stimulate all the cells in our bodies.” He cited a 2017 study published in the journal Cell Metabolism that showed that high-intensity training significantly improved how the body converts macronutrients into energy. But, he said: “For some people, this isn’t intense. For others, it’s walking up the stairs.” For those who can perform them, he suggests burpees, jump squats and lunges, which he says deliver full-body functional training: “Burpees utilize every muscle in your body. They’re high intensity and tremendously effective.” And, Metzl says, you can still reap a benefit from burpees if you opt to step — not jump — your feet back when dropping into the push-up position at the nadir of the exercise.

Stuart Phillips, director of the Human Activity Center of Excellence at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, says that older people who regularly strength train can expect to see significant gains in strength and muscle mass — namely the muscle mass. Still, the benefits of a training regimen — and the extended period of physical independence that comes with them — should be enough to motivate us all, he adds.

“Just the equality of life, and that’s not a function of muscle mass, but of strength/power,” he said.

And, as Stanforth says, “exercise is better than any drug” in sustaining bone and countering the increased risk of osteoporosis that comes with age. “It helps tremendously. But we do have to be smarter about how we apply the dose as we age,” he said.

So, do it right, and we’ll feel stronger, and smarter for it, every day — and have one less thing to worry about.
The title of Norah Jones’ new album, “Pick Me Up Off the Floor,” has two chief meanings. After spending two years recording one-off monthly sessions, the piano-playing jazz-pop singer realized she had enough great songs piled up. “I didn’t know what was happening with them. I was sort of picking them up and putting them together. That was sort of the idea,” she said.

The other meaning? It’s the extremely literal one: the songs were sad, and Jones needed a hand getting up.

“That feeling of desperation, when you just need somebody to pick you up, it was all of that,” she said.

Jones’ seventh album was released June 12 and though the 11-track album was written and recorded sporadically, it is a cohesive set that is personal and emotional, with song titles like “How I Weep,” “Hurts to Be Alone,” “Heartbroken, Day After” and “Stumble On My Way” to drive the point home.

“Then it whacks me straight into my stomach at night, it’s a hard blow to take with all of its might / It tries to be sorry, it tries to be sweet, then it runs out the door as if on two feet,” she sings on the opening track.

Jones, 41, isn’t down and out the entire time — the album’s later songs, including “I’m Alive” and “To Live,” finish off with hopeful notes proving there is light at the end of the tunnel.

“I feel like there’s a lot on this album that is very personal ... I think I was sad when I wrote a lot of them, for sure, obviously,” said Jones, who added that the subjects of the songs came from one period of time in her life, though she didn’t say when that was. Getting the sad songs out of her system was healing, she said.

“I think it’s a really good way to release it, actually. It’s more like an outlet for me to sort of release that sadness, I guess,” she explained. “It feels really good to write songs when you’re feeling things deeply because you have somewhere to put all that energy. I think it’s almost like therapy.”

After she finished touring in support of her 2016 album “Day Breaks,” Jones held monthly recording sessions to collaborate with artists and also to put out singles without thinking about a full-length album.
Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

Stressed out while working at a bank in New Zealand, Jumelle Kunin began searching for music paired with teachings from the Dalai Lama to calm herself down and allow herself to focus.

“I couldn’t find it online,” she said. “Last week has inspired a lot of thinking.”

She said she was extremely inspired by the music of the Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July.

Kunin says she typically gets a chance to meet the Dalai Lama while doing her research. But on a trip to India — where she dedicated the track to their mother in mind, growing more poignant for our current social climate and needs as humanity.

“Dozens of other musicians were invited to help on the project, while Kunin’s husband had multiple roles, from playing guitar and percussion to drum and synth programming,” a guest appearance on the album, playing “Ama la,” a track honoring mothers. Shankar said being invited to perform on the album was “a huge honor.”

She first met The Dalai Lama as a child with her father, the legendary musician Ravi Shankar. For the new album, she said, “What I was given was a beautiful template of the Dalai Lama’s teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music.”

restrictions, she and her family couldn’t carry out the tradition of sleeping surrounding his body, which would typically lie on a marae for three days. On top of that, her husband was back home finishing the album to make its deadline.

(“My husband” was home working at this point, which is when the inspiration came to complete the song ‘Purification’), adding that they dedicated the track to their nephew Izyah Micah Toli.

“And he finished it.”

Kunin said that although they’ve worked on the album for the past five years, it feels complete at an incredibly relevant releasing it now.

“The entire purpose of this project is to try to help people. It’s not a Buddhist project, it’s to help everyday people like myself, even though I am Buddhist,” she said. “The messages couldn’t be more poignant for our current social climate and needs as humanity.

Net proceeds from the sales of the album will benefit Mind & Life Institute as well as Social, Oriental and Ethical Learning (SEE Learning), an international education program developed by Emory University and the Dalai Lama.

Grammy-nominated sitar player Anoushka Shankar makes a guest appearance on the album, playing “Ama la,” a track honoring mothers. Shankar said being invited to perform on the album was “a huge honor.”

She first met The Dalai Lama as a child with her father, the legendary musician Ravi Shankar. For the new album, she said, “What I was given was a beautiful template of the Dalai Lama’s teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music.”

Teddy Thompson
Heartbreaker Please (Thirty Tigers)

Teddy Thompson’s roots are showing, and that’s nothing new.

The New York-based singer-songwriter is the son of British folk-rock royalty but grew up on Sam Cooke, Hank Williams and the Everly Brothers, and he often makes music suitable for a sock hop jukebox.

Such is the case with “Heartbreaker Please,” an album of 10 new songs that want to be oldies. There’s even a tune titled “Record Player,” on which Thompson gives a shout-out to the quality of today’s pop.

That debate aside, Thompson’s retro sound sounds great. “Why Wait” and “It’s Not Easy” are the kind of born-driven fare that has gotten kids dancing since “American Bandstand,” and the waltz “Take Me Away” pairs Chris Carmichael’s inventive string arrangement with a nifty musical twist. The title track benefits from the sublime guitar work of Thompson patriarch Richard, who plays with Teddy’s mother, Linda, on some of the best records of the 1970s and is still making great music today.

Credit good genes for Teddy’s glorious tenor, and here it’s bracing but warm and never showy. On the ballad “Brand New,” he lingers on a sad note for four beautiful bars.

Much of the music was inspired by a breakup, but no need to go heavy on the formidable Thompson family wit peaks through. “I’m a metaphor that’s reaching,” he sings on “No Idea,” a great lyric in any era.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press

Jimmy Buffett
Life on the Flip Side (Mailboat Records)

Jimmy Buffett’s first studio record in seven years arrives with equal parts seduction and absurdity.

Coming just as we crave a margarita in the moment (and our toes and the salty wind of the ocean), Buffett’s beach bum life — often mocked — had never been so aspirational. What we wouldn’t do right now not to join a gooby conga line.

“One on the Flip Side” is no departure from what Parrotheads expect — that special Gulf Coast mix of country, pop, folk and rock, topped by Buffett’s swaying voice. Few can mix steelpans, trombones and pedal steel guitar so effortlessly.

The songs were written before the global pandemic, the album nods to our viral troubles.

“Hopefully, the songs we wrote and recorded, will also help folks deal with the fallout,” he writes in the liner notes. “There will be a time and a place when we emerge from these troubled waters and things will change for the better.”

Buffett’s incredible ear for hooks and light grooves are often overshadowed by his lyrics about fish tacos and sunsets, but don’t underestimate his song skills. Many of these tunes are destined to be played two generations from now at sandy beach-side snack bars.

Towards the end of the album, Buffett treks caringly into Tropical House with the superb “Live, Like It’s Your Last Day,” which has lyrics seemingly perfect for this pandemic. “Life is like your last day / Time just keeps slipping away / You’ll swing along with Buffett — and wish.”

— Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

Norah Jones
Pick Me Up Off the Floor (Blue Note)

Norah Jones, we need you now.

The torch-singing pianist has made quietly satisfying music ever since her 2002 debut, “Come Away With Me,” navigating the jazz and pop, and throwing in a little country for an extra hashmark.

Jones’ records are always tasteful and never in the slightest hurry. And in the frantic, no-attention world we’ve used to live in, her air of imperturbability could seem a little dull, so becalmed that it sometimes bordered on the superfluous.

Now it’s a quality that comes in handy, amid global pandemic, economic collapse and civil unrest. If your nerves are rattled, never fear: Norah Jones is here.

“I really thought we were going to make the album, the arc of whatever story you’re trying to tell.”

As for her next project, Jones isn’t sure how the songs will come together, but she’s still holding to go-to one-off sessions because it feels like freedom.

And though she’s stuck at home like the rest of the world, she’s still working on the response to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and other black people who have moved her to write, too.

“Some things come through you (and) you try to capture them,” she said. “Last week has inspired a lot of thinking.”

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The album grew out of a series of collaborations — with poet Sarah Odle, Jeff Tweedy of Wilco and others — but hangs together cohesively. It revs up occasionally, as on the gospel-fired “Flame Twin.” Usually, “Pick Me Up” is happy to settle into a deeply comfortable, languorous groove that leaves space for ace musicians like drummer Brian Blade to shine. It really finds itself in a stretch of three thematically linked songs about “Flame Twin,” “To Live” and “I’m Alive.”

In the last one, written with Tweedy, Jones creates a woman finding her strength. This first captures a common feeling these days: “This is like our life, how we live it,” Jones sings, “I’m over.”

— Dauntless

The Dalai Lama
Inner World

Hitco Entertainment, Hangaroo Music

“I Inner World” features teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music.

...he actually proceeded to explain to me how important music is. His eyes forward and his eyes were sparkling, and his fingers were rubbing together and he (talked) about how music can help people in a way that he can’t; it can transcend differences and return us to our trueness and our good heartedness.

The 11-track project will be released with a companion booklet.

On her trip to India in 2015, Kunin wrote down a list of topics and ideas for a project that would be great for the album, and recorded the conversations with the Dalai Lama for “Inner World.” The religious leader recites the mantras of seven Buddhas on the album, discussing topics like wisdom, courage, healing and children.

When Kunin returned home, her husband, Abraham, who is also a musician and producer, helped her create music and sounds to enhance the Dalai Lama’s messages and powerful words.

For the new album, she said, “What I was given was a beautiful template of the Dalai Lama’s teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music.”
Michael Connelly putting quarantine to good use

By Colette Bancroft
Tampa Bay Times

Michael Connelly is keeping an eye on the 101 freeway from his home in Los Angeles. “I have the same view as Harry Bosch,” says the bestselling crime fiction author of his best-known fictional character. “Not the house in the TV show, with that glittering expanse. Harry Bosch’s house in the books. That’s the view I have, closer to the freeway. So watching the freeway is my way of taking the temperature of Los Angeles.

For a while it was empty, but now there are more cars on the road. Connelly, 63, splits his time between homes in LA and Tampa, but he hasn’t been back to Florida since March. He talked by phone about his new book, “Fair Warning,” his 35th novel and his third about reporter Jack McEvoy.

“The Scarecrow,” published in 2009, gave me a glimpse at how newspaper struggles after the digital revolution. For the first time he’s an investigative reporter for the LA Times, and I also played poker at his home for the show. McEvoy’s need to continue to write stories that make a difference and to operate on a shoestring while constantly seeking donors, FairWarning also mirrors McEvoy’s current path. Once at the top of his profession with a bestselling true crime book, McEvoy, now in his 50s, has had to downsize. Royalty checks have gotten smaller and the website work, however satisfying, doesn’t pay well.

McEvoy is pulled back into crime reporting when a woman with whom he had a brief affair years ago is murdered by “internal decapitation.” Although the police consider him a “person of interest,” McEvoy follows his journalism instinct and begins looking into his own past. He discovers a black market for DNA and a serial killer.

Throughout his outstanding thrillers, Connelly has expertly weaved contemporary issues into solid plots, usually with his perennial police detective Harry Bosch at the helm. Connelly also has achieved this in his novels about journalist Jack McEvoy, who makes his third most welcome appearance in the intriguing “Fair Warning.” In their own way, the McEvoy novels have tracked the state of journalism while showing why the profession and its ethics matter.

The one-word site FairWarning focuses on consumer fraud, often partnering with major newspapers for major stories. The work suits McEvoy well, a writer prone to write stories that make a difference and to hone his craft while taking him away from the world of violent crime, his former beat.

“Fair Warning” should please fans as it fits well in writer’s oeuvre. It’s what I’ve been doing research and there was a first report (about the virus) on Jan. 7. So we’ll be dropping hints in the idea that there’s a coming pandemic. How do you feel about the series ending?

I feel good and bad about it. It’s become a family, because we shoot in LA. People in the industry don’t necessarily lose some revenue elsewhere to make up for that. So it’s been pretty stable, I’d say only about 10% turnover. It’s a good family on both sides of the camera. So losing that is going to be bittersweet.

On a creative level, I’m all right with it. It’s good knowing we could write to an ending where it’s not going to be a continuation of the timeline. If you’ve been doing research and there was a first report (about the virus) on Jan. 7. So we’ll be dropping hints in the idea that there’s a coming pandemic.

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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SURPLUS STORE
BY ANDY KRAVIS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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GUNSTON STREET

"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.
Patterns and patter
‘Rug flops’ make for a colorful social event in Bahrain

By Joshua Karsten
Stars and Stripes

There’s nothing like a good old-fashioned “rug flop,” where carpet vendors literally roll out the red carpet for service members stationed in Bahrain.

But if red isn’t your carpet color, shop owners will keep them rolling until you see one you like, either in their store, or at your place for an afternoon of food, fun and a truckload of carpets.

Rug flops typically include a couple hours of socializing before participants circle around, as the host folds carpets one by one into a mound.

My first rug flop last year was a surreal experience. After a few oohs and ahhs, participants then negotiated prices — often cheaper than in the store — and broke out the credit cards. I couldn’t believe how much I enjoyed it.

As coronavirus restrictions slowly ease, rug flops are becoming an option again, though the outdoor versions are understandably more popular in the winter.

My first invite, prior to the pandemic, came from budding collectors Cmdr. Joe Zerby and his British wife, Jill, who have purchased more than a dozen carpets from host Mohammed Abdu Al-Omari, owner of Carpet House in Adliya.

Omari knew where each carpet came from and its value just by looking at the patterns and material. Persian, Afghan, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Kazakhstani, Turkish, and he brought the drinks ... and he make it like a party.”

The Zerbys regularly visited Omari’s store, where they sipped tea and looked at carpets “just for fun.”

“I’ve learned you cannot get rugs like this in America or the U.K. unless you’re paying thousands and thousands,” Jill Zerby said. “And the Americans do have a fascination for them; I don’t know why.”

After asking around, I learned that this phenomenon is growing in popularity for the military community, which Omari claims was his idea back in 1994.

“It started with an American guy” who came into Omari’s store with an idea to host a carpet education event for U.S. Navy sailors coming to Bahrain for a port visit. “He invited me to his house, and we brought food and he brought the drinks ... and he make it like a party.”

Under normal circumstances, Omari hosts similar parties about five times a week.

But just a few doors down from Omari is Oasis Carpet Centre, where shop owner Abdul Wahed Abdulla has been doing rug flops for three decades, also claiming to have started the trend out of his van in the earlier days of Naval Support Activity Bahrain, “when it was much smaller.”

“It started small and we called it ‘carpet party,’” Abdulla said. The word “rug” is an American word, but the term “rug flop” soon caught on.

Although the origin is up for debate, Abdulla explained that he and other successful “rug floppers” continue to thrive with the military community because of trust, as “not all shop owners will give you a fair price.”

“It is this honest attitude and not focusing on the highest price that has gotten me more business over the years,” Abdulla said.

Honest prices and some carpets can cost thousands, said former Bahrain community member and carpet aficionado Cmdr. Charles McKinney, currently serving at a NATO base in the Netherlands.

“Prepare yourself to be in a situation akin to any other situation which could be addictive,” McKinney said. “Especially if you attend a flop.”

McKinney recommended to visit Baldwin and look at it again later, saying “you’ll be surprised how different it looks the second time around.” McKinney has purchased more than 10 carpets from Omari and other shops from multiple tours in Bahrain over his career.

“Flops are a great idea, especially for a community of friends and co-workers,” McKinney added. “They really are fun social events, and I applaud and give thanks to anyone who has ever hosted one.”

More than half of Abdul and Omari’s business comes from Americans. The shop owners both showed off their proud collection of U.S. Navy command ball caps and coins that have been presented to them over the years.

If you want to see a flop, shop owners will take the time to show you as many carpets as you want in their stores, assuming current coronavirus restrictions permit it. They even offered me some tea and Arabic coffee at the time.
Man disguised as UPS driver killed ex-neighbor

MA BRAINTREE — A man who fatally shot his former neighbor when she answered the door at her Braintree home disguised himself as a UPS driver and hid his gun inside a box, a prosecutor said.

Robert Bonang, who’s charged with killing Laurie Melchionda, 59, was ordered held without bail during his arraignment. He pleaded not guilty.

Norfolk Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor said a teenager who was babysitting children nearby saw Bonang walk up to Melchionda’s door, wearing a surgical mask and brown jacket near a saw blade. Bonang walked up to Melchionda’s door, wearing a surgical mask and brown jacket near a saw blade. Connor said the teen was walking away with the children when she heard screaming and turned around to see Bonang shooting Melchionda with the gun from the box.

Man accused of trying to use Molotov cocktail

FL OCALA — A Florida man accused of trying to throw a Molotov cocktail at a child welfare office faces up to 10 years in federal prison.

Tommy Lee Holt, 26, pleaded guilty in Ocala federal court to possession of an unregistered destructive device in the form of an incendiary bomb, according to court records.

According to the plea agreement, Holt manufactured eight incendiary bombs last November and brought them to the Marion County branch of the Florida Department of Children and Families. Witnesses said Holt lit the Wick of one device but dropped it before throwing it at the building.

DCF records showed Holt had 18 previous interactions with the agency. A criminal complaint said Holt has five minor children, all of whom have been placed in foster care by the agency.

Reaching new heights

Kristian Beck, 14, center, and Wyatt Mills, 13, right, dive into the Broadway Community Pool as Caleb Beck, 15, watches in Broadway, Va. Under Virginia Safer at Home: Phase Two, pools have been allowed to reopen with limited capacity and social distancing guidelines.

Driver arrested after golf cart crash; 5 hurt

AZ SCOTTSDALE — The driver of a car that allegedly crashed into the back of a golf cart in Scottsdale, injuring five people, was arrested, police said.

They said Robert Gandara, 22, was taken into custody on suspicion of aggravated assault and several other felony charges.

Police said the impact ejected the four female passengers and the male driver of the golf cart.

Four of the victims were transported to a hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries with the other person suffering minor injuries while Gandara was unhurt, according to police who said impairment is believed to be a factor in the crash.

Cops likely had bleach in Shake Shack drink

NY NEW YORK — Three New York City police officers received treatment after drinking Shake Shack milkshakes that may have been contaminated with a disinfectant.

The officers had been assigned to work at a protest in Manhattan when they stopped at the restaurant for a meal, The New York Post said in a statement. The officers determined “a toxic substance, believed to be bleach,” was added to their beverages, the statement said.

The officers weren’t seriously harmed. The Detectives’ Endowment Association stated. The police department said it was unclear whether the officers were targeted.

Shake Shack tweeted that it was “horrified” by reports of the alleged contamination. The restaurant chain said it was working with police in the investigation.

‘Black Lives Matter’ mural restored

NC CHARLOTTE — Artists in Charlotte repaired the “Black Lives Matter” mural in the city after it was damaged by a driver who left tire marks on it.

No arrests have been made since police began investigating the vandalism, but 16 artists who created the pavement art came out to restore their works just six days after they were first painted, news outlets reported.

The artwork, with each letter marked on it.

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The artwork, with each letter marked on it.
How China earns a better relationship

BY JOSH ROGIN
The Washington Post

Leaders in Beijing say they want better relations with the United States. Yet so far there is little concrete evidence that they are willing to do anything about it. But in recent weeks there have been several hours of meetings and dinner. Officials said Beijing requested the meeting because China is looking for a way to ratchet down the harsh rhetoric and mutual recriminations that have come to characterize the bilateral relationship since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Until recently, President Xi Jinping could have simply reached out to grab the attention of his premier, who is scheduled to make a historic visit to the capital for China’s National Day. Instead, he was not interested in speaking with Xi when China became a major player in the region.

The main reason the Chinese government is interested in the United States is because it wants to boost its economy and maintain its status as a superpower. The Chinese government has long been interested in improving relations with the United States.

According to a Chinese foreign ministry, Yang told Pompeo that China wanted better ties but that China was still interested in improving relations with the United States.

“China has a huge international image problem. But the days of Beijing convincing the world that tensions with the United States are manageable and that China requires acquiescence to its demands are over. The Chinese government must realize it needs to act differently to achieve these goals.”

Yang came to Hawaii because he knows China has a huge international image problem. But the days of Beijing convincing the world that tensions with the United States are manageable and that China requires acquiescence to its demands are over. The Chinese government must realize it needs to act differently to achieve these goals.

Poor appellate ruling in high court's pipeline

BY GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writer-Columnist

The Supreme Court justices might be bemused, or depressed, by this question they implicitly will consider when they hear the case: Should they review the claim that a pipeline should be shut down because of the free flow of interstate commerce? This was the case of the Articles of Confederation, which was the states’ powers to depend on the free flow of interstate commerce. This led to replacing the Articles of Confederation, which gives Congress responsibilities for regulating such commerce.

Were the Supreme Court to allow the lower court’s decision to stand, this would give states the power to block the operation of pipelines. This is why the Supreme Court reversed the lower court’s decision, which said that the states had the power to block pipelines.

The Supreme Court has long been identified with the pipeline industry, which has been a major player in the industry for decades. But the Court’s recent decision in the case of Cities Service, which held that the Supreme Court had authority to review the decision of the lower court, gave the pipeline industry a victory in the pipeline case.

In the 19th century, every state, whether large or small, had its own pipeline and the need for the states to stop its unfair practices in the commercial, security and diplomatic sectors.

But this time, there is no returning to business as usual. The Supreme Court has long been identified with the pipeline industry, which has been a major player in the industry for decades. But the Court’s recent decision in the case of Cities Service, which held that the Supreme Court had authority to review the decision of the lower court, gave the pipeline industry a victory in the pipeline case.
Every controversial topic has two sides.
We look into the ones that matter to you.

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at Stripes.com/podcasts
Simpson leads, Watney leaves

First positive test hits PGA Tour at RBC Heritage

BY DOUG FERGUSON  Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Webb Simpson and Bryson DeChambeau were trading birdies with vastly different games. Rory McIlroy ran off enough birdies to make the cut. And the biggest move of the day at the RBC Heritage belonged to a player who made no moves at all.

Nick Watney became a footnote in golf history Friday as the first player to test positive for COVID-19.

He did not return a telephone call seeking comment. Watney played the opening round with Vaughn Taylor and Luke List, and a rules official called to notify them of the positive test at the turn.

“I was a little shocked, to be honest,” said Taylor, who went for testing immediately after his 69. “Heart started racing, got a little turn.

Watney tested negative when he arrived Tuesday, experienced symptoms Friday and took another test that came back positive. He now faces self-isolation for at least 10 days as the tournament goes on.

The weekend buzz at Harbour Town figures to be about more than just birdies and bogeys.

Simpson got the last word with a 6-foot birdie on his final hole at No. 9 for another 6-under 66, giving him a one-shot lead after another day of watching DeChambeau and his additional 40 pounds of mass out of his shoes for a 64. DeChambeau made six birdies on his back nine, missing a 5-footer on the last that would have tied for the lead. Corey Conners was also back on a bogey-free 63.

“It’s very satisfying knowing I’m not near as long as some of these guys and I’m able to kind of use my skills of distance control and shot shape to pick me back up when I’m 40 yards or 30 yards behind these guys,” Simpson said. “I would like to hit it further. I set out on a journey three years ago to get stronger, hit it further, but do it a lot slower than Bryson. But he’s made it look easy and seamless.”

Simpson was at 12-under 130, and scoring remained bunched. Thunderstorms that rolled through the island and halted play for two hours only gave players more time to talk about Watney and the ramifications. McIlroy and Jordan Spieth, who is on the PGA Tour policy board, said a positive test was bound to happen as the tour returns from a three-month shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The whole plan put in place was not if, but when somebody tests positive, what’s the protocol, and what are the next steps,” Spieth said. “So I feel confident, just in being on those phone calls, in what the PGA TOUR’s going to do going forward here, and hopefully contact tracing doesn’t lead to anybody else testing positive within the bubble.”

McIlroy, who shot 66 to make the cut with one shot to spare, said he saw Watney on the putting green before the test result was returned. Brooks Koepka, who was three shots behind after a 66, said he saw Watney in the parking lot.

“It’s unfortunate Nick got it, but at the same time, hopefully, it stays with just him and doesn’t spread,” Koepka said. “Because think we’ll have a big issue on our hands if it keeps going as the weeks continue.”

Briefly

NBA sets dates for draft, free-agent talks

The NBA has firm up the schedule for what will be a hectic time for teams this fall, deciding on Oct. 16 as the date for this year’s draft and saying clubs can begin talking to free agents two days later.

The annual moratorium will begin at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Oct. 19 and continue through noon on Oct. 23, the league told teams Saturday in a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

As was the case last season, teams and free agents can begin negotiating six hours before the moratorium — so 6 p.m. EDT on Oct. 18.

It could be a wildly busy few days in October for the NBA. If the schedule for the restarted season at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at the Disney campus near Orlando, Fla., goes as planned, Game 7 of the NBA Finals could be held on Oct. 13, followed by the draft three days later and then free agency almost immediately following.

23 Clemson football players test positive

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson said 23 football players have tested positive for coronavirus since returning to campus this month.

Clemson announced the results Friday. It did not identify the athletes, in all, school spokesman Jeff Kallin said 28 people were found with COVID-19 since testing began for athletes and other personnel on June 8.

Nick and Kassie Alenson mirrors one in the state of South Carolina, which reported a single-day high of 1,081 people testing positive on Friday.

Along with the players, two football staffers and three athletes from other sports were infected with the virus.

49ers receiver James breaks right wrist

San Francisco 49ers receiver Richie James Jr. has broken his right wrist during offseason workouts and won’t be ready to return to the field until after the start of training camp.

The 49ers confirmed a report of the injury by NFL Network on Friday and said they will have a better idea of how long James will be sidelined after he reports to training camp next month. NFL Network said James is expected to miss at least two months.

James is the second receiver lost to injury this week for the defending NFC champion 49ers. No. 1 wideout Deebo Samuel underwent surgery Thursday to repair a fracture in his left foot suffered during informal player workouts in Tennessee.

Zanardi still in serious condition after crash

ROME. Italian race car champion-turned-Paralympic gold medalist Alex Zanardi was in a medically induced coma and remained in serious condition a day after crashing his handbike into a truck and smashing his face.

Zanardi — who lost both of his legs in a race-car crash nearly 20 years ago — was hooked up to a ventilator and had “stable” blood pressure. His cardiologi- cal status “remains serious,” the Santa Maria alle Scorte hospital in Sienna said Saturday in a medi- cal bulletin.

Zanardi was transported by helicopter to the hospital after crashing near the Tuscan town of Pienza during a race Friday.
Canada approves NHL’s return plan

By Rob Gillies and John Wawrow
Associated Press

Canada has approved the NHL’s return-to-play proposal that could lead to one or more cities north of the border serving as host sites for the league’s 24-team playoff format.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland announced Friday that the nation’s top public health officer, and health officials in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario had signed off on the NHL plan.

The decision followed discussions with government health officials, and comes as the league enters the advanced stages of selecting its hub cities — most likely two — from a list of seven in the U.S. and three in Canada. NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

Daly didn’t rule out the possibility of two hubs being located in Canada from among Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton.

The NHL, however, did encounter a setback in its bid to resume playing since the season was paused on March 12.

The Tampa Bay Lightning closed their facilities indefinitely Thursday after three players and “additional staff members” tested positive for COVID-19.

The team said the players were largely asymptomatic and were self-isolating.

The move came as baseball’s Philadelphia Phillies announced that some of their players and staff had tested positive in nearby Clearwater, Fla., and the Toronto Blue Jays had one player show symptoms consistent with the coronavirus in nearby Dunedin, Fla.

The NHL announced late Friday that 11 of the 200 players tested since training facilities were allowed to open on June 8 have tested positive. They are self-isolating. The league declined to say who.

Two weeks ago, NHL players were allowed to return to their respective facilities for voluntary on- and off-ice workouts. Players were allowed to skate in groups of up to six.

The NHL’s return-to-play plan approved by Canada required an exemption allowing players and team officials to cross the border. The border is currently closed to non-essential travel until at least June 21, and those entering Canada must self-isolate for 14 days.

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer, said robust protocols such as group quarantining and testing will be in place. The decision on selecting hub cities — each would host 12 teams — could come as early as next week.

“I want to emphasize that it will be very important for the NHL and the players to continue to work very closely with public health officials and to follow their instructions,” Freeland said.

“This is essential not only for the players which I know we all have affection for, but for the health and safety of Canadians.”

The league is targeting July 10 to open training camps, with games being played without fans present starting in late July or early August.

Though Las Vegas and Columbus, Ohio, are considered strong candidates to serve as hub cities, the focus on Canada comes at a time the United States is experiencing a spike in positive tests.

Playing games in Canada could also be cost-effective, with the Canadian dollar worth about 73 cents versus its U.S. counterpart.

Daly said it wasn’t of “significant consideration” as to whether the hubs are located in separate or the same time zones.

Toronto Mayor John Tory supported his city being selected, noting he considers it to be the “hockey capital of the world.”

“It will be a morale booster for us,” Tory said. “It will be great for the psychology of the city.”

Gillies reported from Toronto, Wawrow from Buffalo, N.Y. AP hockey writer Stephen Whyno also contributed to this report.
Halls of fame adapt to COVID-19 worries

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

As part of a $22 million, court-to-dome renovation, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame replaced the static plaques honoring inductees with touch screens that display videos and career highlights. Another exhibit allows visitors to put their hands inside an impression of Kevin Durant’s, to compare sizes. That was before a pandemic turned hands-on into “Hands Off!”

Now, for the museum’s planned reopening on July 1, visitors will touch the touch screens with a stylus, and the players’ hand prints will be covered by plexiglass.

“You can look, but you can’t put your hand in it,” hall President John Doleva said. “For obvious reasons.”

As the world attempts to reopen from the coronavirus shutdown, every restaurant, retail shop and other public amenity is looking for ways to return to business while still keeping its staff and customers safe. But for the Springfield, Mass., basketball shrine and other sports museums, there is an added challenge: managing social distancing and other health protocols while preserving the interactive features they have long leaned upon to help bring dusty archives to life.

“The biggest challenges of the pandemic have been about geography and the availability of cleaning supplies,” said Todd Martin, a former pro tennis player and the hall’s CEO. “There’s infinite challenges and imposed limitations on our businesses.”

A room where visitors could sit and watch the Tennis Channel will be closed. Wands that provide audio tours will no longer be handed out, and guided tours will also be canceled. The hall also has public grass courts; those have reopened, but players can no longer rent or store rackets and they will have to bring their own water, too.

“We’re going to be letting 20 people in a 12,000-square-foot museum at one time. That’s just astounding math,” Martin said. “It does demonstrate the gravity of the operational challenge.”

Museum consultant Jim Richardson said exhibitors are making many of the same changes as other businesses — screening visitors, cleaning more frequently, making masks available, cutting capacity to allow for social distancing and adding plexiglass dividers and hand sanitizing stations.

Some interactive displays will need to be closed for good. But halls of fame can’t abandon hands-on exhibits entirely.

“Research has shown that museums that include physical interaction as well as information and objects make it easier for people to learn and retain information,” said Richardson, whose company, MuseumNext, works with exhibitors to keep up with the latest museum trends. “These playful interactive exhibits also spark creative thinking, especially for children.”

Ingrit Valencia, right, of Colombia and Ginny Fuchs, of the United States compete in the women’s flyweight final at the Pan American Games on Aug. 2 in Lima, Peru. Valencia won the bout.

Bigger challenges

Pandemic just 1 of many hurdles for Fuchs

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

For a few days in March, Ginny Fuchs thought her biggest challenge of the year would be managing her obsessive compulsive disorder during a viral pandemic while still training to box at the Olympics.

And then 2020 got even crazier.

The Tokyo Games were postponed, adding another delay to the dreams of a tenacious fighter who has spent a decade working toward her first Olympic appearance.

She failed a U.S. Anti-Doping Agency test, only to be cleared by USADA on Thursday when the agency determined the two banned substances had been passed to her by her boyfriend.

And just last week, Fuchs’ close friend and training partner, professional boxer Mikaela Mayer, tested positive for COVID-19. The former U.S. Olympian was forced to miss her comeback fight in Las Vegas, even though her test might have been a false positive.

Through it all, Fuchs is still fighting.

“Everybody is struggling right now,” Fuchs said. “I’m not the only one.”

Fuchs and the prospective U.S. Olympic team returned to Colorado Springs last week to begin its first training camp since the start of the pandemic. The fighters still don’t know when they’ll be able to participate in a qualifying tournament to earn a spot in Tokyo.

But Fuchs has overcome even bigger obstacles already this year.

Fuchs said the coronavirus actually doesn’t seem like the most daunting challenge confronting U.S. Olympic flyweight hopeful Ginny Fuchs, who suffers from obsessive compulsive disorder. The hypervigilant cleanliness required to minimize COVID-19 exposure hasn’t changed much for Fuchs, whose particular form of OCD forces her to think constantly about thorough cleaning and avoiding cross-contamination with everything she touches.

With this epidemic, I’ve been like, ‘Hey, everybody, welcome to my world!’” she said with a laugh.

“Everybody is disinfecting everything constantly. Everybody is wearing gloves, and whoever is wearing masks, well, I always do this. It makes me less anxious because everybody else is doing it, too.”

The biggest challenges of the pandemic have been about geography and the availability of cleaning supplies. Fuchs and Mayer traveled around the country by car over the past three months, going to fight camps in Washington, D.C., and in Fuchs’ native Houston before continuing to Las Vegas and Colorado Springs.

Each stop required a new plan for procuring the cleaning supplies Fuchs needs to satisfy her mind.

Fuchs’ exoneration of guilt for her failed doping test capped another stressful period. USADA took the extra step of publicly proclaiming Fuchs’ innocence with a news release.

Fuchs’ positive test was announced in mid-February, and she found out about the results in March, according to USADA.

When the Tokyo Games were postponed around the same time, the 32-year-old Fuchs admits she thought briefly about joining Mayer in the professional ranks.

But Fuchs has been focused on the Olympics since shortly after she took up boxing in her sophomore year of college at LSU. She didn’t make the U.S. team for the debut of women’s boxing at the London Olympics in 2012, and she fell just short of qualification for the Rio Olympics four years later.

Fuchs was determined not to miss out on her third and best shot, no matter what obstacles the world has thrown in her way.

“My first goal in boxing was always to be an Olympian and get a gold medal,” Fuchs said. “That’s why I waited another four years (after Rio). All of these last four years, I worked hard for it. It’s not going to go to waste. I still want to get that gold medal.”
Unusual rules dot both season proposals

Runners start on second base, tie games count, players can re-enter

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Extra innings that start with runners on second base, games ending in ties and re-entry are among the possibilities for a radically altered 2020 Major League Baseball season, one limited to a maximum 60 games by teams that claim they can’t afford more due to the coronavirus pandemic.

MLB included the controversial extra-inning runner rule in its proposal Wednesday for a 60-game season, down from an initial 82, and also wants it for 2021. The players’ association accepted the rule Thursday for 2020 only in its counter-proposal for 70 games, down from an initial 114.

The union also said it wants to discuss allowing games to end in ties “after a certain number of innings” and “the relaxation of substitution rules in extra innings.”

Copies of both proposals were obtained by The Associated Press. Some aspects were first reported by USA Today. The runner on second rule has been used in the minor leagues for the last two seasons.

One big on-field change already has been agreed to by both sides if there is a deal: expansion of the designated hitter to games involving National League teams.

But a deal is far from certain. MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem told union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer on Friday that teams will not make another proposal. Commissioner Rob Manfred has threatened an an even shorter schedule of perhaps 50 games or fewer.

The union’s executive board was likely to meet Saturday.

Complicating any possible resumption, MLB shut all 30 training camps in Arizona and Florida for COVID-19 testing after Philadelphia said five players and three others tested positive. Toronto and San Francisco also reported either positive tests or symptoms that could indicate the disease.

While the NBA, NHL and MLS have found ways to restart their sports, baseball has been unable to cope with the economic dislocation caused by the new coronavirus and the prospect of playing in empty ballparks, reverting to the fractured labor strife that led to eight work stoppages from 1972-95. With time slipping away, the sport will have at best its shortest season since the dawn of professional baseball in the 1870s.

Players and MLB are increasingly dismayed with each other and appear headed to a spring training lockout in 2022.

Manfred flew to Arizona and met with union head Tony Clark for five hours on Tuesday in an effort to end the fighting and strike a deal. Manfred said the next day the sides had reached a framework for a 60-game regular-season schedule and the full prorated pay that players had demanded, and the postseason would expand from 16 teams to 18 this year and either 14 or 16 in 2021. Like the extra-innings experiment, the larger postseason would occur only in the event of an agreement.

MLB wants the right to institute a “bubble” environment if needed for health reasons, but the union is insisting it should have to give consent, “which shall not reasonably be withheld.”

But Clark refused to call it a framework and said his eight-player executive subcommittee rejected it. The union countered with a 70-game schedule as part of a proposal that left the sides about $275 million apart.

“MLB has informed the association that it will not respond to our last proposal and will not play more than 60 games,” the union said in a statement on Friday night. “Our executive board will convene in the near future to determine next steps. Importantly, players remain committed to getting back to work as soon as possible.”

Outbreak: States with spring training sites see rising cases

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workouts at their home ballparks, rather than at their spring camps in Florida and Arizona.

Earlier this week, Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to players’ union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer that “the proliferation of COVID-19 outbreaks around the country over the last week, and the fact that we already know of several 40-man roster players and staff who have tested positive, has increased the risks associated with commencing spring training in the next few weeks.”

Regarding the implications of the outbreak on the season, the Phillies said “it is too early to know.”

The Phillies said three staff members at the camp also tested positive. The team didn’t identify any of those affected.

Florida has experienced rising incidents of new cases and rates of those testing positive for COVID-19. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in Florida has increased by 1,422.7, or 144.4%.

Arizona also has had a recent spike in cases, hitting a record for new daily cases.

The Phillies said the first confirmed case occurred Tuesday. The club said eight staff members have tested negative for the virus, while 12 staff members and 20 players — both major leaguers and minor leaguers — living in the Clearwater area are being tested.

The Phillies closed their facility in March when the coronavirus pandemic shut down sports. Players returning from injuries were allowed to continue their rehab after the facility was cleaned thoroughly. A few of the team’s athletes trained by themselves. Staff remained to supervise and safety precautions were taken.

Several more players began working out at the facility over the past few weeks but group sizes were limited.

In a statement, managing partner John Middleton said, “The Phillies are committed to the health and welfare of our players, coaches and staff as our highest priority.”

“At a result of these confirmed tests, all facilities in Clearwater have been closed indefinitely to all players, coaches and staff and will remain closed until medical authorities are confident that the virus is under control and our facilities are disinfected,” he said.

The World Series champion Washington Nationals, who didn’t reopen the spring camp they share with Houston after closing their portion in mid-March, said they’d had one minor league player test positive in the Dominican Republic. The team said the player was not at their facility.
Every team in Major League Baseball will shut spring training camp over concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, a move that came in the wake of the Philadelphia Phillies announcing Friday five players had tested positive for COVID-19.

The closures come while MLB owners and players try to negotiate a deal to begin the season, and raise the possibility the virus outbreak could scuttle all attempts at starting up this year.

A person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press the spring complexes in Florida and Arizona will temporarily close because of recent events. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there wasn’t an official statement.

The facilities will undergo a deep cleaning and disinfecting. No one will be permitted back inside without a negative test for the virus.

Soon after the Phillies became the first known team to be affected by the outbreak, Toronto shuttered its site in Dunedin, Fla., about five miles from Philadelphia’s camp in Clearwater. The Blue Jays said one player showed virus symptoms.

The San Francisco Giants’ facility in Scottsdale, Ariz., was shut after one person who had been to the site and one family member exhibited symptoms Thursday. Texas closed its camp about 30 miles away in Surprise, saying no one had tested positive but that it wanted to expand testing protocols.

Also, the Houston Astros said a player working out at their spring camp in West Palm Beach, Fla., tested positive several days ago and was recovering. The Astros said they “implemented all health and safety protocols” but didn’t say the camp was closed.

Stuck in a bitter fight over money, owners and the union had hoped to have players begin testing Tuesday and then start a second round of spring training by next weekend. Most teams had anticipated holding those