

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Record numbers seeking jobless aid in US

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a startling 6.6 million people seeking unemployment benefits last week, the U.S. has reached a grim landmark: More than one in 10 workers have lost their jobs in just the past three weeks to the coronavirus outbreak.

The figures constitute the largest and fastest string of job losses in records dating to 1948. During the Great Recession, it took 44 weeks for unemployment claims to go as high as they now have in less than a month.

The damage to job markets is extending across the world. The equivalent of 195 million full-time jobs could be lost in the second quarter due to business shutdowns caused by the viral outbreak, according to the United Nations' labor organization. It estimates that global unemployment will rise by 25 million this year.

The numbers don't count workers on reduced hours and pay. Lockdown measures are affecting nearly 2.7 billion workers — about 81% of the global workforce — the agency said.

In the U.S., the job market is quickly unraveling as businesses have shut down across the country. All told, in the past three weeks, 16.8 million Americans have filed for unemployment aid. The surge of jobless claims has overwhelmed state unemployment offices around the country. And still more job cuts are expected.

More than 20 million people could lose jobs this month. The unemployment rate could hit 15% when the April employment report is released in early May.

"The carnage in the American labor market continued unabated," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist for RSM, a tax advisory firm.

The viral outbreak is believed to have erased nearly one-third of the U.S. economy's output in the current quarter. Forty-eight states have closed nonessential businesses.

A nation of normally free-spending shoppers and travelers is mainly hunkered down at home, bringing entire gears of the economy to a near-halt. Non-grocery retail business plunged 97% in the last week of

March compared with a year earlier, according to Morgan Stanley. The number of airline passengers screened by the Transportation Security Administration has plunged 95% from a year ago. U.S. hotel revenue has tumbled 80%.

Applications for unemployment benefits are a rough proxy for layoffs because only people who have lost a job through no fault of their own are eligible.

The wave of layoffs may be cresting in some states even while still surging in others. Last week, applications for jobless aid declined in 19 states. In California, they dropped nearly 13% to 925,000 — still a shockingly high figure. In Pennsylvania, they dropped by nearly one-third to 284,000. That's still more than the entire nation experienced just four weeks ago.

By contrast, in Georgia, which issued shutdown orders later than most other states, filings for unemployment claims nearly tripled last week to 388,000. In Arkansas, they more than doubled. In Arizona, they jumped by nearly 50%.

On Thursday, the Federal

Reserve intensified its efforts to bolster the economy with a series of lending programs that could inject up to \$2.3 trillion into the economy. Chairman Jerome Powell said that the economy's strength before the viral outbreak means that it could rebound quickly in the second half of the year.

"There is every reason to believe that the economic rebound, when it comes, will be robust," Powell said.

In many European countries, government programs are keeping people on payrolls, though typically with fewer hours and lower pay. In France, 5.8 million people — about a quarter of the private sector workforce — are now on a "partial unemployment" plan. With government help, they receive part of their wages while temporarily laid off or while working shorter hours.

A similar system is in place in Germany, where the federal labor agency said that 650,000 companies have registered to put people in the short-time work program and so still on payrolls. That's up from 470,000 about 10 days earlier.

## USS Theodore Roosevelt sailor in intensive care

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was in intensive care Thursday after suffering complications from a coronavirus infection, the Navy said.

The sailor, who tested positive for the virus March 30, had been in a 14-day isolation period on Naval Base Guam before being taken to the base hospital, the service said in a

statement.

"Deep down, I was hoping that we would never get to this point — I was hoping that the numbers would be zero at the end of this, but that's just not going to be the case with the coronavirus," Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday during a news briefing at the Pentagon. "There's always going to be the one or two that that come in, even in

our demographic. That happened for the first time this morning. So we're hoping that that sailor recovers."

Most of the 4,800-member crew of the Roosevelt has been tested, with 3,170 sailors testing negative and 416 sailors testing positive, Hyten said. Of the sailors who have the virus, 187 had symptoms and 229 were asymptomatic. The hospitalized sailor was found unconscious by a friend.

The outbreak on the Roosevelt caused it to divert to Guam on March 26. About 2,700 sailors had moved ashore as of Thursday, Hyten said. Over 1,230 of them had moved into hotel rooms to carry out a 14-day quarantine, the Navy had said earlier.

Medical teams check on crew members twice a day and sailors also have a buddy system to check on one another, Hyten said.

# DOD: More shipboard infections likely

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy should expect more ships to have outbreaks of the coronavirus after more than 400 sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt contracted the illness, Gen. John Hyten, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday.

“I think it’s not a good idea to think that the Teddy Roosevelt as a one-of-a-kind issue. We have too many ships at sea, we have too many deployed capabilities. ... To think that it will never happen again is not a good way to plan,” Hyten said during a news conference at the Pentagon.

Almost the entire 4,800-member

crew of the aircraft carrier has been tested, with 3,170 sailors testing negative and 416 testing positive, Hyten said. Of the sailors who have the virus, 187 sailors had symptoms and 229 were asymptomatic.

One sailor has also been hospitalized in Guam and is in the intensive care unit, Hyten said. About 2,700 members of the crew are now off the ship and spread out across the island.

Medical teams check on them twice a day and sailors also have a buddy system to check on one another, Hyten said. The hospitalized sailor was found unconscious in the morning by a friend.

“Deep down, I was hoping that we would never get to the

point — I was hoping that the numbers would be zero at the end of this but that’s just not going to be the case with coronavirus,” he said of the hospitalized sailor. “There’s always going to be the one or two that that come in, even in our demographic. That happened for the first time this morning. So we’re hoping that that sailor recovers.”

Hyten also confirmed “a very small number of breakouts” of the coronavirus among the crew of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier, which was expected to deploy this month. The ship is now in port in Bremerton, Wash.

The Navy now has to figure out how to plan the service’s

operations with the coronavirus in mind, Hyten said.

During a town hall meeting at the Pentagon afterward, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dissuaded people from believing the U.S. military was not ready to fight during the pandemic.

“I don’t want anyone out there in the world thinking the United States military readiness has been heavily degraded. It has not,” he said. “The Roosevelt — we think ... if required in time of contingency planning, the TR would be ready. We could put that right back out to sea if needed.”

Stars and Stripes staff writer Corey Dickstein contributed to this story.

## Navy secretary’s Guam trip cost \$243K

*The Washington Post*

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly boarded one of his service’s executive jets Monday to visit Guam — a trip that turned out to be costly for both him and U.S. taxpayers.

For Modly, the visit resulted in his resignation, after he created an uproar by insulting the former commanding officer of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, who had raised concerns about how the Navy was handling a coronavirus outbreak on the warship.

For taxpayers, the cost of the flight alone was at least \$243,151.65, according to a Navy estimate.

The figure was based on 35 hours of flight time to and from Guam, with refueling in Hawaii. Modly traveled on a C-37B at a cost of about \$6,946.19 per hour, according to the estimate, which was obtained by *The Washington Post*. The jet is a military version of the Gulfstream G550.

The detail emerged as the

fallout from Modly’s recent decisions continues. The drama began when he removed Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt’s captain. Last week, Crozier wrote a letter to Navy leaders requesting that 90% of his 4,800-sailor crew be temporarily removed from the ship in Guam to allow coronavirus testing and quarantining.

Modly boarded the flight to Guam after videos appeared online Friday showing sailors cheering Crozier as he left the ship.

Using the ship’s loudspeaker, Modly told the crew that Crozier had either written the letter, which leaked to the *San Francisco Chronicle* last week, to create a public stir or was “too naive or too stupid” to command the ship.

The comments were recorded by sailors and also leaked, prompting calls for Modly’s resignation from some Navy families and Democratic lawmakers. As of Wednesday, 286 members of the crew had tested

positive for the virus. Crozier is among them.

The Navy’s top officer, Adm. Mike Gilday, released a message to sailors Wednesday acknowledging that it has been a difficult week for the service.

“We will learn from them,” he said of the recent events. “But make no mistake, we are moving forward. The Navy has our orders and we are executing them.”

Gilday, who is chief of naval operations, detailed some of the Navy’s missions and said that remaining ready for them is a part of the service’s job.

“Nobody sits the bench. Everyone must pull together,” Gilday wrote. “And in this new environment of coronavirus, we’re all learning, adapting, and improving by the hour. There is no better example of this than USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT — staring down an invisible enemy — dedicated in their efforts — making phenomenal progress, and providing lessons for the Navy and beyond.”

## Army tests vaccines on primates

*The Baltimore Sun*

BALTIMORE — Army researchers at Fort Detrick, Md., began testing possible vaccines for the coronavirus on animals Monday, Department of Defense officials announced.

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Frederick is performing the tests on “nonhuman primates,” said Jonathan Hoffman, the department’s assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, at a Pentagon press briefing Monday.

The Defense Department is involved in five clinical vaccine trials while also supporting the efforts of other federal agencies, said Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff surgeon. After the animal trials, the testing will move to a small group of people in hopes of expanding to a larger group, he said.



# Warnings multiply as Easter holiday nears

Associated Press

BERLIN — As the Easter holiday approaches, world leaders and health officials are fervently warning that hard-won gains in the fight against the coronavirus must not be jeopardized by relaxing social distancing.

A spike in deaths in Britain and New York and surges of reported new infections in Japan and in India's congested cities make it clear the battle is far from over.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top American infectious diseases expert, said the pandemic will demand permanent changes in people's behavior until a vaccine is developed. He said everyone should be constantly washing their hands and those sick should not go to school or work.

"Don't anybody ever shake hands again," he said. "I mean, it sounds crazy, but that's the way it's really got to be until we get to a point where we know the population is protected."

He also shot down hopes that warmer spring weather would bring an end to the crisis.

"One should not assume that we are going to be rescued by a change in the weather," he said Thursday. "You must assume that the virus will continue to do its thing."

The U.S. has by far the most confirmed infections with over 430,000, three times the number of the next three countries combined. New York state on Wednesday recorded its highest one-day increase in deaths, 779, for an overall death toll of almost 6,300. New York has more than 40% of the U.S. death total of around 15,000.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn cautioned that the positive trend in fewer new infections "must be cemented."

"It is right to remain consistent over Easter," he told the Handelsblatt newspaper Thursday. "Even if it is difficult in this weather, we should stay

home and refrain from family visits so that the infection curve does not rise again."

Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized that "even short trips inside Germany, to the seaside or the mountains or relatives, can't happen over Easter this year."

New Zealand police warned people not to drive to holiday homes over Easter or risk arrest, while Lithuania was imposing a lockdown on major cities over the holiday.

Portugal halted commercial flights at the country's five international airports and set up checkpoints on major roads and junctions to stop Easter visits. Additional restrictions came into force Thursday for the next four days, including a ban on people leaving their local areas and on gatherings of more than five people.

Greece also tightened restrictions ahead of next week's Orthodox Easter, increasing police roadblocks along highways, doubling fines for lockdown violations and banning travel between islands.

Swiss police were setting roadblocks at the Gotthard tunnel, seeking to dissuade drivers from heading to the Italian-speaking Ticino region, the only part of Switzerland south of the Alps and one of the worst-hit by the pandemic.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suggested mass gatherings may be barred through the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which runs from late April through most of May.

Khamenei urged Shiite faithful to pray at home instead. Shiites typically pray together and communities often share meals, especially during Ramadan. Iran has reported over 66,000 infections and over 4,100 deaths, although experts suspect those numbers underreport the country's outbreak.

# Marines on Okinawa start a 3D printing juggernaut

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP KINSER, Okinawa — Armed with a cache of warehoused 3D printers and spools of orange thermoplastic, Marines have waged war against the coronavirus by turning out thousands of frames for face masks and face shields for use on Okinawa.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force's 3rd Maintenance Battalion has 17 3D printers in a Camp Kinser warehouse "factory" running 24 hours a day to provide medical personnel with vital supplies and alleviate pressure on the supply chain as the virus gains a foothold on Okinawa.

As of Wednesday, the island had 40 confirmed cases of coronavirus, not including three at Kadena Air Base, according to the Okinawa Times newspaper.

Since March 30, the Marines have printed 5,000 face mask frames as well as 800 face shield frames for medical personnel at Naval Hospital Okinawa and guards taking the temperatures of motorists as they approach the gates at Okinawa's military installations.

"This is what we train for no matter what the enemy is," Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sean Flores said at the Kinser warehouse Wednesday. Flores is the III MEF utilities and innovation officer.

"Everyone is stepping up," he said. "It's infectious to see others around you making a difference and knowing that you're contributing to the fight no matter what your roles or responsibilities are. I think the importance of training and thinking outside the box has led us to this, and it's truly paid dividends."

Marine officials on Okinawa began discussing the need for personal protective equipment 48 hours before they started printing on March 30 — a week before Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered masks be worn on military installations around the world — Flores said. They began looking at avail-

able designs online and talking to Marines in the 3D printing community.

The Marines at Kinser were about to kick off a series of technology courses that involved 3D printing with Building Momentum, a Virginia-based, veteran-owned small business that specializes in technology training programs.

"We were lucky enough to have the printers on hand," battalion shop foreman Staff Sgt. Quincy Reynolds said.

With the blessing of Building Momentum, the battalion put its LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printers to the side and opened the Ender 3 printers, as well as spool after spool of orange polylactic acid filament, Reynolds said.

After six Marines built the printers in a marathon session, they kept 17 at Kinser and deployed the other seven around the island, including the Marine Corps' second "factory" with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The maintenance battalion was charged initially with making the face masks and the logistics squadron was tasked with the face shields, Flores said.

Two Marines from 3rd Maintenance Battalion have worked around the clock in six-hour shifts for more than a week now keeping the printers humming, said shift supervisor Sgt. Craig Hill.

The face shields were made in several varieties and head sizes. The one-size-fits-all face mask frames can be combined with any cloth to make a functioning face mask.

The Marines also produced face mask clips that alleviate pressure on the ears of first responders.

Hundreds of face mask frames are already in use by Naval Hospital Okinawa staff.

"The naval hospital is ecstatic," Flores said. "They're nervous about resources, trying to hold on to what they have. They're on the front line of this problem, so [we'll do] whatever we can to support them."

# Biden v. Trump: General election battle set

Associated Press

The stage is set for November.

Barring unforeseen disaster, Joe Biden will represent the Democratic Party against President Donald Trump this fall, the former vice president's place on the general election ballot cemented by Bernie Sanders' decision to end his campaign.

Biden likely won't secure the number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination until June. But without any Democratic rivals left, a general election campaign that will almost certainly be the most expensive and among the nastiest in U.S. history is underway.

"It won't be easy. Nobody's confused about that," Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said. "But we are ready for the general election. We are ready for our standard-bearer. I'm confident because Joe Biden's values reflect the values of the majority of the American people that we can win."

In Biden and Trump, voters will choose between two white septuagenarians with dramatically different prescriptions for health care, climate change, foreign policy and leadership in an era of extreme partisanship.

At 77, Biden becomes the oldest major party presidential nominee in modern history. And having spent most of his life as an elected official in Washington, no nominee has had more experience in government.

But in Trump, Biden is up against an adversary the likes of which he has never faced in his decadeslong political career. The 73-year-old Republican president opens with a massive cash advantage and a well-established willingness to win at any cost.

Trump's campaign is moving forward with a multipronged attack that mixes le-

gitimate criticism with baseless charges and, in some cases, outright conspiracy theories. It's similar to the unconventional playbook Trump used against Hillary Clinton four years ago with unexpectedly devastating success.

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said that Biden will be portrayed as too liberal for most Americans, weighed down by questions about his son's overseas business dealings and about questionable mental acuity at his age. Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, predicted that Trump would "destroy" Biden, whom the president and his allies have nicknamed "Sleepy Joe."

"President Trump is still disrupting Washington, D.C., while Biden represents the old, tired way and continuing to coddle the communist regime in China," Parscale said.

Trump's team also believes that he can win over disaffected Sanders supporters who see Biden as a consummate insider. Shortly after Sanders' announcement Wednesday, the president charged without evidence that Democratic leaders were plotting against Sanders.

The Republican National Committee has already assembled an extensive research book on Biden. The GOP has devoted 10 researchers to Biden and sent hundreds of Biden-related freedom of information and public records requests to gather additional damaging material.

Before Biden can shift his entire focus to Trump, the former vice president is tasked with winning over Sanders' skeptical far-left supporters, who have trashed Biden's record on trade, criminal justice, corporate America and foreign policy. The party's most progressive wing also fears that Biden's policies on health care and the

environment, among others, don't go far enough.

For example, Biden supports universal health care, but unlike Sanders, he would preserve the private insurance system and offer Americans a government-backed "public option" instead of Sanders' signature "Medicare for All."

Biden advisers noted that he had already begun reaching out to Sanders' aligned progressive organizations, including those focused on young people like the Sunrise Movement and the March For Our Lives.

Sanders suggested that any full-throated endorsement of Biden would come with strings attached. "We are talking to Joe, and we are talking to his team about how we can work together," he told CBS "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert.

In a sign of what he hopes will come from those talks, Sanders said, "I hope to be able to work with Joe to move him in a more progressive direction."

Perhaps Biden's most powerful ally, former President Barack Obama, was quiet on Wednesday. Still, both the former president and first lady Michelle Obama are ultimately expected to help rally the party behind Biden, who served for eight years as Obama's vice president.

Trump tried to raise suspicion about why Obama had yet to endorse Biden, saying, "When is it going to happen? Why isn't he? He knows something that you don't know." Former presidents typically don't interject themselves in the primary process, and Obama had long maintained he wouldn't get involved until a nominee had been selected.

Biden's status as the presumptive nominee affords him the freedom to move forward more openly with selecting a running mate.

## USAA: \$520M will be returned to clients amid virus

By JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

USAA, a financial services and insurance company with a large military clientele, announced Wednesday it will return \$520 million to its members who are now driving less due to shelter-in-place procedures enacted to combat the coronavirus.

USAA, which serves more than 13 million active-duty military members, veterans and their families, said its customers will receive a 20% credit on two months of premiums in the coming weeks if they had an auto insurance policy in effect on March 31. USAA is one of several compa-

nies slashing premiums on auto insurance, including Allstate, Liberty Mutual and American Family Insurance.

USAA will not cancel members' auto or property insurance policies or charge late fees on auto and property insurance coverage through June 17, according to the statement.

"We understand the impact this pandemic is having on our country, and especially our military community and their families, many of whom also are working on the front lines of the crisis," said USAA president and CEO Wayne Peacock in the statement.

"Returning premiums provides timely

help for our members," he said. "USAA has been facilitating the financial security of military members for nearly 100 years, and this is another way we can serve them well."

The decision to return funds to customers was based on data showing that USAA members are driving less due to the pandemic.

No action is required by members who will automatically see the credit applied to their bill, the statement said.

Additionally, the company has enacted special payment arrangements to assist members experiencing financial difficulties.



# Calif. nursing homes hit with more deaths

Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A Southern California nursing home where nearly three dozen residents have the coronavirus was evacuated Wednesday after staff members failed to show up to work while six infected residents have died at a nursing home in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The 84 patients at the Magnolia Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Riverside were moved to other nursing facilities in the area after many employees failed to report for work for the second day in a row, Riverside County public health officials said. The number of absences wasn't clear, but only one certified nursing assistant out of 13 scheduled to work showed up.

The evacuation occurred a day after the county was notified that five employees and 34 residents at the 90-bed facility had tested positive for the virus, said Brooke Federico, a spokeswoman for the county's public health agency.

In San Francisco's East Bay region, six residents at Gateway Care and Rehabilitation Center in Hayward have died, Alameda County health officials announced Wednesday. They were among 35 residents and 24 staff who tested positive at the facility.

## Alabama

MONTGOMERY — Alabama agreed to remove old ventilator triage guidelines that advocates said discriminated against the elderly and disabled, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Wednesday.

The difficult decisions about who could get a ventilator if there aren't enough for all who need one has taken on new urgency as intensive care units prepare for surges in patients amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal officials cautioned states and doctors that civil rights laws still apply and that decisions on who gets a ventilator should not be based on

stereotypes about a person's worth.

The Alabama document, created a decade ago during the H1N1 pandemic, included factors such as profound intellectual disabilities and severe dementia in weighing against providing the potentially life-saving treatment.

## Delaware

DOVER — Several patients and staff members at Delaware's state-run psychiatric hospital have been infected with the coronavirus, state officials said Wednesday.

The Department of Health and Social Services reported that five patients and three staff members at the Delaware Psychiatric Center have tested positive for COVID-19. Officials said the patients are isolated within a unit at DPC and that the staff members are self-isolating at their homes.

The psychiatric hospital is the seventh long-term care facility in Delaware where residents have contracted COVID-19.

## Florida

MIAMI BEACH — Two months ago, the Miami Beach Convention Center hosted tens of thousands of cheering and laughing Super Bowl guests visiting the NFL's traveling museum and interactive displays.

Now it is filled around-the-clock with members of the Army Corps of Engineers performing the grim task of setting up a 450-bed overflow hospital in case South Florida facilities become overwhelmed with coronavirus patients.

Gov. Ron DeSantis visited Wednesday, saying the corps assured him it would be ready by April 21, when models show the disease could be nearing its statewide peak.

## Kansas

MISSION — Gov. Laura Kelly's executive order restricting the size of religious gatherings amid the coronavirus outbreak was overturned Wednesday after the state's top prosecutor

said it likely violates the state constitution.

With Easter just days away, the Legislative Coordinating Council voted 5-2 to undo the order that limited in-person religious services and funerals to 10 people. The now-overturned order had rescinded an earlier order that barred most gatherings with more than 10 people, with exceptions for religious gatherings and funerals, raising questions about whether large gatherings were now legally permitted. Kelly said legal staff is reviewing the matter.

## Michigan

DETROIT — Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said Wednesday that the coronavirus is "starting to weaken" in Michigan's largest city, but he also pleaded with residents to keep the momentum going by wearing masks and avoiding large groups.

Health officials, meanwhile, reported that Michigan has had 20,346 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 959 deaths from the disease caused by the coronavirus. There were fewer new cases and deaths reported Wednesday than on Tuesday.

"We are starting to weaken it," Duggan said. "If we don't give it new energy by clustering we are going to be successful."

## Mississippi

JACKSON — Numbers released Wednesday show the stark disparity in how the new coronavirus is affecting black and white Mississippians, reflecting longstanding health problems in a state where African Americans are more likely to be poor and uninsured.

The state Health Department said 72% of Mississippi residents who have died of COVID-19 were black and 28% were white. The department said that was based on cases for which "full information" was available, as of Tuesday evening.

It also said that 56% of Mississippians diagnosed with the virus are black, 37% are white

and 7% are of another race.

## Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island's governor is reassuring people struggling to pay their rent that they cannot be evicted because courts are closed at least until mid-May.

Gov. Gina Raimondo said Wednesday night in a message to Rhode Islanders that courts have extended their closure for all non-essential business through May 17 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Attorney General Peter Neronha's office said it has received a growing number of complaints about landlords who are forcing tenants to leave, barring entry to properties or cutting off utilities without court permission.

## Texas

AUSTIN — A 72-year-old is the first Texas state inmate reported to be a possible COVID-19 fatality during the new coronavirus pandemic.

Telford Unit inmate Bartolo Infante died Tuesday, according to a Wednesday statement from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Infante suffered from numerous preexisting medical conditions and was hospitalized under isolation in Texarkana for viral pneumonia after testing positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the TDCJ statement said.

## Washington

SEATTLE — About 1,000 patients in Washington state hospitals have confirmed or suspected diagnoses of coronavirus, according to a new count that shows earlier surveys had undercounted such admissions.

The Seattle Times reported that Washington State Hospital Association statistics, current as of April 7, include 664 confirmed and another 331 suspected cases of the disease caused by the coronavirus. About half of the cases are in King County hospitals.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police: Bear spray helps foil robbery, find robber

**MD** FREDERICK — Police say an attempted robbery was foiled at a Maryland restaurant after an employee sprayed a knife-wielding bandit with bear deterrent spray.

The Frederick News-Post reported that the bear spray helped officers arrest the man because police said he still reeked of it when they tracked him down.

The incident occurred last Friday at Dutch's Daughter restaurant in Frederick. Police said that James Edward Maxwell III, 36, threatened employees with a knife. The bear spray that was used on him is a powerful form of pepper spray.

Maxwell was charged with assault and robbery and sent to jail.

### Man accused of rules violation taunts police

**NC** ASHEVILLE — A North Carolina man accused of violating the state's coronavirus restrictions by leasing non-essential rentals turned himself in after taunting police on Facebook.

Shawn Thomas Johnson, 34, surrendered Tuesday after Asheville police issued an arrest warrant for him on the social media site. According to The State, an account apparently belonging to Johnson commented on the arrest warrant to ask if he can "get a reward" for telling police about his own whereabouts.

Asheville police had described Johnson as 286 pounds on the warrant, to which Johnson commented that he's actually 235 pounds.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Johnson's real estate license was revoked in 2019 for keeping money belonging

to property owners whose rentals he managed. Police said the renters in the property leased by Johnson complied after they were requested to leave.

### Lawmaker apologizes for his obscene gesture

**MN** ST. PAUL — A Minnesota House Democratic leader apologized Tuesday after a video showed him making an obscene gesture at a Republican lawmaker who was announcing a tentative deal on affordable insulin at the state Capitol.

House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, of Golden Valley, is seen off to the side extending a middle finger toward Chaska Sen. Scott Jensen, the lead Senate GOP negotiator on the insulin bill. Minnesota Senate Republicans tweeted a video of Winkler's gesture Tuesday.

Winkler apologized on Twitter, saying his son has Type 1 diabetes and that "after months in which Senate Republicans blocked the emergency insulin bill, it was also poor form of them to claim credit alone after we are all on the edge of a deal."

### Sunken tall ship to be demolished for safety

**CA** DANA POINT — A tall ship that sank at its dock in Dana Point will be demolished because there is no safe way to lift and salvage it.

The decision was made over the weekend following extensive efforts to save the Pilgrim, The Orange County Register reported. It keeled over in its slip on March 29, leaving its masts out of the water.

The 130-foot-long vessel is a replica of the sailing ship that Richard Henry Dana Jr. wrote about in the classic book "Two Years Before the Mast." The original Pilgrim that Dana

sailed on from Boston in 1834 carried New England goods to California for sale or trade and in return carried back a load of cattle hides.

The Ocean Institute, the organization that maintained the vessel that was built in 1945, had warned it probably was beyond repair.

### Family out hiking finds stone crypt from 1850s

**NH** DEERFIELD — A New Hampshire family hiking close to home during the coronavirus pandemic made quite the discovery — a stone crypt from the 1850s.

New Hampshire Public Radio reported Krystin Cooney, of Deerfield, and her family went looking for a moose behind their home after a neighbor spotted one. Instead, they came across what Cooney's fourth-grade daughter, Ellie, described as "a really cool fort."

After doing some research, they realized they had stumbled upon a crypt of former residents, the Norris family.

### Man charged after van rammed into FBI gate

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man who briefly took a hostage at an FBI office eight years ago is facing new charges after prosecutors say he rammed his car into the main security gate of the agency's building to draw agents' attention.

Robert Joseph Hibbard, 49, of Midvale, was charged with one of destruction of government property in a complaint filed Monday. Hibbard had approached the security guard and asked to speak with an agent Sunday afternoon, but was told no one was available, authorities said. He got a phone number for the office and left, then tried the number at a

nearby gas station.

When no one answered, he returned and drove around the building several times before crashing his minivan into a gate. He was detained and later said he "wanted to commit a federal crime to attract the attention of an FBI agent," according to the complaint.

The incident comes after he briefly held a man at knifepoint in 2012, forcing him to take him to an FBI office several floors up to draw attention to his claim that his ex-wife's new husband should have been charged with murder in the woman's death the year before.

### Ex-police chief to be tried in military surplus case

**MI** THETFORD TOWNSHIP — A former Flint-area police chief will stand trial on embezzlement and obstruction of justice charges tied to his department's use of surplus military equipment, including parachutes and mine detectors.

A circuit court judge has determined that a district judge abused her discretion in September in dismissing charges against Robert Kenny following his preliminary examination, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said Monday in a news release. Leyton appealed the district court ruling.

Kenny was Thetford Township police chief. He was charged in August 2018. A county sheriff has said an investigation alleged government money was deposited into a personal bank account and the equipment was given to friends and family. The sheriff said records show the 2-person police department received about 4,000 pieces of equipment through a federal program with a retail value of \$2.7 million.

Kenny later was fired by the township board.

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# Pro day cancellations alter draft process

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Bill Polian simplified the NFL's draft process years ago.

He studied film, relied on medical experts, checked the numbers and interviewed players.

With the flurry of canceled pro days, the Hall of Famer who constructed multiple Super Bowl teams during his 32-year career believes it's time for a return to his throw-back approach.

"Really all you need, and it's especially true in a time like today, you need the game film, the physical exam, which may be difficult to get right now, and the measurables," he told The Associated Press. "So if a player has been to the combine, that's all you really need. If a player hasn't been to the combine or is from a small school, then you've just got to go on the game film and you'd be slightly less accurate.

"And the people who haven't done it as long as I did are probably a little discombobulated about that right now."

Younger scouts, front-office executives and even coaches

find themselves coping with a whole new process with Americans hunkering down and doctors overwhelmed by the mounting cases of COVID-19.

Gone for the most part this year are access to in-person interviews, campus workouts and visits to team headquarters. Also gone are some of the numbers garnered at pro days decision makers like to crunch as they become increasingly reliant upon advanced metrics.

That combination has forced everyone to rethink how they do business:

- Zoom and Skype meetings have become commonplace.

- Draft prospects are offering to send homemade videos of workouts and drills to NFL teams.

- Some college coaches are making a more concerted effort to sell the players who didn't get a chance to work out in front of NFL scouts.

- Even agents find themselves playing new roles.

"I feel like more of a mental health counselor than ever before because some of these kids have been so stressed out to not have the opportunity to showcase what they've worked

for their whole life," said David Moreno, who represents about 10 pro prospects.

Everybody agrees that top-tier players such as Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow or defensive end Chase Young won't be hurt by the cancellations. They did enough in their college careers — and it's all on tape. Plus, they met with team officials and went through the medical checks at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis.

Some players with medical concerns, such as Tua Tagovailoa, the 2018 Heisman Trophy runner-up, or Colorado receiver Laviska Shenault Jr., probably won't see a precipitous drop in their stock, either.

And those who competed in college all-star games but didn't receive a combine invite, like Indiana receiver Nick Westbrook, also have the advantage of performing in front of scouts.

Many others find themselves in limbo.

"I just feel horrible for all these kids that aren't combine guys and put in all this work and now they're just kind of stuck," agent Ron Slavin said.

The stories are endless.

Slavin represents eight draft-eligible players, including Houston punter Dane Roy, who returned home to Australia for his wedding before the school's March 31 workout was called off. Roy doesn't know when he'll be back in the U.S.

Westbrook was working out in Seattle — until the pandemic started shutting down the city. So the Indiana receiver moved in with his parents in Florida but has since struggled to find a workout facility.

Lehigh's top receiver, Devon Bibbens actually missed out on three pro days — two at Temple and another at Delaware. He's also back home in Pennsylvania, using his old high-school regimen to stay in shape.

"I'm lucky enough that I have some equipment in my garage — dumbbells, a barbell, a pull-up bar, field equipment. My high school has a hill," Bibbens said. "These are the workouts I did in high school, so getting back to those things is honestly kind of fun."

Still, nothing can really replace missing time in front of NFL scouts. So coaches are pitching in.

## Washington weighing options with No. 2 pick

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It has long seemed like a virtual certainty that the Redskins will take Chase Young with the second pick in the NFL Draft.

If the Cincinnati Bengals select LSU quarterback Joe Burrow first overall as expected, the Ohio State pass-rusher and Heisman Trophy finalist would fall into Washington's lap.

The Redskins have taken calls about trading down, but the smart money's still on them sticking at No. 2 and plugging Young into their lineup.

New coach Ron Rivera said on a video call Tuesday, "I'd like to believe in the back of my mind I know what we want to do," and laid out the ramifi-

cations of trading back versus getting someone who can help right away.

"If you're going to make a trade and you're going to go back, that guy you're going to take at that spot has to be able to make the kind of impact you need to validate missing an opportunity to take a player that's a high-impact guy," Rivera said. "You've got to be able to sit there and say that the next guy that I'm going to take is going to be that high-impact guy, and that's what I'm looking for. That's what I believe we need is we need a guy that's going to come in and really change our football team."

Young fits that bill. The D.C.-area native had 46 tackles and 16½ sacks during his junior

season at Ohio State and would provide a big boost to a defense that ranked sixth-worst in the league in 2019.

Rivera already acquired quarterback Kyle Allen from his old team, the Carolina Panthers, and there's a wow factor to taking Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa that would fit owner Dan Snyder's persona. But Snyder is a big proponent of 2019 first-rounder Dwayne Haskins, and Tagovailoa might be more attractive to another team interested in trading up.

Rivera said he sees only a few players in the draft as immediate-impact rookies.

"If you're going to pass up Player A and you go back and you're going to take Player D, Player D has to be equal to

Player A," Rivera said. "Because if Player A is going to play for you for 10 years and Player D may not, then did you really get value or did you just get a whole bunch of picks?"

Washington doesn't have a second-round pick after trading into the first round last year to take edge rusher Montez Sweat. Rivera said trying to acquire a new second-round pick is a possibility that he and vice president of player personnel Kyle Smith are evaluating.

"There's a lot to think about," Rivera said. "We've talked as a group the last three days, four days, about what everybody needs to be aware of, what everybody needs to be ready to happen."

# Olympians training an isolated public

Associated Press

DUSSELDORF, Germany — Moving from the track to the living room, many athletes around the world are doing their bit to boost public health during the coronavirus pandemic.

There's been an explosion of athletes offering free online fitness classes and tips to an audience isolated at home.

It helps others keep fit, and especially for sports like track and field, it's a way to stay relevant in a year without the Olympics.

"The onus is all now on the parents and for kids you're stuck in whatever space you've got at home," former marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe, who is preparing an upcoming online class for World Athletics, told The Associated Press.

"So it was just trying to make that a fun way to get everybody

active together and try to restore a little bit of normality."

Radcliffe previously organized family running events to keep people active. Now that more people are at home, she's taking the initiative online.

World Athletics, the governing body of track and field, has been left with an empty schedule as meets around the world have been canceled. It is filling the gap with a range of online exercise tips and educational resources, particularly aimed at children.

Besides Radcliffe, other Olympic athletes involved include two-time 100-meter champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, of Jamaica, who is reading her children's book, and 2012 100 hurdles champion Sally Pearson, of Australia, leading a prenatal workout class.

The trend spans sports and countries.

England cricket player Jos

Buttler has been demonstrating pilates exercises on Instagram with his wife Louise, a professional trainer. Sometimes he's even done it in full gear, with helmet, pads and bat.

In Germany, world long jump champion Malaika Mihambo led an after-school sports club for young children. Now she's taken it online, with daily German-language YouTube workouts packed with motivational chat for the kids she calls her "world champions."

"Even when parents try hard to keep the general uncertainty away from them, children have finely tuned antennas and sense something like that anyway," Mihambo said on the German track federation website. "If I can make my little contribution to putting a bit of structure in their everyday lives in this time, to make them enthusiastic about sport, then I'm happy to do that."

Spanish soccer coaches and

French athletes have joined in, too, while the Slovakian soccer federation published a video showing Jan Gregus, a midfielder with Minnesota United in Major League Soccer, doing a playful routine. Copying his high-energy mix of abdominal exercises and ball tricks will challenge anyone stuck at home.

Radcliffe said athletes can adapt during the pandemic, and help others, thanks to the "resilience" many have built up when their training options are limited by injuries.

"It's the same mentality as if you're injured. You focus on doing what you can do to maintain, so that when you can come out and compete, you compete well and build on that base," she said. "The world's a bit injured right now and we're all just trying to focus a bit on what we can do to help everybody else get through it."

## Waiting game: Lakers' James wants to finish season

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Instead of preparing for a playoff run, LeBron James is mostly spending the spring playing hoops with his teenage sons and enjoying tea time with his young daughter.

And when he isn't binge-watching "Tiger King" with his wife, he is scanning the news for information on whether the coronavirus pandemic will allow the Los Angeles Lakers to finish their impressive season chasing an NBA championship.

James is still optimistic about the Lakers' future, but he also knows safety comes first.

"I don't think I'll be able to have any closure if we do not have an opportunity to finish this season," James said from his home Wednesday.

The Lakers were cruising toward their first playoff berth since 2013 when the NBA season was suspended March 11.

They have the Western Conference's best record at 49-14, leading the second-place Clippers (44-20) by 5½ games and trailing only Milwaukee (53-12) in the overall league standings.

The Lakers did it following a thorough roster turnover last summer headlined by the arrival of Anthony Davis. They also persevered through a stressful preseason trip to China, followed by the death of franchise icon Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash in January.

"I can have some satisfaction on what our team has been able to do this year (with) a first-year coach, first-year system, a whole new coaching staff, bringing on so many new pieces to our team this year," James said. "I honestly didn't think that we would be able to come together as fast as we did, just having so many new pieces (and) bringing in Anthony. He spent seven years in New Orleans, so he was coming into a new system, playing along with

myself, and how we would be able to come together? I thought it would take us a lot longer than it did, but I was wrong. I was very wrong about that."

And then all that good work abruptly stopped four weeks ago. Two unidentified Lakers players subsequently tested positive for coronavirus, but the Lakers say James and his teammates are all healthy after they completed their 14-day isolation.

James will be deeply disappointed if the Lakers don't get a chance to test themselves during a playoff run, yet he realizes what's most important.

James initially expressed reluctance about playing in empty arenas, or the possibility of NBA teams gathering in the same city to complete the season in a form of quarantine. The 16-time All-Star selection now says he is up for anything that's safe and smart.

"If it's in one single, isolated destination, if it's Las Vegas or

somewhere else that can hold us and keep us in the best possible chance to be safe, not only on the floor but also off the floor as well, then those conversations will be had," James said. "Once this thing gets a good handle on it and the people in the higher ranks understand it, if they know we are safe, then we can make the next step."

James is doing weekly meditation, but says his mental state is outstanding, thanks to his family. He has frequently spoken about missing time with loved ones during the grind of the NBA season, so he is enjoying this intensive togetherness with his kids.

"They wake up every day in a positive mind frame," James said. "Maybe one reason is they're not actually in school, so I know they get to sleep in a lot more now. But also they're just so appreciative of life. ... Just being able to see my kids wake up with that positive attitude helps."