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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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CONTINGENCY EDITION

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Free to Deployed Areas

## Unhappy homecoming



### 82nd Airborne troops return from Mideast to austere conditions

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It wasn't the welcome home that U.S. soldiers expected when they returned from war zones in the Middle East in the past week.

When their planes landed at Fort Bliss, Texas,

they were herded into buses, denied water and the use of bathrooms, then quarantined in packed barracks, with little food or access to the outdoors. "This is no way to treat Soldiers returning from war," one soldier told The Associated Press in an email.

The soldiers posted notes on social media

about the poor conditions. Their complaints got quick attention from senior Army and Pentagon leaders. Now changes are under way at Fort Bliss and at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, where the first soldiers placed under quarantine

**SEE RETURN ON PAGE 5**

**Large tents established in a remote training area to provide accommodations for hundreds of 82nd Airborne Division troops returning from Afghanistan and Middle East deployments are seen Tuesday at Fort Bragg, N.C.**

ZACH VAN DYKE/AP

## Coronavirus leads Army to shut down recruiting stations, redouble online efforts

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army on Friday began closing the doors of its more than 1,400 recruiting stations across the nation in an effort to protect its recruiters from the fast-spreading coronavirus, service of-

ficials said.

The Army's 10,000-plus recruiting force will shift to a nearly 100% focus on digital operations via social media, phone calls, text messages and video chats for an indefinite period, U.S. Army Recruiting Command announced. Recruiters are expected to work almost exclusively from

home while social distancing practices to contain the virus remain recommended by federal health officials, a spokeswoman for the command said.

Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, Recruiting Command chief, said he was confident the mission would not grind to a halt without face-to-face meetings with potential re-

cruits. Muth has been among the leading advocates for Army recruiters to focus heavily on digital operations since the service fell short of its 2018 recruiting goal.

"We are very confident in our ability to operate in the virtual space, as it has

**SEE RECRUITING ON PAGE 5**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Dow drops more than 900 points on virus fears

Associated Press

Wall Street ended the week the same way it began: in full retreat from the coronavirus.

Stocks fell sharply and the price of oil sank Friday as federal and state governments moved to shut down bigger and bigger swaths of the nation's economy in the hope of limiting the spread of the outbreak.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid more than 900 points, ending the week with a 17.3% loss.

The index has declined in four of the last five weeks.

The latest sell-off wiped out the gains from a day earlier and capped the market's worst week since the financial crisis of 2008.

Investors are worried that the coronavirus will plunge the U.S. and other major economies into deep recessions. Steps to contain the spread of the outbreak are causing massive disruptions and layoffs. Optimism that emergency actions by central banks and governments to ease the

economic damage has waned as investors wait for the Trump administration to deliver on legislation that will pump billions of dollars into hurting households and industries.

"The coronavirus is shutting the economy down," said Lindsey Bell, chief investment strategist at Ally Invest. At the same time, oil prices are being pulled lower by increased supplies at a time when demand is declining.

"This is kind of a double-whammy for the economy," she said.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (March 23)	\$1.1038	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776
Dollar buys (March 23)	60.906	British pound	\$ 1.1766
British pound (March 23)	\$1.21	Canada (Dollar)	1.4298
Japanese yen (March 23)	105.03	China (Yuan)	7.0981
South Korean won (March 23)	1,228.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.9850
<b>Commercial rates</b>			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776	Egypt (Pound)	15.7520
British pound	\$ 1.1766	Euro	\$ 1.0693/0.9352
Canada (Dollar)	1.4298	Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7389
China (Yuan)	7.0981	Hungary (Forint)	327.87
Denmark (Krone)	6.9850	Israel (Shekel)	3.6317
Egypt (Pound)	15.7520	Japan (Yen)	110.96
Euro	\$ 1.0693/0.9352	Kuwait (Dinar)	3.111
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7389	Norway (Krone)	11.2931
Hungary (Forint)	327.87	Philippines (Peso)	51.33
Israel (Shekel)	3.6317	Poland (Zloty)	4.24
Japan (Yen)	110.96	Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7573
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.111	Singapore (Dollar)	1.4499
Norway (Krone)	11.2931	South Korea (Won)	1249.01
Philippines (Peso)	51.33	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9854
Poland (Zloty)	4.24	Thailand (Baht)	52.60
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7573	Turkey (Lira)	6.9513
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4499	<small>(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)</small>	

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	1.00
3-month bill	0.03
3-year bond	1.75

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### SUNDAY IN EUROPE



### MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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MILITARY

# N. Korea test-fires missiles near S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea test-fired two short-range missiles that flew more than 250 miles before splashing into the sea off its eastern coast Saturday, the South Korean military said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also guided an artillery fire competition between large combined army units "on the western front" Friday, state-run media reported.

The military activity showed the North is continuing to develop its weapons programs as nuclear talks with the United States have been deadlocked for more than a year.

The two projectiles, which were presumed to be short-range ballistic missiles, were launched from a western area Saturday, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It said the projectiles flew more than 250 miles and reached a maximum altitude of 30 miles.

"Our military is maintaining a readiness posture and tracking in case of additional launches," it said.

The artillery units fired rounds targeting an islet Friday as part of a surprise inspection by Kim,



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervises an artillery firing competition between army units, Friday, in the country's west in North Korea.

according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

It was aimed at evaluating the troops and "definitely turning ordinary drills into practicable ones

for an actual war," KCNA said.

"The supreme leader expressed satisfaction, saying that the firing skill of the artillerymen on the western front, those under the

3rd Corps, in particular, was remarkably great," KCNA said.

The North conducted a series of other missile tests and artillery drills earlier this month in what

South Koreans officials said was part of winter training drills.

The show of strength came after the United States and South Korea canceled plans for a joint military training exercise this month because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The allies insist they are continuing regular training and remain ready to fight if needed.

Gen. Robert Abrams, the commander of U.S. Forces Korea, said measures have been implemented to protect the health of troops while maintaining "our fight-tonight readiness posture."

"That mission has not gone away with COVID-19, and you need to not look any further than the last two weeks with multiple North Korea missile tests," he told reporters on March 13.

"We're still flying. We're still training. We're still shooting guns. We're still qualifying our weapons. We're still conducting maneuver training," he said.

Some 28,500 American service members are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

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## Hypersonic glide body launched by Army and Navy

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The U.S. Army and Navy successfully launched a hypersonic glide body Thursday at Hawaii's Pacific Missile Range Facility, taking a major step in the Pentagon's goal of developing weapons that can travel five times the speed of sound or faster.

The glide body, sometimes called a glide vehicle, flew at hypersonic speed to a designated impact point, the Defense Department said Friday in a statement. It did not specify the top speed the glide body reached.

In a fully functioning hypersonic weapon, a conventional rocket booster first launches the glide body, which then accelerates at hypersonic speeds to deliver the warhead aboard it.

"This test was a critical step in rapidly delivering operational hypersonic capabilities to our warfighters in support of the National Defense Strategy," Army Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition, said in a Defense Department statement. His office is leading the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapon program.

"We successfully executed a mission consistent with how we can apply this capability in the future," he said.

Both China and Russia are developing hypersonic weapons, which unlike conventional ballistic missiles can be maneuvered deftly after launch to avoid detection or destruction.

The Pentagon has requested \$3.2 billion for hypersonic-related research for fiscal year 2021, a jump from the previous year's \$2.6 billion request.

During the launch, the Missile Defense Agency gathered tracking data from the flight experi-



A hypersonic glide body launches from Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaii, during an experimental flight Thursday.

ment that will be used to develop systems to defend against an adversary's hypersonic weapons.

The Defense Department described Thursday's launch as a "major milestone towards the department's goal of fielding hypersonic warfighting capabilities in the early- to mid-2020s."

Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe, director of the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs, said in the statement that this test follows up one done in October 2017 and put "additional stresses" on the system. "It was able to handle them all," Wolfe said.

"Today we validated our design and are now ready to move to the next phase towards fielding a hypersonic strike capability," he said.

Once the glide body is fully fielded, the Navy and Army will each develop individual weapon systems and launchers for use on sea or land, the statement said.

"The glide body tested today is now ready for transition to Army and Navy weapon system development efforts and is one of several applications of hypersonic technology underway across the Department," Mike White, assistant director of hypersonics in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, said in the statement.

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## Ship building continues, deemed 'national need'

By JOHN SHARP  
Alabama Media Group

Delivering military warships is a "national need" that is "unwavering and crucial" to national security and requires Mobile-based Austal USA's employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, a high-ranking Navy official said Thursday.

Assistant Secretary to the Navy James Geurts, in a letter to Austal President Craig Perciavalle, instructed the company to inform the Navy of problems that might arise while the company continues building ships at its Mobile-based facility. The company employs around 4,000 people and builds its warships in a facility located across the Mobile River from downtown Mobile.

"Given the missions essential functions you perform, while ensuring the safety and well-being of the workforce, I cannot stress enough the importance of accomplishing the missions, and notifying the government of any impediments that are considered likely to interfere with timely accomplishment of these missions," Geurts wrote.

He said the Navy understands the coronavirus pandemic presents "a challenge" and that the military branch is "dedicated to working closely" with Austal to ensure workforce safety.

Craig Savage, a spokesman

with Austal USA in Mobile, Ala., said the company has six ships under various phases of construction. He said that the company is adhering to the strict safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization by taking "significant steps to distance the workforce for large gatherings."

Austal USA's primary concern is the health and well-being of our workforce," said Savage. "Austal remains open and operating under close care."

He said the company's precautions include travel restrictions for "non-essential employees," review of recently traveled employees, comprehensive facility sanitization, social-distancing, and moving to virtual meetings whenever practical.

"We're continuing to monitor developments and updating our response accordingly," Savage said.

Austal, as a defense industry contractor is considered an "essential critical infrastructure" employer, as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Other industries considered critical include medical and health care, food and agriculture, telecommunications, information technology systems, transportation and logistics, energy, water and wastewater, law enforcement and public works.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Navy limits testing for sailors aboard ships

By ANDREW DYER

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — Navy sailors on ships at sea and in port won't be tested for COVID-19 unless they meet the same benchmarks for testing as their civilian counterparts, according to Naval Medical Forces Pacific.

Those benchmarks, set by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, include a fever of at least 100.4 degrees, symptoms of acute respiratory illness and a connection with a known COVID-19 case or recent travel to a high-risk area, according to Regina Kowitz, a Naval Medical Forces Pacific spokeswoman.

Those measures will remain in place despite concerns that the virus can spread from people who are not showing symptoms, or whose symptoms are mild.

According to the CDC website, researchers believe the virus is most contagious when people are symptomatic; however, experts told CNN Thursday they are concerned it can spread via those without symptoms as well.

One San Diego sailor who tested positive — a student at a Naval Base San Diego schoolhouse — was asymptomatic for COVID-19, but was tested because two others from the school also tested positive, Brian O'Rourke, a Navy spokesman, told *The San Diego Union-Tribune* Monday.

Other sailors have reached out to *The San Diego Union-Tribune* anonymously over recent days concerned about the lack of testing even for those sailors with symptoms of the virus.

Three sailors assigned to ships in San Diego — two on the amphibious assault ship *Boxer* and one on the littoral combat ship *Coronado* — have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last five days.

Although ships have been vectors for the spread of the virus — as seen with the *Diamond Princess*, *Grand Princess* and *Boxer* — Kowitz said that, as of Thursday, there is no plan to lower the testing threshold for the Navy's shipboard sailors.

"Sailors should not be going to work ill

and if they have concerns, they should contact their primary care facility," Kowitz said in an email.

During a phone interview Thursday, Kowitz said Naval Medical Forces Pacific is preparing Navy medical staff — including those working in the San Diego area — to deploy on the hospital ship *Mercy* to an unnamed West Coast city.

On Thursday, California Governor Gavin Newsom asked President Donald Trump in a letter to send the ship to the port of Los Angeles, though a Military Sealift Command official told USNI News the ship is bound for Seattle.

## Army Corps of Engineers turn hotels, dorms into care wards

By DEL QUENTIN WILBER

*Los Angeles Times*

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic sign of the coronavirus' anticipated toll, the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to convert vacant hotels, college dormitories and other facilities into intensive care wards with tens of thousands of makeshift hospital beds, first in New York but probably expanding to California and other states.

That announcement Friday at a Pentagon news conference by Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commander of Army Corps of Engineers, marks an escalation of the U.S. military role. Already it is providing 2,000 ventilators and 5 million protective masks and preparing to dispatch hospital ships on both coasts. Governors are calling up thousands of National Guard troops.

Yet, the armed forces face serious limitations in joining the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, current and former officials warn, not least because their expertise is in handling battlefield injuries, not infectious disease. Military doctors are already providing essential services to more than a million service members and their families, and medical personnel in the reserves are hard at work — in their own communities.

Given the limitations, former military officials and experts said the government should proceed with caution. Charles Dunlap, a former Army major general and military lawyer, in an essay this week argued that "a significant military mobilization is a bad idea."

He cited a number of problems with such an approach: The military health system is stretched thin; civilians are better at responding to pandemics; and the armed forces face legal restrictions on engaging in domestic law enforcement duties. In an email, Dunlap added that the military must remain focused on its most important job — waging war.

The Pentagon "needs to make it known that it is on high alert to ensure no adversary tries to take advantage of the situation



SARAH BURFORD, U.S. NAVY/AP

Supplies are prepared to be lifted aboard the USNS *Mercy*, Friday, at Naval Base San Diego. The hospital ship will treat non-COVID-19 patients which will allow local health professionals to further focus on treating those with the disease.

**"I would be setting up hospitals near medical centers to take the load off."**

Dr. Stephen Xenakis  
retired brigadier general

to conduct hostile operations," Dunlap wrote. "This is why it's so important that (the Defense Department) avoid the appearance or fact of being distracted by the coronavirus emergency, or that the capabilities needed for warfighting are being diffused and dissipated."

Military leaders agree and have emphasized the work of the National Guard, which can be called into action by governors, to help with law enforcement, provide security, transport supplies and more. Battling the virus is challenging, these leaders say, because the whole country is under fire, even if some areas are

hit worse than others.

"When there is a hurricane you can see it on a map. You have a sense of how hard the storm will hit and how long the storm will last," Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said Thursday. "With COVID-19, it's like we have 54 separate hurricanes in every state, territory and the District of Columbia. Some are Category 5, some are Category 3s, some are Category 1s."

Lengyel noted, however, that the current crisis is nothing like a storm: "Unlike a hurricane, you don't know when it will dissipate or move out to sea."

The Army corps' planning reflects that uncertainty. Semonite said his engineers on Tuesday began touring hotels, dormitories and a convention center in New York City, from a list that city officials provided, to determine which ones to turn into "ICU-like facilities" accommodating more than 10,000 beds. The city would lease the chosen properties, and the corps would hire contractors to finish construction within weeks.

Planning also is underway for 15 other states, including California, Washington and New Jersey. "We have to do something very, very quickly," Semonite said. "Most governors say their peak will be mid-April."

"This is an unbelievably complicated problem," he added, "and there is no way we are going to be able to do it with a complicated solution. We need something super simple. So our concept here is a standard design."

So far, governors in at least 27 states have mobilized more than 2,000 National Guard troops, and the number was expected to double by Sunday.

Officials said they expect many more troops to get called up.

"It's hard to tell what the exact requirement will be, but I'm expecting tens of thousands to be used inside the states as this grows," Lengyel said.

The biggest deployment so far involves the Navy's activation of two hospital ships to help backstop strained health care systems. Though each has 1,000 beds, the ships' doctors will not be caring for those stricken ill by the virus. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said they would probably be used to treat patients suffering from noninfectious ailments and injuries, freeing civilian hospitals to focus on patients with COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus.

"Our capabilities are focused on trauma," Esper said. "Whether it's our field hospitals, whether it's our hospital ships, they are focused on trauma. They don't have necessarily the space, the segregated spaces, to deal with infectious disease."

The Navy hospital ship USNS *Mercy*, based in San Diego, will be ready to sail within days to assist hospitals, probably on the West Coast, officials have said. Another ship, the *Comfort*, is undergoing maintenance in Norfolk, Va., and is weeks away from being sent to New York.

Despite the cautions on deploying the military, some experts say it could actually be doing more. Dr. Stephen Xenakis, a retired brigadier general, said reserve medical units should be called up to provide care in tent hospitals, perhaps in Central Park.

"That's what combat is all about — triage," Xenakis said. "I would be setting up hospitals near medical centers to take the load off. We could treat those patients not needing space in intensive care units."

Military leaders are hesitant to commit such resources, Esper said, because they would be "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Return: Military bases were not prepared for quarantining troops after being overseas

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Also complained of poor, cramped conditions.

Quarantining troops on military bases is becoming a greater challenge for military officials. While continuing missions and training, they also have to try to prevent the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus by enforcing two-week quarantines of soldiers who have spent months overseas.

In one of Bragg's remote training areas, large white tents have popped up over the past few days to house hundreds of 82nd Airborne Division troops returning to the base from Afghanistan and Middle East deployments. The tent city, being called Forward Operating Base Patriot (FOB Patriot), materialized almost overnight after commanders realized the limits of the barracks when troops began arriving on Saturday.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said senior leaders were looking into soldiers' complaints and seeking answers from Fort Bliss. Pentagon chief spokesman Jonathan Hoffman told reporters that Defense Secretary Mark Esper had heard about the problems and "his response is, we can do better and we need to do better."

Hoffman said the commander at Fort Bliss has met with all of the quarantined soldiers and "talked through some of their concerns. The spokesman added,

"We are going to do better. This is something unusual for all these bases to be handling, and they are doing the best they can."

In the early days of the quarantine, soldiers at Fort Bliss posted photos on social media showing foam food trays dotted with small piles of peas and rice. On Thursday, in an email statement, Fort Bliss described changes that have been made.

"The dining facility we initially used could not keep pace with demand," said the statement. "The portions were inadequate, and led to our number one complaint. Fort Bliss leaders saw photos and immediately took action."

One soldier, in an email to the AP, said when soldiers got off the plane from Afghanistan, they were loaded onto buses and did not get water or permission to use the bathroom for hours.

"We can't walk down the hall, go outside, or exercise. We finally received drinking water at 0900 this morning," said the soldier, describing Day Two. "The Army was not prepared, nor equipped to deal with this quarantine instruction and it has been implemented very poorly."

The AP is not identifying soldiers who described the conditions, in order to protect their identity so they could speak freely and not worry about potential reprisals.

Fort Bliss said that the food service plan has already increased to give troops three hot meals a day



ZACH VANDYKE/AP

Mobile laundry units and large tents, seen Tuesday at Fort Bragg, N.C., will provide accommodations for up to 600 82nd Airborne Division soldiers.

and that soldiers are now getting donated snacks and are allowed to order food and have it delivered to a central location. The troops are also allowed to go outside more and will get more access to gym equipment.

Another soldier at Bliss, who had been deployed to Kuwait, said in a message that the food has gotten better and troops are now allowed to go outside more. But as they begin Day Six, there has been no access to laundry facilities.

At Fort Bragg, some of the first soldiers to return on Saturday were sent to rooms in barracks that had been quickly emptied. Soldiers previously living in

those rooms were moved to make room.

According to officials, soldiers are being separated into groups that returned from overseas together for the two-week quarantine. But realizing the need for more space, the 82nd Airborne decided on Saturday to build a new facility, and on Monday morning the first tent stakes were being pounded into the ground.

Because the area has been used for training in the past, workers were able to quickly bring in and hook up shower and toilet trailers and set up food tents and other facilities. By Thursday, several hundred troops had already moved in.

The 82nd Airborne's 3rd

Brigade has been deployed to Afghanistan and is steadily returning home. Members of the 1st Brigade had gone to Kuwait and Iraq to help bolster security due to threats from Iranian-backed militias. Some members of that group have also come home.

According to Army Lt. Col. Mike Burns, a spokesman for the 82nd Airborne, FOB Patriot will be able to hold as many as 600 soldiers, but numbers have been changing as adjustments are made. He said Maj. Gen. James Mingus wanted to ensure that the returning troops knew "we were proud of what they accomplished and were doing everything we can to take care of them and stop the spread of the virus."

## Recruiting: After shortfall in 2018, Army focused on digital connections

### FROM FRONT PAGE

become a primary method of talking to potential soldiers in recent years," Muth said Friday. "While face-to-face discussions are valuable when discussing options to serve in the U.S. Army, we are able to work around that, if necessary. Right now, I think that is necessary for the health and safety of our force and those around them."

The Army's top leaders said the service was in good shape in terms of recruiting so far in 2020. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told reporters that the potential impact of closing recruiting stations would depend on how long the shutdown across the United States continues.

"We've had a [positive] margin in our recruiting numbers this year," McCarthy said. "We are doing very well. I knock on wood as I say this, but [if the outbreak continues] where are we going to be in a month?"

A nationwide effort to avoid nonessential travel championed by federal and state health officials to drastically limit human contact is meant to slow the deepening coronavirus pandemic that had sickened at least 16,638 people in the United States as of Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The Pentagon said Friday that 67 of its service members worldwide had tested positive for the disease. That includes at

least 21 soldiers, McCarthy said. None of the reported cases included recruiters, according to Lisa Ferguson, the USAREC spokeswoman.

Nonetheless, she said, Muth determined closing recruiting stations to the public was the safest way for his staff to work now.

Recruiting Command officials have said they do not provide mid-year recruiting data, but Muth has said several times in 2020 that the service had been on track to exceed its goals. The Army made its fiscal year 2019 recruiting goal after falling 6,500 enlistees short the previous fiscal year.

The 2018 recruiting failure, the service's first since 2005, forced service leaders to

take a hard look at its decades-old recruiting practices. After a short review, Muth led efforts to change the Army's recruiting enterprise to focus largely on digital methods — interacting with young Americans on social media, targeting advertising to websites frequented by them, and building an e-sports team to increase competitors' awareness of the Army.

For now, recruiters will still have some face-to-face contact with recruits before they ship to Military Entrance Processing Stations and then on to initial entrance training, which has continued amid the outbreak.

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## Airman, defense contractor mark first cases linked to Pentagon

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two people who worked in the Pentagon tested positive for the coronavirus this month, an Air Force official said Friday, marking the first reports of the virus inside the U.S. military's headquarters.

An active-duty member of the

Air Force and a defense contractor recently tested positive for the virus, said Air Force Maj. Malinda Singleton, a spokeswoman from the service.

Neither person was identified by name, and it was not immediately clear when the cases were confirmed.

The airman works for the Defense Health Agency headquar-

tered in Falls Church, Va., about nine miles west of the Pentagon in Arlington. Singleton said the airman was last in the Pentagon on March 16, spending less than an hour in the building at that time.

The airman has since received medical treatment and been self-quarantined. People with whom the airman had contact have been

notified they might have been exposed to the coronavirus, Singleton said.

The defense contractor, who also works for the Air Force, works full-time in the Pentagon but has not been in the building since March 2. Singleton said the person has been in self-quarantine since March 7 and has received medical treatment.

People who worked with the contractor also have been notified they could have been exposed to the disease. People who attended the Total Force Integration Symposium at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland between March 6 and 7 also have been notified the contractor was at the event and has since tested positive for the virus.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Economic rescue package likely to swell beyond \$1T

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
AND LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Negotiators from Congress and the White House were resuming top-level talks Saturday on a ballooning \$1 trillion-plus economic rescue package, racing to strike a deal after President Donald Trump unleashed fury on those questioning his handling of the coronavirus outbreak.

It was an extraordinary moment in Washington: Congress undertaking the most ambitious federal effort yet to shore up households and the U.S. economy and an angry president lashing out at all comers. All while the global pandemic and the nationwide shutdown grip an anxious, isolated population bracing for a health care crisis and looming recession.

When one reporter asked Trump what he would tell a worried nation Friday, the president snapped, "I say that you're a terrible reporter."

On Capitol Hill, key congressional and White House officials converged Saturday for more talks. The sweeping aid package of paychecks for suddenly jobless Americans, money for hospitals and aid to industry is all but certain to swell far beyond the initial \$1 trillion price tag. Combined with other actions by the Federal Reserve, it could be a \$2 trillion pump to the economy, officials said Saturday.

The Senate was convening the rare weekend session with the aim of drafting the package Saturday, holding an initial vote Sunday and winning Senate passage Monday.

"We need to act with urgency, we need to act with significance, we need to act with boldness," White House legislative affairs director Eric Ueland told reporters.

Despite the enormous pressure on Washington to swiftly act, the challenges are apparent. Lawmakers and administration officials labored late into the evening Friday over eye-popping sums and striking federal interventions, surpassing even the 2008-09 bank bailout and stimulus.

"Everybody is working very hard," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said, exiting one closed-door session and heading into another.

While key negotiators said they made progress during the daylong talks, they failed to hit an end-of-day deadline Friday to strike a deal. Talks broke around 1:40 p.m.

Mnuchin began negotiations

with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and senators from both parties using McConnell's GOP offer as a starting point.

"Our nation needs a major next step, and we need it fast," McConnell said earlier in the day to an empty chamber, the iconic U.S. Capitol closed to visitors.

But Mnuchin also conferred privately Friday with Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the two leaders pressed for Democratic priorities. Pelosi late Friday called the GOP plan a "non-starter."

At one point, Schumer told reporters, "We're making good progress." But Schumer acknowledged trying to wrap up "tonight is hard."

The GOP plan aims to pump billions into \$1,200 direct checks to Americans and billions to small businesses to pay idled workers during the global pandemic.

But Democrats say McConnell's plan is insufficient, arguing for greater income support for workers and a "Marshall Plan" for the U.S. health care industry, which is preparing for an onslaught of newly sick patients.

At the White House, Trump welcomed the stimulus plan, believing it is needed to stabilize the economy.

But Trump spent much of Friday's daily briefing in a fury, an angry president lashing out at reporters' questions.

At times, he seemed to refuse to want to hear the reality of an increasingly dire situation. It was when one reporter noted the hard facts in the U.S.—that more than 200 are dead, more than 14,000 infected and millions scared—that he snapped back.

Trump also sowed further confusion about whether he is using the powers of the Defense Production Act to force American businesses to manufacture needed medical supplies.

In Friday phone calls with Trump, Schumer said he specifically implored the president to invoke the Korean War-era act to ramp up production of desperately needed ventilators and other gear.

Trump told the Democratic leader he would do it—and then Schumer said the president could be heard yelling to someone in his office "get it done." But Trump told reporters he had put the order he invoked Wednesday "into gear" Thursday night. He said he had directed companies to launch production. But then he walked it back, saying, "You know, so far, we haven't hit it" because companies are volunteering.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Jason Desjardin, of the Farmington Preservation & Improvement Organization, stands on a ladder as he turns on the Christmas lights in Farmington, N.H., March 19.

## Christmas lights relit as sign of hope, camaraderie in towns

By HOLLY RAMER  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H.—At a time of great uncertainty, even the seasons seem scrambled. Christmas lights in springtime?

Wrapped around a tree trunk in Colorado, fashioned into a heart in Alabama and hung high over Main Street in a New Hampshire town, holiday lights are going back up. As the coronavirus spreads, the displays are providing a bit of emotional and actual brightness. And they're especially easy to enjoy from a safe social distance.

"We live out in the country, but I know you can see them from the highway," said Julie Check, who turned on the white lights that trace the roof line of her home in Eastman, Wisconsin, on Wednesday night. "Anything I can do to make people happy right now, I'm going to try to do."

In Farmington, New Hampshire, a roughly five-block stretch

of downtown has been reilluminated with holiday lights that swoop and zigzag between tall wooden posts.

"It's a small town; we don't have a lot of traditions. That was one of them, and we just didn't want it to go away," said Lee Warburton, president of the Farmington Preservation and Improvement Organization, which maintains and installs the lights. At his suggestion, the 27 strands totaling 2,000-plus bulbs were tested and turned back on Thursday night.

"It's tough for everybody right now. Everyone is on edge," he said. "We just thought it would be nice to give the folks in town something to smile about."

Many of the posts on Twitter and other social media platforms point back to a Colorado man who tweeted Monday that his mom thought people should put Christmas lights in their windows "to remind each other there is still life and light" while they stay home to avoid the virus.

Rosemary Peterson, the mom in question, said Thursday she made the offhand suggestion after making the wrenching decision to indefinitely postpone the funeral for her sister, Martlene, who died on March 13.

"We know we are not alone. Many are giving up events, experiences, celebrations and milestones," she said. "So in the midst of a lot of darkness, I thought we could all use some light."

Both she and her son were surprised that his tweet took off. Since then, others have adopted his #lightsforlife hashtag to share photos of their efforts. In Huntsville, Alabama, Sarah Bang said she usually just winds a string of white lights around the railing of her apartment balcony for Christmas. But after seeing Peterson's tweet, she made a heart shape instead.

"I had Christmas lights because I'm super into Christmas, so I dug them out and decided love was a good thing to spread," she said.

## New Jerseyans told to stay at home

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy ordered residents to stay home, banned all gatherings and told nonessential retail businesses to close by 9 p.m. Saturday in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the state.

"I take personal responsibility for the public health and safety of New Jersey," he tweeted. "If you are unhappy about our aggressive social distancing measures, I'm sorry. But your safety is my highest priority."

The governor announced Saturday that there had been five more deaths from the virus, for

a total of 16 in the state. There were more than 440 new positive tests for a total of more than 1,300, something he attributed to testing in the state that had been "ahead of the curve."

But he ordered all residents to stay at home with some exceptions, such as obtaining essential goods or services, seeking medical attention, visiting family or close friends, reporting to work, or engaging in outdoor activities. Gatherings such as weddings, in-person services and parties are banned, he said.

"It pains me that important life moments cannot be celebrated the way they are supposed to," Mur-

phy said. "Any place where people congregate is a place where coronavirus can be spread."

Murphy also said people should not go to second homes at the Jersey Shore, saying the shore towns aren't prepared for the influx. All businesses were told to let their employees work from home wherever possible.

In recent days, the governor of California issued a statewide stay-at-home order, Pennsylvania's governor ordered more than 150 types of businesses to close and the governor of Texas closed schools for more than 5 million students.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Californians adjust to homebound reality

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — While California awoke Friday to the reality of a near lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus, it was business as usual for Rick Cornutt and his family, who were hunkered down in China during the early days of the outbreak and spent two weeks in self-quarantine when they returned last month.

"This is take three for us," the Los Angeles filmmaker joked. "This has become routine by now. We're kind of professional homebodies."

That's not the case for nearly 40 million fellow Californians who were coming to terms with Gov. Gavin Newsom's order that they stay home indefinitely with exceptions for essential jobs, errands and some exercise.

Even after a growing number of cities and counties had placed restrictions on movement and activity, the order was a stunning development and further blow to businesses and workers reeling from the impact, and parents struggling to telecommute with children at home amid a prevalent fear of the rapidly spreading virus.

Normally congested freeways in California were truly free — of traffic — and city streets remained mostly empty in areas usually bustling with cars, bikes, scooters and commuters emerging from rail stations and stopping at coffee shops and bakeries. Yosemite National Park closed to visitors Friday, the latest of California's top tourist destinations to do so.

The governor's effort to curb the pandemic in the nation's most populous state was by far the most sweeping and was followed by similar announcements in New York and Illinois.

California is one of the hardest-hit states, with 1,185 confirmed cases and 23 deaths



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Extremely light mid afternoon traffic moves along the 110 Harbor Freeway toward downtown Friday in Los Angeles. Traffic would normally be bumper-to-bumper.

as of Friday.

Los Angeles County Health Director Barbara Ferrer urged people to stay home and only go out for essential needs. Those who have been tested and come back negative shouldn't have a false sense of security.

"You can be negative today and positive tomorrow," she said. "Stay home as much as possible. You are safer at home."

Still, there were plenty of signs of life from employees still working, others taking advantage of allowable activities and some pushing the limits of the new rules.

Street sweepers rolled along in Los An-

geles, saws whirred at construction sites, lines snaked out grocery stores and people hit the streets for a stroll in the fresh air or to walk their dogs.

Dozens of surfers bobbed in the waters off Huntington Beach, dubbed Surf City USA, where sets of waist-high waves rolled in. But on the beach business was a bummer for Jason Marchison, whose surf lesson business had tanked during a time of year when it usually picks up during spring break.

"Everyone is terrified to come out," he said. "Surfing is one of those sports where

if you want to talk about social distancing and all that, it's the ideal sport to do that."

Small businesses have been crushed by the efforts to stem the pandemic. While restaurants have been able to offer takeout food, some have seen business plummet 95%, said Jot Condie, president of the California Restaurant Association.

"It's thinning out by the day," he said. "Hundreds and hundreds of employees are being laid off by the hour."

Cities were grappling with getting a swelling homeless population off the street and authorities were looking into releasing non-violent inmates from jails to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in close confinement. The state prison system reported its first two cases among employees at different institutions, but no inmate has yet contracted it, state corrections spokeswoman Dana Simas said.

Newsom said infection rates are doubling every four days in some areas and projected that 56% of the state's population — about 22 million people — could contract the virus in the next two months if aggressive prevention isn't taken.

Residents have been told to stay 6 feet away from others, not gather in groups and wash their hands frequently.

David Mayer, a personal trainer and yoga instructor who lost his job when the San Francisco gym where he worked had to close, sprayed down a Wells Fargo ATM machine before using it. Two people who followed him, though, took no such precautions.

"I'm taking this very seriously and following the strictest of protocols because most people are not careful," he said.

Newsom said he expected social pressure — not policing — to help enforce his stay-at-home order.

# Elections in limbo as pandemic forces primary postponements

Associated Press

ATLANTA — U.S. elections have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic. At least 13 states have postponed voting and more delays are possible as health officials warn that social distancing and other measures to contain the virus might be in place for weeks, if not months.

The states that have yet to hold their primaries find themselves in a seemingly impossible situation as they look to balance public health concerns with the need to hold elections. While election officials routinely prepare for natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires, the virus outbreak poses a unique challenge.

"Usually when we are dealing with a crisis in elections, it's something that happens and then it's done," said Chris Harvey, Georgia's director of elections. "The difference now is that it's a spreading threat, a fast-growing threat. We don't know where, when or how it is going to end."

Primaries scheduled for Georgia, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, Louisiana, Connecticut and Kentucky have all been postponed to May or June. The Rhode Island Board of Elections has recom-

mended the primary be delayed to June, while officials in Wisconsin are debating what to do.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has insisted the April 7 primary be held as scheduled, but a state elections commissioner said this past week that doing so would put people at risk. The state's chief elections official cited a host of problems Wisconsin could face if it moved forward with the election: a poll worker shortage, lack of polling places and potential disruption of absentee voting if mail service in the U.S. were to shut down.

All this comes at the worst possible time for election officials, in the middle of a major election year. The virus outbreak erupted halfway through the presidential primary season. Voters in 23 states have yet to cast their ballots.

While Arizona, Florida and Illinois held their elections as scheduled last Tuesday, Ohio halted voting over public health concerns after federal officials encouraged people over age 65 to stay home.

"We cannot tell people to stay inside, but also tell them to go out and vote," Gov. Mike DeWine, R-

Ohio, said on Twitter, in announcing plans to delay.

The states that have opted to press ahead have found themselves dealing with what one Chicago elections official called a "tsunami" of cancellations by poll workers, who tend to be older, and a last-minute scramble to relocate polling places away from nursing homes and senior living communities. Severe illness and death associated with coronavirus has been most common in people 65 and older, especially those who have heart disease or other chronic conditions.

In addition to the presidential race, dozens of congressional and local primaries are in limbo. Primaries play an important role in deciding which party candidates will appear on the ballot for the November general election.

Runoff elections in Alabama and Mississippi were also delayed, as were local elections in Oklahoma, Missouri, New Jersey and Texas.

There's no indication May or June will be any better to hold elections, but officials say postponing voting even for a few weeks gives them an opportunity to put in place plans to keep the



MONEY GASH/AP

Early voters cast their ballots at the Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building in Milwaukee, Wis., on Wednesday.

public safe while voting. This includes moving polling places, recruiting backup poll workers and acquiring enough cleaning supplies for voting sites.

"At some point, we have to execute an election," Harvey said, adding Georgia planned a major push to expand absentee voting for the May primary.

There have been calls, including from Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez, for elections to be held mostly by mail. But making this switch will be difficult for some and impossible for others.

In several states, it would take

legislation or even a constitutional amendment to allow. Even then, election experts say there would be costs and logistical hurdles.

For instance, states would have to decide whether taxpayers or individual voters would be responsible for return postage. It would require new machines and software in many places to track ballots in the mail and process and count them when they're returned.

All of that could cost billions of dollars, at a time when state revenues are likely to drop amid increased unemployment and decreased tax collections.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Vital but vulnerable, cleaners hold the line

By MAE ANDERSON, ALEXANDRA OLSON AND KELVIN CHAN  
*Associated Press*

**NEW YORK** — When hospitals need to prep a room for the next coronavirus test, when jetliners discharge their passengers at the gate, when suburbanites start to take sanitary precautions more seriously, the call goes out:

Send in the cleaners.  
These largely unsung workers are often the first line of defense against the global COVID-19 pandemic, cleaning and disinfecting homes, offices, medical facilities and public spaces where the novel coronavirus could spread. But the people doing all this cleaning earn low wages, frequently lack sick leave and paid days off, and can be fired with no warning.

Amid all that is the constant fear that they could encounter the virus themselves, despite diligent precautions.

Shashini Lewis, who spends her mornings doing office work for MaidPro in Philadelphia and her afternoons cleaning homes, says her hours have jumped almost 80% to 40 hours a week. She brings her own mask to work even though MaidPro provides both masks and gloves, washes her hands frequently and wears gloves even when dusting.

"I'm very worried, but I plan on staying around until we can't," she said. Not only do her elderly customers need her help, she says, but like countless workers, she has enough savings to support her and two kids for about a month — even though she's under way into management.

Overall demand for cleaning has been heavy. Airlines, including Delta and South-



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

**A worker disinfects a turn stile at a Government Center transit stop in Boston. Cleaners and domestic workers are essential in the effort to contain the virus.**

west, added disinfecting measures on flights. Antrak increased the frequency of cleaning services at trains and stations, in some cases on an hourly basis, and is using more disinfectant to wipe down handrails, door knobs and handles.

During the first two weeks of March, ads for cleaners were up 75% in the U.S. and 20% in the U.K. compared to a year ago, according to Ziprecruiter, an online job posting site.

But that's starting to change as cities across the U.S. and Europe enter lockdown and schools, hotels, restaurants and other businesses shut down.

Last week, Zoraida Rodriguez was working overtime to keep the Bernard B. Jacobs theater clean for well-heeled Broadway enthusiasts. She and other custodial workers were called in early and stayed late to help with deep cleaning, disinfecting door knobs, stair rails and anything else the-

atergoers might touch.

Now, Rodriguez is out of a job. Broadway theaters abruptly closed until at least April 12 and possibly beyond. At least 204 theaters and stadium service workers lost their jobs, according to the Service Employees International Union that represents them. There is no clear answer about whether they would get severance pay or any type of relief. Rodriguez was told to pick up her last paycheck this week.

Rodriguez, 53, has worked cleaning Broadway theaters for nearly 16 years, making \$20 an hour. She had health insurance, paid sick leave and vacation. Those benefits are gone, although SEIU is negotiating for some relief. For the moment, she says she'll rely on unemployment benefits and her daughter's salary from a New Jersey beauty salon — although salon hours are falling as customer traffic plummets.

"We really live paycheck to paycheck, and it is difficult for us to last a month without working," Rodriguez says.

According to a study by the National Domestic Workers Alliance, 82% of domestic workers don't get paid sick days. Many are afraid if they do stay out sick they'll get fired: about 25% of domestic workers fired from their jobs say it was due to their request to take time off, 22% were fired for actually taking time off, and 20% were discharged for missing work to take care of themselves or a family member.

The mean annual wage for maids and housekeepers was \$25,570 in 2018, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For janitors and building cleaners it is \$26,100 per year. That's close to the poverty line for a family of four.

## Amid pandemic, drive-in theaters find their moment

By DANIEL MILLER  
*Los Angeles Times*

Brenna Coogle frequented the Paramount Drive-In as a child growing up in Lakewood but hadn't been there in about 30 years.

On Tuesday night, however, she visited it for the first time in decades to take in a showing of Pixar Animation Studios' "Onward" with her 9-year-old son and friends.

Moments before previews began, Coogle stood near her car under a darkening sky and considered how the coronavirus had upended daily life. She said the widening pandemic made her feel she couldn't go most places — including a conventional movie theater — and she yearned for a distraction.  
"So, Day Two of home school, we are all cooped up in the house, and this was a way to go out and still be distant from other people but not at our house," Coogle said.

Drive-in theaters have long been viewed as an anachronistic diversion — perhaps worthy of an occasional visit, if that. Now, though, several among the country's 305 drive-in theaters are experiencing a surge in interest amid the closure of other entertainment options because of social distancing efforts and governmental advisories during the

coronavirus outbreak.

In interviews with The Times, owners of drive-ins in California, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri said that they remain open, with several reporting increases in business in recent days. Operators said they were mindful of restrictions on large gatherings and would close if a mandate required them to do so.

Ticket sales Tuesday at the two-screen Paramount Drive-In were "at least double" what they typically would be, said Beau Bianchi, whose family has owned the facility in Paramount since 1946. In all, the drive-in — which offered a double feature on both of its screens — welcomed 136 cars and sold 320 tickets. The family's neighboring 11-screen indoor cineplex closed Sunday, but Bianchi said he expects business to continue to grow at the drive-in.

"It has been a welcome relief for families and adults looking for a little getaway from the house," Bianchi said. "We've been trying to let people know that we have a safe environment and (offer) a little escape."

As the coronavirus spreads, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recommended that events including 50-plus people not be held for the next eight weeks. And in situations where high-risk populations are involved, the organization has said gatherings of 10 or more



ROBERT F. BURATTI/AP

**The drive-in theater, long a dwindling nostalgia act in a multiplex world, is experiencing a momentary return to prominence. With nearly all of the nation's movie theaters shuttered due to the pandemic, some drive-ins, like this one in Saco, Maine, are the only show in town.**

people should be canceled. But some drive-in owners said they aren't sure whether their theaters should be considered gathering places. Doug Mercille, owner of the Starlite Drive-In in Cadet, Mo., said it's a "gray area."

"I don't think we fit into the gathering category personally because all the gathering places are places where you are confined with a bunch of people," said Mercille, whose drive-in remains open. "At the drive-in, you've got to be in your own car."

Owners who are keeping their facilities open said that seeing a

movie at a drive-in can require little to no human contact, largely because patrons are, of course, confined to their cars during the showing. And some operators have taken steps to minimize interaction among people, including shutting down or limiting their concessions.

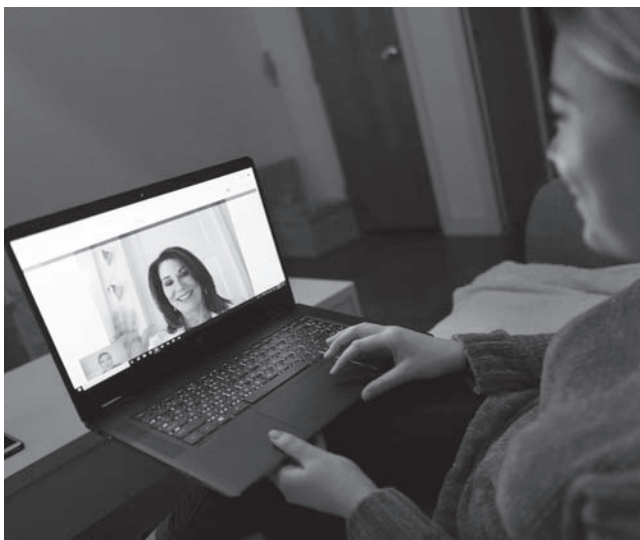
At Paramount Drive-In, it was possible Tuesday to take in a film without ever leaving the car: the only contact with the theater's staff came when buying a ticket from a gloved worker at a drive-up kiosk. After that, another worker,

who also wore gloves, examined tickets near the entrance to the parking area and explained that vehicles should not be positioned directly next to one another.

Christian Singleton, who brought his 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter to the "Onward" showing, said he appreciated those efforts.

"Nobody is near us, and we can actually enjoy the movie without feeling that paranoia where something like somebody coughing would have us instantly move," Singleton said.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

A patient sits in the living room of her apartment in the Brooklyn borough of New York Jan. 14, during a telemedicine video conference with Dr. Deborah Mulligan.

## Telehealth urged as alternative

By Tom Murphy  
Associated Press

Got a worrisome rash? You can still see a doctor if you can't leave home during the coronavirus outbreak.

U.S. public health officials, hospitals and insurance companies are pushing people to try telemedicine for their allergies, earaches and other minor problems and skip the doctor's office or clinic.

It's also a way to check in with a doctor if you think you have symptoms of COVID-19.

The goal: prevent the spread of coronavirus, especially to those who are most vulnerable, older people and those with existing health conditions.

Virtual care has long been touted as a way to get help quickly instead of waiting days to see a doctor, yet Americans have been slow to embrace it. There are signs that may be changing because of COVID-19.

Here's a closer look at how telemedicine works.

### What is telemedicine?

Got a smartphone, tablet or computer? That's all you really need to use telemedicine, sometimes called telehealth or virtual visits.

Generally, it just refers to a video visit with a remotely located care provider like a doctor or therapist over a secure connection. The patient uses a website link or an app to connect.

Some telemedicine outlets also offer a version using text messages between a doctor and patient

who may not actually speak to or see each other.

### Who offers it?

Insurers and hospital systems are frequent sources. In fact, your email inbox may have an offer from one of those providers urging you to try it now because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The federal government last week said it will immediately expand telemedicine access to help people with Medicare, its coverage program for those 65 and over, as well as younger patients who qualify because of a disability. And it urged states to expand the service to those enrolled in Medicaid, the government coverage program for people with low incomes. Medicare coverage of telemedicine had been limited, largely to rural areas where patients had to go to specially-designated sites for their visits. Many Medicare Advantage plans also provide access to telemedicine.

### What does it cost?

Prices vary. But many insurance companies and other providers are temporarily waiving fees to push more people to use virtual care.

Check before your visit with the insurer or employer that provides your coverage. The plan may not cover some specialty care like virtual therapy sessions or it may offer limited coverage.

If you don't have insurance, you can pay out-of-pocket through some telemedicine providers. MDLive treats mostly through video chats and charges \$75 for

an urgent care visit. A session with a dermatologist costs \$69.

Another company, 98point6, charges a \$20 annual fee and then \$1 for each visit. The company diagnoses and treats through secure text messaging.

### How can it be used?

Sinus infections, bronchitis, the flu, asthma, pink eye or fevers are just a few examples. Telemedicine can handle a lot of care that would normally send patients to a doctor's office or drugstore clinic. Dermatologists can examine warts or moles remotely. Therapists also can treat anxiety, depression or stress while allowing patients to remain in a place like their home, where they feel more comfortable.

Patients worried about the coronavirus also can get a quick cyber consultation with a doctor. Many telemedicine providers have designed computer programs to ask patients initial questions to help gauge their health or their risk of virus exposure.

### What are its limits?

A virtual physician cannot treat chest pains, broken bones or cuts that need stitches. That doctor also won't be able to perform a coronavirus test.

In some cases, they also may have to refer patients to another doctor for an in-person visit.

Telemedicine providers often tout their ability to connect patients with help in a matter of minutes. But a surge in coronavirus-fueled demand has slowed response times for some providers.

# Shortages of test supplies reported

By Matthew Perrone  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First, some of the coronavirus tests didn't work. Then there weren't enough to go around. Now, just as the federal government tries to ramp up nationwide screening, laboratory workers are warning of a new roadblock: dire shortages of testing supplies.

The shortages are the latest stumble in a botched effort to track the spread of coronavirus that has left the U.S. weeks behind many other developed countries. Dwindling supplies include both chemical components and basic swabs needed to collect patient samples.

There are "acute, serious shortages across the board" for supplies needed to do the tests, said Eric Blank, of the Association of Public Health Laboratories, which represents state and local health labs.

Later Friday, Blank's group and two other public health organizations recommended that testing be scaled back due to "real, immediate, wide-scale shortages." The groups said only patients with COVID-19 symptoms who are elderly, have high-risk medical conditions or are medical staff should be tested.

"Testing for individuals who are not in these three groups is not recommended until sufficient testing supplies and capacity become more widely available," said the joint statement, issued with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

By Nikki Wentling  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs urged retired doctors Friday to come back to work as the health care system braces for a wave of coronavirus patients.

VA recruiting tweeted to retired VA clinicians and federal health care providers, asking them to consider recommitment with the agency. The department is offering waivers for dual compensation.

"Help us in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic," the tweet urged.

The office of Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said earlier this week that lawmakers were working on ideas to bolster the VA's work force. One of their ideas was to bring in retired doctors. Lawmakers and advocates have expressed concerns about the VA's ability to handle an influx of coronavirus cases because of widespread staff vacancies.

The VA health care system had

44,131 staff vacancies during the first quarter of 2020, according to the agency's website. The occupations with the most vacancies were nurses, medical support assistants and medical officers.

Gainesville, Fla., had the most nursing vacancies out of any location, and Bay Pines, Fla., had the biggest shortage of medical support assistants.

As of Friday afternoon, the VA was reporting 130 positive cases of the coronavirus across its facilities, up from 83 on Thursday. The New Orleans VA Medical Center reported the most cases, with 42—up from 25 on Thursday and five on Wednesday. The hospital with the second most patients was New York City, with nine.

The agency also reported another death Friday, which follows the death of a veteran March 14 in Portland, Ore. Details about the second death were not publicly shared Friday.

The director of Missouri's state lab said Friday that his facility is facing shortages of swabs, liquids to store patient samples and kits to develop the results. Many labs are having similar problems, said Bill Whitmar.

"Quite frankly, 95% to 98% of the talk between lab directors has been about the shortage of supplies," Whitmar said.

## VA enlists retired doctors

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Lockdowns multiply as health care strained

Associated Press

BERLIN — Streets, squares and highways were deserted in large parts of the world Saturday as curfews and lockdowns multiplied in the face of a rapidly advancing virus that is severely straining many health systems.

Once-bustling outdoor plazas fell quiet in Bavaria after it became the first German state to tell people to stay home, except to go to work, buy food, visit the doctor or exercise. Police reported fewer people breaching the curfew than in previous nights.

Colombia became the latest South American country to announce a lockdown, and Sri Lanka closed all expressways for a weekend curfew.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded in Africa rose above 1,000 Saturday, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At least 40 of Africa's 54 countries now have cases.

More than 275,000 cases have been confirmed globally, including over 11,000 deaths, according to a running tally by Johns Hopkins University. At least 88,000 have recovered.

But with hospitals already under pressure, officials in many countries are desperate to stop — or at least limit — a repeat of what has happened in China and southern Europe. The coronavirus outbreak overwhelmed medical services in the central Chinese city of Wuhan earlier this year and now is pushing them to the limit in Italy and Spain.

Germany's southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg on Saturday offered to take in patients from the neighboring region of eastern France that's struggling with a surge of infections overwhelming hospitals.

In Britain, which still lags behind Italy, Spain and France in the spread of the virus, the country's overstretched health system is creating. The state-funded National Health Service has about 4,000 critical-care beds and some 5,000 ventilators, and officials say that's far fewer than will be needed as the number of cases spikes in the coming weeks. Britain has already asked 65,000 retired nurses and doctors to return to work.

Lisa Anderson, a consultant cardiologist at St George's Hospital in London, said "there is a lack of protection for us which extends to a lack of plan of how to segregate patients clean and dirty, how to protect us and keep us away from the public."

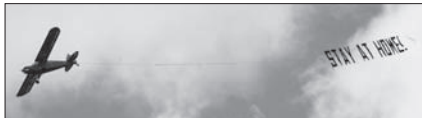
"Doctors have no faith in what is going on," she told the BBC. Britain has recorded 3,983 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 177 deaths.

China has been sending aid to several European countries, proving its expertise and experience gained from fighting the outbreak at home. An Air China flight carrying 18 tons of medical supplies including hundreds of thousands of surgical and protec-



EMRAN GUREL/AP

A municipal worker wearing protective gear disinfects chairs outside the historical Sultan Ahmed Mosque, also known as Blue Mosque, in Istanbul, on Saturday.



CHRISTIAN CHARISUS, DPA/AP

A small plane flies with a banner 'Stay at Home!' through the air above downtown in Hamburg, Germany, on Saturday.

tion masks landed in the Greek capital, Athens, Saturday.

As the pandemic has eased in Asia, China and other parts of the region are now trying to avoid importing cases from Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere.

China reported Saturday that its mainland had no new home-grown cases of the disease for the third straight day, but 41 imported ones in the previous 24-hour period. That followed a surge in cases in the territory of Hong Kong on Friday, including 35 imported ones.

Restrictions on movement are being eased gradually in China as it tries to restart the economy without bringing back the disease.

Officials in Wuhan are permitting supermarkets, convenience stores and some other retail businesses to reopen from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. if they are in areas with no confirmed or suspected cases. One person from each household is allowed to go out daily for a shopping trip of up to two hours.

The Beijing Zoo said its outdoor areas would reopen Monday, but

visitors have to wear masks and make reservations at least one day in advance.

Carmaker BMW said it would shut down a huge manufacturing complex in South Carolina from April 3 to 19 and Nissan said it would suspend vehicle production at its two Mexican assembly plants from next Wednesday through April 14. Auto production has resumed in China, but only partially.

A member of Vice President Mike Pence's staff has tested positive for the coronavirus, the White House said. A spokeswoman said the person did not have close contact with either Pence or President Donald Trump.

Colombian President Ivan Duque announced Friday night that everyone would be required to isolate in their homes for three weeks starting Tuesday. The capital, Bogota, began its own lockdown Friday, leaving the city's usually traffic-filled streets largely empty.

Colombia has 158 confirmed cases, and officials are hoping that drastic measures now will

## Italy records biggest 24 hour rise in deaths

Associated Press

ROME — Italy has recorded its highest day-to-day-rise in the number of deaths of people infected with the new coronavirus.

Civil Protection Chief Angelo Borrelli said Friday the country recorded 627 more deaths in the 24 hours since Italy surpassed China on Thursday as the nation with the most COVID-19-related deaths. The total now stands at 4,032.

Authorities said most of the people who died had existing health problems such as heart disease and diabetes before they were infected with the virus.

Borrelli says Italy also saw a staggering increase of 5,986 cases from a day earlier, bringing the official total in Italy to 47,021.

The soaring numbers come despite a national lockdown that drastically limits when residents are allowed to leave their homes. Police have issued citations to thousands of people for being out and about without valid reasons, such as going to work or shopping for food.

Mayors and governors throughout the country have been demanding even stricter measures. Italy's national government is widely expected to respond soon.

limit the number of new cases in the weeks ahead. Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela already are in lockdown.

Spain was approaching one week of tight restrictions on free movement and the closure of most shops Saturday, as hospitals and nursing homes buckled under the burden of the virus outbreak. Health authorities have acknowledged that some intensive care units in the hardest-hit areas, led

by hospitals in Madrid, are reaching their limits.

By Friday, Spain had the third-highest number of infections worldwide, with nearly 20,000 confirmed cases, and 1,002 deaths. Some privately owned factories in the country have joined in the effort to combat the national emergency by converting their production lines to make much-needed masks, gloves and disinfectant gels for hospitals.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Jordan goes on lockdown

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Air raid sirens echoed across Jordan's capital Saturday to mark the start of a three-day curfew, the latest mass lockdown in the Middle East aimed at containing the coronavirus, which has claimed another 123 lives in Iran, home to the region's worst outbreak.

The latest deaths bring Iran's overall toll to at least 1,556 amid 20,610 confirmed cases, according to figures released by the Health Ministry. Iran has faced widespread criticism for its lagging response to the outbreak, which has even infected and killed some senior officials.

In one of the strictest measures yet, Jordan has ordered all shops to close and all people to stay off the streets until at least Tuesday, when it plans to announce specific times for shopping. Anyone caught violating the curfew faces up to one year in prison.

Several countries in the Middle East have closed schools, universities and nonessential businesses. Many are threatening fines or jail time to those caught violating the decrees.

Egypt announced that all museums and archaeological sites,

including the famed pyramids at Giza, would be closed from Monday until the end of March. Mostafa Waziri, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said authorities would sterilize all sites during the closure.

The council initially said the closure would begin Sunday before issuing a corrected statement.

Iran has been much slower to take action against the virus. It has urged people not to travel during the Persian New Year, a major national holiday, but many appear to be ignoring the guidance. Health Ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said the number of cases has increased in many popular tourist destinations.

Iran has not ordered businesses to close, though many have done so on their own. Authorities only began closing popular religious pilgrimage sites earlier this week, long after the first virus cases were detected. There are concerns the country's healthcare infrastructure, weakened by severe U.S. sanctions, could be overwhelmed.

Saturday was Mother's Day in the Middle East, and many took to social media to lament the fact

that they weren't able to visit family members.

Iraq, which has reported 193 cases and 14 deaths, has struggled to maintain a weeklong curfew in Baghdad as religious pilgrims have continued to try to visit a major Shiite Muslim shrine in the capital.

The tiny, energy-rich nation of Qatar is warning citizens and residents to honor home quarantine rules. The state-run Qatar News Agency said authorities "captured 10 people" who broke the rules. It said those who disobey the orders could face prosecution.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian security forces arrested 20 Muslim preachers for allegedly violating a ban on holding Friday prayers, the Voice of Palestine reported. The Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the West Bank, has closed mosques and barred all group prayers.

Abdallah Kmail, the governor of Salfit, said a village in the northern West Bank was locked down after a man who returned from Pakistan and tested positive for the virus participated in prayers held in violation of the ban. The man was an adherent of Salafism, an ultra-conservative



HADI MIZBAN/AP

A man walks down an empty street in central Baghdad on Friday.

interpretation of Islam, Kmail told the Voice of Palestine.

The governor said 250 people from the village of Qarawa Bani Hassan were to be tested Saturday.

The Palestinian Authority has reported 52 confirmed cases, including 17 who recovered. Jordan has reported 85 infections, including one who recovered. Qatar has reported 460 cases, including 10 who recovered.

Even the authorities in eastern Libya, who have yet to report any cases, suspended all public transportation and ordered the closure of nonessential businesses. The government there is allied

with Khalifa Hifter, whose forces control much of the war-torn country.

In Egypt, which has reported 285 cases and eight deaths, there are growing calls for a more general lockdown.

Health Minister Hala Zayed urged the public to stay at home and practice social distancing after large crowds gathered for Friday prayers in different parts of the country.

Such gatherings "are very serious," she said in televised remarks late Friday. "People should do their part. It's not only their lives, but also the life of the community and the state itself."

## US tourists stranded abroad don't know when they'll return

Associated Press

Linda Scruggs and Mike Rustici trained for months to hike the winding trails leading to Machu Picchu's complex of Inca ruins. So they were thrilled when their flight landed last Friday in the Peruvian capital.

They managed to do part of their trek but now they are trapped in a Lima hotel room and do not know when they will make it back to the U.S. The couple, like thousands around the world, are trapped after nations closed their borders to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Peru confirmed its first case of the virus on March 6. By the time Scruggs and Rustici arrived a week later, it was spreading. Days after the hikers landed, Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra declared an emergency, ordering the country's borders closed and for Peruvians to stay home.

There is no official count of how many Americans or citizens of other nations are stranded outside their home countries, but the couple's plight offers a window into the lives of tourists trapped abroad as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads.

Scruggs and Rustici, both in their 40s and from Nashville, Tenn., told The Associated Press in telephone interviews they were given about 24 hours notice to leave Peru, but couldn't find a flight.

Since they couldn't leave, they were ordered to stay in their hotel room for at least 15 days. Other than to get food or supplies, they can't leave the hotel in the city's financial district.

The couple said they got little help or information from the U.S. State Department. One tourist, they said, walked to the U.S. Embassy only to be turned away and told to send an email and register for an online notification system.

Scruggs and Rustici feel like the world has closed in on them.



MARTIN MEHA/AP

Tourists from the United States wait outside the closed Jorge Chavez International Airport for a member of the U.S. Embassy to escort them to a flight that will fly them back to the U.S., in Callao, Peru, on Friday.

"There's heavily-armed guards on the streets patrolling," Scruggs said.

The virus has caused 10,000 deaths around the world, but the figure goes up every day. Americans in Morocco, Ecuador and other nations also told the AP that they feel abandoned by the State Department.

They said embassies have not helped them or returned their phone calls and emails. When they did reach someone, they were told to check embassy websites for updates and try to charter flights out of the countries on their own.

Dora Figueiredo, 37, an American from Newark, N.J., was trying Friday to determine whether her flight from Argentina to the U.S. would leave as scheduled on

Sunday.

She had traveled to Buenos Aires to marry her now-new Argentine husband who cannot yet move to the U.S. because he doesn't have U.S. residency, a process she said could take more than a year.

"I'm feeling a bit stressed out about how to get home now that the Argentinian president announced a lockdown as of midnight last night," she said. "I have been tweeting at my airline, my embassy at travel.gov about how to get back home."

As of Friday her flight had not been cancelled, but she wasn't sure if that would still be the case Sunday and did not know how she would get to the airport.

"I really need to get home to check on

my parents, who are elderly," she said.

Catherine Ferguson, a 77-year-old artist from Omaha, Neb., is holed up in a hotel in Rabat, Morocco, with her husband and 10 other Americans, most over age 60.

Ferguson and her husband were traveling for the past month with three other friends on a trip that started in France when the coronavirus cases began to increase.

Now they are trying to get permission from the Moroccan government to charter a flight to take them directly to the U.S.

"We really don't want to be here when things get worse in Morocco," Ferguson said.

Their small hotel is one of the few still open in the city, she said. The family that runs it has been feeding the 12 Americans there and they can walk around its garden, but it's too cold to swim in the pool.

They are prohibited from leaving the hotel and have been in contact with the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca, where officials told the travelers that they are working on a plan. The travelers spend their days using their iPads trying to find flights to book.

Some are running low on blood pressure pills and other medication. Ferguson said Nebraska's governor and state lawmakers have been in touch and are trying to help.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that he is working to bring home Americans stranded in countries around the world with little or no warning as nations closed their borders to stop the spread of the virus.

And the U.S. military's Southern Command said Friday that it was flying 89 U.S. citizens from Honduras to Charleston, S.C., after they could not to return home, in the second Air Force Mission to bring people from Honduras.

But it's unclear how the State Department plans to repatriate Americans stuck in other countries.

## TRAVEL



# 365 days abroad

## Couple who spent 2019 traveling advises how to take the leap

By EMILY GILLESPIE  
Special to The Washington Post

**S**tranded at the Bolivian border with next to no money, no internet and severe flooding that prevented us from going anywhere, my husband and I took refuge in the only lodging available in the tiny border town: a bunk bed in a cold, leaky cinder-block building behind a family's home.

To warm our bodies and our spirits, we ordered a hot meal and ate dinner alongside a German couple who were also stranded. They shared their wine, and we shared our story about how embarrassingly unprepared we had been to cross from Chile into Bolivia. Without hesitation, they handed us the 150 U.S. dollars we desperately needed for my visa.

The next day, the skies cleared, as did our misfortune. I nearly danced as we crossed into Bolivia. Again without money, we hunkered down on the side of the road, hoping to get a ride with a passing motorist. As if on cue, a scruffy dog curled up at my feet, providing unexpected comfort during the wait. When we were eventually picked up, I left our last bit of food with our new companion.

This travel blunder is one of my fondest memories of the year my husband and I spent traveling the world. These situations — moments when all you can do is laugh and others when you discover the most tender parts of humanity — happened countless times. For me, they're the best part about traveling.

By most standards, what we did is abnormal. Most 30-somethings wouldn't quit their jobs (my husband had a full-time position in marketing; I was a freelance journalist with a contract gig) to traipse the globe for a year. But in my opinion, we shouldn't be the exception. It's common for people to make long-time commitments to focus on their education or their careers or their families. For the entirety of 2019, my husband and I focused on our souls, as cheesy as that sounds.

We ate food we'd never heard of, explored places we'd seen only on maps and said "why not?" to almost every opportunity presented to us. We soaked in every sunset, opted for the scenic route and ordered another round when the conversation was good. We were truly present.

It's an experience I can't recommend enough, and it's not as out of reach as you might think. Once you get over the mental hurdle of doing something society (or maybe just your family) doesn't expect of you, the rest is as easy as getting on a plane.

Some tips for how to make a year of travel happen:

### Saving for the trip

Surprisingly, saving up the funds to travel was the easiest part of our preparations. First, you need a goal — a number highly dependent on how and where you plan to travel. After months of research and conversation, we decided on a goal of \$50,000, which would allow a daily travel budget of \$100, with an extra pot of money for some big excursions, like a weeklong safari in Botswana and a multi-day trek to summit Kilimanjaro. That may seem like a small daily budget, but in places such as Peru you can find a dorm bed at a hostel as low as \$3, and in India you can sleep like a king for \$20 a night. It took about four years to meet our goal while maintaining a lifestyle we were still happy with.

I'd recommend setting up an automatic monthly bank transfer to a special account, perhaps one at a different bank. Doing this will force you to take a hard look at your expenses and decide what you are willing to do without. We canceled our cable, ate out less frequently, went to fewer shows and concerts. But we still traveled: We went on several international trips and spent many weekends away with friends.

### Research visas and always bring U.S. cash

While most visas can be figured out as you go, some require advanced planning. For example, to go to Brazil and India, you should apply online about a month in advance, and a visa to visit China has to be secured while you're physically in the United States. Our Bolivia border fiasco taught us one important lesson in traveling: The U.S. dollar is king. We eventually obtained more American currency, as it is required payment for several African visas. Many visas also require passport photos, so bring extras with you.

### Get your banking in order

While saving for the trip, find a credit card that will earn you the most miles or points per dollar spent. Before we left for our year abroad, we had three credit cards, each loaded with 100,000 miles — enough for three pairs of ocean-hopping plane tickets. Also, set up your money in a bank that has no foreign transaction fees. Much of the world prefers dealing in cash; this way, you won't get gouged with ATM fees.

### Preparing for departure

Though we saved for about four years, all of the preparation happened in the 12 months before our departure. This made for a pretty complex year, filled with a list of things to do before we hopped aboard our first flight.

### Decide where to go

For me, saving money sounded difficult but ended up being easy. The opposite was true, however, for deciding where to go. We wanted to see it all! Our budget helped us make some decisions. Because we wanted to keep costs low, we largely skipped Europe, and, though they were high on our wish list, Japan and Australia. Neither of us had been to South America, so we chose to spend our first four months bopping around that continent. Our next stop, we decided, would be Africa. My husband and I met in South Africa in 2009 and we hadn't been back since. We planned to start at the tip of the continent and snake our way north before ending our year in Southeast Asia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



From top: Emily Gillespie and Simon Spencer (not shown) went paragliding over Cape Town, South Africa; Simon Spencer, right, asks about souvenirs made and sold by the Urú people, who live on floating villages near Lake Titicaca, Peru; Atop Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

PHOTOS BY EMILY GILLESPIE/For The Washington Post

## TELEVISION

FROM PAGE 12

**Pack light**

Packing will depend on your destination. Keep in mind that you can usually find anything you need on the road: We rented sleeping bags for our eight-day trek in Nepal, and I bought a pair of lightweight pants for dressing more conservatively in the predominantly Muslim countries. Items I wouldn't leave home without include a clothesline, toothbrush cover, external battery and water filter.

The best part of traveling for an extended period is the freedom it allows to stay longer in places you like and get out of Dodge when you're not feeling it. Being flexible will also make it less frustrating when things go sideways. Trust me: You will get sick and be forced to spend a few days lying low.

I highly recommend buying local SIM cards so you can make any kind of booking on the fly. Having the internet at your fingertips also allows you to download local taxi apps, read restaurant reviews and quickly Google the proper tip for a Kilimanjaro porter. Travel blogs also help.

**How to re-enter**

The best way to help with the return to your "old" life is to have a plan in place before you leave. My husband and I had saved up a cushion for the few months it would take to find work again. We also had made plans to stay with my in-laws when we returned and had left a few boxes of clothes.

**Be kind to yourself**

It takes time to come down from having a fun new place to explore every day and exciting activities forever on the horizon. You won't find work immediately, and you'll have down days when you'll daydream about watching wildlife on an African savanna or sipping from a beach to beach on a Greek island. Pick yourself back up by doing things you missed while abroad: Hike your favorite trail, cook up the meal you missed the most or meet a friend for happy hour.

**Don't talk too much about your trip**

People will say, "I want to hear about your trip." The hard truth is that most don't really want to hear too much — less because they don't care than because they can't relate. Even starting off a sentence with "When we were in Turkey..." can make eyes roll.

**Be open to change**

During your year of travel, you might learn something surprising about yourself. Maybe you'll realize you're a much happier person in sunny weather or that you can breathe more easily in the fresh mountain air of Nepal. My husband and I learned we could be happy many places, but that for now, we wanted to return to the beautiful corner of the world we call home. We do, however, plan to build our lives in a way that allows for more traveling — and more living in the present.



# Witherspoon is for women

Her latest tv show, 'Little Fires Everywhere,' has women at the helm, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes

BY NEAL JUSTIN  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Reese Witherspoon's shift to television has been a godsend for fellow female actors. For Apple TV's "The Morning Show," her media company, Hello Sunshine, lured Jennifer Aniston back to the small screen. "Big Little Lies," which she also helped bring to HBO, ended up spotlighting four Oscar-winning actresses, including Meryl Streep, who does TV about as often as most of us replace our water heaters.

But "Little Fires Everywhere," which started streaming March 18 on Hulu, might be her most significant game changer yet. While "Morning" and "Lies" relied on me in key positions behind the scenes, "Fires" rested almost entirely on contributions from women, starting with the source material, Celeste Ng's novel of the same name. Liz Tigelaar ("Life

Unexpected") ran the writers' room, which included only one man in its eight seats. Lynn Shelton ("Your Sister's Sister") is directing half of the eight episodes, including the opener and the finale. All seven executive producers are women.

It's the next logical step for Witherspoon, who could end up being more renowned for her hiring practices than the characters she plays on screen.

"I made a conscious decision about eight years ago to start my own company, because I wasn't happy with the choices that were being made for me," she said in January at the Television Critics Association press tour. "I guess I was psychic or something. I had no idea the whole world would open for us. I have to say that every woman that I've been working with in the past three years — whether it's Nicole Kidman or Jennifer Aniston — we all remark how much things have changed and

that we are put in a position of respect for our ideas."

In her latest series, Witherspoon plays Elena Richardson, a high-society mother who micromanages every aspect of her life. Hanky-panky with her husband is restricted to Wednesdays and Saturdays. Four ounces of wine a night is the limit. But her anal-retentive groove meets some bumps in the road when she invites a free-spirited artist (Kerry Washington) into her household as the family housekeeper, a move that ignites heated conversations about gender, race and class.

There's a mystery afoot — just who burned down Richardson's picture-perfect house — but the most intriguing draw here is revealing in the feminine touches, from the neighborhood book club dissecting "The Vagina Monologues" to a soundtrack spinning Annie Lennox's "Little Bird," Liz Phair's "Whip-Smart" and Aretha Franklin's

"Rock Steady."

It's hard to imagine those elements being woven into the story without women calling the shots.

"One of the exciting kind of side results of coming together as a community is that we've been able to grow our friendships and also grow professional relationships," said Washington, who also has an executive producer credit. "It's not just for our own advancement. As producers, we get to employ hundreds and hundreds of artists and activists, and now we can do it in environments that are safe and have values that embody our values."

The series' leads are just getting started. Witherspoon is developing more projects spearheaded by women, including "Daisy Jones & The Six" with "North Country" director Niki Caro. Washington helmed an upcoming episode of HBO's "Insecure."

In the new Hulu limited series "Little Fires Everywhere," based on the book written by Celeste Ng (center), Reese Witherspoon (right) plays high-society mother Elena Richardson and Kerry Washington (left) plays Mia, Richardson's housekeeper.

# CROSSWORD AND COMICS

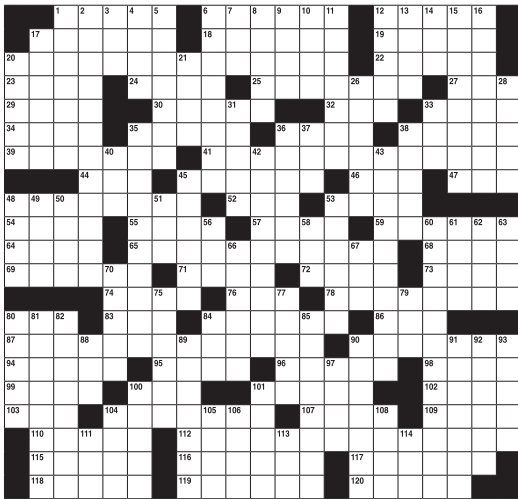
## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### WHAT'S SHAKING?

BY LAURA TAYLOR KINNEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Laura Taylor Kinnel of Newtown, Pa., teaches math and is the director of studies at a Friends boarding school near Philadelphia. She has been solving crosswords since childhood but just started constructing them a little over a year ago. A cousin who solved a 2018 Christmas puzzle of Laura's encouraged her to make more. She was pleasantly surprised to discover all the help available online to new puzzle makers. This is her second Times crossword, both Sundays. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boasts
  - 6 Longtime anthropomorphic sandwich on PBS
  - 12 Australia's national women's basketball team
  - 17 Sounds "everywhere," in a children's song
  - 18 Gloomy
  - 19 Soup server
  - 20 Add insult to injury
  - 22 "Whenever I want you, all I have to do" is this, in an Exeter Brothers hit
  - 23 Farming prefix
  - 24 "Gracias a \_\_\_\_"
  - 25 Jam producer
  - 27 Jack Frost's bite
  - 29 Bits of terre in la mer
  - 30 Churns
  - 32 Author Harper
  - 33 He loved Lucy
  - 34 Dry
  - 35 Tea type
  - 36 "A Life for the \_\_\_\_" (Mikhail Glinka opera)
  - 38 1940s vice president who went on to become president
  - 39 "In the Presence of Folly" writer
  - 41 How to take gigs promises
  - 44 Dog/dog separator
  - 45 Subject of many a negotiation
  - 46 Days \_\_\_\_
  - 47 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 48 Enlivens
  - 52 Big feller?
  - 53 Fails to be
  - 54 City on the Brazos River
  - 55 Propeller blades?
  - 57 \_\_\_\_ Crunch
  - 59 Gubs
  - 64 Item often numbered from 3 to 9
  - 65 Boardwalk buy
  - 68 Gush
  - 69 Time magazine's Person of the Century runner-up, 1999
  - 71 Strain
  - 72 \_\_\_\_ Westover, author of the 2018 best-selling memoir "Educated"
  - 73 Big name in theaters
  - 74 TMI compartment
  - 76 "Silent Spring" subject, for short
  - 78 Nothingburger
  - 83 Energy
  - 84 Least interesting
  - 86 It gets the ball rolling
  - 87 2002 Winter Olympics locale
  - 90 Looks through
  - 94 Abdominal-pain producer
  - 95 Way of securing payment
  - 96 Fizzy drinks
  - 98 Knitting stitch
  - 99 "Holy \_\_\_\_!"
  - 100 Word after bargain or overhead
  - 101 Emulated a kitten
  - 102 \_\_\_\_ expense (free)
  - 103 Org. with the slogan "Every child. One voice."
  - 104 Brand with the slogan "The Art of Childhood"
  - 105 Moved like Jager?
  - 109 Wimp
  - 110 It's held by a winner
  - 112 You, according to Jesus in Matthew 5:13
  - 115 Follow
  - 116 Reflexive pronoun
  - 117 Fishes
  - 118 Moved like Jager?
  - 119 Shaded growths
  - 120 Lil' Nas X and Billie Eilish, to teenagers
- DOWN**
- 1 Orlando \_\_\_\_ (two-time Gold Glove Award winner)
  - 2 Almost won
  - 3 Martial artist's belt
  - 4 Appurtenance for a T.S.A. agent
  - 5 Many Dorothy Parker pieces
  - 6 Big 12 college town
  - 7 Column crossover
  - 8 Brings (out)
  - 9 Time of day
  - 10 Sch. with 50+ alumni who went on to become astronauts
  - 11 Warning sign
  - 12 Blast from the past
  - 13 Setting for a classic Georges Seurat painting, en français
  - 14 Fruity quaff
  - 15 South American cowboys
  - 16 Like Havarti or Münster
  - 17 Reveille player
  - 20 Jack up
  - 21 Repeated part of a pop song
  - 26 Kind of wheel
  - 28 Peak
  - 31 Heroine of Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers"
  - 33 Cozy spot
  - 35 Shows how it's done
  - 36 Climate change, notably
  - 37 State
  - 38 Refried bean
  - 40 Astronaut Jemison of the space shuttle Endeavour
  - 42 Reduction in what one owes
  - 43 Headaches
  - 45 Nursery-rhyme couple
  - 48 Gulp
  - 49 Prefix with medic or military
  - 50 Princess Diana, for one
  - 51 Negotiator with G.M.
  - 53 Suckling
  - 56 Disco \_\_\_\_ ("The Simpsons" character)
  - 58 Memorized
  - 60 Exasperate
  - 61 Fabric with sheen
  - 62 Actress \_\_\_\_ Rachel Wood
  - 63 Potential source of a political scandal
  - 66 Evasive maneuver
  - 67 Opposite of "to"
  - 70 Behave like a helicopter parent
  - 75 Attendant of Desdemona in "Othello"
  - 77 Lightly roast
  - 79 Continental abbr.
  - 80 Clustered
  - 81 Mated out
  - 82 Best-across Oscar winner between Streeby and Field
  - 84 Agent of change
  - 85 Attention seekers
  - 88 Critical
  - 89 Fictional exemplar of Christmas spirit
  - 90 Stir-fried noodle dish
  - 91 Sausy up
  - 92 Senator Joni and Dadastai Max
  - 93 What water in a bucket might do
  - 97 Source of the line "Man does not live by bread alone": Abbr.
  - 100 Boxer, for example
  - 101 Handcuffs
  - 104 This, for one
  - 105 \_\_\_\_ be in England?
  - 106 Not so much
  - 108 Post
  - 111 "Tut-tut"
  - 113 Argentina's leading daily sports newspaper
  - 114 Super ending



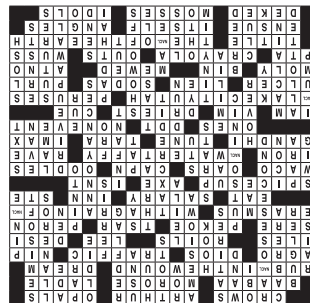
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### GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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# TRAVEL AND TECHNOLOGY



Stars and Stripes photos

# Virtual tours

In coronavirus quarantine? You can visit these historic sites and attractions from your couch

By **DREW JONES**  
*The Washington Post*

As governments across the world implement “social distancing” efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus, in some cities, bars, restaurants and other public spaces have been ordered to close. That leaves self-quarantined people with a lot of free time and nowhere to go.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended postponing all large gatherings or events of 50 or more people until May, which left operators of tourist attractions with few options. Museums, historical sites and national parks have stepped up to deliver their signature experiences by offering virtual tours.

Here’s a list of a few places travelers can tour — without having to leave the couch.

**1. British Museum:** The world’s oldest national public museum is another space that has partnered with Google Arts & Culture to showcase a virtual, interactive gallery. Visitors can roam the halls of the museum, peruse the exhibits and see famous objects like the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon sculptures and Egyptian mummies. Just don’t expect to see any Banksy’s lying around anytime soon. **Online:** [artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-british-museum](https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-british-museum)

**2. Yosemite National Park:** While parts of the park are still open for the season, those who can’t make it to California’s Sierra Nevada region can still tour the park — complete with sound — and visit some of Yosemite’s iconic landmarks, including the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the top of the Half Dome and the eponymous Yosemite Falls. **Online:** [virtuallyosemite.org/about-virtual-yosemite](https://virtuallyosemite.org/about-virtual-yosemite)

**3. Van Gogh Museum:** The largest Van Gogh collection in the world — 600 artworks and 700 letters — is housed in this Amsterdam museum and can be viewed via a virtual guided tour. View the inside of the museum along with insights into the Dutch postimpressionist artist’s life through paintings including “Sunflowers” and “The Yellow House.” **Online:** [tinyurl.com/t6bxb0x](https://tinyurl.com/t6bxb0x)

**4. The Great Wall of China:** China’s most famous attraction offers virtual tours of some of the most visited sections of the wall, 3,000 miles of which are walkable. With much of the country under quarantine measures, the virtual tour offers a reprieve from the crowds who normally come from all over the world to see the 2,000-year-old marvel. **Online:** [thechinaguide.com/destination/great-wall-of-china](https://thechinaguide.com/destination/great-wall-of-china)

**5. The Louvre:** Last year, the world’s most visited museum was the subject of lamentations over overcrowding and peculiar guest behavior. Now because of its closure, visitors to the Louvre can check out virtual tours of the Egyptian antiquities collection, remains of the Louvre’s most and the Galerie d’Apollon without having to brush by anyone’s shoulders. **Online:** [louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne](https://louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne)

**6. Sistine Chapel:** The national lockdown in Italy has forced the country to a near-standstill, shutting public events, soccer stadiums and even the Vatican. Visitors can tour the interior artworks of the chapel, including its renowned ceiling and “The Last Judgment,” by the Renaissance-era painter Michelangelo. **Online:** [tinyurl.com/j6zqta](https://tinyurl.com/j6zqta)

**7. Guggenheim Museum:** The Guggenheim is offering VR access to its entire contemporary arts collection through a partnership with Google Arts & Culture. Using the Street View feature, visitors can tour the museum’s iconic architecture, sprawling design and any of its galleries. **Online:** [tinyurl.com/s63322z](https://tinyurl.com/s63322z)

**8. Yellowstone National Park:** Yellowstone holds some of the nation’s most iconic historical landmarks. The virtual tour takes visitors through the first national park, showing Wyoming’s most treasured sites including its canyons, hot springs and geysers, the most famous being Old Faithful. **Online:** [tinyurl.com/ufuqlc](https://tinyurl.com/ufuqlc)

**9. Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History:** The Smithsonian is offering virtual tours that let visitors take a self-guided, room-by-room trip through the museum’s slate of exhibits. The current exhibits include the Butterfly Pavilion and the David H. Koch Hall of Fossils, and visitors can even journey through past exhibits, on topics including the last American dinosaurs, the universe, and DNA and genomics. **Online:** [naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour)

**10. Museum of Modern Art:** The MoMa has partnered with Google Arts & Culture to offer an interactive experience of the gallery space. The nearly 100-year-old museum is home to some of the contemporary art world’s most famous pieces, including Claude Monet’s “Water Lilies,” Vincent van Gogh’s “The Starry Night” and Pablo Picasso’s “Les Femmes d’Alger.” **Online:** [tinyurl.com/vxad79o](https://tinyurl.com/vxad79o)

**11. San Diego Zoo:** The most visited zoo in the country is known for its open-air, cageless natural habitats and is famous for being one of the few zoos in the country that spearheaded conservation efforts of giant pandas. Even though it no longer has giant pandas, the San Diego Zoo has set up live streams of its habitats for anyone to view the koalas, baboons and penguins that call the zoo home. **Online:** [animals.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams](https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams)

**12. Metropolitan Opera House:** The Met in New York will host nightly encore performances of some of its most iconic shows throughout its season. The free streams will go live at 7:30 p.m. each day and be available for 20 hours after the performance. The slate includes the likes of Puccini’s “La Bohème” and Verdi’s “Il Trovatore” for viewers on demand. **Online:** [tinyurl.com/skl3o6o](https://tinyurl.com/skl3o6o)

## MUSIC



Christian Hogstedt

# Post-punk, postmodern, progressive

Algiers is a political band  
in a political time —  
but don't box them in

By ZACHARY LIPEZ

Special to *The Washington Post*

**O**n a cold weekend at the end of November, the four members of the punk band Algiers were holed up in an Atlanta warehouse that was repurposed as an art gallery, performing stripped-down versions of new songs in front of a wall of TVs featuring the message “BLACK POWER.” The band is attempting to avoid being boxed in as a purely political act, with vocalist Franklin Fisher saying, “I can only imagine some people who will not be happy that, you know, the new Algiers record isn’t titled ‘F Trump 2020.’”

But even with a splendid collection of love and dread songs and a new insistence on being viewed as “entertainment,” Algiers exists in America in 2020. If the personal was ever free of the political, it sure isn’t these days. Still, you can’t blame a rock ‘n’ roll band, especially one with as many progressive dues paid, for trying.

Algiers (named after the 1966 film “The Battle of Algiers”) was formed in 2012 in Atlanta and by 2015 released their self-titled debut, which was rich in experimental groove and drenched, lyrically and aesthetically, in far-left signifiers, well before President Donald Trump’s election and well before other indie bands discovered that maybe America wasn’t all it was cracked up to be. By the time of 2017’s “The Underside of Power,” Algiers’ sound expanded to a cinematic smorgasbord of mutant disco, post-punk and secular soul.

The band has always had a complicated relationship with its hometown. Three members — guitarist Lee

Tesche, bassist Ryan Mahan and Fisher — were Atlanta churchgoers as boys (Catholic, Southern Baptist and Baptist, respectively), so the somewhat trite “gospel post-punk” descriptor sometimes assigned to them isn’t entirely unfair, but, at least initially, the influence of Washington, D.C., punk heroes Fugazi far outweighed anything from Atlanta.

There is pride in the band’s birthplace (even a casual conversation with the members will contain references to local heroes like Goodie Mob and the Subsonics, along with elegies for the since transformed and gentrified neighborhoods of their youth), mixed with the alienation required of a band whose art is based on disquietude. The idea of searching for a home that may never exist, coupled with a fully existential rejection of nationalistic homeland and empire, is readily apparent on “There Is No Year.” The album’s title is taken from the 2011 avant-horror novel by Blake Butler, an author who was a high school classmate of Mahan and Fisher.

“Frank and I spent a long while talking about the feeling of ambient pain that surrounds the creation of both objects; personally struggling to find a center in a whirlwind,” Butler says, “and seeing the same happen to our friends up close in a time where personal pain is always complemented by the public hell ride America has built itself into, especially lately.”

Fisher is willfully, if amiably, cagey about the album’s meaning. The lyrics, which the band has declined to include on the album or provide to critics, are drawn from the long-form poem “Misophonía” that Fisher had been journaling since the summer of 2018. Using Bob Dylan’s “It’s Alright, Ma (I’m Only Bleeding)” as a point of departure, Fisher composed “Misophonía” as “little mental Polaroids of everything I was experiencing, whether it



Algiers

There Is No Year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

# MUSIC REVIEWS



## Tame Impala

The Slow Rush (Interscope Records)

Time can be a comfort or curse. It can heal, but it can also compress, building pressure that begs for release.

“The Slow Rush” seems to be just that — a discharge of the creative pressure that was mounting after years of fans questioning, “What will Tame Impala do next?”

The success of the psychedelic rock band’s 2015 “Currents” allowed them to become one of the defining rock groups of the last decade. And with this album, they’ve delivered once again.

“The Slow Rush” can be viewed as an analysis of time, wrapped up in a wall of electronics, synthesizers and funk influence that cushion even the most brazen of questions. Beliefs, grudges, insecurities — how do they transform? How does one press on past the comforts of being lost in yesterday?

The album is not only tied by themes of time, but also an overarching feel that singer, writer and producer Kevin Parker is trying to prove something. Whether he’s trying to convince someone else or himself is not always clear.

One of the most brilliant songs on the album is “Posthumous Forgiveness.” Parker fully confronts the complexity of coping with his father’s death, cycling through blame, anger, despair and longing over the course of the 6-minute track.

The song builds, like mounting indignation, only to release. A certain somberness is traded for a more hopeful feel as he recounts moments he wishes he could share with his father — “Wanna tell you ‘bout my life / Wanna play you all my songs.”

The attention to detail on “Posthumous Forgiveness” is mirrored throughout “The Slow Rush.” Parker’s meticulous touches pay off, allowing him to create a thoughtful masterpiece.

—Ragan Clark  
Associated Press



## The Undercover Dream Lovers

It’s All In Your Head (Amplified Media Services)

The Undercover Dream Lovers is a one-man band whose debut album, “It’s All In Your Head,” is a fun collection of funky songs that leave room for reflection among the merriment and dance beats.

Except for some songwriting or production assistance on a few tracks, Matt Koenig takes care of all the rest, including some particularly slinky bass lines and vocals that seems born out of thin air at high altitudes.

Avoiding some of the pitfalls of solo recordings emulating a full band, Koenig’s music has a consolidated sound that gives each song a distinct identity while forming a coherent whole.

Opener “A Way Out” has a dance beat that nonetheless feels occasionally restrained, underpinning its slightly disoriented and very wounded sentiments about the end of a relationship. On the other hand, “Soon Enough,” co-written with Dent May, is a song of hope, its funky guitar and keyboard sprinkles leading the way forward amidst a process of search and discovery that has been going on far too long.

“Plane Ride” was completed in the wake of a 2019 car accident that took the lives of English-Norwegian rock duo Her’s and their tour manager while on a tour Koenig was also part of. Its guitar tone seems familiar from some of Her’s songs, like the brilliant “What Once Was.” It’s a subtle and classy tribute.

In an age where most sounds are available at the touch of a button, it’s the songwriting that makes the difference on “It’s All In Your Head,” which portends a future for The Undercover Dream Lovers that is as bright as the album’s grooves.

—Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press



## Eric Johnson

EJ Vol. II (Vortexan Music)

Eric Johnson’s new album shows the amazing Texas guitar wizard moving another mystifying step closer to a singer-songwriter role.

Nine of the 13 tracks on “EJ Vol. II” are mostly sung ballads, some featuring a string quartet. A few of the songs have memorable melodies and gorgeous guitar solos, but they pale in comparison to the purely instrumental tunes showcasing Johnson’s fluid chops and exciting musicianship.

Among the vocal tunes, “Different Folks” is one of the best, with a trademark electric guitar tone and lyrical solo as Johnson expresses his heartfelt thoughts in a manner similar to John Lennon’s “In My Life.”

“Divanæ,” about a struggling painter and his model around the time of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, also hits the spot, while it’s the instrumental break on “Let a Friend Find You,” led by a gentle acoustic guitar and an aching lap steel, that is its most beautiful section.

A fine take on Bert Jansch’s arrangement of the traditional “Black Waterside” leaves off the vocals, sparing you the specifics about its tale of deception and cruelty, but the music’s interpretation is clear.

“Charidron’s Boat” takes a breathless trip down the rapids and “Lake Travis” is a short but excellent acoustic guitar showcase. The also brief “For the Stars” ends the album on another touching note, as Johnson’s piano and guitar beautifully reflect thoughts and feelings about the loss of his mother.

“For the Stars” is also an excellent example of what makes Johnson’s insistence on so many vocal performances so baffling, as his guitar playing is loaded with an abundance of emotion and sensitivity that only the best singers can hope to emulate.

—Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

## FROM PAGE 16

international news or personal relationships or things I experienced on the road or things that my friends or family were going through.”

The lyrical result is an imagery-rich, haunted, occasionally bitter tapestry presented as autobiography. In its quality and content, the poem, inscribed on the album’s cover in lieu of a lyric sheet insert, begs for analysis that the band refuses. “I think too often, specifically with us, people expect things to be either autobiographical or very one-dimensional and myopic in terms of worldview or some sort of agenda that we’re pushing,” Fisher says. “I’m not a soapbox preacher, you know?”

Algiers isn’t shy about its embrace of high-minded modernism backed by the force of any and all of the music they love, be it ‘80s hardcore thuggery or the roller-rink romance sounds of Miami freestyle. “There Is No Year,” as it purposefully produced by Randall Dunn and Ben Greenberg, is a far more streamlined affair than its previous outing, and it came from the band’s disavowal, in typical ornery fashion, of even their own preconceptions. Fisher recalls a band meeting toward the end of 2018 when Tesche asked his bandmates to envision their upcoming album. “Got it? OK. Throw that out, because it’s not gonna be that record,” Fisher recalls him saying.

The final product proved to be divisive — with listeners and even within the band — but it shows a band whose primary interest is continuing its evolution and refusing to rest on its laurels. The soul claps are still there, synths and metal scrapes still creep in and out seemingly of



Christian Hogstedt

their own volition, but the band has never sounded so cohesive or modern. They’ve even evolved in how they look onstage — whereas they used to dress as monochrome Maoists, now there are headbans and fake-fur jackets. They’ve gone from the Clash to, well, Big Audio Dynamite.

One element that remains at the heart of Algiers is a series of inherent contradictions that the band, like all the best philosophy-minded but reality-grounded artists, embrace. They all insist on calling Algiers “entertainment” while talking in full essays about postmodernism and state oppression. They all agreed that the album was going to showcase Fisher’s

talent and voice, but that this needed to be done despite Fisher’s palpable contempt for the idea of a flashy rock ‘n’ roll frontman.

And where would the comfort needed to provide for the strength of his performance, this litany of end-time visions and heartache, come from? From the primal need for a place to call one’s own. Drummer Matt Tong, having made his bones touring the world with the indie band Bloc Party, is now an English expat happily living with his family in New York. Tesche is operating as a fixer of sorts within the Atlanta rock scene and is finally comfortable back where he came from. Mahan,

arguably the most ambivalent and inward of the group and with a southern accent unsullied by years living and working in the U.K., doesn’t claim any home at all.

And Fisher sees New York City as the place the music meant to be. This acknowledgment was a pivotal feature in the recording of “There Is No Year.” He had been living in New York for years but with no apartment to call his own because of the demands of the band. In one of those unfortunate ironies of being a leftist artist trying to work in a gentrified city, he ended up landing in an Airbnb in Bed-Stuy. “I was in New York City. New York City is kind of a Mecca for black people. For hip-hop, for jazz, for poetry, like the Harlem Renaissance; everything came from New York, and the place I was staying was only a few blocks away from ...”

Fisher pauses. “There’s a YouTube video of Biggie Smalls when he was like 17, and he’s rapping outside of this bodega, and I was a few blocks away from that spot, you know what I’m saying? I didn’t feel displaced for the first time. I was home.”

It’s this inescapable brawl of ideas and ideals, needs and resentments that define Algiers. They want to make art; they want to entertain. They want to have homes just so they can leave them for months at a time. They are a racially mixed, mixed-nationality band, originally from the South. They are an openly leftist band in Trump’s America in 2020 who are tired of being forced to offer prescriptions for an entire history of oppression. So they’re writing love songs. Or they’re writing political songs couched in the language of love. Or they’re writing songs for the apocalypse, with a dash of liberation. And a little piano to make it all go down easier.

BOOKS

# In 'Night Watchman,' tribal, personal history converge

BY LAURIE HERTZEL  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Toward the end of Louise Erdrich's new novel, a character named Thomas Wazhask heads to Washington, D.C., to testify against a bill. If it passes, its policies would eliminate all federal services to Indians, more families off their reservations and almost certainly destroy the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota.

And yet before heading home, Thomas stops at the office of the bill's author to thank him for listening to his testimony. The senator was stunned. Nobody had ever done this before.

"This really happened," Erdrich said. "My grandfather" — Amishehnaubay Patrick Gournau, on whom the character of Thomas is closely based — "was the most kind person. He had the sort of quality that you don't really run into in politics very often, that sort of gentility. And he had incredibly good manners."

"The Night Watchman" is set in Turtle Mountain in the 1950s, a time when the U.S. government planned to "emancipate" Indians, band by band and tribe by tribe, from their Indianness. Terminate their protected status guaranteed in treaties, end their government health care and education, abolish tribes, relocate them from reservations to cities, stop any kind of aid or payments for taking their land.

Two dozen of the 113 tribes this happened to became extinct, Erdrich notes. The Turtle Mountain Bd, thanks to the incredible efforts of her grandfather and others, did not.

Those good manners, that gentility, Erdrich said, "I think really won the day for them."

Erdrich, 65, grew up knowing that her grandfather had been involved in preventing termination, but for a long time she didn't have a strong understanding of what that meant.

Then Patrick Gournau was inducted posthumously into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor, and she began to realize more fully the role he had played in saving the band. "I thought, this is extraordinary," she said. "I couldn't stop thinking about what he had done."

For years, she had read and reread her grandfather's beautiful letters — handwritten to her parents in elegant boarding school packet, packed with news and stories and laced with great humor. But after the Hall of Honor ceremony in 2018, she put the letters in chronological order against the timeline of the termination attempt, and suddenly the main side of what the government had planned to do, and what her grandfather had done to stop them, became clear.

Erdrich had been struggling to write another novel, reaching that familiar stage where she was pretty sure that she had no more books in her. But as she looked at her grandfather's letters, "All of a sudden it was: Ah, I'd been working on this book all along."

Brenda Child, a historian for the University of Minnesota and a Red Lake Ojibwe, said she was thrilled that Erdrich was writing about the termination era. "She has such a wonderful sense of history in her work," Child said. "She makes termination into a wonderful, human story so you can see what stakes Native people had — what they were trying to protect."

Even more remarkable, Child said, is the family connection to the history. "Her grandfather was a fantastic letter writer. ... To have family documentation of these experiences is quite a rare thing."

Still, writing about real people — let alone a beloved family member — was difficult, Erdrich said. While the character of Thomas is based on her grandfather (a factory watchman himself), he is not her grandfather. "I tried as much as possible to

fictionalize him. It's a hard edge for me to stand on, having a real person that I was basing a character on. I never do that if I can help it."

Several other real people, including Arthur V. Watkins, the Utah senator behind the termination bills, appear in the book, though briefly.

"I don't know how people write about real people," Erdrich said. "If you can't find a direct quote of them saying what you want them to say, how do you put words in their mouth?"

Almost all of Watkins' quotes in her novel are verbatim, taken from the Congressional Record. And lest this make the book sound dry or scholarly (it is neither), just take a look at page 397 where Erdrich announces the upcoming congressional hearing. In addition to Thomas, she writes, speakers will include "a ghost, a PhD candidate, and a stenographer."

Wait, what — a ghost? As in previous Erdrich books, the past and the present and the dead and the living all swim together. Early in the novel, as Thomas tries not to fall asleep on his overnight watch, he sees what appears to be a young boy sitting on top of a band saw.

This detail came from one of her grandfather's letters. Gournau worked all night at the factory, and he worked all day on tribal business. He slept, Erdrich said, only about 12 hours a week.

In one letter, "He says that he got very exhausted one night and his head dropped and he dropped his sandwich on the floor and he thought he saw a little boy. That's how exhausted he was," she said. "And I kept going with the little boy. Imagined who he was." He became a character, the ghost of a child she named Roderick who follows Thomas to Washington.

For years, Erdrich has researched Native history, driving down to Kansas City, Mo., in the summers with Child to pore through tribal documents at the National Archives there. "I love doing research," Erdrich said. "It's my candy — it really is. I feel guilty because I'm not actually writing, I'm just taking notes."

Those archives produced a wealth of material, including her grandfather's boarding school files and dozens of his letters.

For scenes in "The Night Watchman" that were set in 1950s Minneapolis, Erdrich worked at the Minnesota Historical Society, reading about flophouses and dive bars and a guy known as the King of Skid Row.

It was all fascinating, "like a fever dream," she said. "I thought, this could take over." But it didn't. She chased down obscure bits of information such as the chemicals used in mine-oregret cry fluid, and the kind of gun Puerto Rican nationalist Lolita Lebron fired into the air at the U.S. Capitol in 1954. Candy or not, it wasn't empty calories; it all ended up in the book.

"The Night Watchman" is a blend of truth and fiction, real people and real events matched up with make-believe. The boxing match that Thomas organizes to raise money for the trip to Washington? True. The creepy Minneapolis bar where Pixie Paranteau gets a job playing a coy Babe the Blue Ox frolicking in a tank of water? Based on truth, but different. The Babe the Blue Ox suit that Pixie wore, made of specialized rubber that came all the way from Chicago? Fully a product of Erdrich's rich imagination.



Erdrich

## The Night Watchman

Louise Erdrich

"The Night Watchman" is set in the early 1950s on the home reservation of Louise Erdrich's mother's family, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota.

One of the book's major plotlines is based on the life and letters of Erdrich's maternal grandfather, Amishehnaubay Patrick Gournau. Like Gournau, the fictional Thomas Wazhask, the night watchman of the title, is a member of the tribal advisory council for the Turtle Mountain Band.

Wazhask is deeply devoted to his family and community. Between his rounds as watchman at the new jewel bearing plant that provides the town's best-paying jobs, he writes countless letters, official and personal.

Then one day in 1953 comes news of a "tribal emancipation" bill in the U.S. Congress. Wazhask's careful reading reveals

that emancipation really means termination — if the real-life bill becomes law, the Chippewa will cease to exist as a legal entity, losing their land and the few intact protections provided them in treaties "that were promised to last forever. So as usual, by getting rid of us, the Indian problem would be solved."

The other major story that structures "The Night Watchman" is that of Patrice Paranteau. Just out of high school and holding down a good job at the jewel bearing plant, Patrice is determined to change her family's life for the better.

Everyone on the reservation lives in some degree of poverty, but the Paranteau house, miles from the nearest highway, is worse than most. The family's best times are when Patrice's hopeless drunk of a father goes off on a bender for months at a time. (Thomas, her uncle, is the positive father figure in her life.)

Patrice loves and admires her strong, wise mother, Zhaanat, but she has no intention of sharing her fate of marrying young and having children.

Patrice's older sister, Vera, is missing. She signed up for a government program that relocates tribal members to cities, ostensibly for good jobs. But, as Patrice discovers when she takes the long bus trip to "the Cities" (Minneapolis-St. Paul) to try to find Vera, it sometimes funnels naive young women from the reservations right into the grip of sex traffickers. Patrice will barely escape them herself, coming home without Vera but bringing Vera's infant son back to the family.

Erdrich skillfully weaves together the stories of Thomas and Patrice as both of them prepare to travel to Washington, D.C., to testify before a congressional panel about the emancipation bill. It will be a life-changing trip for both of them.

— Colette Bancroft/Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times

The main character in Louise Erdrich's "The Night Watchman" is based on her grandfather, Amishehnaubay Patrick Gournau, who carried the fight against Native dispossession from North Dakota to Washington, D.C.

Submitted photo

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OPINION

Swap virus aid for US prisoners in Iran?

By TRUDY RUBIN  
 The Philadelphia Inquirer

While Americans are wrestling with how to get tests and equipment to curb the coronavirus, it's easy to forget this is a global crisis.

Unless the virus is quashed everywhere, it can resurge anywhere. That means the U.S. government has to be concerned about the skyrocketing epidemic in Iran, where a venal theocracy and crippling sanctions have left the population exposed.

So here's a spot of good news: the pressure of the epidemic may force a humanitarian deal between Washington and Tehran. At the start of the Persian New Year, there are signs that Iran may free some U.S. citizens while Washington may finally facilitate desperately needed humanitarian aid to Tehran. Neither could happen too soon.

On Thursday, Iran released U.S. Navy vet Michael White on medical furlough to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which represents American interests. White apparently had the misfortune to visit an Iranian girlfriend in 2018, at a time when Iran's Revolutionary Guard was seeking payback for U.S. sanctions, in the wake of the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. Since then, Iran has been arresting Western academics and dual citizens and holding them as hostages in future political bargaining.

White was sentenced 10 years for "espionage" and is now suffering from cancer, besides being exposed to the virus. It's unclear yet when or whether White will be allowed to return home.

Equally painful is the case of dual Iranian-American citizen and U.S. businessman Siamak Namazi, who was jailed in 2015 while visiting family in Tehran, and his then-80-year-old father, Baquer, who was arrested the following year after he came to try to help his son. Baquer has been paroled but can't leave Tehran.

And, although the regime has furloughed tens of thousands of Iranian prisoners over the Nowruz holiday, Siamek remains in a crowded cell. "The only way to describe it is beyond horrific prisons," his brother told NPR on Wednesday.

Nearly Namazi is dual British-American citizen Morad Tabriz, whom I've written about, held since 2018, whose crime was working with the Persian Heritage Wildlife Foundation to save endangered cheetahs from the Iranian staff. He's also imprisoned; one, a Canadian Iranian died during interrogation). Tabriz also has cancer and hasn't been furloughed.

"The prisoners by definition are the complete opposite of social distancing, like sitting ducks being sacrificed, a way to get rid of the Iranian prisoners." I was told by Hadi Ghaemi, executive director of the U.S.-based Center for Human Rights in Iran.

So hats off to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for calling on Iran to release "all wrongfully detained Americans as COVID-19 spreads in Iran." He's also insisted that "any nation considering humanitarian assistance to Iran should seek the release of all dual and foreign nationals," i.e., hostages who come from Britain, France, Austria and elsewhere.

But, of course, the question is what kind of aid the Iranian government would seek in return.

To limit panic, leaders must offer better information

By JESSICA M. LEPLER  
 Special to The Washington Post

Panic is spreading in all caps on smartphones. We are worried about viral contagion, and get we endlessly scroll down our germ-infested screens, scouring our devices for a cure to our uncertainties. What can you do to protect your family from COVID-19, your assets from the falling market and your democracy from disinformation?

Our search terms comprising an officials need to help us get accurate information. Certainty could calm the panic and eliminate some of the negative byproducts of the pandemic. That's the lesson from the Panic of 1837, an international financial crisis that thrust the United States into a decade of unrest. Some estimated that 90% of factories closed, and when workmen earned around 10 cents per hour, losses totaled \$6 billion.

But the two-month period of panic might've been preventable had people in the United States just had better information. In 1837, reports of anticipated failures caused businesses to actually fail. In 2020, rumors of shortages caused empty shelves in the toilet paper aisle. In both cases, evidence-based information might have saved some backslides.

The Panic of 1837 began when London bankers responded to partisan American financial news by restricting credit to the United States. In Liverpool, this triggered a collapse in the price of cotton, America's most important export. Yet only the first rumors of these changes arrived in the U.S. before Atlantic winds ceased — keeping ships from U.S. ports and Americans from getting accurate information for weeks.

Knowing only that access to credit had tightened and prices had begun to fall, but not knowing the extent of these changes, Americans panicked. Markets crashed, and banks stopped lending. Creditors dunned debtors and hired lawyers. Debtors died all sorts of panicked-sounding things; they shined, ran or were "G.T.T." — Gone to Texas, where absconders fled across the border into a new republic and beyond the reach of the law. Defaulting enslavers sold parents away from their children for cash; merchants committed suicide; workers lost jobs; food prices soared; and families starved.

And then suddenly, the winds blew the disastrous but decisive information to American ports. The bad news — that cotton prices had collapsed and London bankers had cut off credit to the U.S. — was actually good for minds and markets. The certainty ended people's panics.

As they calmed down, many wanted to forget their panicked actions. But they couldn't undo them. Debtors and creditors negotiated settlements, but for the enslaved, the starving and the suicidal, the panic damage was already done, triggering seven years of misery. Access to accurate information might have saved families, property and lives.

The United States was not the only place losing lives from the spread of information in early 1837. As Americans panicked over their finances, London buried thousands of influenza victims. In a time before running water and hand soap, the virus spread from desk to desk in the world's financial center. Many bankers' clerks died.

The widespread acceptance of germ theory was still in the future, the flu vaccine and Tamiflu further still. People blamed

In recent days, the Trump administration piled more sanctions on Tehran, designed to further squeeze any efforts to evade past sanctions on Iranian oil sales. Oil sanctions have cratered the Iranian economy (with no clear U.S. definition of what it would take to get them lifted).

And there's no question that the sanctions have blocked Iranian access to desperately needed medical supplies and equipment to fight the coronavirus, even though humanitarian goods are supposed to be exempted.

Washington has just established a "Swiss humanitarian channel" to take food and medicine to Iran. But any one business must receive written guarantees from the U.S. that they will not be sanctioned. Such a limited channel at a time of coronavirus is surely a sham.

True, the Iranian regime has been shockingly lax in confronting the pandemic, with many of its own political elite infected. But Iran's death toll is soaring. It has a decent health system, but without improved medical supplies its caseload could soon spiral out of control.

So Pompeo (together with European counterparts) should go big on a humanitarian aid deal in exchange for the release of Western hostages. This is not about Tehran regime change or shaming the ayatollahs. It's not about punishing Iran for its malfeasance in the Middle East.

"An urgent bypass to sanctions is needed to focus on the epidemic," says Ghaemi, "which is in everyone's interest. This is above geopolitics. It is about bringing a pandemic under control, about addressing a collective danger."

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

disease on an unhealthy climate and an imbalance in bodily fluids; phlegm, two types of bile and blood. Rather than recommending social distancing or self-quarantine, doctors performed bloodlettings. Few in 1837 suspected that these fluids, especially phlegm droplets, were actually spreading the disease.

Before telegraphs, telephones and text messages, accurate financial information could not travel without clerks' crucial labor. Sick clerks in England coughed as they penned the loops and lines that conveyed American economic horrors. The news that ended American panic killed the London clerks in the process.

Certainty is the scourge of panic. Amid the calls for flattening the curve and washing our hands, we must demand reliable information from our leaders. You should not panic. Scroll down your feed to find updates on the spread of the virus or the state of the markets. President Donald Trump should convey accurate information daily, if not more frequently. University presidents and local officials should not leave people wondering whether schools, stores and businesses will be closing. If we want to stop panic from becoming depression, we need to know when and how our government will replace lost incomes and extend credit to corporations.

Certainty will calm the many panics of 2020. I will cure our markets and our minds. While the coming weeks and months may still be bad, with accurate knowledge they will be less bad. But while you are waiting for accurate information, you might want to clean your phone.

Jessica M. Lepler is associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire and author of "The Many Panics of 1837."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man tries to elude cops, crashes car into church

**NC** BESSEMER CITY — A man led officers on a 30-mile police chase in a stolen vehicle before he crashed it into a church, police said.

Officers were trying to stop Dytalion Ny'Quan Degraffenreid, 22, for speeding, but he led police on a chase from Bessemer City to Charlotte, The Gaston Gazette reported.

According to Bessemer City police, Degraffenreid tried to turn into a Charlotte church parking lot but instead drove down an embankment, and a passenger inside the SUV fled. Police said Degraffenreid backed the SUV into a Bessemer City patrol car but crashed into a church after failing to make a turn.

Degraffenreid was being held in the Gaston County jail under a \$50,000 bond on multiple charges. The charges include felony stolen vehicle possession, flee/elude arrest in a motor vehicle, reckless driving and driving while license revoked, police said.

## Driver hurt in head-on collision with snowplow

**ND** RAY — A 76-year-old North Dakota man driving a pickup the wrong way on a four-lane highway was seriously injured after running head-on into a snowplow, authorities said.

The crash happened about 4:15 a.m. on U.S. Highway 2 about 12 miles east of Ray. The Highway Patrol said the snowplow operator saw the pickup driver traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes and slowed to almost a complete stop before the collision.

The pickup driver, who lives in Ray, was taken to a Williston hospital. The snowplow driver, Wayne Lerohl, 56, was not injured.

The crash remains under investigation.

## Man charged for killing after his keys taken

**MI** CHARLEVOIX — An 82-year-old northern Michigan man who was told he couldn't drive was charged in the fatal shooting of his daughter, authorities said.

The man's 77-year-old wife was shot and survived at their home in Charlevoix County's Bay Township.

The man, whose name wasn't released, was charged with murder and attempted murder. His wife told police that he's in the early stages of dementia and was upset that car keys had been taken away.

## Man arrested for impersonation, scams

**IL** CHICAGO — A Berwyn man accused of claiming to be a state employee was arrested for allegedly scamming people of more than \$10,000, prosecutors said.

Hugo Torres, 47, approached at least four people when he impersonated a supervisor with the Illinois Secretary of State's office



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

## Lunch and a show

**Two women eat lunch outdoors in downtown Pittsburgh on Thursday. Restaurants and bars in Pittsburgh are serving takeout or delivery meals only due to precautions surrounding COVID-19.**

attempting to hire employees, according to the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Prosecutors said Torres asked people to pay \$400 in cash for fake application fees for a job exam. They also said he claimed he could assist them with obtaining a driver's license or resolving traffic tickets in return for payment, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Torres was charged with a felony theft deception of over \$10,000 and theft by receipt of over \$500, according to prosecutors. It was not immediately known if Torres had an attorney.

## Man accused of running cattle Ponzi scheme

**SD** RAPID CITY — A South Dakota man faces federal charges that he ran a multi-million-dollar cattle Ponzi scheme.

A federal grand jury indicted Robert Blom, 58, of Corsica on charges of wire fraud, mail fraud and money laundering. Blom pleaded not guilty to the indictment, U.S. Attorney for South Dakota Ronald Parsons said.

The indictment alleges that around January 2014 and continuing through February 2019, Blom devised a scheme to defraud investors. As part of his custom cattle-feeding business, Blom solicited investors for groups of cattle. After the cattle were sold,

## THE CENSUS

# \$1.74M

for higher levels of reimbursements than were performed in the central Florida facility, according to a news release. The cases involved tissue transfers that were apparently billed as more complex cases between Jan. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2016, the statement said. This included 14,000 level tissue transfers which should have been billed as lower level wound repairs.

Blom paid profits to investors in the groups. But prosecutors allege Blom sold the same groups of cattle to multiple investors.

Prosecutors allege Blom sometimes altered the cattle purchase invoices to try to conceal that he sold the same group of cattle to different investors.

Blom also is accused of telling investors he would use their money to purchase groups of cattle and to care for those cattle. But instead, he is accused of routinely using money from new investors to pay back old investors.

## Ex-boyfriend stabbed in woman's home break-in

**AL** ATHENS — An Alabama woman's ex-boyfriend broke into her home and was stabbed by her new boyfriend, authorities said.

Timothy Steven Walters, 41, was in a hospital recovering from

The amount a Florida doctor has agreed to repay in inflated Medicare claims. Dr. Thi Thien Nguyen Tran and Village Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery were accused of billing Medicare

for higher levels of reimbursements than were performed in the central Florida facility, according to a news release. The cases involved tissue transfers that were apparently billed as more complex cases between Jan. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2016, the statement said. This included 14,000 level tissue transfers which should have been billed as lower level wound repairs.

stab wounds but was expected to be charged with several counts once he's released, news outlets reported.

Walters violated a protection-from-abuse order when he broke into the woman's house, Limestone County Sheriff's Office spokesman Stephen Young said.

Walters assaulted the new boyfriend inside the home, and then the new boyfriend stabbed Walters with a pocketknife, Young said. Walters also assaulted the woman when she tried to render aid to him, the spokesman added.

## Police funds cut after near-nude chief incident

**NH** CROYDON — A New Hampshire town that eliminated its one-man police department prompting the then-chief to disrobe to his underwear and walk into a snowstorm has voted to decrease its budget by

over \$31,000.

Residents in the small town of Croydon voted to cut back appropriations for the now-scrapped police department, Valley News reported.

The town's three-member selectboard voted to get rid of the department and move to 100% coverage by the New Hampshire State Police.

Richard Lee, who had been chief for 20 years, was told to turn in the key to his cruiser, his guns and his uniform. He went into an office he shared with town officials and took off his clothes in front of the board chairman.

## Police: Suspects chain, try to drag away ATM

**NC** CHAPEL HILL — Authorities in North Carolina were searching for at least two suspects who were captured chaining an ATM to a stolen pickup and attempting to drag it away, according to officials.

Chapel Hill police officers responded to a Bank of America branch near the University of North Carolina where they found the fallen ATM damaged, town officials said in a statement. Police said it didn't appear any money was taken.

At least one suspect could be seen wearing a mask and carrying a crowbar, WNCN-TV reported.

From wire reports

# SCOREBOARD/NFL

## Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

### Deals

#### Friday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**Major League Baseball American League**  
**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Optioned 3B Kelvin Gutierrez, LHP Gabi Spelzer and RHP Kyle Zimmer to Omaha (PCL).  
**SEATTLE MARINERS** — Optioned RHPs Zac Grotz, Taylor Williams and INFs Donovan Walton, Patrick Wisdom to Tacoma (PCL). Placed RHP Sam Tuivailata on unconditional release waiver.  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** — Optioned LHP Anthony Kay and RHP Sean Reid-Foley to Buffalo (IL).

**National League**  
**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Optioned RHP Jon Duplantis to Reno (PCL).  
**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Optioned RHP Touki Rossaint to Gwinnett (IL).  
**NEW YORK METS** — Optioned RHP Tyler Sanchez, INF Andres Gimenez and C Ali Sanchez to Syracuse (IL).  
**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Optioned RHPs Geoff Hartlieb, Yackel Ross, Edgar Santana, LHP Sam Howard, INFs Ke'Bryan Hayes and Cole Tucker and OF Jason Martin to Indianapolis (IL).

**National Football League**  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Released P Ryan Allen.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**CALGARY COYOTES** — Signed F Nate Sisson to a one-year entry-level contract.  
**CALGARY FLAMES** — Signed D Connor Mackey and Colton Pooleman to entry-level contracts.  
**NEW YORK RANGERS** — Agreed to terms with F Austin Rueschhoff.

### Pro basketball

**NBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	18	18	—
x-Boston	43	21	67.2
Philadelphia	30	26	60.0
Brooklyn	30	24	60.0
New York	45	31	26

**Southeast Division**

Miami	41	24	63.1
Orlando	40	25	46.2
Washington	24	40	37.5
Charlotte	22	42	35.4
Atlanta	40	47	29.9

**Central Division**

x-Milwaukee	32	18	64.3
Indiana	39	26	60.0
Chicago	32	26	55.6
Detroit	28	46	30.3
Cleveland	28	46	30.3

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

Houston	40	24	62.5
Dallas	37	25	59.6
Memphis	32	33	49.2
New Orleans	28	36	43.8
San Antonio	37	36	49.9

**Northwest Division**

Denver	42	22	66.2
Utah	41	23	64.1
Oklahoma City	40	24	63.9
Portland	29	37	43.9
Minnesota	19	45	29.7

**Pacific Division**

x-L.A. Lakers	49	14	77.8
L.A. Clippers	44	20	68.8
Sacramento	26	38	42.1
Golden State	15	50	23.1

All games postponed at least until mid-May.

### AP spotlight

**March 22** — The blues are eliminated with the center red line used to determine offside in an experiment by the NFL. With both teams out of playoff contention, the league tries it in the New York Giants' 16-6 victory over the Boston Patriots.  
**1953** — The United States beats host Chile, 49-36 to win the first FIFA World Cup Championship for Women basketball tournament.  
**1954** — North Carolina beats Michigan State 74-70 in triple overtime to advance to the semifinals of the national championship game. Lennie Rosenbush leads the Tar Heels with 29 points and Bob Cunningham adds 21.  
**1958** — Vern Hatton and Johnny Cox catch for 54 points to give Kentucky a 94-72 victory over Seattle in the NCAA basketball championship.  
**1967** — New Aclerford scores 37 points to lead UCLA to the NCAA men's basketball title with a 97-72 win over Purdue.

# Big catch: Saints sign WR Sanders

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Free-agent wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders has agreed to a two-year contract with the Saints, New Orleans general manager Mickey Loomis said Saturday.

The 5-foot-11 Sanders, who turns 33 next week, caught 36 passes for 502 yards and three touchdowns for the 49ers last season. He also started all three of San Francisco's postseason games, catching five passes for 71 yards.

His contract, first reported by ESPN, is said to be worth about \$16 million with bonuses that could push the total value as high as \$19 million.

The Saints struggled last season to find consistent production from a receiver other than Al-Pro Michael Thomas, who caught an NFL-record 149 passes for 1,725 yards and nine touchdowns.

Free agent Ted Ginn Jr., who turns 35 next month, ranked second among Saints receivers with 30 catches behind running back Alvin Kamara (81), tight end Jared Cook (43) and running back Latavius Murray (34).

New Orleans may well have missed out on a top-two seeding in the past NFL playoffs because of their inability to defend Sanders in a 48-46 loss to San Francisco in early December.

Sanders caught seven passes in



REED HOFFMAN/AP

Running back Melvin Gordon agreed to a two-year deal with the Denver Broncos on Friday worth \$16 million.

that game for 157 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown. He also threw a 35-yard touchdown pass on a trick play. When the playoffs began a month later, New Orleans was seeded third despite being in a three-way tie with San Francisco and Green Bay for the NFC's best record at 13-3. The Saints then lost their playoff opener to Minnesota.

Also Friday:  
 ■ Denver agreed to a two-year deal with former Chargers run-

ning back Melvin Gordon that is worth \$16 million with all but \$2.5 million guaranteed. Although his new deal is less than the \$10 million annually Gordon turned down from the Chargers during an unsuccessful holdout last season, it allows him to face his old team twice a year and to hit free agency again in 2022 at age 28. His \$8 million annual salary also ranks fourth in the NFL among running backs.

■ Carolina signed free agent wide receiver Pharoah Cooper to a one-year contract and safety Justin Burris to a two-year deal.  
 ■ The Browns added another veteran safety, agreeing to terms with Andrew Sendejo on a one-year, \$2.25 million contract. The 32-year-old Sendejo played for Minnesota and Philadelphia last season. On Wednesday, the team also dealt with former Raiders safety Karl Joseph.

# Effect: Surely Brady recognizes he's starting over at 42

## FROM BACK PAGE

After nearly two decades in New England, Brady certainly recognizes that he's starting over at a point when most athletes have already hung it up.

"Excited, humble and hungry," he wrote Friday in an Instagram post that included a picture of him signing his new two-year, \$50 million contract — all of it guaranteed — in what appeared to be his kitchen. "If there is one thing I have learned about football, it's that nobody cares what you did last year or the year before that."

What Brady has done is beyond remarkable: six Super Bowl championships, 17 AFC East titles — including the last 11 in a row — and a record of 249-75 over nearly two decades as the Patriots' starting quarterback.  
 But even with his 43rd birthday approaching and his legacy more than secured, he's not satisfied. The great ones never are.

That's surely why they tend to hang on longer that they should. That's why Brady was willing to trade snowy New England for Florida's sunny Gulf Coast — and not as part of a retirement plan.  
 "You earn the trust and respect of those around through your commitment every single day," Brady wrote. "I'm starting a new football journey and thankful for the (Buccaneers) for giving me an opportunity to do what I love to do. I look forward to meeting all my new teammates and coaches



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Quarterback Tom Brady raises the Lombardi Trophy after the Patriots Super Bowl LV victory on Feb. 5, 2017 in Houston.

and proving to them that they can believe and trust in me."

Brady is joining a woebegone franchise that ranks near the bottom of the league in attendance and hasn't won a single playoff game since capturing its lone Super Bowl title during the 2002 season.

In fact, the Bucs have been the postseason only two times since then, their last appearance coming 13 long years ago. Only the woeful Cleveland

Browns are in the midst of a longer playoff drought.

So, that's where the bar is set for Brady and his new team.

A playoff appearance should be judged a success. Winning a playoff game would be a bonus. And no one can deviate from the ultimate goal: setting this franchise on a course for long-term success before Brady hands off to a much-younger successor, whoever that may be.

The pieces are certainly in place to make that work.

Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians is hailed for his offensive acumen, though he'll have to adjust his downfield passing philosophy to better suit Brady's possession-type style. The Bucs have a pair of Pro Bowl, 1,000-yard receivers in Chris Godwin and Mike Evans, which should be a welcome change for Brady after working last season with a New England offense that was desperately lacking in big-play weapons.

Tight ends Cameron Brate and O.J. Howard add to Brady's potential arsenal. The offensive line is decent enough, and the Bucs may be able to pick off a few more additions in free agency merely by offering up the chance to play with the NFL's greatest quarterback ever.

If the Bucs can shore up a woeful pass defense, they'll certainly be in the mix for a playoff berth in the NFC South.  
 If nothing else, Brady should

Peat agreeing to a five-year contract keeping him in New Orleans and virtually ensuring the entire 2019 starting offensive line will return. The deal is worth a total of \$57.5 million.

■ The Steelers added tight end Eric Ebron on a two-year deal, as well as guard Stefan Wisniewski, who won a Super Bowl with the Chiefs. And Pittsburgh made a rare in-division trade, acquiring backup defensive tackle Chris Wormley and a seventh-round pick from Baltimore for a fifth-round pick in this year's draft.

■ Longtime Vikings stand-out defensive lineman Evertton Griffen, 32, is leaving Minnesota.

Griffen's agent, Brian Murphy, announced Friday they ended talks with the Vikings "because they have to spend their money elsewhere and we decided to now focus our attention on free agency." The longest-tenured player on the team, Griffen had 74½ sacks in 10 seasons.

■ Carolina signed free agent wide receiver Pharoah Cooper to a one-year contract and safety Justin Burris to a two-year deal.

■ The Browns added another veteran safety, agreeing to terms with Andrew Sendejo on a one-year, \$2.25 million contract. The 32-year-old Sendejo played for Minnesota and Philadelphia last season. On Wednesday, the team also dealt with former Raiders safety Karl Joseph.

improve the efficiency of the offense merely by not being Jameis Winston, his predecessor and the first QB in league history to throw 30 touchdown passes AND 30 interceptions in the same season. Brady had eight picks in 2019, and has never tossed more than 14 in a season.

Of course, Tampa Bay is talking titles, which is what you would expect in the giddiness of the moment.

"Tom is the most successful quarterback in the history of our league, but what makes him so special is his ability to make those around him better," Arians said in a statement. "He is a proven winner who will provide the leadership, accountability and work ethic necessary to lead us to our goal of winning another championship."

Brady held off on making such bold predictions.

"I have always believed that well done is better than well said, so I'm not gonna say much more," he wrote. "It's just gonna get to work!"

So, get ready to see Brady in a uniform other than New England's for the first time since his college days at Michigan.

It will be bizarre, for sure. But at least he won't look like a cracksmoke.

For those who haven't been paying them a lick of attention, the Bucs long ago dumped those hideous orange uniforms.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Mini tours playing through outbreak

By JOHN MARSHALL  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Anna Nordqvist drained a birdie putt on the second playoff hole, pumped her fist and gave a slight wave to a half-dozen people clapping near the green. The tournament title in hand, the two-time major champion turned to playing partner Lisa Pettersson and hesitated.

The customary post-round hug was out of the question, so the Swedish players touched elbows and walked off the green with a laugh.

The major golf tours may have shut down during the coronavirus outbreak, but a handful of mini tours are playing through.

“I’m sure there’s a lot of people questioning why we’re playing, but everyone is playing golf anyway,” Nordqvist said after winning a Cactus Tour event at Moon Valley Country Club on Friday. “Everyone got their own cart or they’re walking, you keep your distance and the golf course is a great place to be right now.”

The spreading coronavirus caused a ripple effect across the sports landscape as just about every major sport postponed or canceled events and seasons. The LPGA joined the fray, postponing tournaments scheduled through the end of April and pushing the ANA Inspiration, its first major of the season, to September.

The Cactus and Outlaw tours have pushed on in Arizona, which has among the fewest coronavirus cases in the United States with around 64.

The Outlaw Tour, a men’s tour with events across the Phoenix area, held a three-day tournament this week at Western Skies Golf Course in Gilbert. Jared de Toit, a PGA Tour Latinoamerica player, shot a final-round 59 on Thursday, but lost in a playoff to fellow Canadian Wil Bateman.

Nordqvist shot a final-round 66 at Moon Valley to tie Pettersson and won it with a roughly 12-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole. England’s Holly Clyburn also won an Eggland’s Best Tour

event in Lake Mary, Fla., this week.

“It’s definitely strange, but we’re taking precautions,” Pettersson said.

The Cactus Tour’s Moon Valley stop featured a limited field of 27 players and had preventative measures in place to protect from the coronavirus.

All carts were sanitized before each of the three rounds and those players who didn’t walk were limited to one per cart. The players were asked to space out on the course to follow social distancing guidelines and the post-round hugs often found in women’s golf were replaced by waves — and one last high-elbow.

Even the group photo at the end had social distancing; Cactus Tour director Mike Brown had the players stand arm’s length apart before taking the picture.

“We followed all the guidelines,” Brown said. “It’s safer for them for a chance of getting something doing what I did because they’re all individuals, not cramming into a golf cart right next to someone. But we’re obviously keeping an eye on how things go.”

The Cactus Tour has been an early stepping stone for LPGA players since its inception in 2005, holding women’s tournaments across the Southwest, primarily in Arizona. The tour has events scheduled through a tournament Aug. 3-5 in Beaumont, Calif.

The LPGA Tour’s U.S. schedule typically kicks into full gear in the spring, but now players are scrambling to find places to play. Nordqvist led last week’s Outlaw Tour event — she was the only woman in the 56-player field — after an opening-round 64 before tying for 28th at Moon Valley. Nordqvist stayed in the Phoenix area and picked up a win worth \$2,000 on the Cactus Tour, where she hadn’t played since 2009.

“It’s been a rough stretch, obviously,” she said.

At least she and other players have a place to play — for now.



STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AP

A bicyclist rides past T-Mobile Park on Wednesday, March 11, in Seattle, where Major League Baseball’s Seattle Mariners play home games. With the NBA and NHL having suspended their seasons, golf, tennis and auto racing taking a break, and MLB not sure when — or if — it will get started, the sports business world is confronting several challenging issues.

# Coronavirus pandemic presents challenges for sports businesses

Issues go beyond loss of ticket, advertising and other forms of revenue

By JAY COHEN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The idea came together while Dan Migala was working on proper hand-washing techniques with his 5½-year-old son, William.

William is a big NBA fan, so they talked about how he needed to wash his hands for 24 seconds like the shot clock in pro basketball. Dan then asked William about how they could teach more kids how to wash their hands, and William suggested getting a mascot involved.

Dan Migala — co-founder of 4FRONT, a sports marketing firm — knew almost immediately it was an idea worth pursuing amid the coronavirus pandemic. He called his basketball clients, and an NBA team made plans to put together a video of its mascot washing its hands for its social media channels.

**“In America, I think baseball will play a role in helping this country heal.”**

Dave St. Peter  
Twins president

With the sports calendar in question more than ever before — the NBA and NHL have suspended their seasons, golf, tennis and auto racing are taking a break, and Major League Baseball isn’t sure when it will get started — the sports business world is confronting several challenging issues beyond the potentially considerable loss of ticket, advertising and other forms of revenue.

It is searching for ways to stay engaged with fans without its traditional content sources. It is looking for opportunities to help its communities during traumatic times. It is preparing for what might be a completely different world whenever the games resume.

“We’ve never seen anything like this. Nobody has seen anything like this,” Minnesota Twins president Dave St. Peter said Friday in a telephone interview with the AP. “You know, sports isn’t the most important thing in the world. We certainly recognize that life can go on without it. There’s things that are much more important that our country, our world is dealing with.”

“But I do think sports leaves a void for people and I think it’ll play a really critical role in helping the world heal, but certainly in America, I think baseball will play a role in helping this country heal.”

There are very few places to look for guidance. The 1989 World Series was delayed after an earthquake hit the Bay Area in Northern California. Sports hit the pause button after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Hurricane Katrina had a dramatic effect on sports in Louisiana for years after it flooded New Orleans in 2005.

Andy Dolich was the vice president of business operations for Oakland at the time of the 1989 earthquake. Asked about what lessons from that disaster might be applicable today, he emphasized the importance of coordination, communication and leadership.

“I’d also say, where you can, and I’m also starting to see it in just individuals, what can you do?” he said. “I mean life isn’t normal, but we still have our televisions, we still have ability to communicate. Sports properties have more ways to communicate with internal and external audiences than ever before, and they are using them in a variety of ways.”

The Boston Red Sox posted coloring sheets for fans to print out for their kids to work on at home. The Carolina Hurricanes tweeted warm messages at other NHL teams. The Charlotte Hornets shared video of center Cody Zeller learning how to play guitar. The University of Nebraska started a Husker Homework series for kids, with the first entry focusing on Eric Crouch’s playing career at the school.

“From an external side of things, we’ve looked at it as two elements,” said Garrett Klassy, a senior deputy athletic director at Nebraska. “One is how do we give back to the community during these times, and then No. 2, without sports, how do we keep everyone engaged?”

Like pretty much every sports organization, the Twins are working on their social media plans. St. Peter said they likely will hold some town hall-style chats with team leadership and season-ticket holders or sponsors.

“It’s not easy, but I also think there’s some small things you can do that I think can allow a fan to feel like they’re still connected,” he said.



STEVIE HELMER/AP

Anna Nordqvist, seen during the second round of the 2019 U.S. Women’s Open in Charleston, S.C., won a Cactus Tour event at Moon Valley Country Club in Phoenix on Friday, one of a handful of mini tours playing through the coronavirus outbreak.

OLYMPICS

# USA Swimming head urges USOPC to ask for delay of Games

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
Associated Press

DENVER — The head of USA Swimming urged the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to push for a 12-month postponement of the Tokyo Games, signaling the first fissure between powerful American factions attempting to maneuver the U.S. team through the coronavirus crisis.

CEO Tim Hinchey sent a letter Friday to his counterpart at the USOPC, Sarah Hirshland, calling for the delay.

"Everyone has experienced unimaginable disruptions in mere months before the Olympic Games, which calls into question the authenticity of a level playing field for all," Hinchey wrote. "Our athletes are under tremendous pressure, stress and anxiety, and their mental health and wellness should be among the highest priorities."

Only hours before receiving the letter, the USOPC leaders essentially repeated the IOC line

— that while athlete safety would always be their top priority, it was too soon to employ drastic measures, and that they would press forward with logistical preparations for a July 24 start.

"The decision about the games doesn't lie directly with us," USOPC board chair Susanne Lyons said.

She and Hirshland showed no appetite for getting out front on the postponement issue, which is gaining more steam among athletes, some Olympic leaders and, now, one of America's most high-profile national governing bodies.

Left unsaid was the impact the USOPC's voice could have in moving toward a postponement. In theory, no national Olympic federation has more power to alter the shape of an Olympics than the one in the U.S., which brings 550 athletes and its billion-dollar broadcaster, NBC, to the show every two years.

"We urge the USOPC, as a leader within the Olympic Movement, to use its voice and speak



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

**A worker on duty at a road construction site walks past a banner promoting the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo on Friday. The Olympic flame from Greece arrived in Japan even as the opening of the Tokyo Games in four months is in doubt, with more voices suggesting the games should be postponed or canceled because of the worldwide virus pandemic.**

up for the athletes," Hinchey wrote.

Other sports organizations were adding their voices.

Nic Coward, the chairman of UK Athletics in Britain, told BBC Sport that leaving the Olympic starting date unchanged "is creating so much pressure in the system. It now has to be addressed."

And the CEO of Swimming Canada, Ahmed El-Awadi, put out a statement saying: "We hold the opinions of our brothers and sisters at USA Swimming in high regard, and share many of the same concerns around health and safety."

After the USA Swimming news, Hirshland and Lyons sent

out a joint statement, emphasizing the multiple moving parts that are influencing any decision from the IOC, and looking ahead to an important IOC meeting next week, at which leaders will receive feedback from countries.

"Rest assured we are making your concerns clearly known to them," the statement said.

Q & A

## Bach remaining silent on Tokyo decision deadline

By **STEPHEN WADE**  
Associated Press

TOKYO — The Olympic flame has arrived in Japan from Greece. Next comes the torch relay around the country, which is scheduled to start on Thursday from Fukushima prefecture in northern Japan. Organizers have asked crowds to be restrained, but have been imprecise about what that means. Greek officials last week stopped a relay there on the second day and did not resume because of crowd size.

In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, Japanese organizers and IOC President Thomas Bach say that the games will open on July 24 at the \$1.43 billion national stadium in central Tokyo.

Bach has said repeatedly it's too early to announce a final decision, saying he's taking advice from a task force that includes the World Health Organization. But now there's push back, mostly from athletes and former Olympians who are complaining: they can't train, qualifying events have been canceled, and the chaos is sure to favor some over others. Then there's the question of bringing 11,000 athletes and staff to the Olympic Village, and 4,400 Paralympians a month later.

Getting the flame to Japan represents a minor victory for both organizers and the IOC. Its symbolic presence could give the IOC space to postpone the Tokyo Olympics, leaving the symbol behind as a reminder of what's still to come.

**Q:** What is the deadline for making a final decision?

**A:** Bach surely knows, but he is not saying. In an interview with the New York



EUGENE HOSHINO/AP

**Japanese comedians Mikiko Date, foreground, and Takeshi Tomizawa leave with the Olympic flame during the Flame Arrival Ceremony, north of Tokyo, Friday.**

Times Bach said "cancellation is not on the agenda." That leaves only going ahead, or postponement, as the options. Empty venues seem to have been ruled out.

**Q:** Who will make the final decision?  
**A:** It will be made jointly with the IOC, the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee. They are the three that

signed the \$1-page Host City Agreement, which spells out in enormous details all games contingencies. The IOC has all the leverage, though it will have to honor WHO suggestions and the interests of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The IOC has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion and insurance to cover losses. The contract says termination can occur "... if the IOC has reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games is seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason, whatsoever."

Tokyo is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, but a national audit says it's at least twice that much.

**Q:** What is the push back you are talking about?

**A:** The most recent is from USA Swimming, which is calling for a 12-month postponement. CEO Tim Hinchey wrote the following in a letter to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee: "Everyone has experienced unimaginable disruptions, mere months before the Olympic Games, which calls into question the authenticity of a level playing field for all. Our athletes are under tremendous pressure, stress and anxiety, and their mental health and wellness should be among the highest priorities."

Another voice earlier in the week was from IOC member Hayley Wickenheiser, the four-time gold medalist from Canada.

"I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity," she said. "This crisis is bigger than even the Olympics."

On the Japan side, Japanese Olympic

Committee member Kaori Yamaguchi told the newspaper Nikkei that the IOC "is putting athletes at risk." Yamaguchi is a former Olympic bronze medalist in judo.

"Even if there is a reason that prevents the IOC from making a decision right now, (the IOC) should indicate a deadline." She was critical last year when Bach abruptly moved the marathon out of Tokyo to Sapporo. She said such a sudden move was "not acceptable."

**Q:** How important is the torch relay to the IOC and local organizers?

**A:** It's important symbolism for the Japanese government and Prime Minister Abe. Abe is Japan's longest-serving premier and hopes to use the Olympics to argue that the Fukushima area has recovered from the disaster nine years ago. The government has dubbed these "The Recovery Olympics." However, many residents are still living in temporary quarters after the earthquake, tsunami and meltdown of three nuclear reactors in 2011.

Getting the relay started from Fukushima also helps major IOC sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota, who pay millions to give their brands exposure during the relay. Crowds are being asked to be restrained. This will not keep the images of the relay from being transmitted daily around the globe on television. Bach is expected to watch the relay when it reaches Hiroshima on May 18-19.

**Q:** Any bookmaker taking odds?  
**A:** Irish bookmaker says 1-7 games will not open as scheduled on July 24. A poll by Japanese news agency Kyodo this week showed 69.9% of Japanese questioned do not believe the games will begin on time.

## SPORTS



## COMMENTARY

# The Brady effect

## Six-time Super Bowl-winning QB makes others around him better

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**  
Associated Press

**W**ell, it's official now. Tom Brady is a Buccaneer. Sounds strange, doesn't it? Naturally, there's been a rush of excitement in the NFL backwater known as Tampa Bay, even amid the anxiety and uncertainty of the coronavirus outbreak.

But before they start ordering those Super Bowl rings, a dose of reality is in order.

Chances are, this won't end with a confetti and champagne shower — which is the extraordinari-

ly high standard that Brady has set throughout his G.O.A.T. of a career.

We all know it's extremely rare for past-their-prime athletes to leave a longtime team and somehow find the Fountain of Youth elsewhere. For every Peyton Manning, there's a Babe Ruth or a Michael Jordan, a Willie Mays or a Joe Namath, a Hank Aaron or a Johnny Unitas.

But if expectations are kept at a reasonable level, this seismic shift in the NFL landscape could still go down as a success.

Instead of championship-or-bust, the Bucs should be satisfied with playoffs-or-bust.

**SEE EFFECT ON PAGE 21**

With six Super Bowl titles, four Super Bowl MVPs and three league MVPs, new Tampa Bay quarterback Tom Brady is widely considered the greatest of all time.

MARK TENALLY/AP

## TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.