

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, April 12, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Taliban release 20 captives per peace plan

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban released 20 prisoners Sunday — the first public release of detainees by the militant group since it signed an agreement with the U.S. in February. The move breathes new life into a peace process that has stumbled from the outset.

The prisoners were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in the southern city of Kandahar, said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid, who provided photos of the release to journalists.

Prisoner releases are a key part of the

U.S. deal with the Taliban, which spells out conditions that must be met if foreign forces are to completely withdraw from Afghanistan within 14 months.

Sunday's prisoner release comes more than a month after what was originally set out in the U.S.-Taliban deal, which called for up to 5,000 militants and up to 1,000 detainees held by the insurgents to be freed by March 10.

The Afghan government, which was sidelined from negotiations that led to the U.S.-Taliban deal, initially balked at a prisoner release but has since released 300 militants over the last week.

After American pressure, the govern-

ment announced a compromise with the militant group in late March, only for talks to break down again last week over who would get freed.

Divisions within the government have also delayed the start of intra-Afghan talks, another key part of the U.S.-Taliban deal.

The release comes days after the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, flew to Qatar for talks with the Taliban. The meeting focused on curbing violence as part of a military channel established in the U.S.-Taliban deal, the U.S. military's press office in Kabul told Stars and Stripes.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

Some troops will get priority once military moves restart

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Priority for military moves will go to personnel with hardships and essential positions once the Defense Department's travel restrictions are lifted, the military's senior enlisted adviser said Friday.

"Every single service right now is developing plans of actions to make sure that we properly prioritize and move people," Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, the senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday during a Facebook town hall.

The two 60-day, stop-movement orders put in place by Defense Secretary Mark Esper in March halted military moves and nonessential travel for service members, their families and other DOD personnel due to the worldwide coronavirus outbreak. The travel restriction order for the United States ends May 11 and the one for overseas travel ends May 23.

The stop-movement orders have affected thousands of families who were preparing to move. Stories about military families who had already shipped their household goods or had signed contracts for a home at their new duty station have highlighted the

unanticipated financial strains on service members.

The travel restrictions have created a backlog just before the start of the busy military moving season, when most moves occur between May and August. Prioritizing personnel will be needed because of the limited capacity to handle all of the anticipated moves, Colon-Lopez said.

"People who are without their property is also a factor that we are going to place in there. People in positions of responsibility — mission-essential personnel — are going to be part of that equation," he said of some of the priorities being considered by the services.

Colon-Lopez asked personnel to continue speaking to their chain of command so they know who is facing hardships and what needs to be done to help them.

If the initial stop-movement orders are extended, he said the military services will determine on a case-by-case basis which people will be allowed to move, including ones with "a dire need" and troops who need to return from deployment.

The plan for how the military will deal with an extension on the stop-movement orders is pending approval from Esper and should be released in a few weeks, Colon-Lopez said.

Apple, Google to adapt phones for virus tracking

Associated Press

Apple and Google launched a major joint effort to leverage smartphone technology to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

New software the companies plan to add to phones would make it easier to use Bluetooth wireless technology to track down people who may have been infected by coronavirus carriers. The idea is to help national governments roll out apps for so-called "contact tracing" that will run on iPhones and Android phones alike.

Software developers have already created such apps in countries including Singapore and China to try to contain the pandemic. In Europe, the Czech Republic says it will release such an app this month. Britain, Germany and Italy are among other countries developing such apps.

Apple and Google plan to release their toolkit in May and say user privacy and security are baked into its design. Privacy and civil liberties activists have warned that such apps need to be so governments cannot abuse them to track their citizens.

Security experts also note that technology alone cannot effectively track down and identify people who may have been infected by COVID-19 carriers.

UK base test processing means fast results

BY BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Service members in the United Kingdom are getting their coronavirus test results sooner than they used to because the U.S. Air Force hospital at RAF Lakenheath has begun processing tests for the virus in-house.

The number of positive cases at Lakenheath and nearby RAF Mildenhall has also decreased since testing began, said Lt. Col. Douglas Michael, the public health officer for the 48th Medical Group. But that drop was likely due to measures taken across the U.K. to stem the spread of the virus.

“We suspect [the decrease] is due to approximately two weeks of social distancing and U.K. lockdown measures,” Michael said.

The hospital at Lakenheath

has been sending coronavirus tests to its own lab, 5 miles away at RAF Feltwell, for analysis since March 30, allowing samples to be processed seven days a week and the results to be returned the same day, officials from the 48th Medical Group said.

“The in-house testing capability cut what was a 3- to 7-day result process to a less than 24-hour result,” said Lt. Col. Shawn McFarland, 48th Surgical Operations Squadron commander.

Previously, tests were sent to British hospitals or a lab in Dayton, Ohio, said Maj. Sybil Taunton, spokeswoman for the 48th Fighter Wing.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany also processes samples to see if a person has the virus, but shipping a test swab from bases

outside Germany and getting results back can take days. Some bases, such as Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, have chosen instead to send their tests to local hospitals, hoping for faster results.

A clinic also has been set up in a deployment tent, allowing patients with symptoms of coronavirus infection or who have been in contact with an infected person to seek care without entering the hospital and potentially bringing the virus with them, said Maj. Clinton Borchardt, the 48th Medical Group’s family health medical director.

Other measures to reduce exposure to the virus, such as telework, social distancing, wearing face coverings when distancing is not possible, and limiting gatherings outside immediate family to no more

than two people, have also been taken at the base, and nearby Mildenhall and Feltwell.

Meanwhile, new Pentagon guidance for coronavirus testing released Wednesday said patients with mild symptoms who can recover outside a clinical setting should not be tested.

But high-risk or mission-essential personnel can be tested at local command discretion after consultation with medical staff, the guidance said.

There were 1,898 coronavirus cases among active-duty service members as of Thursday, according to the Pentagon. Eight people tied to the Defense Department have died after contracting the virus.

Stars and Stripes reporters Kent Harris and Nancy Montgomery contributed to this story.
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World’s militaries face a new enemy

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — The coronavirus pandemic has forced militaries and militias to adapt to an invisible enemy, even as traditional conflicts grind on.

Armies have had to enforce social distancing rules among troops while helping with national outbreak containment and postponing maneuvers.

Here is a look at how the outbreak affects some militaries and conflicts:

Defending borders

Before the pandemic, Israel’s military kept tabs on the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, carried out occasional air strikes against Iran’s military presence in Syria and retaliated for sporadic rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

Now troops are being mobilized to help police enforce quarantines, assist the elderly or provide child care for health workers.

The conflicts on Israel’s frontiers persist. In late March, Syrian air defenses opened fire on missiles allegedly launched from Israeli warplanes.

The Israeli military said border defense remains its top priority.

“Our enemies are still at our borders and our civilians are still within sniper or anti-tank missile range,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman.

Bridging divides?

The virus has spread to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and to Gaza, which has been blockaded by Israel and Egypt since the militant Hamas group seized control in 2007.

The long-simmering Israeli-Palestinian conflict now exists side-by-side with efforts to contain the outbreak.

But the virus is also opening doors to limited cooperation. Israel has helped deliver test kits and other supplies to both the West Bank and Gaza. An Israeli-Palestinian committee is coordinating the movement of Palestinian workers and security forces in the West Bank.

Wage war or fight virus

Spurred by concern over the pandemic, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen declared a temporary cease-fire after five years of war. The Houthis have dismissed the offer as a ploy and clashes continue, casting

doubt over a future peace agreement.

The U.N. had called for an end to escalating fighting so authorities can confront the coronavirus.

Eastern-based forces under the command of Khalifa Hifter are escalating a year-long siege of the capital, Tripoli, which they want to wrest from the U.N.-backed government.

Artillery shells crashed through living rooms, cars, a sea port and three hospitals over the last month, killing at least 16 civilians and wounding more than 30. Grad rockets struck one of the country’s few coronavirus facilities.

Unseen disaster

India has ordered its 1.3 billion people into lockdown, but tensions remain on its militarized frontier with Pakistan. In March, soldiers exchanged gunfire and mortar shells along the frontier at least two dozen times, according to the Indian army.

Lt. Gen. Vinod Bhatia, who heads India’s Defense Ministry-run think tank the Center for Joint Warfare Studies, said that “all militaries build scenarios, but there hasn’t been a scenario around this kind of disaster.”

Easter observed in distance; new world hot spots sprout

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — The world celebrated Easter at a distance on Sunday, with most churches closed and family gatherings canceled amid wide-ranging coronavirus shutdowns. Huge uncertainties loomed about not just the next few weeks but the months ahead as a top European Union official suggested people hold off on making any summer vacation plans.

Southern Europe and the United States, whose death toll of over 20,600 is now the world's highest, have been the recent focal points of the pandemic. But coronavirus hot spots have been shifting constantly and new concerns are rising in Japan, Turkey, the U.S. Midwest and Britain, where the death toll on Sunday was expected to surpass 10,000.

St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, where tens of thousands would normally gather to hear Pope Francis deliver his "Urbi et Orbi" speech and blessing "to the city and the world," was empty of crowds and flowers Sunday, ringed by police barricades. Pope Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely empty basilica, with the faithful watching on TV at home.

Similar scenes played out around the world. Some South Korean churches held Easter services online while Catholic bishops in New Zealand wrote a special pastoral letter to worshippers stuck at home.

In Europe, countries used roadblocks, fines and other tactics to keep people from traveling over an Easter weekend with beautiful spring weather. As hard-hit countries like Italy and Spain see reduced daily infections with and deaths from the virus, economic pressures are mounting to loosen the tight restrictions on daily life put in to fight off the pandemic.

Germany's president told his compatriots in a rare televised address: "Every one of you has changed his life radically; every one of you has saved human lives in doing so and is saving more every day."

When and how weeks-old restrictions are loosened is some-

UK's PM Johnson out of hospital

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was discharged from a hospital Sunday where he was treated in intensive care for the coronavirus.

Johnson's office says he left St. Thomas' Hospital in London and will continue to recover at Chequers, the prime minister's country house. He will not immediately return to work. Johnson had been in the hospital for a week and spent three nights in the ICU.

From The Associated Press

thing that "all of us have ... in our hands, with our patience and our discipline," Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

Some European nations are starting tentative moves to ease their shutdowns. Spain, which on Sunday reported its lowest daily growth in infections in three weeks, will allow workers in some nonessential industries to return Monday to factories and construction sites.

But much uncertainty remains. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said in an open letter to Austrians that the virus will "be with us for months yet."

In his Easter address, the pope called for solidarity across Europe and the world to confront the "epochal challenge" posed by the pandemic. Pope Francis urged political leaders, in particular, to give hope and opportunity to those laid-off by the millions.

"This is not a time for self-centeredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons," he said.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older people and the infirm, it can cause severe symptoms and lead to death.

As US virus death toll overtakes Italy, the Midwest braces

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's for the highest in the world, surpassing 20,000, as Chicago and other cities across the Midwest braced for a potential surge in victims and moved to snuff out smoldering hot spots of contagion before they erupt.

With the New York area still deep in crisis, fear mounted over the spread of the scourge into the nation's heartland.

Twenty-four residents of an Indiana nursing home hit by COVID-19 have died, while a nursing home in Iowa saw 14 deaths. Chicago's Cook County has set up a temporary morgue that can take more than 2,000 bodies. And Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has been going around telling groups of people to "break it up."

The outbreak's center of gravity has shifted from China to Europe and the United States, which now has by far the largest number of confirmed cases — over a half-million — and a death toll higher than Italy's count of nearly 19,500, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The death rate — the number of dead relative to the population — is still far higher in Italy than in the U.S., which has more than five times as many people. And worldwide, the true numbers of dead and infected are believed to be much higher because of testing shortages, different counting practices and concealment by some governments.

About half the deaths in the U.S. are in the New York metropolitan area, where hospitalizations are nevertheless slowing and other indicators suggest lockdowns and social distancing are "flattening the curve" of infections and staving off the doomsday scenarios of just a week or two ago.

New York state on Saturday

reported 783 more deaths, for a total of over 8,600. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the daily number of deaths is stabilizing, "but stabilizing at a horrific rate."

"What do we do now? We stay the course," said Cuomo, who like other leaders has warned that relaxing restrictions too soon could enable the virus to come back with a vengeance.

In the Midwest, pockets of contagion have alarmed state and city leaders and led to stricter enforcement.

Nearly 300 inmates at the Cook County Jail have tested positive for the virus, and two have died. In Wisconsin, health officials expect to see an increase in cases after thousands went to the polls Tuesday for the state's presidential primary.

Michigan's governor extended a stay-at-home order with new provisions: People with multiple homes may no longer travel between them.

In Kansas, the state Supreme Court heard arguments in a dispute Saturday between Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly and Republican lawmakers who overturned her executive order banning religious services and funerals with more than 10 people. New Mexico's governor expanded a ban on mass gatherings to include churches and other houses of worship.

An AP tally from media reports and state health departments indicates at least 2,500 deaths have been linked to coronavirus in nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the U.S., though the federal government has not been releasing a count of its own.

The Internal Revenue Service said the first economic support payments from a \$2.2 trillion rescue package have been deposited in taxpayers' bank accounts, but it didn't say how many people received them or how much money has been disbursed so far.

Distillery makes hand sanitizer for to help fight

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The coronavirus pandemic has brought many small businesses to a standstill, but Ko'olau Distillery on Oahu has never been busier.

However, founders Eric Dill and Ian Brooks are not producing their signature Old Pali Road Whiskey.

Instead, they have rejiggered the distilling process for the time being to make only “neutral” grain alcohol — concentrated at 95% by volume — to produce free hand sanitizer that has been in short supply in Hawaii with the onset of the coronavirus epidemic.

They limit distribution to key medical and civil service personnel in the state.

They use a formula recommended by the World Health Organization, which calls for a mix of alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and a moisturizing agent, in this case, glycerol.

Normally, the distillery's two stills operate a couple days a week for six to eight hours on each run, Dill said. In this race to produce hand sanitizer, however they've been running most days from early morning to midnight, he said.

They average about 5 gallons of base alcohol a day for the hand sanitizer.

They use essentially the same process used for distilling alcohol for whiskey, the primary differences being the fermenting of sugarcane, not corn, with yeast and the much higher concentration of alcohol in the final product.

Dill, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, said the small distillery has been met with a stampede of requests for the ad hoc hand sanitizer since gearing up for production weeks ago after the disinfectant became a rare commodity in Hawaii.

Tax-paying immigrants left out of \$2.2 trillion stimulus plan

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The \$2.2 trillion package that Congress approved to offer financial help during the coronavirus pandemic has one major exclusion: millions of immigrants who do not have legal status in the U.S. but work here and pay taxes.

That includes Carmen Contreras Lopez, a 48-year-old housekeeper who, though she earns low wages, files a tax return each year. Since the virus took hold, she has lost most of her clients and is getting by with help from her oldest son. But she won't see a penny of the money promised to most Americans in response to the pandemic.

“It's hard because to the government, we don't exist,” said Contreras Lopez, who has lived in the U.S. for 30 years and has four grown children who are U.S. citizens.

The government expects to begin making payments to millions of Americans in mid-

April. Anyone earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and who has a Social Security number will receive \$1,200. The payment steadily declines for those who make more. Legal permanent residents, or green card holders, are expected to benefit.

Roughly 4.3 million mostly unauthorized immigrants who do not have a Social Security number file taxes using what's known as a taxpayer identification number, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Many say they pay federal taxes because they hope it will one day help them achieve legal residency and because they feel it's the right thing to do.

“We made that decision because we're living in a country that's welcomed us with a lot of love,” said Ingrid Vaca, a house cleaner in the Washington area.

Vaca said immigrants take care of communities, children, the elderly and homes, but they

will not receive any help themselves. Also left out are the workers' 3.5 million children, many of whom are American citizens.

Asked how immigrants without legal status will survive the pandemic's economic toll without any aid, President Donald Trump acknowledged the difficulty but said many citizens without work need help first.

“It's a really sad situation, and we are working on it. I will tell you I'm not going to give you a hard and fast answer because I just want to tell you it's something I think about,” Trump said.

Democratic lawmakers introduced legislation in the House and Senate that would allow immigrants to access relief funds.

“COVID-19 does not care about your immigration status, so neither should our response,” U.S. Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, said in a statement.

Small businesses struggle to get funds

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Desperate small-business owners who hoped for a quick government lifeline to help them survive the coronavirus crisis are still without funds, instead battling red tape, wary banks and swamped computer systems.

Thousands of owners who applied for loans under the government's Paycheck Protection Program are in their second week of waiting for their money.

And thousands who sought relief through Small Business Administration economic injury disaster loans have waited even longer — some since mid-March.

A few have gotten money. But a panoply of issues at the SBA and banks have far more wondering if they'll be able to stay in business — they've been forced to close their doors due to social-distancing regulations or because customers have cut back their spending.

Those in limbo include owners hoping to avoid layoffs.

The cancellation of weddings, parties and

other events forced caterer Leslie Nilsson to lay off half her staff of 10, but her kitchen staffers are still working, preparing 500 meals a day for New York health care workers.

“If I don't get this money, I don't know how I'm going to pay them past these next two weeks,” said Nilsson, owner of Bartleby & Sage. She has applied for a loan under the \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. She's also hoping to get her administrative staff back to work.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin raised expectations of nearly immediate cash when, in announcing the Paycheck Protection Program, he said companies could receive their loan money the same day they apply.

But Mnuchin's forecast didn't factor in technological glitches, including problems with the SBA's E-Tran processing system on Monday. It also overestimated the ability of the banks to turn around the massive number of applications they were receiving.

Since April 3, when the program began, more than 791,000 applications have been approved by the SBA. In 2019, it handled under 60,000.

Guardsmen check for virus at Fla. nursing homes

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — Members of the Florida National Guard have started on-the-spot testing of residents at nursing homes for the new coronavirus as long-term care facilities in the state have reported scores of cases, Gov. Ron DeSantis said Saturday.

Guardsmen have conducted tests of residents and staff at nursing homes in South Florida and UF Health Shands has done other spot-testing at facilities, DeSantis said.

In Clay County, in the Jacksonville area, 49 cases have been reported at long-term care facilities, and 51 cases among residents and staff have been reported at a nursing home in Suwannee County, located halfway between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Statewide, there were almost 840 coronavirus cases in residents and staff at long-term care facilities, as of Saturday. Last month, DeSantis ordered a suspension of all visits to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and similar sites across the state.

As of Saturday evening, Florida had about 19,000 coronavirus cases and at least 446 deaths.

Georgia

ATLANTA — The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Georgia has now surpassed 12,000, with the death toll at 432.

The state Department of Public Health reported an additional 400 cases and seven deaths on Saturday. The total number of cases now stands at over 12,250. Roughly 20% of those patients are hospitalized.

Gov. Brian Kemp has issued a stay-at-home order lasting through the end of April, but houses of worship are still allowed to hold services if congregants remain 6 feet apart.

Mississippi

JACKSON — Mississippi officials have reported 11 additional deaths from the coronavirus, raising the state's death toll from the disease to at least 93, as the governor banned all

elective surgeries including abortion.

The state Department of Health released the new figures on Saturday. They show the total number of virus cases at a little under 2,650.

On Friday, Gov. Tate Reeves signed an order that banned any surgical procedure not needed to save a life or correct a serious medical condition until April 27, including abortion.

Nevada

Nevada's death toll from the coronavirus has topped 100 as the sweeping impacts of the outbreak across the state now include cancellation of the annual Burning Man festival.

The state's coronavirus website as of Saturday morning listed 2,700 cases statewide with 102 deaths, but the health districts for metro Las Vegas and metro Reno together reported 106 deaths.

Burning Man Project officials on Friday announced cancellation of the annual event that was scheduled to be held Aug. 30 to Sept. 7 in the northern Nevada desert. Organizers of the lifestyle and entertainment gathering that typically attracts 80,000 people said in a Facebook post the cancellation was "in the interest of the health and well-being of our community."

Organizers said they were committed to providing refunds for tickets already purchased. They asked purchasers to consider forgoing refunds because the organization faces layoffs, pay cuts and other belt-tightening measures.

New Mexico

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Saturday expanded her mass gatherings ban to combat spread of the coronavirus to include churches and other houses of worship on the eve of the Christian holy day of Easter.

Lujan Grisham's announcement of her deletion of a previous exemption for houses of worship said many congregations have already canceled in-person services because of the pandemic but that it was

still necessary to be "absolutely clear that mass gatherings of any type are not permitted in houses of worship."

The governor noted that many New Mexico churches plan virtual Easter services through means such as webstreaming.

New Mexico reported 1,174 coronavirus cases with 20 deaths as of Saturday.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — The North Carolina attorney general's office has received over a thousand coronavirus-related price gouging complaints. Among them: a Facebook marketplace seller asking \$100 for a roll of toilet paper.

Of the approximately 1,200 complaints made since a state of emergency was declared and the price gouging law went into effect, 54% involve grocery items, TV station WTVD reported. Consumers also reported being charged too much for hand sanitizer, cleaning products and face masks.

Attorney General Josh Stein's office says it is investigating nine North Carolina-based sellers on Amazon. Those sellers are accused of raising prices on coronavirus-related products by more than 40%, WTVD reported. Offenders face a penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation.

Texas

Texas continued to brace Saturday for a surge in hospital visits driven by the coronavirus pandemic as the state's death toll rose to more than 250.

Officials in Harris County unveiled a temporary overflow hospital that will be able to help take on patients during a heightened onslaught of COVID-19. Medical workers and journalists were taken on a tour of the as-yet-unopened facility on the day the U.S. eclipsed Italy for the highest number of coronavirus deaths in the world, surpassing 20,000.

"We still haven't reached the peak," Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county's highest elected official, told reporters Saturday. Hidalgo added the field hospital won't be used until a sharp increase

in coronavirus patients starts taxing existing hospital systems, which she expects to become an issue in the Houston area in two or three weeks.

The overflow shelter at Houston's NRG Park, where the Houston Texans play, will initially have 250 beds with a capacity of 2,000. Officials are setting up a similar overflow unit in Dallas.

Gov. Greg Abbott said Friday that he would issue an executive order next week laying out how Texas will eventually reopen for business.

As of Saturday, Texas officials confirmed about 12,500 people had tested positive for COVID-19, and 254 had died. Around 1,600 people have recovered from the disease.

Virginia

RICHMOND — Virginia reported more than 550 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, the largest single-day increase so far in the coronavirus pandemic.

The new cases brought the confirmed total to 5,077, a figure that is almost certainly an undercount due to a lack of widespread testing and the likelihood that many people without symptoms could be spreading the highly contagious virus. The death count increased from 121 to 130.

Washington

SEATTLE — Health authorities on Saturday reported 16 more coronavirus deaths in Washington, bringing the total to at least 491 in the state, and released more detailed information about hospitalizations and the racial breakdown of people with COVID-19.

The Washington State Department of Health reported there were more than 10,200 confirmed cases. Authorities also had some numbers about the race and ethnicity of coronavirus cases, however that information was unavailable for more than half of the positive results. Of the cases where race and ethnicity was established, 58% were non-Hispanic white, 22% were Hispanic, 9% were Asian and 6% were black.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Zoo recaptures highly valued accreditation

HI HONOLULU — The Honolulu Zoo has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums after years of efforts to recapture the designation.

The zoo announced that the facility has sought to renew its accreditation since 2016, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported. The Honolulu Zoo, operated by the city's Department Enterprise Services, submitted an application in September in the hope of winning approval in four years.

The association requires zoos and aquariums to complete the accreditation process every five years to maintain membership, which is considered a mark of recognition by a group of animal and conservation experts. The accreditation also gives zoos access to breeding programs, resources and conferences.

Police impersonators on the rise, reports say

KS TOPEKA — Authorities are investigating a spike in people impersonating law enforcement officers in Kansas.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation said in a news release that it has identified about 10 reports of suspected law enforcement impersonations in the past several weeks in multiple counties. There have been no reports of injuries or thefts.

The KBI says that the impersonator often questions whether the driver's travel is "essential," or asks for workplace documentation. The Kansas stay-at-home order doesn't require people to carry a letter, identification card or other paper proving that they are allowed to leave their homes.

Man with gun threatens a waving Easter Bunny

OH MIDDLEBOURNE — Charges are pending against a man accused of brandishing a gun and threatening an Easter Bunny waving to motorists from an Ohio interstate overpass, authorities said.

The man, who is 49, was arrested in Middlebourne in Guernsey County, The Daily Jeffersonian reported. He was given a breath-alcohol test at an Ohio State Highway Patrol post but was taken to a medical facility when jail officials refused to book him because of an elevated temperature.

Guernsey County Sgt. Jason Best said that the man could face charges of aggravated menacing and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle.

A .22-caliber handgun and an open 12-pack of beer were seized as evidence. Deputies said that the man slurred his words and smelled of alcohol.

Naked woman refuses orders to leave airport

LA KENNER — A woman walked into an airport without any clothes on and refused to leave after airline officials told her she couldn't travel, authorities in Louisiana said.

Mariel Vergara of Pueblo, Colo., was naked when she approached the Spirit Airlines ticket counter at Louis Armstrong International Airport, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

A Jefferson Parish deputy was called, and Vergara, 27, had put on a dress by the time he arrived. But, she was still blocked from traveling because she wasn't wearing underwear, and her dress didn't fully cover her private parts, the newspaper reported.

Vergara ignored orders to

leave and scuffled with deputies before being arrested on charges including obscenity and battery of a police officer.

Man stabs friend with scissors, flees scene

MA RAYNHAM — Police in Massachusetts are seeking a man who they say stabbed a woman six times with a pair of scissors in her home.

A man, 24, allegedly attacked the woman in her Raynham home and fled on foot through a nearby wooded area. The man and the victim were friends, police said in a statement.

The woman was taken to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Officers have located the scissors the man allegedly used to stab the victim.

Woman involved in two shootings hours apart

NJ TEANECK — A woman was involved in two shootings that occurred hours apart in two different northern New Jersey towns and left a man injured, authorities said.

Tamykah Trival, 25, of Teaneck, was charged with two counts of attempted murder and weapons offenses.

The first shooting occurred shortly before midnight April 6 in Teaneck. The second shooting occurred several hours later in Bergenfield, when someone in an SUV fired several shots into a car occupied by two men. The car's driver was hit by at least one shot and was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not considered serious.

An investigation determined that the other man in the car, who was not injured, apparently was the intended target of both shootings, authorities said. The shootings apparently stemmed from a domestic dispute.

Police rescue child trapped in storm grate

MD MANCHESTER — Authorities in Maryland rescued a boy who fell 10 feet down a concrete hole and became trapped inside.

The child, 4, was flown to a Baltimore hospital and was in stable condition, police said.

Officers with the Manchester Police Department were called to a nursing home where they found the child conscious, but stuck, The Carroll County Times reported, citing police.

The child's family was outside the nursing home speaking with relatives through a window, limiting their exposure because of the coronavirus, when the boy pulled on an unsecured storm grate cover and fell in, according to Manchester Police Chief John Hess.

Sanitation worker helps save bleeding woman

FL PENSACOLA — A Florida sanitation worker doing his regular rounds rescued a woman who was having a medical emergency in her driveway.

The Pensacola News Journal reported that Ronald Booker asked the woman if she was all right. Then he noticed blood and that she was holding a sweater against her arm.

The woman told Booker she had come from dialysis and that her blood didn't clot properly. The bandage on her arm was not tight enough. Booker said he called 911 and stayed with the woman, trying to staunch the blood flow and keeping her awake by telling jokes.

"It's a human life, I couldn't just ride by," Booker told the newspaper. "I'm just thankful I was there at the right time and the right place."

From wire reports

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Iconic sports cities turn eerie during coronavirus shutdown

Associated Press

They are cities defined by iconic sporting events. When Augusta comes up, one instantly thinks of the Masters. If Omaha is mentioned, it's often in the same breath with the College World Series. It's hard to imagine Louisville without the Kentucky Derby.

"This is who we are," said Jason Fink, the chamber of commerce president in Williamsport, Pa., which has been synonymous with the Little League World Series since it was founded in 1947.

They can certainly relate to that sentiment in Augusta.

The Masters got its start in 1934 on the grounds of a former nursery and the golf tournament is usually held the first full week of April.

Last week, the Georgia city looked like a ghost town.

Augusta National Golf Club was all locked up. Washington Road, which should have been teeming with cars and commerce and humanity, is desolate instead.

A tradition unlike any other has become a year unlike any since the end of World War II.

No ticket brokers offering to buy and sell the coveted badges. No long lines trying to land a table at TBonz steakhouse.

"It's a big hiccup," said Mark Cumins, who co-founded TBonz in 1985 and serves golfers, athletes and celebrities during Masters week. "It's not going to destroy us, but it hurts."

While the Masters has been rescheduled for November, it won't be quite the same.

Another event seeping in tradition, the Kentucky Derby is headed for quite a shake-up — assuming it actually gets to the starting gate.

The Run For The Roses is usually held on the first Saturday of May. Because of the pandemic, hold those mint juleps until Labor Day weekend, when the first leg of the Triple Crown is crammed into a slot

that also marks the start of college football season.

Not so fortunate: the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., and the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City, both of which have already been wiped from the 2020 calendar.

The NCAA Division I baseball championship has been decided in Omaha for the past 70 years. The eight-team tournament is such a part of the city's identity that \$100 million TD Ameritrade Park was constructed a decade ago in exchange for a 25-year promise not to move the event.

Rich Tokheim's sports apparel shop is right across the street from the 24,000-seat stadium, which is dark most of the year other than the occasional local college game played before sparse crowds. More than half Tokheim's annual revenue comes from those 11 or 12 days when the CWS is held in June.

"We're here because of the College World Series," he said. "It's just so many people."

Oklahoma City will feel a similar blow in late May and early June, when it was supposed to host the Division I softball tournament for the 30th time.

Other prominent events are still clinging to the hope.

But each day of mounting deaths tolls and millions of people locked down in their homes makes it increasingly unlikely that either the Little League World Series — actually played in South Williamsport — or the Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming's capital city will carry on as planned in 2020.

"If we were going to play the world series, traditionally like we have done for many, many years, we need to be playing and picking teams by the middle of June," said Little League President Stephen Keener, who has yet to set a drop-dead date for deciding whether the season-ending tournament will be held in its usual August slot.

Cheyenne Frontier Days,

billed as the "Daddy of 'em all," has celebrated the cowboy way of life for 123 consecutive years. In 2019, it drew more than a quarter-million people to what is essentially a supersized county fair, a mix of rodeo events, musical acts, artery-busting food and carnival rides stretching over 10 days in July. For now, Frontier Days remains on the calendar.

But the countdown clock on the festival's web site is a stark reminder that time is running out on a festival that generated nearly \$28 million for the county a year ago.

"Through all the wars, through the depression, we've never missed a year," lamented CEO Tom Hirsig, whose event is scheduled from July 17-26. "It certainly wouldn't be the end of Cheyenne Frontier Days, but it could change the face of it."

Augusta National, which includes some of the world's wealthiest and most influential people among its members, can weather the pandemic's financial impact better than most sports institutions.

But it's going to be a much tougher blow for those outside the gates, who rely on the Masters to provide a huge boost to their bottom lines. It remains to be seen how many will still be around in November to reap the benefits of a rescheduled tournament.

The Masters is even more intertwined with the local community because of all the private homes that are rented out to handle the huge influx of tournament spectators, sponsors and media who descend on Augusta each year — far more than can be handled by the limited hotel space.

This is usually a week when thousands of locals head for the beach or take a cruise.

Now, most everyone is stuck at home.

Sports — and some of its most iconic cities — have gone dark.

Oilers' Cave dies at 25 from brain bleed

TORONTO — Colby Cave, an excellent teammate whose lone goal for the Edmonton Oilers this season came on an "awesome" rush down the ice, died Saturday after a brain bleed this week. He was 25.

The NHL club did not say what caused the bleed. Cave's agent, Jason Davidson, has said the condition did not appear linked to the coronavirus.

"Our Colby was loved dearly by us, his family and friends, the entire hockey community, and many more," his family said in a statement.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said Cave's "life and hockey career, though too short, were inspiringly emblematic of the best of our game."

Cave was placed in a medically induced coma Tuesday at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. He was airlifted to Toronto after being admitted to a hospital in Barrie, Ontario, on Monday. Cave underwent emergency surgery Tuesday to remove a colloid cyst causing pressure on the brain.

British racing great Moss, 90, dies

LONDON — Stirling Moss, a daring, speed-loving Englishman regarded as the greatest Formula One driver never to win the world championship, has died. He was 90.

Though he retired young, at 31, he raced in 107 different types of car and boasted a record of 212 wins in the 375 competitive races he finished.

Moss died peacefully at his London home following a long illness, his wife, Susan, said Sunday.

Booker wins NBA 2K20 Players final

Devin Booker won the NBA 2K20 Players Tournament on Saturday night, sweeping Phoenix Suns teammate Deandre Ayton in the best-of-three final.

"I played a lot growing up," Booker said.

ESPN broadcast the three-day, 16-player Xbox One competition.

— Associated Press

New coaches feel effects of shutdown

Associated Press

Nick Rolovich dived right in when Washington State hired him in January. Like all first-year coaches, he had to make up ground in a hurry.

There were assistants to hire, a roster to learn, players and administrators to meet. He had to reassure the most recent signees, begin work on securing future recruiting classes. Rolovich also had to set expectations for coaches and players while implementing new offensive and defensive systems.

Just when it seemed like things were up and rolling, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The ensuing national shutdown hurt coaches across college football as they prepare for next season, but it was particularly difficult on programs with first-year coaches trying to build something from the ground up.

"I think most people would say it'd be not advantageous for a first-year coach," Rolovich said. "We tend to think as coaches, whether it's what the money has become, or the pressure of the job, you tend to always think you need to do more and more and more."

Taking over a new program presents its own set of challenges. Coaches need all of spring to assess players and set

a foundation, then build upon it in fall camp. Often, it's still not enough time, leading to growing pains for the first season, maybe more.

The pandemic wiped out all spring activities in college athletics and could possibly carry over into the fall. That erases precious time for first-year coaches to strengthen relationships with players they've only known for a month or two, provide them with hands-on instruction and evaluate what they can do on the field.

A big portion of the teaching and assessing comes during spring football workouts. The NCAA allows teams to have 15 practices and a spring game in a span of 29 consecutive days, with most wrapping up by the end of April.

Some schools were in the middle of spring practices when the shutdown hit, others were just about to start. The loss of spring workouts makes it challenging for every program, but even more for teams with first-year coaches.

The Power Five first-year coaches include Jimmy Lake at Washington, Lane Kiffin at Ole Miss, Mike Norvell at Florida State, Baylor's Dave Aranda, Missouri's Eli Drinkwitz, Boston College's Jeff Hafley, Mike

Leach at Mississippi State, Sam Pittman at Arkansas, Michigan State's Mel Tucker and Karl Dorrell at Colorado.

"I'd be lying if I said that doesn't hurt us," Pittman said. "We know our players as well as we can in the short period of time that we've been together, but man, it would have been nice to see what they can do and how they react to coaching and how they react to techniques and things of that nature. We just weren't able to do it."

Coaches like Rolovich and Pittman, who was hired on Dec. 8, had a few months to begin molding their programs before the outbreak.

Dorrell had a few weeks.

A former Buffaloes assistant, Dorrell returned to Boulder on Feb. 23 after Tucker left for Michigan State. Dorrell worked quickly to hire coaches, interview his players and begin laying the schematic groundwork.

Colorado's spring football was suspended indefinitely three days before the first practice, leaving Dorrell and his staff no chance to work with their players on the field.

"I'm not looking at it as a detriment just because I'm new. I look at it like everybody's dealing with this," he said. "I know that they're all under the same

guidance and standards of what's going on right now with our country, so from our perspective, we're just going to try to maximize whatever chance we get with our players."

Coaches across the country are trying to navigate the locked-down, no-football world of the pandemic, preparing for a season while not knowing when it will begin. Meetings between coaches, players and positional groups are done virtually as teams do the best they can to ensure they're ready when football starts up again, whenever that is.

The first-year coaches are also using the time to get to know their players and make sure there's still a connection when they're allowed to return to the field.

"I'm working through our roster, calling about 15 or so guys a day and spending time with them, getting to know their families, getting to know their daily routine, getting to know their goals and their vision for themselves and their futures and how I can help with that," Aranda said. "I think when it's slowed down to the point to where it is now, it allows us to fill in that space and that time with people."

Mild winter, no games aid fields around majors

Associated Press

Nicole Sherry poked some holes in the turf at Camden Yards, cut the grass and then left the ballpark about the same time the Baltimore Orioles should have been wrapping up their season opener.

"What a beautiful day it would have been for a ballgame," said Sherry, the head groundskeeper for the Orioles. "It was kind of surreal because I was thinking, 'Technically, this is opening day.'"

Camden Yards was all green and would have been ready for what was going to be Major League Baseball's earliest start, March 26. Then the season was put on hold indefinitely because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A mild winter was beneficial to Oriole Park, and many other ballparks often bat-

tered by brutally cold temperatures, snow and ice. Now the grass has even longer to grow, get greener and strengthen before there will be any games.

A decade into the Minnesota Twins playing home games outside, the Target Field natural turf was in really good shape after an earlier-than-usual thaw.

"There was no rot or disease or anything that we could see that had damaged anything," said Matt Hoy, the team's senior vice president of operations. "When you look at it from up in the upper level and look down at the field, it looked gorgeous."

When preparing for what would have been their home opener Thursday, the Twins split their grounds crew into two groups, working at different times, to maximize social distancing on the field.

"Somebody will be there pretty much every day dealing with the grass and making sure that we'll be ready to go at a moment's notice, or when players are here, they'll be able to go out and do long toss on the field, should they need it," Hoy said.

Roger Bossard, in his 54th season as a groundskeeper with the White Sox, usually returns from spring training in Arizona to inches of snow on the home field in Chicago. Only four years ago, his crew was using jackhammers to get ice off the infield.

"The weather has been really lenient this year," Bossard said, a third-generation groundskeeper. "If they were to play baseball in four days, I personally would be ready. The majority of times, I can't say that when I come back."