Army sending recruits to basic training after pause

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army on Monday said it will send new recruits to basic training this week, ending a two-week pause in shipping future soldiers that was aimed at mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Recruits from areas of the country considered low-risk for the virus were sent in the coming days to all four of the Army’s basic training locations, Army officials announced in a statement.

The end of the rare pause in sending recruits to basic training comes as the Army has improved its testing capacity for the virus at most of its installations, including at Fort Jackson, S.C., the training-heavy post that is the site of the service’s worst coronavirus outbreak.

The Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, which oversees all of the service’s initial entry and more advanced training programs, made the call to begin shipping recruits Monday once they were certain appropriate measures were in place to track recruits health from the time they leave their homes until they arrive at the Army’s basic training locations — Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Sill, Okla.

Outside of Fort Jackson, the training bases have not reported widespread outbreaks of the disease, which has paralyzed much of American life, including forcing the Pentagon to severely restrict travel for its troops worldwide. Sending new recruits to the services’ basic training locations, however, is exempt from the wide-ranging travel restrictions in place until June 30. The Defense Department considers training new troops essential to its mission.

SEE RECRUITS ON PAGE 6

With face shields and extra planning, Chinook pilots take flight in Germany

By Immanuel Johnson
Stars and Stripes

ANSBACH, Germany — It would have been routine training on Chinook helicopters in pre-coronavirus times, but the exercise soldiers with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade took part in Monday required extra preparation and equipment to prevent the virus from spreading.

Wearing face masks and protective plastic shields, pilots and crew members adhered and hauled a sling load beneath the Chinook and practiced landing in low visibility conditions between Ansbach and the Oberdachstetten training area, a 10-minute flight away.

“We had our crew members install face shields on the helmets to protect ourselves, and we take all the preventative measures of washing our hands, using hand sanitizer during the pandemic,” said Chief Warrant Offi-
Conspiracy theorists burn 5G towers

Associated Press

LONDON — Conspiracy theorists that link new 5G mobile networks and the coronavirus pandemic are fueling arson attacks on cell towers, and European officials are fighting back.

Popular beliefs and conspiracy theories that wireless communications pose a threat have long been around, but the global spread of the virus at the same time that countries were rolling out fifth generation wireless technology has seen some of those false narratives amplified.

Officials in Europe and the U.S. are watching the situation, concerned that attacks will undermine vital telecommunications links.

“I’m absolutely outraged, absolutely disgusted, that people would be taking action against the very infrastructure that we need to respond to this health emergency,” said Stephen Powis, medical director of the National Health Service in England.

Some 50 fires targeting cell towers and other equipment have been reported in Britain this month, leading to three arrests. Towers have also been torched in the Netherlands, Ireland, Cyprus and Belgium.

No evidence shows wireless communications harm immune systems, said Myrtill Simko, scientific director of Sweden’s SciPo International, who has spent years researching the matter.
**Nuclear-powered attack sub commissioned**

**By Christian Lopez**

Stars and Stripes

The Navy commissioned the 19th Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, the USS Vermont, on Saturday with an unconventional, low-key ceremony due to coronavirus restrictions.

The Vermont entered service administratively and with a small ceremony at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

Friday, the submarine skipper, Cmdr. Charles W. Phillips III, told TV station WCAX that just the crew would attend in working uniforms while adhering to coronavirus measures.

A submarine or other vessel is commissioned after it has completed sea trials and has been accepted. The Navy said the launch occurred earlier, when the vessel enters the water, and involves breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across its bow.

Both events typically involve public fanfare.

The USS Vermont, the Navy's newest Virginia-class submarine, is seen prior to its commissioning in Connecticut on April 18.

Facebook

The Vermont is the first of 10 Block IV Virginia-class submarines built on a $17.6 billion contract the Navy awarded to General Dynamics Electric Boat in April 2014.

Virginia-class submarines are designed to operate for longer periods between key maintenance cycles and to serve 15 deployments with three planned comprehensive depot maintenance periods throughout their lifespans.

Gloria Valdez, a former deputy assistant Secretary of the Navy, sponsored the Vermont, according to a Navy statement.

"I am very proud of the Sailors and families of USS Vermont, who worked so hard to bring her life," Valdez said, according to the Navy.

The 377-foot-long Vermont is built for several missions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, strike warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance, mine warfare, intelligence, irregular warfare and the delivery of special operations forces.

"I am confident the crew of this cutting-edge platform will carry on this tradition and confront the challenges of today’s complex world with the professionalism and dedication our nation depends on from warriors of the silent service," acting Secretary of the Navy James E. McPherson said, according to the Navy statement.

The submarine can maneuver underwater at speeds greater than 25 knots, or 28 mph, and dive to depths greater than 800 feet. Its weaponry includes Tomahawk cruise missiles and Mark 48 Advanced Capability torpedoes.

"As part of the nation’s maritime asymmetric advantage over our competitors, we are ready to perform whatever duty is most needed," Phillips said, according to Navy statement. "The crew is hungry to hone our skills at-sea and become an effective fighting unit, and we will work tirelessly to justify the nation’s confidence in us.

The Vermont is the third naval vessel named after the Green Mountain State. The first Vermont was a 74-gun warship authorized by Congress in 1816; the second was battleship No. 20, which was commissioned in 1907 and deployed as part of the “Great White Fleet.”

lopez.christian@stripes.com Twitter: @Clopez_Stripes

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**Bill would grant Gold Star families access to base benefits**

**By Rose L. Thayer**

Stars and Stripes

The families of fallen service members could gain access to on-base benefits such as the commissary and recreation facilities through a House bill introduced recently.

"We need to continue to honor those service members who we have lost by fully supporting their families," said Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, D-Fla. "It should have lost enough," she said. "As Mucarsel-Powell said, referencing the coronavirus pandemic that hit just as hard as off-base communities.

The families have lost so much by losing a loved one. A lot of them lost the financial support and the assistance that they once had." Mucarsel-Powell said, referencing the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down much of the United States for the past month.

Commissaries, which sell tax-free groceries at 20-35% of the cost of civilian stores, have been hit just as hard as off-base counterparts by panicked shoppers preparing for stay-at-home orders in response to the pandemic. In some instances, such as at Joint Base Andrews, Md., service members have volunteered to help keep these stores stocked for military families and veterans.

The bill follows previous legislation passed in August 2018 that has granted more veterans access to base grocery stores. Primarily retirees and 100% disabled veterans earn commissary access beyond their military career. In January, about 3 million people, including service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers, were granted access to shop at base grocery stores through the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

In that first month, those new customers made 70,676 transactions and averaged about $72 per purchase, said Kevin L. Robin- son, spokesman for the Defense Commissary Agency.

"We’ve experienced a definite increase in new patrons shopping at several locations" he said in February, before the coronavirus sent grocery stores reeling.

Several Florida bases, including MacDill Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Patrick Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Jacksonville, saw some of the highest numbers of shoppers who gained commissary access this year, Robinson said. MacDill, Pensacola and Patrick all saw more than 1,000 transactions from new customers in January, while Jacksonville saw numbers rise through March.

Those new customers did have to clear the hurdle of gaining access to military bases because not everyone in these categories no longer have a Defense Department identification card. A Veteran Health Identification card with “Purple Heart,” “Former POW” or “Service Connected” printed on the front is required for access into the installation and entry to the stores, according to the DeCA website. Caregivers need a memo from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a federally compliant, government-issued photo ID.

Similarly, Gold Star family members who could be eligible through Mucarsel-Powell’s bill would need to register with the base nearby to gain access to facilities, she said.

Mucarsel-Powell said she is working to gain more co-sponsors, and potentially pass the bill in May by a suspension vote. And get much-needed help to these families.

thayer.rose@stripes.com Twitter: @Rose_L_Lori

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**Correction**

An April 15 story should have stated that four members of ISIS sleeper cells were apprehended by Syrian Democratic Forces in recent raids, the U.S.-based group said.

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thayer.rose@stripes.com Twitter: @Rose_L_Lori
Soldiers qualifying for arctic fighting get redesigned tab

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Army is now recognizing soldiers who have earned the distinctive skill of warfighting in harsh winter conditions with a newly upgraded and repositioned arctic tab.

The tab was redesigned in November to more closely track the arched shape and placement of tabs worn by Rangers and sappers, U.S. Army Alaska said in a news release Thursday.

The tab, previously rectangular shaped, is to be worn below the unit patch. As was the case with the tab’s previous design, soldiers earn it after completing either the Northern Warfare Training Center’s Cold Weather Leaders Course or the Cold Weather Orientation Course held at the Black Rapids Training Site. The center is managed from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Graduating soldiers are then qualified to implement basic, cold weather and ski training programs within their units. The first soldiers to earn the new tab graduated in January from the Cold Weather Leaders Course, which is the hub for training units and their leaders in warfighting capabilities in cold weather and mountain operations, the news release said.

The redesigned tab got the go-ahead under a policy approved by Gen. Paul J. LaCamera, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, the news release said. The tab is intended to convey the importance of the Army’s capability to train and fight in an arctic environment.

“I think what makes U.S. Army Alaska and our units unique is that we are the Army’s proponent for cold weather training,” Maj. Gen. Peter B. Andrysiak Jr., commander of U.S. Army Alaska, said in the news release. “We not only live here, we thrive here, and I want to make sure the tab properly recognizes our unique expertise.”

Under the policy approved by LaCamera, soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Pacific units who are qualified for arctic operations can wear the tab at any of the command’s installations within its area of operation, the news release said. This includes major subordinate commands and units reporting directly to U.S. Army Pacific.

Soldiers on temporary duty or deployed outside the Pacific theater, however, are not authorized to wear the tab.

“As a leader, it is important I know and understand the harsh, arctic conditions and the impact it can have on Soldiers and equipment,” Capt. Robin Furrer, a recent graduate of the leader course, said in the news release. “Soldiers operate and move differently in this area because of the weather and structural features. So, it is important for us to have the knowledge to plan, make decisions, and adapt to these conditions.”

In the news release, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Dillingham, the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Alaska, described the Alaskan-based cold-weather soldiers as “the first line of defense in the West and the last line of defense in the Pacific.”

“With northern Alaska, the Bering Sea and Bering Strait, we are the nation’s deterrent posture,” Dillingham said.

Raytheon chosen for new nuclear cruise missile

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force has selected Raytheon Co. to continue development of its next-generation air-launched nuclear cruise missile to equip its B-52 and B-21 bombers, dropping a rival bid by Lockheed Martin Corp.

The decision to focus on Raytheon as the sole contractor for the Long-Range Standoff Weapon program came after extensive evaluations of the two bids, the service said in a statement Monday.

The choice to focus on the Raytheon design means the company has the edge to become the single contractor for engineering, manufacturing and deployment of the new missiles when the contract is concluded.

The Air Force plans to procure 1,000-1,100 LRSOs to replace its nuclear AGM-86B Air-Launched Cruise Missiles, which have been in service since the early 1980s. The service has said it plans to start fielding them on its B-52 and B-21 bombers by 2030.

Purchasing costs for the missiles has been estimated at $10.8 billion, a Congressional Research Service report said in January.

“LRSO will be a critical contributor to the air-launched portion of America’s nuclear triad,” said Wes Kremer, president of Raytheon Missiles and Defense. “Providing a modernized capability to the U.S. Air Force will strengthen our nation’s deterrence posture.”

Military applies to expand Ariz. testing range

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The federal Bureau of Land Management is working with the military to allow for the continuation of testing, training and national defense at the Barry M. Goldwater Range in southern Arizona.

The BLM is processing the military’s request to extend the current reservation of 1.7 million acres of public lands along the U.S.-Mexico border for defense purposes.

The Air Force and Navy also seek the withdrawal of the acreage from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws including mining, mineral leasing and geothermal leasing. The Navy is acting on behalf of the Marine Corps.

In addition, the Air Force has requested the withdrawal of 2,366 acres of contiguous public lands.

The requests must be approved by Congress.

Attacks target police, governor in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two separate bombings in Afghanistan targeted a senior police chief and a provincial governor on Tuesday, killing three policemen and wounding several people, including the police chief, local officials said.

In the first attack, police chief Ghulam Sakhi Ghafoori was on his way to inspect the security situation in the volatile district of Paeto in the central Day Kundi province when his car struck a roadside bomb. Three policemen in his convoy were killed and the police chief was wounded, along with two others, according to police spokesman Gul Aqa Sujadi.

In the second attack, a suicide car bombing struck Gov. Mohammad Fahim’s car in eastern Khost province, wounding two of his bodyguards and 12 civilians, said the governor’s spokesman, Talib Mangal.

Shortly after the attack, Fidai, who was unharmed in the explosion, appealed to the Taliban in a Facebook live video asking them to stop attacks and join the peace process. There was no claim of responsibility for either of the attacks and the Taliban did not immediately respond to the governor’s appeal.

Since the signing of a peace agreement between the U.S. and the Taliban in February, the insurgents have stopped attacking U.S. and NATO troops but have struck Afghan forces in outlying areas.

The violence has continued even as the country faces the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic that threatens to overwhelm Afghanistan’s war-ravaged health system.
Army exemption allows some PCS moves

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Top Army officials expect to allow hundreds of soldiers to make scheduled permanent changes of station in the coming months following less-restrictive measures approved in the Pentagon’s new stop-move order.

The latest version of the Pentagon’s stop-move order, which is scheduled to last through June 30, is meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus among its troops. Issued Monday, the order allows senior service officials to grant new exemptions for service members whose new assignments are deemed essential to the Defense Department’s overall mission. The Army is working to prioritize who among the 48,000 soldiers on orders to PCS in the summer can move under the new exemption, said Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, the Army’s personnel chief.

“There’s not a one size that fits all to this,” Seamands told reporters Tuesday in a telephone news briefing. “We’ve left it up to the command [gaining a new soldier] to say why this person is mission essential — it may be the [military occupational specialty] they have, it may be the strength in the location, and why this incoming person needs to be there.”

Once the command identifies a soldier’s move as mission essential that unit must then coordinate with the soldier’s current unit to determine if they can afford to let that person move, Seamands said. If they can afford to lose that soldier, then the request will be sent to the Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph Martin, who can grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

So far, Martin has received more than 500 requests from soldiers seeking exemptions to allow them to move and hundreds more were anticipated, Seamands said. It was not clear Tuesday precisely how many Martin was likely to approve, Seamands said.

In addition to the new exemptions allowing for soldiers to PCS for mission-essential reasons, the military services can also grant exemptions to the stop-move order for reasons of personal hardship or if a service member is slated for a humanitarian mission.

Seamands said the Army would first prioritize moving soldiers who have been stuck in limbo after they had already begun the PCS process when the initial stop-move order was issued in March, freezing them in place.

“If you were at Fort Hood, and you were out-processing and getting ready to go to Korea and then the stop-move happened, you’ve been remaining in place,” the general said as an example. “What we want to do is get those people to where they need to be able to move on to their next location.”

Seamands said if a person could likely be approved for moves before the new order ends include certain medical personnel, some drill sergeants and some recruiters, Seamands said.

Individuals in those specialties are also likely to be among the first to PCS once the order is lifted, he said. Other priorities for determining who will move first will include the soldier populations at military installations — which posts can quickly take more soldiers or afford to let them move on.

Army officials hope moving some soldiers before the end of the stop-move order will somewhat decrease the burden of conducting about five months of moves in July, August and September, assuming the order is not extended further. They also expect to see an increase in soldiers, who were issued PCS orders before March, volunteering to stay at their current duty station for an extra year, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Calloway, the commander of the service’s Human Resources Command.

So far, the Army has had about 100 requests for that unusual program the service approved in March called “stabilizing in place,” Seamands said the service could consider allowing soldiers to stabilize even longer than one year, but a decision on that has yet to be made.

“As we move to the post-[coronavirus] environment … we have to balance [combat] readiness and what is best for the soldiers and their families,” he said. “I think Army leadership has a very open mind to stabilizing and allowing people to stay in place longer, but we have to be able to maintain readiness across the force.”

SHIP: Death of Vinson sailor not related to COVID-19

Associated Press

BREMERTON, Wash. — A U.S. Navy sailor has died onboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, due to causes unrelated to the coronavirus, officials said.

Spokeswoman Miranda Williams said the first-class petty officer was found unresponsive in his work center on Saturday, the Kitsap Sun reported.

“Given the facts presented so far, this is not a COVID-related death,” she said, adding that he did not exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 and had “appeared in good health.”

The Navy did not identify the officer. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the death.

The death comes after the USS Carl Vinson emerged from dry dock earlier this month after a $367 million overhaul at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Navy officials said. Previously, the Navy has publicly identified a Carl Vinson sailor who tested positive for COVID-19, but leaders have confirmed that the sailor was on leave and never made it on board the ship, officials said.

Sailor accused of being neo-Nazi recruiter kicked out of Navy

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Navy officials have kicked out a sailor who was neo-Nazi recruiter, according to a study by Gizmodo and multiple “swattings,” which involves falsely telling emergency dispatchers that a person is in immediate danger, sending police or SWAT teams to the unsuspecting person’s location.

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WASHINGTON — Top Navy officials have kicked out a sailor who was a neo-Nazi recruiter, according to a study by Gizmodo and their research into his alleged activities.

The Gizmodo story also stated Tarkington had recruited John Cameron Denton, who is a former leader of the Atomwaffen Division in Texas. Denton was arrested in February and charged for his role in the neo-Nazi activities.

According to the report, Tarkington was investigated by Naval Criminal Investigative Services following a story by Gizmodo in March that alleged he had been a “prolific Atomwaffen recruiter.”

The story in Gizmodo, a technology and design website, describes a leak of data from a former white supremacist online forum called Iron March that was a gathering and recruiting spot for neo-Nazi groups including Atomwaffen Division, which calls for overthrowing the U.S. government through violence. Gizmodo reported some of this leaked data included messages made by Tarkington under the username “The Yank” between 2013 to 2016, starting when he was about 15 years old.

Tarkington was administratively separated from the Navy last week, according to Cmdr. Ron Flanders, a spokesman with Naval Air Forces. Flanders said he could not get into specifics about why Tarkington was separated.

“We pride ourselves on being an organization where people from all backgrounds can thrive and serve as part of the Navy family. Anyone who doesn’t believe that is not welcome here,” Flanders said in a statement.

NCIS did not respond to questions about its investigation.

However, NCIS was looking into Tarkington’s alleged neo-Nazi recruiting activities, according to a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss some details of the investigation. There were no allegations that Tarkington was recruiting for the group while in the Navy, the official said.

Tarkington had been an aviation machinist’s mate at the airman apprentice rank assigned to the Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-41 at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., according to his service information provided by the Navy. He enlisted in July 2019 and has he had been a neo-Nazi recruiter.

Individuals in those specialties are also likely to be among the first to PCS once the order is lifted, he said. Other priorities for determining who will move first will include the soldier populations at military installations — which posts can quickly take more soldiers or afford to let them move on.

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RICKSTRA/STARS AND STRIPES

Navy officials have kicked out a sailor who was accused of being a neo-Nazi recruiter.

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RICKSTRA/STARS AND STRIPES

Navy officials have kicked out a sailor who was accused of being a neo-Nazi recruiter.
Recruits: Army continuing to take precautions amid welcoming new arrivals to basic training

FROM FRONT PAGE

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said last week that Fort Jackson had reported about 50 cases of the virus within its basic training program. The secretary said that the installations had managed the spread of the disease, which did not appear to be widening last week.

These cases were among 819 soldiers the Army reported to have tested positive for the coronavirus through Monday morning.

The service will ship significantly fewer recruits than it typically would in the coming weeks. April and May normally have among the smallest number of recruits shipping per month just before high school and college graduations. It would be more problematic for the service if the pandemic stretches into the summer, as June, July and August are traditionally the service’s busiest months for sending new recruits to basic training, Army officials said.

Among the measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus among new recruits, the Army is screening future soldiers 15 days before they ship and again 72 and 24 hours before shipping. The screening includes temperature checks and a questionnaire aimed at determining potential exposure to the virus.

Recruits are screened again when they arrive at a military entrance processing center and once more when they arrive at their basic training location, the Army said.

Recruit classes are isolated together for the first two weeks of basic training, which will incorporate most of the required classroom work, the Army said. The service, when possible, will follow health guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus, including social distancing and the use of face coverings.

While the Army halted sending recruits to basic training, it never stopped training people who were already in initial entrance training programs. The Army plans to continue sending soldiers to advanced, job-specific training after they complete basic training and then on to their first duty stations, an official said Monday.

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERLUTERN, Germany — Retired Air Force command chief master sergeant Juan Lewis is usually the one encouraging hundreds of thousands of followers on social media and others in person to be positive and resilient in the face of life’s challenges.

But over the past few weeks, Lewis—who is widely known as the “Fired Up Chief” for the uplifting talks he gave to airmen—was the one in need of support and motivation as he fought for his life after contracting coronavirus.

“This thing, it hit me so hard that it made me want to die,” Lewis told Stars and Stripes over the phone from his hospital bed in the Dutch city of Sittard, which lies across the border from Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base in Germany.

Lewis works there as the deputy commander of the 470th Air Base Squadron, which falls under the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base and supports about 2,300 Americans working for NATO.

Geilenkirchen is in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany’s most populous state, which has had nearly 29,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 857 deaths, according to the latest figures from the Robert Koch Institute, the country’s public health agency.

Lewis, 54, is unsure how he got the virus.

“I was careful. I washed my hands, social distancing and everything else that you can think of,” he said.

He’s physically fit and rarely hurt trying to breathe, the fever, the virus sapped his mental and physical strength, he said.

“I was like, ‘Lord, just go ahead, I want to die in the toilet,’ the pain was so bad,” he said. “It hurt trying to breathe, the fever, just the chills.”

He’s thankful for the many messages of support from friends, airmen he’s mentored, even strangers who found him on Facebook.

“I didn’t get to read them all but the ones I did get to read were very, very inspiring and encouraged me to keep pushing,” he said.

Months of recovery lie ahead, he’s been told. Walking a few steps with a walker, even brushing his teeth, is arduous. He’s lost 40 pounds, prompting a friend to joke that “a KFC chicken leg has more meat on the bones than mine,” Lewis said.

The virus is still in his lungs, he said. His wife also tested positive for the virus but has recovered.

He can’t have visitors at the hospital, but on Sunday, his daughter called and told him to look out the window of his sixth-floor room.

She and her boyfriend “were outside waving at me. That made me feel so good, it brought tears to my eyes,” he said.

He’s posted several times from his hospital bed about his fight with the virus, hoping “to make people aware” and urge them to take the pandemic seriously, he said, even as some Americans demand that lockdown measures be lifted and the economy reopened.

“I understand people in the States, some of them want to get back to normal, but the virus is still out there; it might even come back stronger.”

“And I don’t know if that’s the price they really want to pay,” he said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Recruits shipping per month just among the smallest number of soldiers normally have April and May normally have soldiers the Army reported to have tested positive for the coronavirus last week. The installations had managed to have the virus within its basic training. It had not been fit from running, Lewis said. His doctors told him that if he had not been fit from running, he likely would have died, Lewis said. His battle with the coronavirus started in mid-March when he came down with what he thought was a cold. His times for the 5-mile run he went on most mornings were around three minutes slower than usual, and he had a productive cough—not a dry one, which the CDC says is a common coronavirus symptom.

One day, while out with his wife, “I’m walking slower and slower and she’s, like, ‘Why are you walking so slow?’”

His doctor told him to self-isolate, but hole up in his home, the symptoms worsened.

“I had body aches, a fever, stomach cramps, sweating at night,” he said. “It was just doing a number.”

He went to the emergency room, and doctors took him to the intensive care unit on April 4, he said. There, a test showed that he had COVID-19.

As the Fired Up Chief, Lewis has preached and practiced the power of positive thinking, but the virus sapped his mental and physical strength, he said.

“I was like, ‘Lord, just go ahead, I want to die in the toilet,’ the pain was so bad,” he said. “It hurt trying to breathe, the fever, just the chills.”

He’s thankful for the many messages of support from friends, airmen he’s mentored, even strangers who found him on Facebook.

“I didn’t get to read them all but the ones I did get to read were very, very inspiring and encouraged me to keep pushing,” he said.

Months of recovery lie ahead, he’s been told. Walking a few steps with a walker, even brushing his teeth, is arduous. He’s lost 40 pounds, prompting a friend to joke that “a KFC chicken leg has more meat on the bones than mine,” Lewis said.

The virus is still in his lungs, he said. His wife also tested positive for the virus but has recovered.

He can’t have visitors at the hospital, but on Sunday, his daughter called and told him to look out the window of his sixth-floor room.

She and her boyfriend “were outside waving at me. That made me feel so good, it brought tears to my eyes,” he said.

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svan.jennifer@stripes.com
**Social distancing fairy raises awareness, lifts spirits on bases**

By Chad Garland  
Stars and Stripes

An unusual sprite flitted across U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach recently with her sidekick, a hand sanitizer bottle with butterfly wings, to remind troops to remain socially connected while physically distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Dubbed Desse the Physical Distancing Fairy, the frilly and feathery character was the brainchild of Victoria Hanrahan and Kimberly Stockton. Hanrahan is entertainment director for Ansbach’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Stockton is the costume specialist for THEATRIX, Installation Management Command-Europe’s theatrical costume collection and workshop.

“I was speaking to my supervisor and he thought it was a cool idea,” Hanrahan said in a garrison statement. “It just took off.”

Stockton, dressed as the winged and bespectacled creature with a silvery bouffant, colorful cloth face covering and white gloves, visited places where people gather on base, such as the post office and dining facility, to remind them of disease prevention measures in a memorable way. She'll continue to do so randomly, the command statement said.

“(The visit) truly brightened my day,” said Dina DeBoer, family advocacy program specialist with Army Community Service, quoted in the statement.

garland.chad@stripes.com  
twitter: @chadgarland

**German state calls for masks in stores**

By Chad Garland  
Stars and Stripes

Bavaria and other parts of Germany. State Minister President Winfried Kretschmann said the reason masks are now mandated is that too few people were following the state's recommendation that mouth and nose coverings be worn in public.

In Germany, some restrictions have been lifted as the pace of new coronavirus cases in the country begins to slow. On Monday, small businesses were allowed to open provided they maintain hygiene precautions and social distancing.

Military personnel on bases in Stuttgart and elsewhere are already required to wear masks when 6 feet of social distance can't be maintained. Masks also are generally required for troops in Germany when visiting on-base shops, such as the commissary.

news@stripes.com

**Most guardsmen in virus fight approved for benefits, health coverage**

By Rose L. Thayer  
Stars and Stripes

For weeks, National Guard members have stood on the front lines of the coronavirus fight and now the majority of the 36,750 troops deployed in every state and U.S. territory are working under a federal status that offers more benefits and military health coverage.

As of Monday, about 28,700 Guard members deployed within 38 states, three territories and Washington are approved for federal funds known as Title 32, according to information from the National Guard Bureau.

It provides governors federal funding for troops while maintaining state control of missions and allows troops to gain further benefits and protections such as worker’s compensation, a death gratuity, GI Bill accrual, retirement points, Tricare health coverage and a housing allowance.

Guard missions in the fight against the pandemic include going into nursing homes to test patients and staff, collecting the dead alongside local morgues, and driving-thru testing sites where thousands of Americans are swabbed for the virus while sitting in their vehicles, according to the bureau.

The Pentagon reported Monday that 672 National Guard members have tested positive for coronavirus, though it does delineate between troops who are activated and others who are not. Across all military branches, 3,438 service members have tested positive.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com  
twitter: @Rose_Lori
Citing COVID-19, Trump says he’ll halt immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said that he will sign an executive order “to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States” because of the coronavirus.

“In light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens, I will be signing an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!” Trump tweeted late Monday.

He offered no details about which immigration programs might be affected by the order.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany issued a statement Tuesday echoing Trump’s past comments about immigration. She provided no details on what the executive order would entail.

“At a time when Americans are looking to get back to work, action is necessary,” she said.

National security adviser Robert O’Brien earlier Tuesday cast the president’s announcement as a move to protect the American health. O’Brien said the temporary immigration halt would not be “dissimilar” to limits on travel to the U.S. from China that Trump put in place in January.

“We’re trying to do everything, the president’s trying to do everything he can to put the health of the American people first during this crisis,” O’Brien said on Fox News Channel. “So this is one step. It’s not dissimilar to the restrictions on travel from China that he implemented back on Jan. 29 at the very outset of this public health crisis.”

Schumer: Deal reached on major parts of $500B virus-aid package

By Andrew Taylor and Lisa Mascaro

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday agreement has been reached on major elements of a nearly $500 billion coronavirus aid package for small businesses, including additional help for hospitals and virus testing.

Schumer said post-midnight talks among Democratic and Republican leaders, along with Trump administration officials, including White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, produced a breakthrough agreement on the package.

“We have a deal and I think we’ll pass it today,” Schumer said on CNN. He cautioned that staff are still “doting the i’s and crossing the t’s.”

A Tuesday afternoon Senate session could provide an opportunity to quickly pass the legislation if it comes together quickly, though the Democratic-controlled House is planning on calling lawmakers to Washington for a vote later in the week.

A senior Senate GOP leadership aide cautioned that the measure is not finalized and that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has yet to publicly sign off on it.

Schumer said that Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were in close contact with McConnell during the endgame talks.

“Every major issue was resolved,” Schumer said. “So yes, I believe we have a deal.”

Most of the funding, more than $300 billion, would go to boost a small-business payroll loan program that ran out of money last week. Additional help would be given to hospitals, and billions more would be spent to boost testing for the virus, a key step in building the confidence required to reopen state economies.

The emerging draft measure — originally designed by Republicans as a $250 billion stopgap to replenish the payroll subsidies for smaller businesses — has grown into the second-largest of the four coronavirus response bills so far. Democratic demands have caused the measure to balloon, though they likely will be denied the money they want to help struggling state and local governments.

The Senate met for a brief pro forma session Monday that could have provided a window to act on the upcoming measure under fast-track procedures requiring unanimous consent to advance legislation, but it wasn’t ready in time.

McConnell, R-Ky., set up the Tuesday session in the hope that an agreement will be finished by then. McConnell warned, however, that he wouldn’t know whether the Senate could pass it by voice vote until the measure is unveiled.

The House has announced a vote on the pending package could come later in the week, possibly on Thursday, according to a schedule update from Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. Hoyer also announced that the chamber will vote on a temporary rules change to permit limited proxy voting during the COVID-19 crisis.

With small-business owners reeling during a coronavirus outbreak that has shuttered much economic activity, the administration has been pressing for an immediate replenishment of the paycheck protection program. But Democrats sought additional money in a replay of the tactical jockeying that caused the recently passed rescue measure to spiral to about $2 trillion.

Talks have dragged as the two sides have quarreled over the design of a nationwide testing regime, among other unsettled pieces.

Democrats were rebuffed in a request for another $150 billion in aid to revenue-strapped state governments but did win the ability to used recently appropriated federal funds to cover revenue losses from the economic shutdown in stead of using it only for costs related to suppressing COVID-19.

The administration says further state aid will come in the next relief bill. There’s also pressure to help cities with populations of less than 500,000 that were shut out of the massive $2 trillion relief bill that passed last month.

Schumer said Monday that he had talked to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and that Powell said the Fed is working to open up the Main Street Lending program to nonprofits and municipal governments.

The accord links the administration’s effort to replenish the small-business fund with Democrats’ demands for more money for hospitals and virus testing. It would give more than $300 billion for the small-business payroll program, with $60 billion or so set aside for lenders that seek to focus on underbanked neighborhoods and rural areas.
Oil prices continue to crumble; stocks around the world drop

**By Stan Choe**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil’s chaotic collapse deepened and stocks around the world dropped Tuesday as markets remain upside down amid the economic carnage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

By late afternoon oil prices plunged below zero for the first time, traders in one corner of the U.S. crude market were still close to paying others to take it off their hands.

That’s a market quirk created by a glut of oil, which has traders running out of places to store it in the near term.

Prices are still above zero for oil elsewhere in the world and for deliveries further into the future. But they slid sharply Tuesday on the same ultimate concern: A global economy incapacitated by the virus outbreak doesn’t need to burn as much fuel. Airplanes are parked, cars are garaged and factories are idled with millions of workers losing their jobs every week.

The crumbling oil market dragged on stocks, and energy producers around the world sank sharply from Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. to Caspian Energy Co. S&P 500 was down nearly 1.5% after the first half hour of trading as a wave of losses across Europe and Asia.

Treasury prices rose, sending yields lower, in another sign of the worry washing over markets.

Even with all the chaos in the oil markets, some signs of economic activity on the horizon were poking through elsewhere. The Senate’s Democratic leader said that negotiations reached agreement on a nearly $500 billion proposal to provide more loans and aid to small businesses and hospitals. Georgia’s governor, meanwhile, announced plans late Monday to allow gyms, hair salons and other businesses to reopen as early as Friday.

RISING OPTIMISM AMONG SOME INVESTORS that infections may be starting to level off in some areas and that some parts of the economy could reopen have helped stocks rally recently, with the S&P 500 up more than 20% since hitting a low in late March. The rally got its start after the Federal Reserve and Congress promised massive amounts of aid for the economy.

But the data coming in on the economy in the here and now continues to be dismal. A report Tuesday showed that sales of previously occupied homes in the United States fell even more than economists expected last month.

The economic pain is most clear in the oil market.

A barrel of U.S. oil for delivery in June dropped $4.86, or 23.8%, to $15.56. Brent crude, the international oil standard, fell nearly 22% to $20.02 per barrel.

“We could merely be in the eye of the hurricane as the epicenters of its rage remain centered around demand devastation and crude oil oversupply,” Stephen Innes of AxiCorp said in a commentary.

“At a minimum, oil prices will be the last asset class to recover from lockdown” and only when travel restrictions are lifted, he said.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 368 points, or 1.6%, at 23,282, and the Nasdaq was down 1.5%.

**JOHANNESBURG**

The U.N. General Assembly has demanded global action to quickly scale up the development of and access to medical supplies and equipment to battle the pandemic, while the World Health Organization warned Tuesday that rushing to ease coronavirus lockdowns could lead to a resurgence of the outbreak.

The U.N. resolution asks Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to work with the WHO and make recommendations to ensure that all have equitable and timely access to testing, medical supplies, drugs and future vaccines, especially in developing countries.

African officials have been outspoken about the need for medical supplies across the 54-nation continent, where health systems have historically been underfunded and will be overwhelmed by the virus. Even under a best-case scenario, Africa will need $44 billion for testing, personal protective equipment and treatment of the coronavirus, according to a report last week by the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. The worst-case scenario estimates that $446 billion would be needed.

WHO said that the number of beds in intensive care units available to treat COVID-19 patients in 43 African countries is less than 5,000. That’s about five beds per 1 million people over the next four weeks. Europe has already seen 22 million people infected with the virus. Even under a best-case scenario, European countries have been agitating to restart the economy, singling out Democratic-led states and egging on protesters complaining that the shutdowns are destroying their livelihoods and trampling their rights.

In several states — most of them Republican-led — governors said they saw signs that the coronavirus curve was flattening, making it possible to start reopening businesses and public schools.

But governors from many other U.S. states said that they lacked the financial resources they need and warned that they could get hit by a second wave of infections, as people with no symptoms can still spread the disease.

“Who in this great state actually believes that they care more about jet skiing than saving the lives of the elderly or the vulnerable?” Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer asked, referring to restrictions in her state.

“This action isn’t about our individual right to gather. It’s about our parents’ right to live.”

Worldwide, the virus has infected nearly 2.5 million people and caused more than 170,000 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University count. The U.S. is the hardest-hit country, with nearly 788,000 infections and more than 42,000 deaths.

The true toll of the pandemic is believed to be much higher, in part because of limited testing, difficulties in counting the dead and attempts by some governments to hide the extent of their outbreaks.

Afghans wait to receive free wheat donated by the government ahead of the upcoming holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan during a quarantine for the coronavirus in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)
College seniors facing job worries and family stress

By MaryClaire Dale
Associated Press

Sent home from college because of the coronavirus outbreak, Carter Oselett is back in his childhood bedroom, paying rent on an empty apartment near campus and occasionally fighting with his parents over the television remote. He's handing the grocery shopping for an aunt recovering from COVID-19 and watching his mom, an optician, try to file for unemployment benefits.

His summer program at a university in Brazil has been canceled and he's not sure that he will graduate from Michigan State University in December as planned. And to top it off, he turned 21 quarantined at home with his folks.

"So much fun," Oselett said dryly from his family home in Macomb, about 100 miles from his East Lansing campus. "I got to buy a bottle of wine from our local grocer, and that was my big night.

For many of the nearly 2 million people expected to earn U.S. bachelor's degrees in 2020, the pandemic has taken away their housing, friends and long-held dreams of a graduation ceremony. Some college seniors have been jolted into instant "adulting" as they try to support themselves or struggling family members. For others, it's adulthood delayed, as their post-college work, travel or internship plans are nixed for a year or more.

"Adulting is a ladder to climb for a lot of our students on a good day. And these are certainly not good days," said Schreier, communications director for University and College Counseling Center Directors.

Axel Lopez, a junior at the University of California, Los Angeles, and sports photographer at The Daily Bruin, hoped to take a last look through the newspaper before moving to Utah this summer for a paralegal job. He's now quarantined in his off-campus apartment, taking his final term online. The expected job offer never came.

"It's a very uncertain time, considering just a couple of months ago, it seemed there was a surplus of jobs available," he said.

A first-generation college student who accompanied his mother, grew up in some cleaned up houses in Los Angeles, Lopez had dreams of hugging his mom at graduation and telling her, "Yeah, we did it!"

UCLA announced that its June commencement would be held online, then reconsidered after a backlash. The university has promised to hold an in-person celebration later.

"Even though we're going to have it in the next year, I feel it won't be the same," he said.

Not far from Lopez, Victoria Arevalo is back in her family's small two-bedroom apartment in west Los Angeles, where the bunk beds she shares with her older sister frame her appearance in online classes. She had hoped to stay at her apartment at nearby Loyola Marymount University, where she's studying communications, but knew that her family needed the refund she'd get if she left — her stepfather was furloughed from his warehouse job.

In the blink of an eye, Arevalo lost her paid TV news internship and lost her emotional "safe space," she said. "We're still trying to support ourselves or struggling family members. For some students, dreams of a graduation ceremony. And to top it off, he turned 21 quarantined at home with his folks.

"I'm just trying mentally to prepare myself," said Arevalo, 22, who moved to the U.S. from El Salvador as a child. "There's good days and bad days. It fluctuates."

For health sciences major Anali Reyes Vazquez, the sweeping turmoil has brought setbacks — her parents are out of work — but also a glimmer of opportunity.

The 21-year-old senior at Rutgers University in Camden, N.J., planned to find a job and start a part-time master's degree program come June. Now, she's holding off on signing a new lease in case she needs to move home to New Brunswick.

One of her final classes, though, is a course on medical translation, which could help her land a position amid the pandemic serving Spanish-speaking patients.

"There are people in need, even though it is a scary thought," she said.

Back in Michigan, Oselett finds his bedroom "a little smaller than I remember it."

He spends some of his time working for a California-based nonprofit called Rise, pairing college students who are in crisis because of campus shutdowns with emergency funding.

His classes, which have switched to pass/fail grading, involve a mix of posted assignments and videoconferencing.

"Everyone has sort of adapted to it, but it just doesn't feel as worthwhile," Oselett said. "No one wants to worry about learning right now.

Other times, he and his parents squabble over what to watch on television. He and his father like "Schitt's Creek." His mother? Not so much.

"We almost have too much time to watch TV and argue about it," he said.
Md. governor, wife procure 500K virus tests from S. Korea

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland has dramatically boosted its capacity to test for the new coronavirus with a shipment of 500,000 tests from a South Korean company, the administration announced Monday, noting his Korean-born wife played a major role in championing the $9 million purchase.

As states have scoured the world for testing supplies, Republican Gov. Larry Hogan asked wife Yumi Hogan on March 28 to help negotiate the purchase, tapping into the goodwill she has sought to foster between the state and South Korea. Hogan said 22 days of negotiations led to the shipment’s delivery Saturday.

The governor noted that President Donald Trump had told state officials the states need to focus on boosting their testing capacity.

“arthritis made it clear over and over again. They want the states to take the lead, and we have to go out and do it ourselves, and so that’s exactly where we are,” Hogan said at the news conference, flanked by the first lady.

The purchase was cited at Monday’s press briefing at the White House, with President Donald Trump opining that he didn’t believe it was necessary.

Alaska

JUNEAU — Mike Dunleavy said Alaskans soon could be making appointments at bars and restaurants, he said, while bershops and nail salons again, as the state looks to further reopen parts of the economy shut down or restricted over coronavirus concerns.

Dunleavy on Monday said the state’s numbers appear to be good and that it was moving toward a decision on how and when he might ease the restrictions that he issued March 30 and due to expire April 30.

Califonia

SACRAMENTO — Hundreds of protesters at the Capitol on Monday, even as Newsom continued to urge restraint, saying the worst thing state leaders could do is “make a decision that’s based on politics and frustration.”

He outlined his approval for some counties to gradually relax some restrictions amid a slowing spread of the coronavirus, saying he approved a plan by Ventura County in Southern California to reopen golf courses and spas.

Newsom promised an update Wednesday on how the state is screening and testing runners who have the virus, but Newsom has acknowledged that testing has been one of the state’s biggest challenges.

He said states need to lead on boosting their testing capacity.

Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday set May 8 as the date he wants to begin easing some pandemic restrictions, saying Pennsylvania had made sufficient progress against COVID-19 to warrant a gradual reopening of the economy.

All 12.8 million Pennsylvanians will have to stay home at least through that date, said Wolf, extending his existing stay-at-home order by another eight days.

But he suggested it might then be lifted in areas of the state where he believes the virus has not peaked yet.

Pennsylvania will also ease some restrictions on building construction and vehicle sales, Wolf announced at a video news conference as hundreds of protesters defying a ban on mass gatherings, staged an anti-shutdown rally at the Capitol.

Virginia

FALLS CHURCH — For the third straight day, Virginia health authorities are reporting a drop in the state’s number of new coronavirus cases.

The Virginia Department of Health reported 453 new cases in the last 24 hours for a total of 8,990. The death toll increased two to 227 to 300 as the pandemic continues.

The drop in new cases marks the first time since the virus arrived in Virginia that the state has reported three consecutive days of declines, according to data kept by the Virginia Public Access Project.

Gov. Ralph Northam and federal officials have indicated they want to see a 14-day trend of declining cases before phasing in an end to the restrictions on businesses.

Northam said at a news conference Monday that while “the numbers have slowed down a bit over the weekend, we still have 500 new cases each day.” He said he expects based on computer modeling that Virginia cases will not peak until later this week.

Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Officials have identified seven people who appear to have contracted the coronavirus through activities related to the April 7 election in Wisconsin, Milwaukee’s health commissioner said.

Commissioner Jeannette Kowalik said six of the cases involve Milwaukee voters and one is a Milwaukee poll worker, the Journal Sentinel reported.

Officials hope to have additional information on the cases by the end of the week, including whether any of them were concentrated in any of the city’s five polling places or if any resulted in death, Kowalik said Monday.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm said Monday there were no signs yet of a surge in cases from the election as some feared. Palm noted, however, that if cases do exist symptoms may not have appeared yet.

Tuesday marks the 14th day since the election, which is a time frame during which health officials say symptoms typically appear.

Protesters in Phoenix crammed together in a park across from the Statehouse to hear from two state lawmakers and others before marching toward Ducey’s office. Some went inside the building that houses the Republican’s offices.

Ducey has been cautious in describing the spread of the coronavirus but acknowledged that testing has been limited and that houses the Republican’s offices.

Electronic medical procedures.

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Dem donors feel pinch amid virus

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Well-to-do donors gathered last August at the sprawling Charlotte, N.C., home of Erskine Bowles, a former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, where they nibbled finger food, sipped wine and listened to Joe Biden.

Last week they again joined Bowles and his wife, Chandall. But this time it was for a far less intimate affair: a fundraiser held by video conference that Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, joined from the makeshift studio in the basement of his Delaware home.

The coronavirus shutdown has forced Democratic donors to forgo the opulent fundraisers that allow them to rub shoulders with powerful elected leaders and candidates.

During the Democratic primary, progressive candidates and activists condemned big-dollar affairs. But they have become a practical necessity for Biden that is sure to rankle progressives who point to an army of grassroots donors contributing small amounts online as the antidote to big money in politics.

As the coronavirus punishes the economy and swamps the health care system, the poor and middle class are among the hardest hit, but all ensuring that Democratic well-heeled donors will have to bear the cost of the party’s effort against President Donald Trump in November.

Bowles said that the pandemic has delivered “economic hits ... to everybody, regardless of their station” but that the Democratic donor class remains engaged.

“When I say raising this money was easy, it really was,” he said of the virtual event.

Some deep-pocketed Democratic fundraisers have been wary.

“There’s nobody more patriarchic than Democratic donors who write large checks, because they are giving against their own self-interest,” said Kirk Wagar, a Democratic donor, former ambassador and fundraiser who was Florida finance chair for Barack Obama’s campaign.

The role money will play in the presidential campaign is complicated and may not be the arm’s race that it has been in previous contests. But just how much of it will be needed in an abbreviated campaign that has been ground to a halt by the virus is not clear, especially in a context between a president who dominates the news media landscape and a former vice president with near universal name recognition.

Wealthy donors were always going to play a major role financing the general election. But Biden did a poor job raising money during the primary and was running perilously low on funds before his big victory in the South Carolina primary upended the race.

He’s now up against Trump and a Republican National Committee that have already stockpiled $240 million as of the end of March. Biden reported Monday that he took in $46.6 million in March, though less than half of it came from small-dollar donors who gave $200 or less. And according to reports previously released by the campaign, most of that, $33 million, was raised in the first half of the month before financial markets plummeted and much of the country went into lock down.

He’s since enjoyed a surge in online fundraising, with the campaign saying it raised more than $5 million in the days surrounding endorsements from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and progressive former rivals Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. But Biden’s financial concerns are enough that he’s yet to announce any significant staff hires across many key battleground states.

And the campaign hasn’t trumped months’ worth of television ad buys ahead of the fall campaign.

“Trump is raising hundreds of millions of dollars, and we’re definitely going to need the help of big-dollar donors to beat him — it’s just the reality,” said Marc Stanley, a Democratic donor and trial attorney from Dallas.

Up for the primary and was running perilously low on funds before his big victory in the South Carolina primary upended the race.

US appeals judge’s order to give detained migrants beds in Ariz.

Associated Press
PHOENIX — The Trump administration on Monday appealed a federal court order requiring the U.S. Border Patrol to provide beds, blankets, showers, quality food and medical evaluations to migrants held in many Arizona facilities longer than 48 hours.

In February, U.S. District Judge David C. Bury ruled in favor of migrants who sued nearly five years ago over what they called dangerously crowded and inhumane conditions in Arizona’s Tucson Sector, which covers most of the state.

Bury wrote that the Border Patrol and its parent agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, “administer a detention system that deprives detainees, who are held in CBP stations, Tucson Sector, longer than 48 hours, of conditions of confinement that meet basic human needs.”

The judge issued the final order last week, calling on the government to provide actual beds, not sleeping mats, and washable blankets, not the thin, foil-type ones provided now. It also requires that immigrants detained longer than two days get meals approved by a nutritionist and assessed by a doctor, nurse or other medical professional.

Migrants have long decried conditions in Border Patrol facilities, now infamous known as hieleras, or iceboxes, filing the lawsuit in June 2015. Video shown during the January trial showed a man walking over body after body in an attempt to reach a bathroom. His cell was so crowded, migrants were sleeping in the bathrooms, too.

The government has long said that the facilities are meant for short-term stays and that immigrants only remain for extended periods when other agencies don’t have the capacity to take them in.

President Donald Trump’s administration didn’t list a reason for its appeal. But government attorneys argued in court that no constitutional violations had been proven and that the Border Patrol has taken steps to reduce time in custody. An attorney also said at trial that there wasn’t funding to build facilities with beds.

The order applies only to the Tucson Sector, which includes eight facilities where migrants are held before they are deported or transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Supreme Court: Criminal juries must be unanimous to convict

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that criminal juries in state criminal trials must be unanimous to convict a defendant, settling a quirk of constitutional law that had allowed divided votes to result in convictions in Louisiana and Oregon.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court that the practice is inconsistent with the Constitution’s right to a jury trial and that it should be discarded as a vestige of Jim Crow laws in Louisiana and racial, ethnic and religious bigotry that led to its adoption in the first place.

“In fact, no one before us contests any of this; courts in both Louisiana and Oregon have frankly acknowledged that race was a motivating factor in the adoption of their States’ respective non-unanimity rules,” Gorsuch said.

The justices’ 6-3 vote overturned the conviction of Evangelo Ramos. He is serving a life sentence in Louisiana for killing a woman after a jury voted 10-2 to convict him in 2016. Oregon is the only other state that allows for non-unanimous convictions for some crimes.

Louisiana voters changed the law for crimes committed beginning in 2019.

Now the same rules will apply in all 50 states and in the federal system: Juries must vote unanimously for conviction.

“We are heartened that the Court has held, once and for all, that the promise of the Sixth Amendment fully applies in Louisiana, rejecting any concept of second-class justice, “ Ramos’ lawyer, Ben Cohen, said in a statement.

“In light of the COVID-19 crisis, it is essential that prisoners who are wrongly incarcerated be given the chance for release as soon as possible,” The Oregon District Attorneys Association said in a statement.

“The government has long said that the facilities are meant for short-term stays and that immigrants only remain for extended periods when other agencies don’t have the capacity to take them in. President Donald Trump’s administration didn’t list a reason for its appeal. But government attorneys argued in court that no constitutional violations had been proven and that the Border Patrol has taken steps to reduce time in custody. An attorney also said at trial that there wasn’t funding to build facilities with beds.

The order applies only to the Tucson Sector, which includes eight facilities where migrants are held before they are deported or transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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“that a change to unanimous verdicts could make criminal convictions more difficult. However, it is a hallmark of our justice system that it should be difficult to take someone’s liberty.”

The outcome will affect defendants who are still appealing their convictions. But for defendants whose cases are final, it will take another round of lawsuits to figure out whether the high court ruling applies to them.
Police keep battling uptick of unrest in locked-down Paris

PARIS — Paris police are facing a modest uptick of unrest in the oft-troubled suburbs of the locked-down French capital, making a small number of arrests after fires were set and fireworks lobbed to shatter the calm imposed by stay-home measures to counter the coronavirus.

A scattering of vehicle and trash can blazes and fireworks explosions on the outskirts of Paris this week have been far milder than previous outbreaks of violence so far. But the renewed tensions are also a reminder of policing difficulties that have long simmered in troubled neighborhoods of the city before the virus lockdown forced most people indoors.

Paris police said that officers arrested nine people in two suburbs overnight Tuesday. They were suspected of either possessing fireworks or gathering together to commit violence.

A possible trigger for the flare-up appears to have been a traffic accident this past weekend involving a police car and a motorcyclist who was injured. Police reported that projectiles were thrown at officers following the crash Saturday evening.

The French lockdown, in place since March 17, has been particularly tough for families jammed together in small apartments in the poorer Paris suburbs. The stay-home orders and police patrols to enforce them have also disrupted underground economies that are centered around drug-dealing and other crime in unruly projects.

PARIS — Russian Bolshoi Ballet principal dancers Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov attend an online training with their ballet partners at home in Moscow. Russians from many walks of life are struggling to adapt to working remotely because of the coronavirus outbreak. The shutdown has driven many businesses to the verge of collapse and made millions jobless, according to estimates.

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Parliament is going back to work, and the political authorities have a message for lawmakers: Stay away.

U.K. legislators and most parliamentary staff were sent home in late March as part of a nationwide lockdown to slow the growing spread of the coronavirus. With more than 16,500 virus deaths in Britain and criticism growing of the government's response to the pandemic, legislators are returning Tuesday — at least virtually — to grapple with the crisis.

House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle plans to preside over an almost-empty chamber, with space being made for a maximum of 50 of the 650 members of Parliament. Other lawmakers will be able to ask questions from home using videoconferencing program Zoom, beamed onto screens erected around the wood-paneled Commons chamber.

Hoyle acknowledged that "there are bound to be bumps along the way" as the tradition-steeped 700-year-old institution takes a leap into the unknown. But he urged lawmakers not to travel to Parliament.

"I do not want members and House staff putting themselves at risk," Hoyle said.

A small number of legislators will meet in person Tuesday to approve the new digital arrangements. Taped spaces will keep them 6.5 feet apart.

The virtual Parliament will have its first big test Wednesday during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions session. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will stand in for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is still recovering from a bout of COVID-19.

Dozens of British lawmakers, advisers, civil servants and journalists have had coronavirus symptoms, likely contracted in the cramped precincts of Parliament and other government buildings.

Johnson spent a week in the hospital, including three nights in intensive care, after contracting the virus. The 55-year-old leader is recuperating in the countryside, and there is no word on when he will be healthy enough to return.

UK Parliament to hold virtual debates amid virus lockdown

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Every controversial topic has two sides. We look into the ones that matter to you.

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Sloth exhibit to open when zoo reopens

KY LOUISVILLE — A new sloth exhibit will open when the Louisville Zoo reopens to the public, officials said.

Construction on the exhibit was nearly complete last week, and zoo officials said in a statement that the exhibit will be one of the first notable events to occur when more is known about when the public can safely visit the facility again.

In the meantime, people can connect with the sloths virtually. The zoo said that a new sloth Twitter feed, @louzoothes, is live and shows humorous updates on the exhibit and the activities of the animals, which are named Sunni and Sebastian.

Man charged for aiming BB gun at golfers

FL PALM COAST — Deputies arrested a 74-year-old Florida man who allegedly pointed a BB gun at golfers in Palm Coast.

News outlets reported that John Robert Orr was upset over rule-breakers, but this is not a story about people violating a at-home orders. In fact, many Florida golf courses have remained open for business during the coronavirus pandemic.

Orr told deputies that other players at the Conservatory Golf Course were driving their carts when more is known about when the public can safely visit the facility again.

Jack Hannahan, Erie (Pa.) Times-News/AP

High court rejects bid to keep slave block

VA FREDERICKSBURG — The Virginia Supreme Court has rejected a petition to prohibit the city of Fredericksburg from moving a historic slave auction block.

The sandstone block was installed in the city's downtown in the 1840s. After years of debate, the city council voted to move the block to a museum. A judge upheld the move after being closed due to the coronavirus shutdown.

The age of a miniature donkey named Mambo who is getting some online love in North Carolina, where a farm is getting in on the idea of having animals spice up tedious virtual meetings during the coronavirus pandemic.

The bowls and T-shirts cost $15 apiece. Purchased items can be picked up at the store. Proceeds will go to the Facing Hunger Foodbank, which serves 17 counties in West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio.
Raising a glass for frontline workers

Country singer Brad Paisley updating song, connecting through video to show gratitude

**By Kristin M. Hall**
Associated Press

Brad Paisley wants to raise a glass to friends, family and frontline workers in the middle of the global pandemic, so just send him a text.

With the release of his new single “No I in Beer,” the country star been surprising people on video conference calls to share in a virtual happy hour.

The song originated in 2018 with co-writer Kelley Lovelace, but the chorus of “We’re all in this together” felt right for the moment to release, Paisley told The Associated Press from his home in Franklin, Tenn.

“As this pandemic began, everybody adopted this catchphrase, ‘We’re all in this together,’” said Paisley. “And I had this song rolling around in my head.”

Instead of just a rousing drinking song, Paisley thought it could also raise spirits, too, when people needed to find a little happiness.

“It’s not just a ‘We’ll get through whatever you’re going through’ thing,” said Paisley. “It’s literally a rallying cry. It’s a fight song.”

Paisley said he updated some of the original lyrics, which now include a reference to the frontline workers during the spread of the coronavirus, including nurses, first responders, farmers and truck drivers.

“It’s just a shoutout to the people who are keeping this country going,” said Paisley.

In the spirit of virtual happy hours that have been popular online, Paisley wanted to connect with fans, especially since he couldn’t play the song while touring. Paisley, like most touring artists, had to re-schedule his concert plans this year.

So Paisley put a phone number on social media and asked people to text him the link to their conference calls. He already joined a group of elementary school teachers in Illinois, a young man celebrating his 21st birthday and a group of healthcare workers. On his computer desk, he’s got a few handy beer cans ready for a computer screen toast.

“It’s inspiring,” said Paisley. “They are just staying connected any way they can.”

Long before the virus brought to the forefront issues like economic insecurity and lack of access to food, Paisley was working to help people in his community make ends meet. A year ago, Paisley helped break ground in Nashville on a new grocery store called The Store that aimed to help needy families.

In partnership with his alma mater Belmont University, The Store opened last month, but the developing pandemic made the organization adapt quickly to fit the immediate needs of the community. They shifted to handing out food at the door to prevent the spread of the virus and delivering food to elderly people who are at risk of serious health problems if they catch the coronavirus.

His producer, Luke Wooten, even pitched in and recruited his recording studio interns to help The Store deliver food to a local retirement home.

“They went down the hallways and left food at the doorways of each of these elderly folks,” said Paisley. “And then as the volunteers got to the end of the hall, all the folks came out of their doors and gave them a standing ovation. And it brought them to tears.”

Netflix has Hemsworth, ‘The Chronic’ streams and shows end this week

The Associated Press

Here’s a collection curated by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists of what’s arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

**Film**

“The Bad Education”: Even before the pandemic, “Bad Education” was one of the more notable movies to bypass theaters. HBO picked it up in a high-priced acquisition at last fall’s Toronto Film Festival, and this Saturday will debut Cory Finley’s based-on-a-true-story black comedy. Hugh Jackman and Allison Janney star in a tale of flamboyancy and foray in an affluent Long Island school district.

“Circus of Books”: A handful of original movies premiere this week on Netflix, including the Chris Hemsworth action film “Extraction” and the animated family film “The Willoughbys.” But the best of the bunch is “Circus of Books,” which debuts Wednesday on the streaming service. It’s a portrait of a conventional family in an unconventional business. For more than 35 years, Karen and Barry Mason, a straight couple with three kids, ran Circus of Books, a Los Angeles gay porn shop that played a vital role in the city’s LGBTQ life.

The documentary, directed by their daughter Rachel Mason, depicts a Mom and Pop shop unlike any other.

— AP film writer Jake Coyle

**Music**

Dr. Dre, “The Chronic”: Twenty-eight years after its release, Dr. Dre’s epic and groundbreaking debut album became available on digital streaming platforms Monday, which is 4/20, the unofficial holiday for marijuana smoking. The album, released on Death Row Records and now part of the National Recording Registry, wasn’t available digitally due to contractual issues. “The Chronic” came after Dre’s split from N.W.A and also introduced the world to hip-hop godfather Snoop Dogg.

Beastie Boys, “Beastie Boys Story”: Mike Diamond and Adam Horovitz of Beastie Boys take you on a personal and hilarious ride in “Beastie Boys Story,” a new documentary about the iconic New York City group debuting Thursday on Apple TV+. Directed by longtime collaborator and friend Spike Jonze, the film looks at the trio’s 40-year career and friendship, with particularly soft and emotional moments about late member Adam “MCA” Yauch, who died from cancer in 2012.

— AP music editor Mesfin Fekadu

**Television**

This coming week may test everyone’s separation anxiety levels, with many shows saying farewell, at least for now. Wednesday marks the first season finale of “Little Fires Everywhere” on Hulu. Thursday sees stateside and May 4 on AFN-Spectrum marks the season finale of HBO’s “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” (don’t worry, fans, another season is coming). “Will & Grace” says goodbye forever (again), also Thursday on AFN-Prime. The sadness continues on Sunday when we say goodbye to Carrie Mathison on the series finale of Showtime’s spicy thriller “Homeland.” Here’s hoping Claire Danes’ intrepid CIA agent finally finds some peace.

— AP entertainment writer Mark Kennedy
SHORT of being arrested for treason, being relieved for cause is the single most devastating indictment that can be imposed on a serving United States military officer. In American history, the most famous such examples are the relief of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 during the Civil War, the relief of Adm. Chester Nimitz, relieved Vice Adm. Robert L. Ghormley as commander of the South Pacific, and two years later, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Holland M. “Howling Mad” Smith relieved Army Maj. Gen. Ralph Smith during the fighting against Japan.

The justification in most of these cases was operational failure — a perception that the man was not up to the job or not effective. McClellan, in Lincoln’s famous phrase, had “the slows” and was unwilling to come to grips with the enemy. Nimitz felt that Ghormley had not been decisive after the Pearl Harbor attack that someone had to be held responsible. Right or wrong, both McClellan and Ralph Smith were perceived to be insufficiently aggressive.

But politics, too, can play a role in such decisions, adding to the foot dragging. McClellan was a vocal opponent of Lincoln’s war policy. He made it clear, both to Lincoln and to a public critical of the administration, it was essential to fight only the Southern armies, and not its people, who after all, are “as good as we” and who can be “conquered by the notion that the war might result in the emancipation of the slave population; McClellan wanted part of leading an army of emancipation. He also felt it was appropriate for him to tell the administration what its policy should be. In the end, however, it was not for his political views but his foot dragging that Lincoln fired him regardless, within two years, McClellan was running against Lincoln for president.

There has also been a strong political component in the most famous dismissal in recent American history: that of Douglas MacArthur—of which the Korean War.

After the Chinese Red Army entered the war in the winter of 1950-51, Truman sought to find a way out of the expanding war rather than extend it into China itself, which MacArthur insisted was necessary. Despite being ordered not to promote his views in public, MacArthur wrote a letter to Republican Congressman William Martin of Massachusetts. (It was in this letter that MacArthur proclaimed, “There is no substitute for victory.”)

Martin published the letter in the Congressional Record in an obvious effort to enhance public opinion to favor a wider war. Because Truman had ordered MacArthur not to communicate his views to the public, he had as a result of his silence and ordered that MacArthur should be relieved of his command.

All of these historical examples took place in wartime when the decision was considered essential either to prevent a disaster or to hasten victory. The removal of a commander of a cause as long as the time is rare. When does it happen it is often because an individual has challenged his superiors in confrontational or even mutual Nonetheless, the commanding officer's actions that are out of line with government policy.

In the case of Capt. Brett Crozier, the justification for his removal for cause was beyond the chain of command. By allowing copies of his letter about the health of his sailors to reach the public, Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly explained, Crozier violated the chain of command and exposed the Navy to criticism.

Significantly, that chain of command does not go from the captain of an aircraft carrier to the Secretary of the Navy. It goes first to the task force commander. Every U.S. Navy aircraft carrier has both a captain, who runs the ship on a day-to-day basis, and a Group Commander, usually a Rear Admiral, who runs the fleet’s fleet of offices (“flag quarters”) on the carrier, and who commands the task force that includes not only the carrier, but also a guided missile cruiser, a surface combatant (the “River Hill”), and a destroyer squadron (here Dess-on 23).

The chain of command then extends upward from the Group Commander to the Pacific Fleet commander, and then to the Chief of Naval Operations before it reaches the Secretary of the Navy.

A letter of concern such as the one written by Crozier would ordinarily pass up the various command levels one by one before reaching the Secretary of the Navy.

Like all Navy officers, the captain of a ship, or for that matter, the commander of a strike group, and even the Secretary of the Navy, is both accountable to his superiors, and also responsible to the men and women he commands.

Balancing those obligations can be difficult, even wrenching. There is no textbook answer to how about to proceed; each circumstance is unique. Command is lonely and burdensome precisely because all U.S. Navy officers know that they themselves are responsible for the consequences of their decisions, whatever they may be.

Crail G. Symonds is the Ernest J. King Distinguished Professor of Maritime History at the Naval War College and Professor Emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy.
Texas, Florida eager for a NASCAR restart

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The race is on among states willing to be the first to host NASCAR races when the coronavirus pandemic permits.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Monday that NASCAR was working with Texas Motor Speedway on a plan to race there.

“I hope to announce the exciting details in the near future,” Abbott said. “To prevent spread of COVID-19, it will be without fans. But they will put on a great show for TV.”

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had already spoken to Daytona Beach-based NASCAR executive Lesa France Kennedy, potentially putting both NASCAR-controlled Homestead-Miami Speedway and Daytona International Speedway in play at some point.

After Abbott’s announcement, Texas Motor Speedway President Eddie Gossage said his track was working on the rescheduling of its Cup Series event, one of eight races NASCAR has postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. NASCAR has said it plans to run all of its remaining 32 races.

The Texas race, the first of two this year at the 1.5-mile Fort Worth track, was scheduled for March 29.

“Texas Motor Speedway will work aggressively with the sanctioning bodies and TV networks to give American society, as well as people around the world, a positive distraction during this difficult time,” Abbott said. “A non-spectator event is not perfect because in our sport, the fans come first. But circumstances are such that this is a novel answer for the road to resume. We are now working on a hard date.”

Marcus Smith, the CEO of Speedway Motorsports — which owns Charlotte Motor Speedway and the Texas track — said he is eager to work with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to ensure the Coca-Cola 600 runs as scheduled May 24. Republican state lawmakers have asked Cooper, a Democrat, to allow the showcase race.

“For 60 years, this race has been a Memorial Day weekend tradition,” Smith said. “We want to do everything possible to support NASCAR, the dozens of race teams in North Carolina and the fans to get back on track.”

Most NASCAR race teams are based in North Carolina, which is under a stay-at-home order through April.

A Cooper spokesman, Ford Porter, said Sunday the governor “knows the importance of NASCAR to our state and he’s already been talking with track and team owners about how we could potentially restart racing. It’s too soon to predict specific decisions about future sporting events but any plan would prioritize public health and safety and preventing spread of the virus.”

NASCAR teams have cars built for the tracks at Atlanta and Homestead, so the first track back has to be suitable to their design. That doesn’t take Daytona out of the equation, it just means the teams have to be allowed to go back to work in their shops to build superspeedway cars.

As states begin to relax restrictions intended to prevent the spread of the virus, there will be more opportunities for NASCAR to go racing.

The series could eventually get to Darlington Raceway in South Carolina, Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee or Atlanta Motor Speedway, where teams were planning to race when a national state of emergency was issued in mid-March and the season was indefinitely suspended.

In Texas, state parks reopened Monday as the state began what its Republican governor said will be a gradual unraveling of restrictions. The state also this week will allow doctors to resume nonessential surgeries. The state could be more interested in racing if some form of social distancing is still in place, with restrictions on crowd size. The governor also has said auto racing could serve as a positive distraction.

“The Texas race will offer the chance for auto racing as a spectator event, as well as the opportunity to serve as a positive distraction during this challenging time,” the governor’s office said.

According to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, 72% of Americans said they wouldn’t feel safe attending games anyway without a COVID-19 vaccine.

A recent poll suggests a majority of U.S. fans wouldn’t feel safe attending games without a coronavirus vaccine.

Poll: Fans wary about going to sports events without vaccine

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

With the distinct possibility of pro sports resuming in empty venues, a recent poll suggests a majority of U.S. fans wouldn’t feel safe attending games anyway without a COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, 72% of Americans said they wouldn’t feel safe attending games without a vaccine, though the number dropped to 61% among people who identified themselves as sports fans. Nearly half the respondents in the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points, said they either didn’t follow sports closely or didn’t follow sports at all.

So even if fans are allowed back in stadiums or arenas, many may not come. And the financial losses in such a scenario will be significant without the revenue that comes from tickets, concessions and merchandise, among other things — even if money is flowing from lucrative media rights deals.

If the NBA and NHL have to cancel the rest of their seasons and Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer play only half of their regular schedules, the losses in fan-related revenue could reach $3 billion, according to Patrick Rishe, director of the sports business program at Washington University in St. Louis.

“The losses that I mentioned, both in ticket revenue and game-day-related spending at the arena on food, beverage, parking, merchandise, you name it, that’s money that’s gone,” Rishe said. “If even money on tickets is credited to next season, it’s still an opportunity lost. So it’s pretty sizable.”

David Carter, a professor in the sports business school at Southern California, said there is a difference between a sports fan and a sports consumer. The latter is more likely to return whenever fans are allowed into venues.

“I can’t imagine that the sports consumers, or you might call them the committed fans or the hardcore fans, they’re not going to stay away for a year,” Carter said.

“They’re champing at the bit right now.”

Baseball’s TV deal averages about $1.5 billion annually and runs through next year, and the NBA is roughly halfway through a nine-year deal that pays about $2.6 billion each year. The NHL’s rights deal is just $2 billion total for 10 years — an average of $200 million per season.

Carter wondered if owners and league officials are weighing TV money that comes with resuming play against the lost revenue of empty stadiums and arenas.

“Right now, are the media dollars at permanent risk or they just at risk of being deferred?” Carter asked. “And I would argue that because these teams and leagues are working with their media partners as that, as partners, it’s more likely that they’ll come up with a workaround that might not be ideal, but might be better than the optics of having to move forward with fans in the building and protecting the turnstile revenue that they would have otherwise made.

College football is facing its own set of questions, including whether students will be allowed back on campuses and when. The sport is critical to nearly all athletic department budgets and officials are bracing for significant dips in revenue.

“If public health officials say it’s safe to return large events, I don’t think it’s realistic that everybody is going to feel good about coming to games,” Baylor athletic director Rhadiah McRoberts said. “And then, because of the economy, people are going to be impacted and not everybody is going to be able to afford a ticket.”

Among other findings in the poll, most fans thought U.S. pro sports leagues acted quickly enough to suspend their seasons, while 16% thought the leagues didn’t react quickly enough. Only 6% said the decisions were made too quickly.

Asked if the International Olympic Committee acted too quickly rescheduling the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021, 84% of respondents said no.

NFL SEASON

70% said the NFL shouldn’t start in the fall to ensure the safety of players, even if some form of social distancing is still in place. And 20% said the season should start with players being allowed to choose not to participate. 6% said the league should start as planned.

PLAYING AT ALL

47% of respondents said sports shouldn’t be played for the remainder of 2020. For those who said sports should be played, 12% said it should happen with fans present, 23% with restricted attendance and 21% with no fans present.

WATCHING LIVE GAMES

76% felt professional leagues in the U.S. acted at the right time to suspend their seasons, while 16% thought the leagues didn’t react quickly enough. Only 6% said the decisions were made too quickly.

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Sports poll results

Some of the findings from the Seton Hall Sports Poll in which 762 U.S. adults participated as of April 6-8 were asked their thoughts during the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down the nation’s sports calendar. Of the respondents, 54% said they followed sports closely or very closely, while 46% said they didn’t follow sports closely or didn’t follow sports at all. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

GOING TO GAMES?

If 50% of respondents said they wouldn’t feel safe attending games without a COVID-19 vaccine. That number dropped to 50 among the respondents who said they would feel safe attending games without a COVID-19 vaccine.

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1  Cincinnati (1-14)

**Last season:** Bengals matched franchise mark for worst record (3-13-1). Owners fired head coach Zac Taylor and general manager Mike Brown. It’s been 15 years since the Bengals were this bad. They were 4-12 the previous year. With no top pick, they drafted edge defender Chase Young. Cincinnati went 2-13-1 in 2018.

They need: WR, TE, S, CB. They don’t need: RB, DT.

**Outlook:** The Bengals have so many holes that one draft alone won’t fix them, even if they get all the picks at the top of the draft. The question is whether they have enough of a plan to select the best players. Cincinnati has shown in recent years that it has to have a plan when making draft picks, and this year is no exception.

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5, 18, 26 Miami (1-11)

**Last season:** Dolphins endured historically bad season, setting single-season record for lowest number of points (141) and losses (15) and were outscored 238-77 while losing first seven games. Rookie head coach Mike McDaniel is expected to bring in energized defense, but there is no easy path to success. Miami’s内 ARRACKA.

They need: QB, OT, RB, DT. They don’t need: LB, WR, DB.

**Outlook:** For only second time since 1984, Dolphins have to fill all three needs in first five rounds in draft. They need to improve defense that ranked 31st in 2021.

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9, 20 Jacksonville (1-10)

**Last season:** Another debacle for franchise that has never made AFC title game. Jaguars lost to Dolphins and were outscored 238-77 while losing first seven games. Rookie head coach Doug Pederson has new system, but it needs time to take hold. Jaguars will likely move on from Trevor Lawrence, despite his struggles last year.

They need: QB, WR, DB. They don’t need: DL, OT, LB.

**Outlook:** Jaguars are in top five instead of 31st after new coach Doug Pederson’s arrival. They need quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back, but it’s unclear if they can fill those positions.

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13, 31 San Francisco (1-5-4)

**Last season:** Niners staged remarkable turnaround in 2021, reaching Super Bowl after being 6-3-1 in first 10 games. Team earned top seed in NFL for first playoff berth since 2013, but ended up as NFC West runners-up after losing to Arizona.

They need: LB, WR, CB. They don’t need: RB, DT, OL.

**Outlook:** Niners were30th351st in their last two drafts. Can they make key moves in 2022 to improve defense? They need players to address second-year DT Talor Franklin, running back and offensive line.

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14  Tampa Bay (1-9-2)

**Last season:** Missed playoffs for 12th consecu- tive season, extending second-longest drought in NFL. It was also second-longest streak for an NFC team. Tampa Bay has missed the playoffs more than 20 times.

They need: WR, TE, LB. They don’t need: DL, DB, OL.

**Outlook:** With Brady replacing Winston, Bucs finally have franchise QB they’ve spent decades searching for. However, Tampa Bay is still only ending long playoff drought, but hopes of becoming first NFC team in 10 years to make playoffs is a long shot.

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25  Chicago (3-13-1)

**Last season:** Bears finished last in NFC North, losing seven straight to end the year. They did have one bright spot, as former first-round pick Justin Fields had a breakout season.

They need: S, LB, WR, DT. They don’t need: GT, DL, OL.

**Outlook:** After tying for most wins in AFC East in 2021, the Patriots are likely to have a much different roster in 2022. They need to address several needs, but it’s unclear how they’ll approach the draft.

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34  Denver (4-12)

**Last season:** Broncos missed the playoffs for first time since 2016, losing 11 of 16 games. It was a disappointing season for the team that had high expectations coming into the year.

They need: OT, LB, WR, TE. They don’t need: DL, LB, DL.

**Outlook:** Denver has the third pick in the draft, and they could potentially use it to address their holes at offensive tackle, linebacker or wide receiver. The team also needs a new head coach.

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41  Tennessee (5-10-1)

**Last season:** Titans were one of the surprise teams in the NFL, finishing 11-5-1 and making it to the playoffs. However, they lost in the divisional round to the Bengals.

They need: CB, RB, DT. They don’t need: OT, LB, WR.

**Outlook:** The Titans won the AFC South last season, but they were eliminated in the divisional round by the Cincinnati Bengals. They need a couple of key players, but they have a higher overall grade than the 1-11 Eagles.

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44  Buffalo (5-10-1)

**Last season:** Bills missed the playoffs for the first time since 2017, losing in the divisional round to the Denver Broncos. It was a disappointing season for a team that had high expectations entering the year.

They need: LB, WR, TE. They don’t need: CB, RB, DT.

**Outlook:** After a season in which they missed the playoffs, the Bills are looking to make some key additions to their roster. They could potentially use a first-round pick to address their holes at linebacker, wide receiver or tight end.
NFLDRAFT

17 Dallas (8-8)

Last season: Expectations, 3-0 start fad- ed to another .500 finish under coach Jason Garrett, who is trying to improve this Presc ott set career highs for yards passing, TDs, but was ranked 15th in rushing yards by the winning rushing title for first time.

Free agency: Added WR Penny Hart, DT Carlton Davis from Tampa Bay, DT Danny Shelton (Lions) were also on defense. Buffalo signed TE Logan Thomas, WR Mike Gillislee, RB Mike Gillislee, and WR Laquon Treadwell (Rams) to 1-year deals.

Outlook: With young talent, should be an excellent team to keep some veteran leadership with S Devin McCourty, LB Dont'a Hightower, and DT Lawrence Guy to keep the line strong.

24 New Orleans (13-4)

Last season: Saints weathered record-set ting QB Drew Brees' five-game absence with hand injury to win eight straight games to seal NFC South title and 13 regular season victories. But they were tripped up by a Bills team that hung with Saints 27-26 in playoff opener in New Orleans and 17-27 in Super Bowl loss.

Free agency: Signed DT A'Shawn Robinson and LB Leonard Floyd to add pass rush. signed in free agency WRs Emmanuel Sanders, WRs Dez Bryant and Michael Thomas carried offense. Combine with NFL rush leader Derrick Henry to be one of the most explosive offenses in the league.

Outlook: Titans reached first AFC champi onship in 17 years after benching QB Marcus Mariota for Ryan Tannehill in Week 17. Tannehill played well in limited action, scoring a TD and not giving up a sack.

30 Green Bay (1-4)

Last season: Brought back from two straight losing seasons to win NFC North in Matt LaFleur's first NFL season. Beat Vikings 28-23 in divisional playoffs before falling 37-20 to San Francisco in NFC Championship Game. Had tough matchup in Super Bowl loss to Kansas City.

Free agency: Added WRs Stefon Diggs, WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling, TE Jace Sternberger, and S Chandon Sullivan to bolster offense. Also added DTs Quinton Dial and Trevon Coley to improve defense.

Outlook: Texans have first-round pick after sending it to Miami last year in deal that allowed Deshaun Watson to be the No.1 overall pick. Sent this year's second-round pick (No. 57) to Rams in trade for Cooks but got his second-round selection (No. 40) in deal for Hopkins. Could use that pick to address need at CB after ranking 30th in NFL by allowing 317 passing yards per game. Team also needs pass rush after managing just 31 sacks last in first season without Jadeveon Clowney.
Mock draft tests new technology, communications

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

The NFL’s practice draft Monday to test technology and communications for the real thing beginning Thursday night had no major hangups.

There were some technical glitches at the outset, when the Cincinnati Bengals were making the first selection, and at various spots, several people involved in the virtual test told The Associated Press. A few of them spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Indeed, Commissioner Roger Goodell earlier told team executives not to be critical of the process, nor of the league’s decision to go ahead with the draft as scheduled April 23-25.

But general managers John Lynch of the NFC champion San Francisco 49ers and John Elway of the Denver Broncos were satisfied with the proceedings.

“I think we used it as another opportunity to focus internally,” Lynch said. “I think the chatter out and about that I understand is going on, that it really wasn’t in a good situation, I didn’t really see that. I think early there were a couple of hitches. That’s why we do practice trials.”

Added Elway: “The draft went smooth. It got off to a little bit of a hiccup when we first started, but other than that I thought it went really smoothly. There were no problems with it, so we got more comfortable with it. So, it should be fine and go on without a glitch — I’m sure there will be a couple of glitches here and there — but actually for the first time I thought it went pretty well.

The challenges, as noted by several people involved, included too much background noise; team personnel talking over others; and timing issues.

“It had its glitches, but to call it messy would be inaccurate,” one of the people said. “There were some sound issues and technical stuff that seemed to get solved to the satisfaction of the teams.”

Elway knows who the key members of each club will be Thursday and Friday nights and Saturday afternoon.

“The heroes in all this are the IT guys,” he said.

Goodell ordered all team facilities closed in March, and later required club personnel to conduct the draft from their homes. Because of the reliance on free-flowing communication, the league decided to stage the practice draft to ensure all goes smoothly later this week.

The draft originally was scheduled for Las Vegas, but the NFL canceled all public events last month as a safeguard against the coronavirus. On April 6, Goodell instructed teams on how they should plan to make selections.

“As consulting with medical advisors, we cannot identify an alternative that is preferable from a medical or public health perspective, given the varying needs of clubs, the need properly to screen participants, and the unique risk factors that individual club employees may face,” he wrote.

Among the technologies needed for the actual draft are team web meetings and a web hookup with the league itself. There also will be phone lines for communicating with other teams for trades, which must be approved by the NFL central office.

AP writers Josh Dubow and Anne Clayton contributed.

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is expected to be a first-round draft pick.

SO, IT SHOULD BE FINE AND GO ON WITHOUT A GLITCH.

Impact: Last year’s rookie WRs made a big splash

FROM BACK PAGE

plug-and-play approach with bigger, faster, quicker pass catchers coming out.

Calvin Ridley and D.J. Moore made big splashes in 2018, followed by Deebo Samuel, DK Metcalf, Marquise Brown, Terry McLaurin and A.J. Brown, who wasted no time establishing their credentials last season.

“Last year was a good year in terms of a bunch of rookies coming in and having a lot of success, but if you look over the last several years, that second- and third-round receiver group has arguably been better than the first-round group,” said NFL Draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah.

“The challenge in scouting the position is it’s almost like two different games for college and the NFL in terms of what routes you’re asked to run, which are very limited at the college level,” Jeremiah said.

“You watch a college game on Saturday you’re going to see a bunch of slants, hinges and go’s. It’s very limited in terms of what they ask them to do, very limited in terms of them having to read coverage and sight-adjust their routes. They don’t see very much press coverage.”

Reading and reacting to coverage and spotting sticks like AAU basketball, knocking them off their routes can prove difficult even for receivers who dominated college competition.

“There’s just a lot of adjustment there, but I give the NFL credit,” Jeremiah said. “I think the last couple of years seeing the NFL be a little smarter with the transition period for these guys and figuring out ways they can get them on fly Sweeps or bubble screens and just get the ball in their hands and let them make plays, simplifying it a little bit while they’re young before they can grow and evolve into everything you want them to be.”

Jeremiah said last season in particular provided “the blueprint to get these guys on the field and improve that track record at the position.”

“Intersecting this meet-you-halfway approach is an uptick in the athleticism of wide receivers, a product of the multiple-tiperceiver sets now the norm all the way down to youth football.

“Think in today’s day and age where these guys were starting 7-on-7, it’s almost AAU basketball,” Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said.

“The receivers are so much more advanced in terms of their fundamentals coming into college and the league that they’ve been offered in the past. It’s really just the NFL offense that will take time.”

“So I think there’s some guys sitting here today that I think will have a chance to make a pretty immediate impact, and I’m excited about that.”

Washington Redskins coach Ron Rivera said today’s prospects are primed for the pro game as never before.

Top-end receivers this year include Colorado’s Laviska Shenault, Alabama’s Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, Oklahoma’s CeeDee Lamb, LSU’s Justin Jefferson, Arizona State’s Brandon Aiyuk and Clemson’s Tee Higgins.

“This receivers’ class is honestly unbelievable in my eyes,” Lamb said. “You can’t really go wrong with anybody you draft” in any round. “You’re going to get a great pick.”

Whether in search of a crisp route runner, a deep threat, a fearless player going over the middle or even taking the direct snap, there’s someone for everyone in this year’s draft.

“I think this class is going to do great things,” Shenault said.

Right from the start, no less.

Wide receivers

Jerry Jeudy, 6-1, 193, Alabama
Strengths: Smooth and polished route runner with excellent burst.
Weaknesses: Slim build lacks strength.
Fact: Caught 26 touchdown passes, second behind only Amari Cooper in Alabama history.
Gone by: About No. 1.

CeeDee Lamb, 6-1, 195, Oklahoma
Strengths: Game-breaking explosiveness after the catch.
Weaknesses: Will have to develop quickness off the line to beat press coverage.
Fact: All-American and Biletnikoff Award finalist last season.
Gone by: About No. 12.

Henry Ruggs III, 5-11, 188, Alabama
Strengths: Elite speed and acceleration.
Weaknesses: His game is somewhat limited but what he does well is hard to find.
Fact: Almost 25% of his 98 career receptions went for touchdowns (24).
Gone by: Top 20.

Justin Jefferson, 6-1, 202, LSU
Strengths: Dominated from the slide with great body control.
Weaknesses: Size and strength weren’t tested much in LSU’s offense.
Fact: Led major college football with 111 catches last year for 1,540 yards.
Gone by: End of the first round.

Tee Higgins, 6-4, 216, Clemson
Strengths: Takes advantage of his size to make contested catches.
Weaknesses: Doesn’t get a lot of separation in his routes.
Fact: Led DeAndre Hopkins and Sammy Watkins with school-record 27 touchdowns catches at Clemson.
Gone by: Middle of the second.

Laviska Shenault Jr., 6-1, 227, Colorado
Strengths: Powerful and explosive player getting to the ball running with it after the catch.
Weaknesses: Injures limited him to short bursts of high-level production.
Fact: Scored six touchdowns receiving and five rushing in his breakout 2018 season.
Gone by: Anywhere from end of Round 1 to end of Round 3.

Brandon Aiyuk, 6-0, 205, Arizona State
Strengths: Dangerous after the catch.
Weaknesses: Needs to play stronger in traffic.
Fact: Missed the Senior Bowl after abdominal injury.
Gone by: Middle of the second.

K.J. Hamler, 5-9, 185, Penn State
Strengths: Elusive with uncommon burst of speed.
Weaknesses: Undersized and had some drops last season.
Fact: If not NFL, cost him senior year of high school and he redshirted as a freshman in college.
Gone by: Some team might see Tyreek Hill-type player.

Chase Claypool, 6-4, 238, Notre Dame
Strengths: Huge with 4.42 speed.
Weaknesses: Much room for improvement in route running.
Fact: Could end up as a tight end.
Gone by: Young up in Irish Columbia, just north of the U.S. border.
Gone by: End of Day 2.

Jalen Reagor, 5-10, 206, TCU
Strengths: Speed to get deep and shiftiness to turn short plays into big gains.
Weaknesses: Can get pushed around in coverage.
Fact: The son of former Texas Tech star and longtime NFL defender Terry Reagor.
Gone by: Middle of Day 2.

Michael Pittman, 6-4, 223, USC
Strengths: Big receiver who can overwhelm defenders with size and body control.
Weaknesses: Lack quickness.
Fact: Father Michael Pittman played running back for Fresno State and 11 seasons in the NFL.
Gone by: End of Day 2.

Others:

Van Jefferson, Florida, Bryan Edwards, South Carolina; K.J. Hill, Ohio State; Collin Johnson, Texas; Loyd Bowden, Kentucky.
**Briefly**

Hard-hitting LB Curtis dies

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Mike Curtis, a hard-hitting, no-nonsense linebacker who helped the Colts win a Super Bowl during a 14-year NFL career spent predominantly in Baltimore, has died. He was 77. Curtis died Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla. Son Clay said on Twitter his father died of “complications from CTE,” a degenerative brain disease.

Curtis earned the nickname “Mad Dog” because of his fierce play in the middle of a strong Baltimore defense.

“One of the game’s most legendary non-Hall-of-Famers. Ferocious on the field, a gentleman off the field,” Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay wrote on Twitter.

Curtis was selected 14th overall in the 1965 draft by the Colts after starring as a fullback at Duke University. He started out with Baltimore as a fullback but rose to stardom in his second season when he played linebacker full time.

Curtis was a four-time Pro Bowl linebacker. He had his best season in 1970, when he intercepted five passes for the Colts. Then, in the Super Bowl against Dallas, he picked off a pass in the waning minutes to set up a winning field goal by Jim O’Brien.

Brady kicked out of Tampa park

TAMPA, Fla. — Six Super Bowl rings may get you special treatment in a lot of places but former Patriots quarterback Tom Brady learned Monday that it won’t get you anything when you’re caught working out in a park that is closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said during a news briefing Monday that the new Buccaneers quarterback was spotted working out by himself at a park downtown by staff patrol. The staffer went over to tell him he had to leave and she recognized the man to be the 42-year-old Brady.

Jags’ Ngakoue calls owner’s son spoiled

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Disgruntled Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Yannick Ngakoue goaded minority owner Tony Khan, calling him spoiled in a Twitter exchange Monday, in hopes of escalating his public trade demand.

Khan, the team’s senior vice president of football administration and technology and the son of majority owner Shah Khan, eventually told Ngakoue to “show me the compensation. I’m sure you’re really driving up the price.”

Ngakoue has been vocal about his displeasure with the franchise since the end of last season and has repeatedly said his time in Jacksonville is done. The Jaguars placed the franchise tag on Ngakoue last month.

**Players upset over pay-cut prospects**

By Ronald Blum

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball players are upset over the prospect teams may seek additional pay cuts if games are played in empty ballparks due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Their anger was stoked last week when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he was told by Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon that the union would have to agree to lower salaries if games are played without fans.

A March 26 deal between the sides stated “the Office of the Commissioner and Players Association will discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate substitute neutral sites.” The union points to another passage covering substitute neutral sites where economically feasible.

There is little chance for a full 162-game schedule. St. Louis reliever Andrew Miller, a member of the union’s eight-man executive committee, would lose $70,988 per game of his $11.5 million salary.

“My understanding is that we already have an agreement in place regarding salary for the 2020 season when it resumes,” Miller wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

“While ideas regarding games without fans or in neutral sites have been floated, nothing is even close to being put in place. … If at some point there is any negotiation to be had, our leadership from the association will be ready to handle it,” he wrote.

**MLB can cut pay, lay off managers, coaches on May 1**

By Ronald Blum

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has made a move that allows teams to lay off or cut the pay of major and minor league managers, coaches, trainers and full-time scouts starting May 1.

Manfred has suspended uniform employee contracts that cover about 9,000 people, including general managers on some teams. Manfred cited the inability to play games due to the national emergency caused by the new coronavirus pandemic.

“Our clubs rely heavily on revenue from tickets/concessions, broadcasting/media, licensing and sponsorships to pay salaries,” Manfred wrote in an email Monday, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. “In the absence of games, these revenue streams will be lost or substantially reduced, and clubs will not have sufficient funds to meet their financial obligations.”

The impact of the suspension of the UEC on your personal employment situation will be determined by your club,” Manfred said.

Manfred’s intention to suspend the contracts was first reported by The Athletic.

Arizona, Atlanta, Boston, the Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati, Minnesota, the New York Yankees, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Toronto are among the teams that have committed to paying full-time employees through May, and Miami will pay full-time baseball operations staff through the month. The clubs pay those on UECs and front-office staff through their May 29 paychecks.

Major League Rule 30 requires that UECs must be signed by all managers, coaches, trainers and salaried scouts, and some teams include additional baseball operations staff.

“Pursuant to the terms of the UEC, the club’s exclusive right to your services will remain in effect during the period of the suspension such that you will not be permitted to perform services for any other club,” Manfred wrote.

“…I fully recognize the hardship that this health crisis creates for all members of the baseball community. Central baseball and the clubs are doing everything possible to try to minimize this impact for as many employees as possible.”

Manfred said the Baseball Assistance Team charitable organization “is available to consider grant applications on an expedited basis for those facing significant and immediate financial hardship.”
Deep wide receiver class may contribute immediately

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

The upcoming NFL Draft features a tantalizing class of wide receivers expected to make an immediate impact as rookies.

It’s a tall task even for an exceptionally deep group that’s expected to produce up to a half-dozen first-round picks Thursday night.

Receivers face one of the hardest adjustments to the pros because they have to absorb a monster playbook, beat press coverage and elude D-backs who are quicker, stronger and savvier. Sometimes the gamble pays off, sometimes it doesn’t.

“One of the things that makes it tough to evaluate is that there’s so much difference playing at the National Football League level because of all the defenses we see and all the adjustments they have to make,” said longtime talent evaluation expert Gil Brandt, a Pro Football Hall of Famer.

Quarterback is the only position with a steeper learning curve, Brandt suggested. “These guys have to do a lot more things in the NFL as far as adjustments — and do it quickly,” he said. “And the other thing is separation. There’s a lot of guys that can run fast but they can’t separate.”

Mark Dominik, a SiriusXM NFL Radio host and former Buccaneers general manager, said receivers go from facing “18-, 19- and 20-year-old young men who aren’t as strong or as physical as they’re going to end up being” to “going up against a 29-year-old man and it’s a huge difference.”

“I think that’s why you see receivers bust, just because of the different player they’re going against.”

That is starting to change, however. Teams are more willing than ever to bypass the old wait-and-watch standby for a

SEE IMPACT ON PAGE 22

Alabama’s Jerry Jeudy, top left, and Oklahoma’s CeeDee Lamb, bottom right, are two of a group of wide receivers expected to produce up to a half-dozen first-round picks.