

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Fauci offers grim warning if US reopens too soon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, warned on Tuesday that "the consequences could be really serious" if cities and states reopen the U.S. economy too quickly.

More COVID-19 infections are inevitable as people again start gathering, but how prepared communities are to stamp out those sparks will determine how bad the rebound is, Fauci told the Senate Health, Labor and Pensions Committee.

"There is no doubt, even under the best of circumstances, when you pull back on mitigation you will see some cases appear," Fauci said.

And if there is a rush to reopen without following guidelines, "my concern is we will start to see little spikes that might turn into outbreaks," he said. "The consequences could be really serious."

Fauci was among the health experts testifying Tuesday to the Senate panel. His testimony comes as President Donald Trump is praising states that are reopening after the prolonged lockdown aimed at controlling the virus's spread.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn, chairman of the committee, said as the hearing opened that "what our country has done so far in testing is impressive, but not nearly enough."

Fauci, a member of the coronavirus task force charged with shaping the response to COVID-19, which has killed tens of thou-

sands of people in the U.S., is testifying via video conference after self-quarantining as a White House staffer tested positive for the virus.

With the U.S. economy in free-fall and more than 30 million people unemployed, Trump has been pressuring states to reopen.

A recent Associated Press review determined that 17 states did not meet a key White House benchmark for loosening restrictions — a 14-day downward trajectory in new cases or positive test rates. Yet many of those have begun to reopen or are about to do so, including Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Utah.

Of the 33 states that have had a 14-day downward trajectory of either cases or positive test rates, 25 are partially opened or moving to reopen within days, the AP analysis found.

Fauci put himself in quarantine after a White House staffer tested positive for the virus. Alexander also put himself in quarantine after an aide tested positive.

Besides Fauci, of the National Institutes of Health, the other experts include FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn and Dr. Robert Redfield, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — both in self-quarantine — and Adm. Brett Giroir, the coronavirus "testing czar" at the Department of Health and Human Services.

## At least 14 killed as gunmen storm Kabul maternity hospital

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fourteen civilians were killed and at least 15 were wounded when assailants attacked a maternity clinic in a Kabul hospital Tuesday, setting off a battle as Afghan police rescued dozens of mothers and newborns while under fire.

Two newborns were among the dead, and the other victims were women, Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aryan said.

By early afternoon, special operations police had killed all three assailants and rescued more than 100 people, he said in a statement, calling the attack "a crime against humanity."

Photos released by the Interior Ministry showed police carrying infants wrapped in towels and blankets, some of them blood-soaked, followed by their mothers as they fled the hospital, where international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders runs the maternity clinic.

Coalition soldiers supported Afghan forces by providing security during the operation, a statement from NATO Resolute Support said Tuesday.

The attack began when a security guard was shot and wounded at around 10 a.m. by the assailants, who then burst into the government-run hospital, which is in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood in western Kabul, an Afghan worker told Stars and Stripes.

The worker asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

International and Afghan col-

leagues rushed to safe rooms as soon as they heard shooting, the hospital worker said.

In a statement posted on Twitter, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ross Wilson condemned the "barbaric attack & ... the evil terrorists who target those who cannot defend themselves."

The Taliban said on Twitter they were not involved in the attack. None of the other armed groups that operate in and around Kabul, such as Islamic State, immediately claimed responsibility.

The hospital attack was the latest in Afghanistan since the Taliban and U.S. signed a deal at the end of February, pledging to work toward a negotiated peace settlement.

But violence has since increased, and with some of the attacks being blamed on the Taliban, several U.S. officials have condemned the group for violating the Feb. 29 deal.

Another attack in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Tuesday left around 40 people injured, with an unknown number dead, a statement by the governor's office there said.

That attack is believed to have been a suicide bombing targeting a funeral for a local police commander, the governor's office said.

The Taliban denied involvement in the attack in Nangarhar.

But the insurgent group has claimed responsibility for an attack on an Afghan army checkpoint in eastern Laghman province Sunday, in which six soldiers were killed and five wounded, the government said.

# Navy's response to virus on ships reviewed

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON— The Navy's approach to preventing the spread of infectious diseases aboard its ships and submarines will be evaluated by the Defense Department's Inspector General, following two recent coronavirus outbreaks aboard warships at sea, the agency announced Monday.

The inspector general's evaluation will "determine whether the Navy has implemented policies and procedures to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious disease" such as the coronavirus, as well as "determine whether mitigation measures that are effective in preventing the spread of [the coronavirus] were implemented across the fleet," according to the announcement.

The evaluation comes after the Navy confronted the coronavirus outbreaks aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and the destroyer

USS Kidd. The Roosevelt had more than 1,100 active cases among its crew as of April 30, the last update that the Navy has provided about the outbreak. That report also stated the Kidd had 78 active cases, after confirming its first cases April 24. Both ships had crew members hospitalized, and the Roosevelt had one sailor die in Guam from complications due to the virus.

The inspector general's evaluation will begin this month and will cover offices at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the chief of naval operations, according to the announcement.

The Navy is following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for cleaning and sanitizing its ships, as well as social distancing and screening measures for sailors. Adm. Robert Burke, the vice chief of naval operations, said in an April 15 message that a ship's environment, with its confined work spaces and sleeping quar-

ters, "makes it difficult to comply with CDC guidelines."

"Personal accountability and preventive actions will be critical to our success. Every single sailor must take action, from the operational commander to the deckplate," he wrote. "It is OK to take yourself out of the game temporarily to keep yourself and your shipmates healthy."

Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said Wednesday in a message to the fleet that the Navy has "embraced the challenge" of the virus through learning, adapting and improving how it operates during the pandemic. That includes implementing public health measures such as face coverings and social distancing, and in its response to the Kidd.

The Navy also has its own investigation into the service's response to the outbreak aboard the Roosevelt. The first three cases were reported March 24 and the ship arrived in port in Guam on March 27 to provide

medical care and testing to crew members and to clean the ship.

The ship's former commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, was fired April 2 by the former acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly after a letter that Crozier emailed to other naval officers requesting to evacuate the ship due to the outbreak was leaked to the media. Modly resigned April 7 when disparaging comments that he made about Crozier and his handling of the outbreak were leaked online.

A second, deeper investigation was directed by acting Navy Secretary James McPherson on April 29 after the initial inquiry left him with "unanswered questions." His decision followed Defense Secretary Mark Esper's own request days before for more time to review the Navy's written investigation after he was verbally briefed by McPherson and Gilday on the initial report's recommendations.

## Virus' impact on military likely to lead to changes

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Studies of the coronavirus' impact on the U.S. military will result in long-term changes to the way forces operate, according to a sociologist who studied the military response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Teams of researchers and medical experts deployed to Guam last month to examine the coronavirus outbreak on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, the U.S. Naval Institute News reported April 12.

Their findings will likely lead to changes in the way the Navy operates, said Michael Bartos, an honorary associate professor of sociology with Australia National University and an expert on HIV and its impact on military forces.

"It will result in some revision to the way [military leaders] think about infection control on ships," he said, comparing the coronavirus' impact on warships to how it's affected the cruise industry, which has ground to a halt following numerous infec-

tions and passenger deaths.

The Navy will require a more stringent regime of onboard infection control, Bartos predicted.

"Ships might need to be compartmentalized more," he said. "It might be people don't move between various areas of the ship in order to control outbreaks."

Military forces are well placed to contain the disease because of their history of pragmatic approaches to protecting troops from sexually transmitted diseases and hierarchical command systems giving leaders power to order effective public health measures, he said.

The military's response to the coronavirus is a lot more proactive than it was during the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957-58 that killed an estimated 1.1 million worldwide and 116,000 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Stars and Stripes reports from the time included advice from doctors telling people to wash their hands and stay home from

work if they feel sick.

However, the newspaper, on Sept. 7, 1957, quoted a spokesman for the U.S. Air Force Europe surgeon's office who said the Asian Flu had not reached "serious proportions" despite 1,250 cases among airmen in Europe.

"The proportion of cases throughout the command has not, to our knowledge, reached a point where we should curtail public gatherings of other than very large crowds," he said. Data collected about the coronavirus should be prepped for use in the next pandemic, the head of U.S. naval forces in Europe and Africa said April 30, according to USNI News.

Adm. James Foggo proposed a "GER-MEX" drill with allies that focuses on force protection, the report said. Lessons learned should become part of the military's routine.

"No matter how tough this thing is, we just can't let our guard down," Foggo said. "Our other adversaries are not going to take a knee."

# Aid puts prized Pentagon projects at risk

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's \$3 trillion effort to rescue the economy from the coronavirus crisis is stirring worry at the Pentagon. Bulging federal deficits may force a reversal of years of big defense spending gains and threaten prized projects like the rebuilding of the nation's arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper says the sudden burst of deficit spending to prop up a damaged economy is bringing the Pentagon closer to a point where it will have to shed older weapons faster and tighten its belt.

"It has accelerated this day of reckoning," Esper said in an Associated Press interview.

It also sets up confrontations with Congress over how that reckoning will be achieved. Past efforts to eliminate older weapons and to make other cost-saving moves like closing under-used military bases met

resistance. This being a presidential election year, much of this struggle may slip to 2021. If presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden wins, the pace of defense cuts could speed up, if he follows the traditional Democratic path to put less emphasis on defense buildups.

After Congress passed four programs to sustain the economy through the virus shock, the budget deficit — the gap between what the government spends and what it collects in taxes — will hit a record \$3.7 trillion this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office. By the time the budget year ends in September, the government's debt — its accumulated annual deficits — will equal 101% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

California Rep. Ken Calvert, the ranking Republican on the House Appropriations defense subcommittee, says defense budgets were strained even before this year's unplanned burst of deficit spending.

"There's no question that budgetary pressure will only increase now for all segments of our federal budget, including defense," Calvert said.

For military leaders, the money crunch poses an economic threat that could undermine what they see as spending crucial to U.S. security.

One prominent example is the Trump administration's plan — inherited from the Obama administration — to pour hundreds of billions of dollars into replacing every major element of the nuclear weapons complex, from some of the warheads designed and built by the Energy Department to the bombers, submarines and land-based missiles that would deliver the warheads in combat.

Until now there has been a consensus in Congress supporting this nuclear modernization program, which includes replacing the aged communications systems that command and control nuclear weapons. Some House Democrats sought

last year to block funding for the next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile, to replace the Minuteman 3, but they gave in and the project survived.

Nuclear modernization is a fat target for budget cutters. Mackenzie Eaglen, a defense specialist at the American Enterprise Institute, foresees the possibility of calls by some in Congress to reduce the planned fleet of Columbia-class nuclear ballistic missile submarines from 12 to perhaps nine. The Navy has estimated the total cost of this program at about \$110 billion, with each boat costing \$6.6 billion.

The Navy several years ago accepted a two-year delay in the Columbia program, and according to a Congressional Research Service report last month, the first sub is now scheduled to enter service in 2031 and the number of subs in the fleet will drop to 10 for most of the 2030s as the current fleet of Ohio-class subs is retired.

## Landing practice set for Reagan's upcoming patrol

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Navy pilots will start carrier landing practice on Iwo Jima on Thursday to qualify for the USS Ronald Reagan's upcoming patrol, Naval Forces Japan announced Tuesday.

The practice takes place before deployment each year on the remote Japanese island where more than 25,000 Japanese and U.S. troops died in a grueling World War II battle. It's known as Iwo To in Japan.

Landing practice for aviators is a final step before the carrier leaves for patrol. Practice is expected to last through June 10.

The Reagan left its Yokosuka homeport for sea trials on May 4, but not all its crew was aboard as some sailors continued a phased pre-embark sequestration to prevent a coro-

navirus outbreak on the ship.

An outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt caused that aircraft carrier to divert to Guam on March 26. About a month later, more than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors had tested positive for the virus. Sidelining the Roosevelt left the Western Pacific without a U.S. carrier on patrol. As of Sunday, more than half of the Navy's 11 aircraft carriers were at sea, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday.

"The @USNavy has 6 carriers underway right now. Truman, Eisenhower, Reagan, Nimitz, Lincoln and Ford all operating where ships belong — at sea," Gilday said on Twitter on Sunday. "We are a #ForcetoBeReckonedWith."

Additionally, all Pacific Fleet submarines are underway in the Western Pacific, Submarine Force Pacific said Friday.

## Iran holds funeral for sailors killed in friendly-fire incident

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran held a funeral Tuesday for 19 sailors killed when a missile fired during an Iranian military training exercise this week mistakenly struck a naval vessel, the state TV reported.

The ceremony took place at a naval base in the southwestern port city of Chahbahar, about 875 miles southeast of the capital, Tehran. Mourning families and relatives of the killed soldiers, along with military and government officials, attended, the report said.

The bungled training exercises took place Sunday in the waters near the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The missile hit the navy vessel Konarak off the port of Jask in the Gulf of Oman. The Konarak, a Hendijan-class support ship taking part in the exercise, came too close to a target and the missile struck it,

state TV had said. The Konarak had been putting targets out for other ships to attack.

Fifteen Iranian sailors were also wounded in the incident, which raised new questions about the readiness of the Islamic Republic's armed forces amid heightened tensions with the U.S., just months after they accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner near Tehran, killing all 176 people onboard.

Iran regularly holds exercises in the Gulf of Oman, which is close to the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world's oil trade passes.

President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers two years ago, launching a maximum pressure campaign against Iran that has recently pushed the two countries to the brink of an all-out conflict.

# Pelosi, McConnell at odds over aid urgency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi unveiled a more than \$3 trillion coronavirus aid package Tuesday, encouraging Congress to “go big” with aid to cash-strapped states and struggling Americans.

The Heroes Act provides nearly \$1 trillion for states, cities and tribal governments to avert layoffs and another \$200 billion in “hazard pay” for essential workers, according a summary. It will offer \$1,200 direct cash aid to individuals, up to \$6,000 per household. There is \$75 billion more for virus testing.

A vote is expected Friday.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said Tuesday it appears the sweeping Democratic-led bill “will be ready” to call lawmakers back to Washington for the vote.

“This is an unprecedented time in our history,” Hoyer said about the virus outbreak and economic shutdown. He said Congress needs to act in “unprecedented ways.”

But the legislation is heading straight into a Senate roadblock. Senate Republicans are not planning to vote on any new relief until June, after a Memorial Day recess.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says there is no “urgency” to act.

The new package, the fifth since March, is expected to carry another eye-popping

price tag. President Donald Trump has signed into law nearly \$3 trillion in aid approved by Congress.

Its centerpiece is likely to be money to states and cities that are struggling to avoid layoffs in the face of skyrocketing health care costs and plummeting tax receipts during the economic shutdown. There will be money for virus testing and another round of direct cash payments and unemployment benefits for Americans, Pelosi said. She has not disclosed the cost.

As states weigh the health risks of reopening, McConnell said the nation needs to “regroup and find a more sustainable middle ground between total lockdown and total normalcy.”

The Republican leader on Tuesday called the emerging Democratic bill a “big laundry list of pet priorities.”

On a conference call with House colleagues Monday, Pelosi urged Democrats to “go big,” according to a person unauthorized to discuss the private caucus call and granted anonymity.

“To those who would suggest a pause, I would say the hunger doesn’t take a pause, the rent doesn’t take a pause,” Pelosi said late Monday on MSNBC. “We have a big need. It’s monumental.”

One provision holding up the package is how best to funnel direct cash to households. A proposal from Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a co-chair of the Progressive

Caucus, could be crucial to winning votes from the more liberal lawmakers. It would provide three months of guaranteed paychecks for those making less than \$100,000 a year.

Hoyer said the Jayapal proposal remains “under consideration.”

With the Capitol still partly closed, Hoyer, D-Md., told lawmakers on the call there would be 72-hour notice before returning to Washington for the vote, which could come Friday, the person said.

But Senate Republicans are in no rush to spend what could be trillions more on aid.

“I don’t think we have yet felt the urgency of acting immediately,” McConnell told reporters Monday at the Capitol.

McConnell said he has been in close contact with the White House, assessing the aid Congress has already approved in response to the virus outbreak and next steps.

Trump is expected to meet Tuesday with a group of Senate Republicans. “If we decide to go forward, we’ll go forward together,” McConnell said. His priority is to ensure any new package includes liability protections for health care providers and businesses that are reopening.

Senate Republicans are not expected to act on any further aid until after the Memorial Day recess, according to a senior Republican aide unauthorized to discuss the planning and granted anonymity.

## As Trump urges reopening, many getting sick at work

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even as President Donald Trump urges getting people back to work and reopening the economy, an Associated Press analysis showed that thousands of people are getting sick from COVID-19 on the job.

Recent figures showed a surge of infections in meatpacking and poultry-processing plants. There’s been a spike of new cases among construction workers in Austin, Texas, where that sector recently returned to work. Even the White House has proven vulnerable, with positive coronavirus tests for one of Trump’s valets and for Vice President Mike Pence’s press secretary.

The developments underscore the high stakes for com-

munities nationwide as they gradually loosen restrictions on business.

“The people who are getting sick right now are generally people who are working,” Dr. Mark Escott, a regional health official, told Austin’s city council. “That risk is going to increase the more people are working.”

Austin’s concerns will likely be mirrored in communities nationwide as the reopening of stores and factories creates new opportunities for the virus to spread.

To be sure, there are plenty of new infections outside the workplace — in nursing homes, and among retired and unemployed people, particularly in densely populated places such as New York City, Chicago, Philadel-

phia and urban parts of New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Yet of the 15 U.S. counties with the highest per-capita infection rates between April 28 and May 5, all are homes to meatpacking and poultry-processing plants or state prisons, according to data compiled by the AP.

The county with the highest per-capita rate was Tennessee’s Trousdale County, where nearly 1,300 inmates and 50 staffers recently tested positive at the privately run Trousdale Turner Correctional Center.

In the federal prison system, the number of positive cases has increased steadily. As of May 5, there were 2,066 inmates who’d tested positive, up from 730 on April 25.

The No. 2 county on AP’s

list is Nobles County in Minnesota, which now has about 1,100 cases, compared to two in mid-April. The county seat, Worthington, is home to a JBS pork processing plant that employs hundreds of immigrants.

“One guy said to me, ‘I risked my life coming here. I never thought something that I can’t see could take me out,’” said the Rev. Jim Callahan of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Worthington.

Nebraska’s Dakota County, home to a Tyson Foods meat plant, had recorded three cases as of April 15, and now has more than 1,000. There have been at least three COVID-19 deaths, including a Muslim woman from Ethiopia who was among 4,300 employees at the Tyson plant.

# Western governors want \$1T in federal aid

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Governors and legislative leaders from five western states that are coordinating their response to the coronavirus outbreak asked Congress on Monday to send \$1 trillion to state and local governments across the U.S. in the next federal aid package.

Officials from California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington said in a letter to leaders of both parties in the U.S. House and Senate that they will have to make deep budget cuts without more federal aid. That could include to services such as health programs and job training designed to help those hit hard by the virus.

The governors and officials said that \$1 trillion in direct, flexible payments to state and local governments will not make up for the big hits their budgets are expected to take, but “it will make a meaningful difference” in their ability to keep services running. The Assembly minority leader in California was the lone Republican to sign the letter.

It’s not yet clear what another congressional aid package might look like or what type of proposal could gather bipartisan support.

## California

SACRAMENTO — More than two dozen California counties have asked for permission to loosen their stay-at-home orders beyond what the state allows, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday, promising a speedy review of their requests as jobs continue disappearing by the millions in a coronavirus-induced economic downturn.

Newsom relaxed some statewide restrictions last week by allowing curbside pickup at most retail stores and giving manufacturers the OK to resume with some limits. He’s promised to release guidelines on Tuesday for the return of dine-in restaurants.

But many rural counties with few virus cases are eager to jump ahead of Newsom to get started on recovering from a

statewide stay-at-home order that has been in place for nearly two months.

## Connecticut

HARTFORD — Connecticut’s COVID-19 death toll surpassed 3,000 on Monday, even as state officials announced plans to open day camps this summer. Officials reported 41 additional deaths, bringing the total to 3,008.

“Shame on us for underestimating, perhaps, what could happen,” Gov. Ned Lamont said, adding that the U.S. surgeon general told him during a visit last month that the outbreak would likely be similar to a bad flu season, in which about 100 Connecticut residents die.

But the governor also noted that hospitalizations from the coronavirus continue to trend downward, and that less than 10% of COVID-19 tests in the state came back positive for the second consecutive day.

## Iowa

IOWA CITY — Iowa’s governor and its medical director were in partial quarantine Monday after potential exposure to the coronavirus, even as the state made plans to lift more restrictions that were intended to slow the spread of the disease.

Gov. Kim Reynolds said that she would follow a modified quarantine plan because she may have been exposed last week while visiting the White House or meeting with Vice President Mike Pence two days later in Iowa.

At least two staff members at the White House have tested positive, including a valet to President Donald Trump and Pence’s spokeswoman.

The governor said that she would have most of her aides work from home, have minimal interactions with others, wear a mask at times and practice social distancing.

## Kansas

TOPEKA — State and local orders still in place for check-

ing the spread of the coronavirus in Kansas are facing legal challenges from the state’s attorney general and business owners.

Republican Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Monday that he is reviewing whether it’s constitutional for people who violate Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly’s orders restricting business activities to face criminal charges. His office said that the GOP district attorney in Reno County in south-central Kansas asked him for a legal opinion.

Schmidt’s announcement came a day after two business owners in Linn County in eastern Kansas filed a federal lawsuit against the county, its county commission and its health director.

## Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Major League Baseball may be weeks away from playing ball again, but the factory in Louisville that supplies bats to many of its players resumed production Monday in Kentucky.

The Hillerich & Bradsby plant that makes Louisville Slugger bats had been idled for nearly two months because of the coronavirus outbreak. Workers started filling orders for some big leaguers as parts of Kentucky’s economy reopened Monday after weeks of shutdowns.

Hillerich & Bradsby resumed bat production with new health and safety protocols that include twice-daily temperature checks, masks for its employees and social distancing standards.

Bat production resumed on the same day that Major League Baseball owners signed off on a proposal to the players’ union that could lead to the coronavirus-delayed season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans.

## Montana

HELENA — The rate at which Montanans are diagnosed with COVID-19 continues

to decline as the state begins its third week in which retailers have been able to reopen, and the second week that bars and restaurants could offer dine-in options with limited capacity.

There were two positive tests results from Saturday through Monday, the state health department said. The state reported five positive tests in the last week, compared to six during the previous seven days. Three weeks ago, Montana had 14 positive tests in seven days.

Two of the new cases announced last week involved members of a family from West Yellowstone who were believed to have been infected while traveling out of state. Gallatin County health officer Matt Kelley said that it seemed like they laid low after becoming symptomatic, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.

## Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf’s education secretary told lawmakers on Monday that he expects students to go back to school in the fall, and the Department of Education will provide guidance in the coming weeks to prepare teachers and staff to return to school buildings.

Schools have been closed since March under Wolf’s orders to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus, keeping more than 1.7 million public school children home and exposing big differences in the ability of wealthier and poorer districts to teach kids online.

Education Secretary Pedro Rivera, testifying in a Senate committee hearing, acknowledged that schools will need additional aid to respond to various challenges posed by school closures and the need to contain the virus.

He downplayed the notion that students might not return to school buildings in the fall. The department intends to reopen schools, but keeping students and staff safe might mean changes that involve following state Health Department recommendations, he said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: Man tried to hit officers with car

**SC** CHARLESTON — A man in South Carolina who allegedly attempted to run over police officers with his car was arrested after a car and foot chase.

Police said that Antonio Rivers Jr. was found sleeping early Sunday morning in Charleston inside a running car with a rifle, according to an arrest report from the North Charleston Police Department.

When officers tried to wake him, police said that Rivers tried to hide a white substance and then started backing up his car. An officer tried to put Rivers' car in neutral, but Rivers put it in reverse and allegedly attempted to run the officer over, the report said.

North Charleston police chased Rivers until his car hit a fence, news outlets reported. He ran to a pond before officers caught up to him and arrested him, WCIV-TV reported.

## Officials pick site for new veterans cemetery

**NM** RIO RANCHO — U.S. officials have signed off on a new veterans cemetery outside of Albuquerque.

KRQE-TV reported that New Mexico is offering more than 200 acres in Sandoval County for the project.

Sandoval County Commissioner Jay Block said that county officials, lobbyists and members of Congress were instrumental in getting the U.S. Veterans Administration to choose the county for the cemetery.

There are two national veterans cemeteries in New Mexico — in Santa Fe and Fort Bayard. The state opened its own veter-

ans cemetery in Fort Stanton and Gallup, with one in Angel Fire opening soon.

## Woman caught twice in 15 minutes for speeding

**NH** ROCHESTER — A New Hampshire woman who was stopped for speeding twice within 15 minutes was charged with reckless operation and released on bail, according to state police.

A New Hampshire State Police trooper stopped Nicole George, 31, on Saturday for reportedly driving 90 mph on the Spaulding Turnpike in Newington. About 13 minutes later, George was seen driving 111 mph on Route 16 in Rochester and was arrested.

Authorities found about 40 grams of fentanyl and a small amount of methamphetamine. George, of Dover, is also expected to face drug charges.

## Zoo animals can join video call for donation

**KY** LOUISVILLE — For video conference calls that are starting to get humdrum, the Louisville Zoo has some guests to keep things lively.

People using Zoom to communicate with co-workers or family during the coronavirus pandemic can make a \$75 tax-deductible donation to have Fitz the elephant or Qannik the polar bear, among others, make an appearance.

Social media is one way that zoos worldwide have been engaging with people who can no longer visit — their main source of income — and raise some much-needed cash.

"While many people have been working in non-traditional ways lately and have possibly been experiencing fatigue with the work-from-home lifestyle,

including the Zoo's animal ambassadors in your next conference call could help bring a much-needed smile to video participants," John Walczak, Louisville Zoo director, said in a news release.

Sunni the sloth, Petey the camel and some of the gorillas and giraffes are also available to participate, the release said.

## Statue to honor slaves who sued for freedom

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Efforts are underway to raise \$1 million for a downtown St. Louis monument to honor the hundreds of slaves who filed lawsuits for their freedom, leading up to the landmark Dred Scott case that pushed the U.S. closer to the Civil War.

The goal is to unveil the Freedom Suits Memorial in July 2021 on the east lawn of the Civil Courts Building. In an 1857 decision on Scott's case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that black people were not citizens and did not have the right to sue, angering anti-slavery advocates, KMOX reports.

Attorney Paul Venker, chairman of the Freedom Suits Memorial Steering Committee, called those who sued "change agents" who altered the way people thought about slavery in the U.S.

The 14-foot tall bronze sculpture by artist Preston Jackson will depict a female slave inside the courthouse on a witness stand arguing for her freedom. They chose a woman because at the time, the law was if a mother was deemed free then so were her children.

"I feel it is imperative that the descendants of slaves see themselves as strong people, as survivors, and this sculpture will certainly send that important message," Jackson said.

## Moose hunt to go forward, permits due

**ME** AUGUSTA — Maine wildlife managers are collecting the last applications to participate in the state's moose hunt this year.

The applications are due Thursday. Tens of thousands of people typically apply to participate in the moose hunt and only a couple thousand permits are awarded.

The state will award the permits via a lottery in June.

The lottery is usually a live event, but it's being held online this year to limit spread of the coronavirus.

State officials have said that hunting is still allowed when the state is under a stay-at-home order and social distancing rules are in place. The state's spring turkey hunt is currently going on.

## Film about lighthouse move goes national

**MA** AQUINNAH — A 65-minute documentary film about efforts to save the Gay Head Lighthouse on Martha's Vineyard is going nationwide.

Five years after the lighthouse in Aquinnah was moved 129 feet back from an eroding cliff, "Keepers of the Light," a documentary by Liz Witham and Ken Wentworth inspired by the lighthouse's rescue, will be shown on 80% of U.S. PBS stations, according to the Cape Cod Times.

Witham grew up in Aquinnah, with the beam of the Gay Head Light shining in her bedroom every night.

As of mid-May, 246 PBS stations in every state and major market will start showing the film, Witham said.

From wire reports

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# Source: MLB owners have season plan

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Major League Baseball owners gave the go-ahead Monday to making a proposal to the players' union that could lead to the coronavirus-delayed season starting around the Fourth of July weekend in ballparks without fans, a plan that envisioned expanding the designated hitter to the National League for 2020.

Spring training could start in early to mid-June, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because details of the plan were not announced.

MLB officials were slated to make a presentation to the union on Tuesday. An agreement with the players' association is needed, and talks are expected to be difficult — especially over a proposal for a revenue split that would be unprecedented for baseball. Players withstood a 7½-month strike in 1994-95 to fight off such a plan.

"If you do anything that resembles a cap, that smells like

a cap, you've given too much," said Dave Stewart, a four-time 20-game winner who is now an agent and spent two years as Arizona's general manager.

"A salary cap has been a non-starter for the players as long as I've been in baseball," said David Samson, president of the Expos and Marlins from 2002-17. "I think when MLB is proposing a revenue split, it is with the full knowledge that the players' union will automatically reject that."

Each team would play about 82 regular-season games: against opponents in its own division plus interleague matchups limited to AL East vs. NL East, AL Central vs. NL Central and AL West vs. NL West.

Postseason play would be expanded from 10 clubs to 14 by doubling wild cards in each league to four.

Teams would prefer to play at their regular-season ballparks but would switch to spring training stadiums or neutral sites if medical and government approvals can't be obtained for games at home. Toronto might have to play home games in

Dunedin, Fla.

"We'll see where we will be in July," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is the home of five MLB clubs and who has talked with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. "We certainly look forward to Major League Baseball and all sports resuming. But again, the question is when, and that will be determined on the basis of public health and public safety and the spread of this virus."

The All-Star Game, scheduled for Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on July 14, likely would be called off.

Medical issues will be at the forefront of talks along with economics.

"Bear with me, but it feels like we've zoomed past the most important aspect of any MLB restart plan: health protections for players, families, staff, stadium workers and the workforce it would require to resume a season," Washington pitcher Sean Doolittle tweeted. "What's the plan to ethically acquire enough tests? ... What's the protocol if a player, staff member, or worker contracts

the virus?"

Active rosters would be expanded from 26 to around 30. With minor leagues shuttered, there likely will be the addition of about 20 players per club akin to the NFL's practice squad.

Teams would have the option of holding the resumption of spring training at home or at their facilities in Florida and Arizona. Most teams based in Florida appear to be leaning toward that option, while Arizona-based clubs are inclined to work out at home rather than deal with June heat in the Phoenix area.

The DH was adopted by the American League for the 1973 season but has been resisted by National League owners. The players' union has favored it because it would create more jobs for high-paying hitters in their 30s, but MLB has looked at it as an economic issue.

Money, however, has disappeared as a DH issue at this stage for 2020 because nearly all veteran players have agreed to contracts. Yasiel Puig is the most notable exception.

## Proposed season would make NL use DH this year

Associated Press

Before all the self-proclaimed purists forecasting the destruction of baseball strategy and the very sanctity of the sport as we know it go berserk bemoaning the inclusion of a designated hitter in the National League this season, remember this:

In a most remarkable October full of huge momentum swings, the pivotal blow that decided last year's World Series was delivered by, yep, the NL DH.

OK, that clang resonating off the right field foul screen at Minute Maid Park — courtesy of Howie Kendrick's home run in Game 7 for the visiting Washington Nationals — probably won't drown out the wailing of longtime National League fans over the plan to play this virus-

delayed season with a (gasp!) DH in both circuits.

And it certainly won't quell the debate that's raged since April 6, 1973, when Ron Blomberg of the New York Yankees stepped to the plate at Fenway Park as Major League Baseball's first DH (and drew a bases-loaded walk from Luis Tiant).

To many NL fans, the scribble of "DH" on the lineup card sullies the whole stadium. To lots of AL fans, the sight of a pitcher touching a Louisville Slugger is a total affront to the diamond.

No matter, that's part of the proposal MLB owners are making to players — a full-time DH in the National League, same as the AL. This year, only.

With that, let's take a meaty cut at what this might mean:

### Who's up?

Kyle Schwarber (Cubs), Nick Castellanos (Reds) and Dominic Smith (Mets) made it to the majors with their bats, not gloves. They'd be natural fits.

Christian Yelich (Brewers), Yoenis Cespedes (Mets) and Hunter Pence (Giants) are coming off injuries. The DH spot would give them a break from the daily grind.

Kevin Cron (Diamondbacks) hit 38 homers in Triple-A and six more for Arizona. With first baseman Christian Walker coming off a breakout season, Cron could have a new slot.

Justin Turner (Dodgers), Ryan Braun (Brewers) and Jay Bruce (Phillies) are among older players who might see time there. The Nationals (Ryan Zimmerman, Starlin Castro, Eric Thames and Kendrick) and the Rockies (Daniel Murphy and Ian Desmond) could rotate. Nick Marka-

kis and Adam Duvall would benefit in a crowded Braves outfield.

### Ouch!

Max Scherzer, Masahiro Tanaka and Adam Wainwright are among the aces in recent years to be injured either batting or running the bases. With a stop-and-go spring training and a desire to quickly ramp up to regular-season speed, no one wants to see pitchers get sidelined doing something besides throwing.

Who does this rule hurt? Start with Madison Bumgarner, the power-hitting pitcher who signed with Arizona. He loves to hit and once toyed with entering the All-Star Home Run Derby. Arizona would probably rather put up someone paid to bat.

Jacob deGrom, Clayton Kershaw and Stephen Strasburg likely will keep excelling. But their ERAs are likely to take a hit.

# Pac-12 weighs regional football schedule

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Pac-12 has discussed an 11-game regular season played solely against conference opponents as one possibility for keeping college football going this year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Southern California coach Clay Helton confirmed the all-conference idea Monday as one of several scenarios being evaluated by the Pac-12's coaches and administrators.

"It's been discussed in our Pac-12 meetings, and it's been discussed by the commissioners," Helton said on a video conference call with Stanford coach David Shaw and new Washington State coach Nick Rolovich.

Pac-12 teams typically play

12-game schedules with three nonconference games. An all-conference schedule would minimize travel for a far-flung conference, but would wipe out several high-profile nonconference games on the league's schedule this fall.

Helton repeatedly emphasized that the Pac-12 doesn't expect to finalize a plan for at least six weeks while gathering information and observing the progress of the pandemic.

"That is one of the many structures as we go through this situation and this crisis that is a possibility of an all-conference schedule," Helton said. "That is one of the structures under discussion, depending on where we are at six to eight weeks from now. Those are viable discussions, and it has been brought up in our meetings."

Washington is supposed to host Michigan in the Huskies' season opener on Sept. 5, two days after Utah opens its season against archrival BYU. California is slated to host TCU in its opener, while Ohio State visits Oregon one week later.

USC is scheduled to face Alabama in its season opener in Arlington, Texas. The Trojans also are slated to host Notre Dame in November for the famed intersectional rivalry that dates to 1926 and has been played every year since World War II.

Shaw pointed out that an all-conference schedule for any top league would alter the nature of the College Football Playoff selection process. The longtime Cardinal coach called the current state of college football planning "the definition of

a fluid situation."

"These are all big conversations that we have in our conference, but will also take Mr. (Bill) Hancock and his group at the CFP to really find out how best to finish this hopefully great college football season," Shaw said.

The Pac-12 hasn't put a team in the playoff since Washington in the 2016-17 season.

Shaw also said he doesn't necessarily agree with NCAA President Mark Emmert that college campuses should be open before college sports can resume.

"I think that's a great sentiment, but I don't know that that's going to rule the day when it's all said and done," said Shaw, the winningest coach in Stanford history.

## Staying in 'game shape' peak problem for athletes

Associated Press

Making it safe for America's professional sports teams to start playing games is one thing.

Making sure athletes are in game shape is another.

The coronavirus pandemic brought sports to a halt, but stay-at-home orders are starting to be eased and a handful of NBA teams are opening practice facilities.

For players, the difference between merely working out and playing games will be a significant jump, and experts say things shouldn't be rushed. With athletes unable to simulate game or even practice activity at home, they will need time before resuming competition.

"Whatever the amount of time is, just know that players will have the input and say so because we're the ones that's playing, and that comes first," said Oklahoma City Thunder guard Chris Paul, president of the National Basketball Players Association. "We don't ever want to put guys in a situation where their injury risk is high.

It varies from player to player. But it's at least got to be three to four weeks."

Charlotte Hornets coach James Borrego said players could be at different points based on their access to equipment.

"There's veterans out there that may have a court in their home, in their facility and they're probably a little bit more ready to go than others," he said.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has said on multiple occasions he believes a two-to three-week training camp would be needed before the season resumes. Many hockey teams have had trainers send at-home workout routines to players, but few if any have been on the ice in months.

"As much as I could mentally be in game mode, your body's not ready for it if you don't get a full offseason of training and if you don't get to play a long training camp with like seven exhibition games," Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty said. "If you only get a week training camp with a

couple exhibition games, you're going to ruin your body."

Edmonton Oilers forward Alex Chiasson said it is on the athlete to be ready.

"We're professional athletes," he said. "We've got to make sure we prepare."

While basketball and hockey were nearing their playoffs, baseball was in spring training when sports were shut down. It created a particular wrinkle for pitchers, who tend to train methodically toward full games.

"The most important part of any spring training is preparation for your pitchers, especially your starting pitchers," Washington Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. "Whenever you have to expedite a spring training, that's probably the most impactful decision that you have to make: how to ramp them up."

Baltimore Orioles GM Mike Elias agreed.

"When baseball does come back, you have to worry about guys going a very small number of innings," he said. "I don't know that we've come up with a solution to that. ... The pub-

lic health guidelines makes it tough to do it without a training staff and coaches. Some of the pitchers are throwing into nets in their backyards and hitters are hitting off the tee."

Tampa Bay catcher Mike Zunino said the pitchers were his biggest concern.

"The biggest worry is injuries," he said. "It's one of those things, I think guys are staying in shape, they're throwing now. Hopefully a few weeks is enough. I think we'll have to be smart as the season opens to keep guys fresh."

Dr. Mike Reinold, senior medical adviser for the Chicago White Sox, said the challenge for pitchers has been how to maintain what they gained from their previous spring training progression.

"It will take around three weeks to get a starting pitcher likely ramped up to five innings, but that assumes that they have done the work to maintain themselves and are ready to even start that progression," he said.