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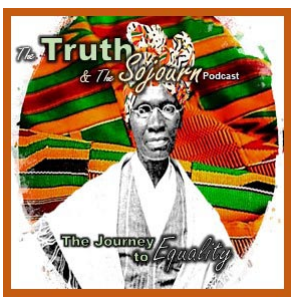


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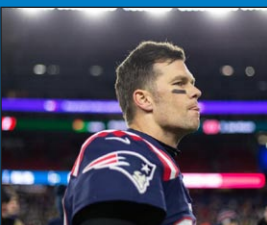
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**N.Y. CASES TOP 75,000**

**INSIDE  
THIS  
EDITION:**



Sen. West joins ACLU, others calling on BOP to mitigate COVID-19  
Page 6



Tom Brady pitched himself to Buccaneers front office before signing  
Page 8



Kevin Durant, Donovan Mitchell, other NBA stars compete in '2K' tourney  
Page 9



U.S. offers to lift Venezuela sanctions for power-sharing deal  
Page 10



Members of the Maryland National Guard and Prince George's County Department of Health operate a coronavirus screening site at FedEx Field, the home of the Washington Redskins, in Landover, Md., on Monday. Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo

By Don Jacobson & Daniel Uria  
UPI

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in New York, the U.S. epicenter of the crisis, has surpassed 66,000 with the addition of 7,000 new cases, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in an update Monday.

Cuomo, speaking to reporters at a makeshift hospital in the Jacob Javits Convention Center, said the

majority of the new cases were recorded in New York City, where more than 36,000 patients have so far tested positive.

New York's death toll rose to more than 1,200, he added, and the number of patients hospitalized jumped by 12 percent.

There have now been more than 3,000 COVID-19 deaths in the United States and the total U.S. caseload is more than 164,000, according to a count by experts at Johns Hopkins University on Monday night.

"That's a lot of loss, that's a lot of pain, that's a lot of tears, that's a lot of grief that people all across the state are feeling," Cuomo said.

Cuomo waited to stage his daily briefing until after a Navy hospital ship docked in Manhattan on Monday to help alleviate crowding in New York City hospitals. The USNS Comfort adds 1,000 more beds -- 750 of which will

See **PANDEMIC**, page 3

**Judges in 3 states block abortion bans amid pandemic**

By Darryl Coote  
UPI

Federal judges in Alabama, Ohio and Texas

blocked the states from enforcing a ban on abortions during the coronavirus pandemic.

In Alabama, Judge Myron Thompson ruled

that the March 27 executive order halting all

See **BANS**, page 3



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# Business leaders need to show courage

By Sam Caucci  
UPI

Over the past few days, I have had two kinds of conversations with two kinds of CEOs.

The first is about deciding to cut costs, cut hours, cut payroll and cut back.

The second is about deciding to push through, be creative, keep their people safe and find a way forward.

The ultimate question is whether to lean back or lean in?

At my company, we understand that a job is more than a paycheck. And we believe that everybody who works hard deserves to be trained.

I believe it is in this moment that we need leaders to lean in more than ever.

We need to support our workers better.

We need to invest in tools to keep them connected and improving.

We need to continue to strengthen our culture.

We need to find ways to move forward and not pause.

At times like this, just adding more users to your web conferencing platform, adding more conference call lines or adding Slack is not going to get the job done. Companies need to be investing in strategies and solutions that prevent digital isolation and use this time to reinforce organizational priorities in a way that inspires their people.

I feel for small business owners today.

We are all enduring the same pressure in this moment.

We have a political climate in Washington that is struggling to work together, we have businesses at a standstill, and we have the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy.

We have all been expecting work to change.

The dialogue about the future of work, robots and automation has been a major one over the last several months, but nobody could have foreseen how this global crisis would accelerate our need to adapt to new work realities.

Before COVID-19, companies struggled with workforce skill gaps, outdated technologies and new generations of workers changing what work looks like.

Today, we all struggle to respond faster.

As the CEO of a technology company that uses games to keep workers engaged and prepared, we have seen a greater demand for solutions to help workers that are on-the-go.

I am optimistic that in this moment companies are in fact leaning in.

What does that mean?

It means turning to strategies and solutions that allow them to:

- Rapidly communicate with their team
- Keep everyone up t -speed while being fun and interactive
- Strengthen culture and community even while being remote
- Educate their team on how to effectively lead and operate under remote work conditions
- Bring staff together with shared objectives while not all being in the same place
- Business leaders and companies need to get to work. We must not just transition to remote work, but master it.
- We must not forget about the front-line workers that may not be able to operate remotely and find ways to keep them engaged and connected.
- We must lean in.
- Yes, this is a crisis situation.
- But we have more control over its outcome than we may think.
- Now is the moment.
- So to all the leaders out there, let's get back to work.

*Sam Caucci is founder and CEO of workforce training platform 1HUDDLE.*



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# OPINION

## Going viral: Politicizing this pandemic gets us nowhere

By now the tropes have become almost typical. Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus, drumming up irrational fears in the media, and causing an economic meltdown, all in hopes of bringing down the president. It has even been floated that climate change activists are actively hyping the spread of the coronavirus because they believe that a decline in manufacturing will reverse climate change. For example, the air quality in Wuhan, a major Chinese manufacturing center where the COVID-19 outbreak first occurred, allegedly improved by over 20% during the slowdown caused by the virus.

On the other side of the aisle, of course, Democrats have been quick to castigate President Trump for his early attempts to downplay the effects of coronavirus, and for allegedly creating institutional barriers to an effective national response to the pandemic.

They hope to use the cratering economy as a political wedge to unseat the president this November. Numerous political action committees and dark money groups have put money into politicizing the president's response to coronavirus. This is politics as usual.

Americans, many of whom are now stuck in their homes under orders by the authorities to "socially distance" themselves, suddenly have a lot of time on their hands.

Sure, some of us are really "working" from home (wink, wink). But many of us are glued to the television and the internet, consum-

ing every novel conspiracy theory that comes to mind.

It is perhaps safe to say that as the panic subsides, the blame game begins. We don't like pausing our daily lives and adjusting to a new and stifling normal. We chafe against the official wisdom, and find ways to try to debunk the system -- or worse, point to a dark and shadowy global cabal that has somehow manufactured the virus to achieve nefarious political ends such as, say, world domination.

These tropes are not new and have arisen in the aftermath of every major emergency.

They arose amid the AIDS scare in the 1980s; it supposedly was a biological attack against gay people and minorities, constructed by right-wing groups. They arose in the aftermath of the attacks on 9/11; it supposedly was "an inside job" to justify a war against the Middle East.

And they are arising now. Any occurrence that defies our worldview and lacks a logical explanation brings with it scores of conspiratorial theories that attempt to reconcile our beliefs about the world with the dissonant reality we are sometimes confronted by.

But the truth is that economists have been predicting that a recession is on the way for the past two years. We are 12 years into a bull



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market, one of the longest ever recorded, and due for a correction. Corporate profits relative to bond yields began falling as early as the third quarter of 2018. Over the past year, the president repeatedly exhorted the ostensibly independent Federal Reserve to lower interest rates to prop up asset values and stave off what looked like a slowdown in the rate of economic growth.

Democrats complained that the president was improperly attempting to goose the stock market, injecting unneeded and perhaps even dangerous levels of stimulus into the system, to stave off a downturn and strengthen his hand going into 2020.

No one thought the catalyst of a major market disruption would be a viral pandemic -- but signs were pointing to a market correction at some point in the near term.

From a conspirator's point of view, couldn't the virus have achieved what the president failed to do from his bully pulpit: force the Fed to flood the economy with economic stimulus?

What is becoming clearer is that the government must bypass the capital markets and implement aggressive fiscal policies that directly impact everyday Americans.

It cannot simply inject capital at the corporate and financial services level and hope that trickles down to the "everyday Joe."

And the key here, politically, is that both the executive and legislative branches of government will have

to work together -- and be willing to share the blame and the credit.

The question is whether we, as a nation, are in a place where we trust our political leaders enough to believe them, or whether our distrust and cynicism have reached a breaking point.

We do not need to engage in political conspiracy theories to observe the obvious: The coronavirus and related political and social upheaval are having broad systemic effects. COVID-19 is affecting every system in society -- the distribution of goods and services in ordinary commerce, the medical system and even the machinery of politics. A curious observer might analyze these impacts and begin to design responses that can make our society less vulnerable to this type of shock in the future.

How might we change our voting systems to withstand pandemics? Our health care system?

We will survive this latest scare; we have survived others. But if we only blame each other and fail to put in place measures that make our society stronger, we'll suffer a much worse fate down the line.

*Armstrong Williams is manager and sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American Current See online magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday on NewsChannel 8 TV 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., with repeats at 6:30 p.m. EST.*

## Coronavirus is a war we can't afford to lose

By Harlan Ullman,  
Arnaud de Borchgrave  
Distinguished Columnist

"War" has been declared against the coronavirus. But waging war against any inanimate entity is inherently risky. Consider how wars against poverty, crime, drugs and terror fared. Still, rallying the nation is essential if this viral killer is to be defeated.

Recalling a certain parallel with the immediate aftermath of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 is instructive. It is Dec. 8 in Washington. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt's stirring speech to Congress and the subsequent declaration of war, how were the public and government grappling with the attack that put the U.S. Navy's battleship fleet at the bottom of Pearl Harbor?

Roosevelt had been moving the nation toward war for some time, signing Lend Lease to aid Great Britain; renewing the draft by a single vote; and signing the various Vinson-Trammel naval construction bills that built 6,000 warships before World War II ended. However, FDR's target was Adolf Hitler and Europe and not the Pacific. The task was immense: organizing the nation to fight a global war. The sense of desperation and

vulnerability was overcome by anger and fury over Japan's "sneak attack" that Roosevelt so elegantly described as "dastardly." Were politicians today so articulate. Japan's Adm. Isokuro Yamamoto, who planned the attack, understood that "a sleeping giant" would be awakened. In 45 months, that giant had forced Japan (and with Allies that May, Germany) to accept unconditional surrender.

Seventy-five years later, COVID-19 is a new form of attack, catching certainly Western states by near complete surprise, or at least the leadership. And, as with Pearl Harbor, a few warnings were issued that would not be taken seriously. One significant difference is that Pearl Harbor was a sudden and instantaneous shock. It took weeks for coronavirus to achieve at least that level of impact.

A similarity with the war tat followed and today is the courage that was and will be shown. The difference is the participants. Valor occurred almost entirely on, under or above the battlefields. Soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen heroically risked and lost lives in combat in defense of the nation. Today's heroes in the battle against coronavirus wear different and even no uniforms. Doctors, nurses, medical

technicians and healthcare specialists are manning the front lines. Except with a virus, no front lines really exist beyond the need to deal directly with the sick. And many unsung heroes with seemingly mundane but as it turns out vitally important jobs are in the fight.

Staffs in supermarkets, pharmacies, banks, transportation, utilities and emergency services to include police and firefighters, along with others too numerous to count, will be risking their lives to carry out the basic yet vital necessities of every day life. Wielding masks, gloves and copious amounts of soap rather than rifles, bayonets, artillery and other weapons of war, these Americans are the equivalent of the infantry, fighter and bomber pilots, warship crews and other combat arms personnel on which victory, success or failure rest.

What can be done to support these brave and often invisible Americans? First, as with the military, a system of awards for valor and superior service must be established on a national basis. As awards can be issued at different levels of seniority in the military, governors, mayors, city managers and other people in authority must have the ability to present or recommend presenta-

tions of medals. And if that means awarding medals for hundreds of thousands or more who display courage and valor over time, these awards are well deserved.

Next, hearken back to December 1941 and the planning that followed. The first White House visitor was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who risked the long journey to meet with FDR and decide on the overall strategy. Churchill stayed over a month. There needs to be a convocation of world leaders, obviously electronically, to establish strategy. And this cannot be limited to a few hours.

As a comprehensive plan for victory was fashioned in and near the White House and adjacent State, War and Navy Building, a similar initiative is essential. The plan must begin with setting achievable aims and be as comprehensive as possible. As plans do not usually survive the first contact with the enemy, this plan must be flexible and revised on a continuing basis. While focus will be at home, the international dimension is vital. What is happening elsewhere is vital to what is happening here. That too must be assimilated and incorporated.

Whether the war analogy is appropriate or not, this is a titanic struggle.



# Bans

continued from page 1

dental, medical and surgical procedures during the pandemic will prevent some women from exercising their right to abortion.

Thompson wrote that the mandatory postponement “may pose an undue burden that is not justified by the state’s purported rationals.”

He ruled a temporary suspension of the state’s abortion ban until April 6.

The lawsuit was brought against Alabama by the American Civil Liberties Union on Monday on behalf of Dr. Yashica Robinson and three abortion clinics in the state.

“Pregnant people need healthcare whether it’s prenatal care and childbirth services or abortion care,” said Randall Marshall, executive director of the ACLU of Alabama. “Preventing them from getting an abortion doesn’t

do anything to stop the COVID-19 virus, it just takes the decision whether to have a child out of their hands.”

In a statement addressing the lawsuit, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said it was brought by the ACLU because the government wouldn’t grant abortion clinics “a blanket exemption.” “Put simply, no provider or clinic is excused from compliance with this order,” Marshall wrote. The Alabama ruling followed that by Judge Michael Barrett in Ohio who granted the ACLU its request for a temporary restraining order to allow abortion procedures amid the pandemic.

Following the ruling, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said in a statement that the Department of Health had issued the order to stop all elective surgeries “to save lives in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency.”

Alexis McGill Johnson,

acting president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, applauded Barrett’s decision, stating it sends a clear message to politicians and anti-abortion activists that “exploiting a global pandemic to ban abortion is illegal.”

“Anti-abortion activists have tried to exploit fear of the COVID-19 pandemic to push a dangerous political agenda. Enough is enough,” she said in a statement. “It’s time to get to work and do what’s necessary to contain the COVID-19 virus and address urgent public health needs that threaten our communities.”

Texas was the first state on Monday to lift the ban, with federal Judge Lee Yeakel ruling in favor of the state’s abortion providers. “Plaintiffs’ patients will suffer serious and irreparable harm in the absence of a temporary restraining order,” Yeakel wrote in the ruling.



Abortion rights supporters demonstrate during the “Stop Abortion Bans Day of Action” rally at the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on May 21, 2019. Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo

“The attorney general’s interpretation for the executive order prevents Texas women from exercising what the Supreme Court has declared is their fundamental constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is viable.”

# Pandemic

continued from page 1

be used immediately, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

New York also converted Central Park’s East Meadow into a field hospital that was designated as a respiratory care unit in response to the virus, with 68 beds including 10 that will serve as a makeshift intensive care unit for patients who require ventilators. The hospital was constructed by 72 disaster assistance response specialists from humanitarian aid organization Samaritan’s Purse and will be operational as of Tuesday.

“This is the kind of thing you will see now as this crisis develops,” de Blasio said. President Donald Trump, during a briefing in the White House Rose Garden on Monday, said that 1 million people have been tested for the coronavirus.

He touted the Food and Drug Administration’s approval of new tests by Chicago-based Abbott Laboratories that are capable of producing test results in minutes. “Just like tests for flu or strep -- where you go to the doctor so you can get the test done -- you can get an answer within minutes of having this test done,” FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said during the

briefing.

“Now with those tests being approved for Abbott and for others, these are available throughout the country, they’re planning to scale up the number of tests that can be put out throughout the country over the next month and patients can get the answer within as little as 15 to 5 minutes.” Trump also said the United States has received donations of supplies from other countries in order to combat the outbreak.

“China sent us some stuff, which was terrific. Russia sent us a very, very large planeload of things, medical equipment which was very nice,” he said.

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# Florida sheriff seeks to reopen ‘Tiger King’ cold case amid outbreak

By Danielle Haynes  
UPI

The popularity of Netflix’s new docu-series Tiger King has prompted a Florida sheriff to reopen a cold case, asking for leads in the missing persons case of Jack “Don” Lewis.

Lewis, the former husband of Big Cat Rescue CEO Carole Baskin, vanished in 1997.

The multi-millionaire ran a different wildlife sanctuary in Tampa with Baskin before his disappearance.

“Since @netflix and #Covid19 #Quarantine has made #TigerKing all the rage, I figured it was a good time to ask for new leads. #CaroleBaskin #DonLewis #Netflix #Tiger #BigCatRescue #Joe-Exotic #TigerKingNetflix #HCSO,” Sheriff Chad Chronister said in a tweet Monday.

Speculations about Lewis’ disappearance are

featured in Tiger King, the new Netflix series that focuses on big cat zoos and sanctuaries in the United States, particularly those run by Baskin and Joseph Maldonado-Passage, or “Joe Exotic.”

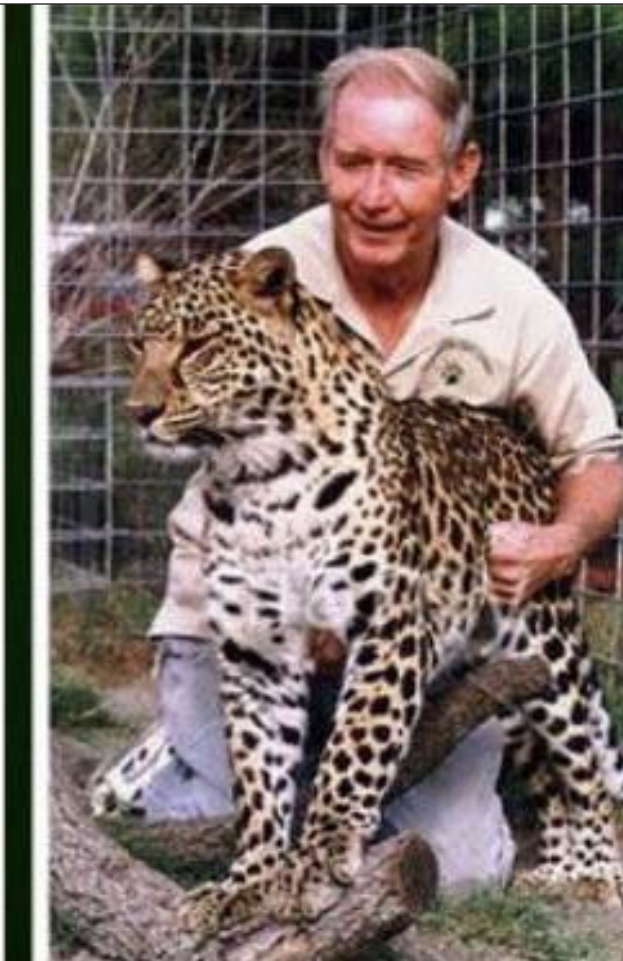
Maldonado-Passage accused Baskin of being involved in her husband’s disappearance.

She disputed the allegations in a blog post written after the release of Tiger King.

“I never threatened him and I certainly had nothing to do with his disappearance,” she wrote. “When he disappeared, I did everything I could to assist the police.

I encouraged them to check out the rumors from Costa Rica, and separately I hired a private investigator.”

Maldonado-Passage was sentenced to 22 years in prison in January for plotting to hire someone to kill Baskin.



Multi-millionaire Jack "Don" Lewis disappeared in 1996. File Photo courtesy the Hillsborough County Sheriff



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# Dow Jones rallies 690 points despite oil prices sinking to 18-year low

By Don Jacobson &  
Daniel Uria  
UPI

U.S. stocks continued their rally on Wall Street Monday as they largely rebounded from losses experienced due to economic concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 690.7 points, or 3.19 percent, while the S&P 500 rose 3.35 percent and the Nasdaq Composite climbed

3.62 percent. The man they call “The Prophet” reveals his #1 stock to buy now

The man they call “The Prophet” reveals his #1 stock to buy now

Monday’s gains put the Dow up 20 percent from its lows amid the market sell-offs due to the coronavirus, while the S&P 500 has risen 17 percent from its lows and the Nasdaq recovered 13 percent.

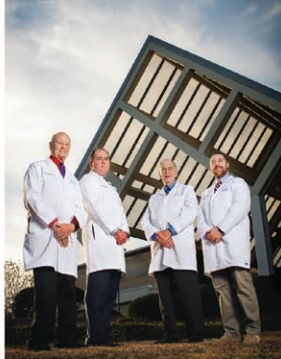
Tech stocks led the market climb on Monday as



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Microsoft gained 7 percent, while Amazon and Google’s parent company Alphabet each rose about 3 percent.

Earlier Monday, oil prices slumped to an 18-year low on fears that the coronavirus pandemic could trigger a long-term collapse in demand and Saudi Arabia continued to saturate the market.

The international benchmark Brent crude fell by more than 7 percent to a low of \$23.03 per barrel at its lowest point in overnight trading -- its lowest price since 2002. The U.S. benchmark West Texas Intermediate fell below \$20 per barrel, also dropping by more than 7 percent.

Overall, oil prices have plummeted by two-thirds this year.

The dip in oil prices came after President Donald Trump on Sunday backed off his stated goal of getting the U.S. economy back up and running by Easter, and instead extended social distancing guidelines until the end of April.

Concerns the United

States could be in an extended period of reduced oil demand were also deepened when White House medical adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci warned Sunday that as many as 200,000 Americans could die in the pandemic.

Saudi Arabia has given no indication of relenting in its strategy of flooding the market with oil in a price war with rival producer Russia, despite pressure to do so from the United States.

In response to falling prices and quickly diminishing storage capacity, global producers are shutting down rigs at the quickest pace in 35 years, especially in landlocked areas of the United States, where the shale oil industry is seen as especially vulnerable to the negative market forces.

The Dow, which lost several hundred points on Friday to end a three-day winning streak, has been volatile over the last month but notched major gains last week -- its greatest single-week gain, in fact, since 1938.



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# Total community effort needed to stop spread

When it comes to flattening the COVID-19 curve, stay at home orders from state and local governments are only the first step in overcoming this historic pandemic. Now, it is up to all of us – the people of eastern North Carolina – to do our part to protect those we love.

Make no mistake: COVID-19 is here in our community and it poses serious danger to the elderly, pregnant women, those

with chronic conditions and even those of us who seem otherwise healthy. Here in the East, our communities are undeserved and there is a higher burden of chronic disease. This means the virus poses an even bigger threat to our region. We have watched this virus move from country to country, state to state and town to town and yes, it's here in eastern North Carolina. It does not care who it infects and data shows it infects

people at an exponential rate, much more quickly than the seasonal flu.

In other words, we are all susceptible to this virus.

Most people have fully recovered, but others have not and some never will.

Vidant Health is thankful for town, county and state officials doing their part to help us flatten the curve. We called on them to enact stay at home orders and they listened.

Now, we are calling on

all 1.4 million residents of eastern North Carolina to do their part by staying at home as much as possible and limiting exposure to other people in public.

We must continue to escalate our sense of urgency so we can flatten the curve and stop the spread before it overwhelms our region.

This means staying close to home as much as possible and only going out if absolutely necessary, such as buying groceries or picking up medications.

This action will help save lives and is the right thing for our vulnerable population.

We still have a short window of opportunity to make a difference. We know the story and outcome if we all don't do our part – we continue to see it on the news and on social media every day. We know from history that bold and definitive actions can change the course

for the better.

Hospitals throughout North Carolina have and continue to take measures to respond to the COVID-19 wave. This includes all nine Vidant hospitals serving eastern North Carolina. It is time for community members to make similar definitive and decisive decisions to protect our region.

See TOTAL, page 6

## Greenville Industrial-Eppes High School Alumni Association cancels 41st school reunion due to COVID-19 Outbreak

Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the uncertain path it may take, the Greenville Industrial-Eppes High Alumni Association Board regrettably has CANCELLED its previously scheduled 41st school reunion slated for July 3-5, 2020 in Greenville, North

Carolina.

The organization is supporting the national, state and county health emergency guidelines regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic outbreak.

Alumni, families and community supporters



are urged to follow health guidelines, occupancy limits and other recommended practices for the welfare of all citizens.

We deeply appreciate The Daily Drum's continued support of previous reunions and ask that you support this

year's cancellation action.

We endeavor to host a reunion in 2021.

If there are questions, please contact me at 202-577-9034 or gi.cmeppesalumniassoc@gmail.com.

Thank you and may God bless you. We hope to see you next year!



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# COVID-19: Act Now

In these unprecedented times it is even more important that we stand up for eastern North Carolina and work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. Your health – and the health of your loved ones – depends on it. Vidant Health is taking specific measures to help keep patients, families and team members safe, including prohibiting visitors at all Vidant Health hospitals, emergency departments and clinics. Join us by taking immediate action to further protect the people of our communities.



Practice social distancing



Stay home as much as possible



Call before visiting a health care facility



Wash your hands often



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Encourage others to do their part

**What if I feel sick?**

If you are not feeling well, or you think you have been exposed to the virus, call your primary care physician or local immediate/urgent care and describe your symptoms. To limit exposure and spread, seek medical care only if you need to be hospitalized, have a high fever, cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.

**Self-quarantine and/or seek virtual care**

To help our community limit external exposure, we have lowered the cost of VidantNow to \$20 with discount code **vidantrelief20**. You can see a doctor at home, 24/7, via any device with an internet connection.

#ENCStayHome

#StandUpForENC - Help flatten the curve and stop the spread.

For more information about our visitation restrictions, VidantNow or COVID-19 news and videos, please visit

VidantHealth.com/StayHome

www.dailydrummedia.com



# Sen. West joins ACLU, others calling on BOP to mitigate COVID-19

DALLAS—State Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas), a nationally known advocate for restorative justice and criminal justice reform who served as Dallas County’s first minority Chief Felony Prosecutor, called upon the federal Bureau of Prisons Friday morning to immediately test every federal inmate for COVID-19, take immediate steps to protect vulnerable inmate populations, and make sure prison staff are properly protected.

“No amount of shelter-in-place in our federal prisons can protect the most vulnerable inmates, or prison staff,” West said. “Just because someone is serving time for a crime does not mean their basic human rights can be ignored,” West said. West, who is running for United States Senate in the July Democratic Primary runoff in Texas, said BOP must begin the testing immediately and quarantine all federal prisoners who test positive for the disease in medical segregation.

“For the safety of both

other prisoners and prison staff, BOP must come up with a solution to medically quarantine infected inmates in a way that protects the prison population at large and prison staff. West noted that cases of COVID-19 had already been detected in Texas state prisons. He noted BOP staff in Texas has already tested positive for COVID-19.

Finally, West said he was joining the American Civil Liberties Union, Due Process Institute, Freedom Works, Justice Action Network, Justice Roundtable, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Sentencing Project, and We Got Us Now to call on the U.S. Department of Justice and federal Bureau of Prisons to immediately begin considering compassionate release for vulnerable prison populations who do not pose a threat to society.

“We must get medically vulnerable populations out of federal incarceration before their prison sentences become death sentences,”

West said. West said he was calling on Senator John Cornyn to immediately call for COVID-19 testing and compassionate release of vulnerable populations in the nation’s federal penitentiary system.

“Now is a time to show leadership on behalf of all Americans,” West said. “Senator Cornyn, I call on you to do everything in your power to protect prison staff and inmates in our federal prisons.”

Royce West is a nationally recognized leader on criminal justice and restorative justice issues.

The body camera and police interaction law he authored (S.B. 148, 84th Session, Texas Legislature, 2015), along with the Sandra Bland Act (S.B. 1849, 85th Session, Texas Legislature), which he co-authored, have become a national models for police and public interaction legislation.

During his 27 year tenure in the Texas Senate, he has authored and passed laws requiring dashcams in

police cars, body cameras for police officers, laws to help the public and law enforcement interact better, laws to provide body armor that will stop high-powered ammunition to peace officers, legislation prohibiting racial profiling, and laws to help ensure that wrongfully incarcerated persons are properly compensated for their time in prison.

Senator West has received dozens of honors from law enforcement, legal associations, and justice advocacy organizations.

These awards include but are not limited to: Law and Order Award, Texas District and County Attorneys Association, 2019; Best of the Senate, 82nd Legislative Session, Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, CLEAT, 2012; Outstanding Service Award, County Judges & Commissioners Assoc. of TX, 2009; Equal Justice Award, Legal Aid of North Texas, 2004; NAACP Texas Hero Award, 1998; Legislative Crime Fighter of the Year - Greater Dallas Crime Commission,



Sen. Royce West

1993; The Jonathan Jasper Wright Award, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice - Dallas Chapter, 1993; Outstanding Legislature - For Service to the Citizens of Texas in Criminal Justice - Texas Police Chiefs Association; Champion for At Risk Youth - Texas Network of Youth Services Texas; Sheriff’s

Association Recognition Award - Texas Sheriff’s Association; Equal Access to Justice Award - Texas Legal Services; and was awarded Most Outstanding Hardest Working Senate Member - The Southeast Texas Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

# West joins calls for COVID-19 testing in prisons

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“Just because someone is serving time for a crime does not mean their basic human rights can be ignored.”

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Sen. Royce West

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Texas state prisons and BOP staff in Texas has already tested positive for COVID-19.

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“We must get medically vulnerable populations out of federal incarceration before their prison sentences become death sentences,” Mr. West said, adding that he was urging Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) to immediately call for COVID-19 testing and compassionate release of vulnerable populations in the nation’s federal penitentiary system.

“Now is a time to show leadership on behalf of all Americans,” he said. “Senator Cornyn, I call on you to do everything in your power to protect prison staff and inmates in our federal prisons.”

# Egg suppliers scramble to restock stores after panic buying reduced supplies

By Jessie Higgins UPI

Egg producers are scrambling to restock grocery store shelves after weeks of consumer panic buying month decimated supplies across the country.

"It effectively wiped out

all the eggs in the nation," said John Brunnquell, president and CEO of Egg Innovations, which describes itself as the nation's largest pasture-raised egg farm.

"Our orders went up 200 to 300 percent." The United States' overall inventory of shelled eggs was down 10

percent on Friday, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The supply of large eggs was down 14 percent. Egg producers and plants are running on overtime to fill the backlog of orders. "At our plant, we've gone 15 days now running 24/7," Brunnquell said.

"We're grading eggs as fast as we can."

Early efforts are beginning to pay off, Brunnquell said. By the beginning of this week, many stores had at least partially stocked egg cases. The egg industry expects the demand for retail eggs to remain higher

than normal for as long as restaurants remain closed and consumers continue to stay home. The other wild card is whether egg sales will spike again for Easter, April 12, when eggs are traditionally in high demand.

With more families staying home this holiday, egg

coloring is expected to be popular, said Marc Dresner, a spokesman for the American Egg Board, an industry group based in Chicago. But social distancing means there will be fewer Easter parties and gatherings where people prepare large meals using eggs.

Total continued from page 1

Practice social distancing, stay home as much as possible. If you are not feeling well,

or you think you have been exposed to the virus, call your primary care physician or local immediate/

urgent care and describe your symptoms.

To limit exposure and spread, seek medical care

only if you need to be hospitalized, have a high fever, cough, chest pain or shortness of breath.

We would like to thank all health care workers and every person on the front lines for their tireless efforts to care for those in need. Our team members – and all health care workers – truly are heroes.

This is a difficult time for doctors, nurses and care teams. Staying at home helps protect them, so they can continue to care for you.

This is a historic and unprecedented event. Together, we can overcome this virus and return to normalcy; however, we must all do it together.

For more information about our Vidant Health’s visitation restrictions, our virtual care option Vidant-Now or COVID-19, please visit VidantHealth.com/StayHome

Michael Waldrum, MD Chief Executive Officer, Vidant Health

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- SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or dead plants
- DO NOT search for the leak, try to stop it, smoke or use anything that may create a spark or flame

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# Local detainees



JAVORIS MARKEZE CRANDLE

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY/ INTENT KILL- FELONY  
DISCHARGE WEAPON WITHIN CITY LIMITS - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA-FAIL STOP STOPSIGN/FLSH RED LT - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA-DWLR NOT IMPAIRED REV - MISDEMEANOR



ZYQUANDELL LATAVION

ROBBERY WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON – FELONY  
ROBBERY WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON– FELONY  
CONSP ROBBERY WITH DANGRS WEAPON – FELONY  
FTA-RESISTING PUBLIC OFFICER – MISDEMEANOR  
FTA-FICTITIOUS INFO TO OFFICER – MISDEMEANOR  
ROBBERY WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON – FELONY  
CONSP ROBBERY WITH DANGRS WEAPON – FELONY  
ROBBERY WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON – FELONY  
ROBBERY WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON – FELONY  
CONSP ROBBERY WITH DANGRS WEAPON – FELONY



TARELL JAVON SMITH

ATTEMPT BREAKING OR ENTERING– FELONY  
LARCENY OF FIREARM– FELONY  
BREAKING OR ENTERING MOTOR VEHICLE– FELONY  
LARCENY, FELONY - FELONY  
BREAKING OR ENTERING MOTOR VEHICLE - FELONY



DARRIN JERMAINE PATTERSON

TRAFFICKING OPIUM OR HEROIN - FELONY  
POSS CS ON PREMISE OF PRISION OR JAIL - FELONY  
POSS. MARIJUANA UP TO 1/2 OZ.- MISDEMEANOR  
POSS. MARIJUANA UP TO 1/2 OZ.- MISDEMEANOR  
PWMSD SCH IV CS- FELONY  
PWMSD SCH II CS-FELONY  
MAINTAIN VEH/DWELL/PLACE CS-FELONY  
TRAFFICKING OPIUM OR HEROIN - FELONY  
MAINTAIN VEH/DWELL/PLACE CS-FELONY  
PWMSD HEROIN/PLACE CS-FELONY



TRAVIS LAMON COBB

FTA- FELONY POSSESSION OF COCAINE - FELONY  
PWISD MARIJUANA - FELONY  
FTA-POSSESS DRUG PARAPHERNALIA - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA- MAINTN VEH/ DWELL PLACE CS - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA- DWLR NOT IMPAIRED REV- MISDEMEANOR  
FTA- ASSAULT ON A FEMALE - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA- ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON - MISDEMEANOR  
FTA- MISDEMEANOR LARCENY - MISDEMEANOR  
PWISD COCAINE - MISDEMEANOR  
POSSESS DRUG PARAPHERNALIA - MISDEMEANOR



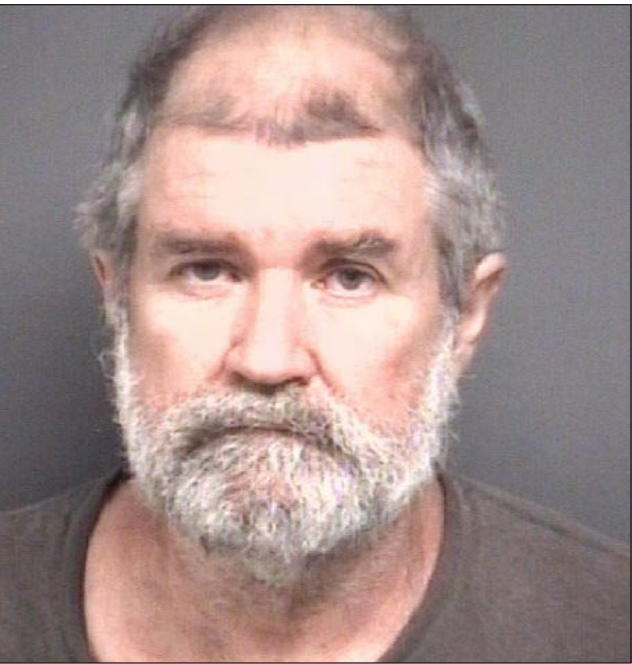
DANIEL VERNON LALONE JR

POSSESS METHAMPHETAMINE - FELONY  
POSSESSION OF BURGLARY TOOLS - FELONY  
OBTAINING PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSE- FELONY  
POSS. MARIJUANA PARAPHERNALIA- MISDEMEANOR  
FIRST DEG TRESP INFRASTRUCTURE - MISDEMEANOR  
LARCENY, MISDEMEANOR - MISDEMEANOR



DUANE JAQUON MCKESSON

POSS. MARIJ>1/2 TO 1 1/2 OZ.– MISDEMEANOR  
POSSESSION FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY  
CARRY CONCEALED GUN – FELONY  
POSS OF CS PRISON/JAIL PREMISE – FELONY  
FELONY PROB VIOL OUT OF COUNTY - FELONY



LESTER THOMAS HEATH

STALKING - FELONY  
FLEE/ELUDE ARREST W/MV - FELONY  
DV PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOL. - MISDEMEANOR  
DV PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOL. - MISDEMEANOR  
DV PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOL. - MISDEMEANOR  
DOMESTIC CRIMINAL TRESPASSING - MISDEMEANOR  
RECKLESS DRVG-WANTON DISREGARD - MISDEMEANOR  
RESISTING PUBLIC OFFICER - MISDEMEANOR  
FAIL TO YIELD SIGN/FLASH RED LIGHT - MISDEMEANOR  
DRIVE LEFT OF CENTER - MISDEMEANOR



MALCOLM FITZGERALD TYSON, JR

ROBBERYWITH DANGEROUS WEAPON - FELONY  
SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING -FELONY  
H/I FELONY PROBATION VIOLATION - FELONY  
FELONY PROBATION VIOLATION - FELONY



# Tom Brady pitched himself to Buccaneers front office before signing

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Tom Brady is arguably the greatest quarterback in NFL history, but he did some personal promotion this off-season before being signed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Brady, 42, officially signed with Tampa Bay on March 20 after spending his first 20 NFL seasons with the New England Patriots.

The six-time Super Bowl champion spoke on the phone with Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht and coach Bruce Arians before agreeing to join the NFC South franchise.

Licht detailed the March 18 conversation during an appearance Monday on ESPN's Get Up.

"We had a great conversation -- Bruce and I -- we talked to him for over an hour and a half," Licht said. "And he made it clear in the conversation that he was very, very interested."

"It was almost like a recruitment on his part, telling us why it would make

sense for him to come to Tampa Bay. The next call we made, we signed him, but it was at that phone call that we realized, that we felt like we had him."

Arians and Licht had Brady as their top quarterback target before the conversation with the future Hall of Famer. Despite critics saying Brady has lost arm strength over the years, Licht said the Buccaneers believe his arm is ideal for their offensive system.

The Buccaneers also think Brady has more than two years remaining in his NFL career, if he chooses to play that long.

"The tape showed to us that he had plenty of arm," Licht said. "In fact, we thought that he had an ideal arm for Bruce in his system."

"He can still throw it deep. We felt like the mobility was still the same as he's always had, which, he's never been able to outrun anybody. But he certainly is good in the pocket in terms of eluding pressure and with his poise and his instincts."



Six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady officially signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on March 20. File Photo by Matthew Healey/UPI | License Photo

We did not see a decline in his arm talent whatsoever." Brady completed 60.8 percent of his throws for 4,057 yards, 24 touchdowns and eight interceptions in 16 starts last season.

# Detroit Lions reach deal with ex Green Bay Packers WR Geronimo Allison

By Connor Grott  
UPI

The Detroit Lions are signing former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Geronimo Allison to a short-term contract, the team announced Sunday.

League sources told ESPN and NFL Media that Allison agreed to a one-year deal for the veteran's minimum of \$910,000. According to NFL Media, the wideout will also receive a \$137,500 signing bonus.

The Packers brought back Allison on a one-year, \$2.8 million contract in 2019 with the expectation that he could serve as the team's No. 2 receiver after veteran pass-catcher Randall Cobb left the franchise. Instead, Allison struggled to adapt to the role and finished sixth on the team with 34 catches to go with four drops.

Allison missed a majority of the 2018 season after he was placed on

injured reserve following groin surgery. He started that season as Green Bay's No. 3 receiver and hauled in 20 passes for 303 yards and two touchdowns in five games. He also sat out two games due to a concussion.

The Packers signed Allison after he went undrafted in 2016. Since joining the team, he has recorded 89 receptions for 1,045 yards and six touchdowns.

Allison is expected to serve as the Lions' No. 4 receiver behind Kenny Golladay, Marvin Jones and Danny Amendola.

*Former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Geronimo Allison had 34 receptions last season. File Photo by Shane Roper/UPI | License Photo*



# Los Angeles Rams re-sign CB Dont'e Deayon to one-year deal

By Connor Grott  
UPI

The Los Angeles Rams re-signed cornerback Dont'e Deayon to a short-term contract Monday, according to the NFL transaction wire.

League sources told NFL Media that Deayon, a restricted free agent who wasn't tendered, signed back with the Rams on a one-year deal. Financial details of the agreement weren't disclosed.

With the re-signing of Deayon, the Rams maintained some of their depth in the secondary and on special teams.

The 26-year-old defensive back spent a majority of last season on the practice squad before he appeared in three games,

recording three total tackles.

Deayon is part of a Rams cornerback group that includes Jalen Ramsey, Troy Hill, Darius Williams and David Long. Los Angeles is expected to add more depth at the position in the upcoming NFL Draft, which is scheduled to take place April 23-25.

Deayon signed with the New York Giants as an undrafted free agent in May 2016. He rotated between the Giants' practice squad and active roster before ultimately being waived in October 2018.

The Rams then signed Deayon to their practice squad two months later. In 11 career games between the Giants and Rams, he has notched 19 total tackles and three pass breakups.

COVID-19

Our Top Priority Is Keeping You Safe.

The COVID-19 Virus has caused all Americans to change many aspects of their daily routines in order to stop the spread of this worldwide pandemic. To prepare for this rapidly changing situation, our hospital has incorporated extra precautions to ensure your health and well being if you are in our care. To disinfect rooms, we're utilizing Tru-D SmartUVC equipment, and our doctors and nurses are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. We're doing our part to keep Lenoir County residents healthy and safe and you can count on our hospital, and the entire UNC Health network, to keep you informed throughout this crisis.

Please visit our website for updated information on COVID-19 as it relates to UNC Health and our affiliated hospitals, and our preparations, as well as tips for staying healthy.

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A photograph of a male doctor in a white lab coat and a female nurse in blue scrubs, both smiling and looking towards the camera.





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# Kevin Durant, Donovan Mitchell, other NBA stars compete in ‘2K’ tourney

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Kevin Durant and Donovan Mitchell are among the NBA stars who will compete in a players-only NBA 2K20 video game tournament starting Friday and airing on ESPN.

Derrick Jones Jr., Trae Young, Harrison Barnes, Hassan Whiteside, Pat Beverley, Rui Hachimura, Devin Booker, Michael Porter Jr., Andre Drummond, DeMarcus Cousins, Zach LaVine, DeAndre Ayton, Montrezl Harrell and Domantas Sabonis also will play in the 16-team tournament.

Players will be seeded for matchups based on their rating in the game and the length of their NBA playing tenure.

Sources told Yahoo Sports that the players-only tournament is expected to last 10 days.

NBA games have been suspended indefinitely since March 12 because of the coronavirus pandemic after Mitchell’s teammate, Rudy Gobert, tested positive for COVID-19. Several

more players, including Mitchell and Durant, also tested positive for COVID-19 after Gobert’s diagnosis. Mitchell was medically cleared last week. Durant has said he feels fine now.

The NBA 2K Twitter account has been tweeting simulated results from NBA games during the league’s hiatus.

Durant will take on Jones Jr. in one of the matchups. Durant is the highest-rated player in the tournament. Young, the No. 2 seed, will face Barnes. Whiteside is a no. 3 seed and will face Beverley.

Mitchell has a first-round matchup against Hachimura. Booker will face Porter Jr. in the first round. Drummond will battle Cousins in his first game. LaVine, the No. 10 seed, will face Ayton. The final first-round matchup will feature Harrell and Sabonis.

Video game streams featuring sporting events have been gaining popularity during the pandemic.

NASCAR drivers have been competing in the iRacing Pro Series, which drew nearly 1 million viewers during its March 22 virtual event. NASCAR’s second



Utah Jazz star Donovan Mitchell tested positive for COVID-19, but has been medically cleared. File Photo by John Angelillo/UPI | License Photo

iRacing Pro Series event on Sunday drew more than 1.3 million viewers, breaking the record for the most-viewed esports event in U.S. TV history.

# Rihanna creating new album without ‘rules’ or ‘format’

By Anne Martian  
UPI

Rihanna says she’s creating her new album without the restrictions of specific “rules” or a certain “format.”

The 32-year-old singer, actress and fashion designer discussed the highly-anticipated album, nicknamed R9, in the May issue of British Vogue.

Rihanna has yet to announce a release date for R9, her ninth studio album and her first album since Anti, released in January 2016.

“I can’t say when I’m going to drop,” she told the magazine. “But I am very aggressively working on music.”

Rihanna said the album features music she likes, rather than songs that fit a certain theme.

“I don’t want my albums to feel like themes,” she said. “There are no rules. There’s no format.

There’s just good music, and if I feel it, I’m putting it out.”

The singer confirmed R9 will be a reggae album but said it is not limited to just one genre.

“I feel like I have no boundaries,” she said. “I’ve done everything -- I’ve done all the hits, I’ve tried every genre -- now I’m just, I’m wide open. I can make anything that I want.”

For the May issue, Rihanna shot two covers that show her wearing a durag.

The singer is the first person to appear on a British Vogue cover while wearing the type of scarf.

Rihanna is featured on PartyNextDoor’s new single, “Believe It,” released this week. The song is the first to feature Rihanna since the N.E.R.D. song “Lemon,” released in 2017.

Rihanna returned to the studio in February with The Neptunes, a production duo



composed of Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo. She teased fans about her new album in December with a gif of a headbanging puppy on Instagram.

In addition to her music, Rihanna partnered with LVMH in May to relaunch her clothing label, Fenty, as a luxury fashion brand. Rihanna is the first woman to create an original brand at LVMH and the first woman of color to head an LVMH maison.

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# La Voz Latina

## U.S. offers to lift Venezuela sanctions for power-sharing deal

By Darryl Coote  
UPI

The Trump administration has offered to lift sanctions from Venezuela if the opposition party and President Nicolas Maduro's socialist party create an interim transitional government with the aim of holding a free and fair presidential election in less than a year.

The State Department unveiled the 13-point plan Tuesday after more than a year of attempting to strong-arm Maduro from power with escalating sanctions imposed against him, his government and those the Trump administration accuses of keeping him at the country's helm.

Under the plan, Maduro would relinquish his hold as leader of the country to the interim government, which will consist of two people elected from Juan Guaido's opposition party, two people elected from Maduro's socialist party and a fifth member chosen by the four elected officials to act as interim president. That person, then, will be barred from running for president.

If the conditions of the framework are met -- specifically that a council of state is in place and is governing and foreign security forces have left the South American nation -- then the United States will suspend sanctions on the government and its oil sector. Those sanctions would then be revoked

once elections are held and observers deem them to be free and fair.

Sanctions imposed against individual officials would be lifted once they step down.

The plan also consists of establishing a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate "serious acts of violence" that have occurred since 1999, when former socialist President Victor Chavez began his rule, which ended in 2013 with his death.

"The basic outline is simple: We call for a transitional government that would govern for nine to 12 months and hold free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections," U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams told reporters Tuesday.

"The United States will recognize the result of a free and fair election no matter which party wins."

Venezuela flat out rejected the framework late Tuesday, describing it as unconstitutional and in disregard of "the democratic will expressed by the Venezuelan people at the polls."

"The U.S. pseudo-proposal confirms that the officials of that country completely ignore Venezuela's legal framework and how its institutions work," the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The Trump administration began its maximum pressure campaign against the Maduro regime after his 2018 elec-



Hundreds of Venezuelans take to the streets in Caracas on May 1, a day after members of the opposition clashed with government forces. File Photo by Miguel Gutiérrez/EPA-EFE

tion was deemed illegitimate, backing instead opposition leader Guaido who appointed himself interim president. Since then, more than 55 mostly Western countries have supported Guaido's claim to the interim presidency.

Abrams said the framework proposal follows suggestions made by Guaido and his team last year and which he repeated over the weekend. What has changed since the proposal was first floated is that the regime is worse off, he said, adding the cost of its main export, oil, has not only dropped but the country is producing nearly half

as many barrels at under 500,000 a day.

"The income the regime is getting from the one thing it has to sell, which is oil, has dropped precipitously," he said. "So, we think there's a lot more pressure on the regime."

In a statement, Guaido said it is not only the United States but other nations that support this framework.

"The correct steps are being taken to save Venezuela," he said, calling on Maduro to "assume his responsibility and accept the offer made by the international community."

The State Department's offer comes on the heels

of the Justice Department charging Maduro and members of his cadre with drug trafficking, which the embattled leader rejected out of hand.

Venezuela's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said the framework offer and the charges are evidence the United States has lost direction with its foreign policy toward the South American country.

"The Trump administration's actions during recent days against Venezuela cannot be labeled in any other way: They are miserable," the Foreign Ministry said. When asked if the indictments will force

Maduro to cling ever more tightly to power, Abrams responded that the indictments are not a matter of policy as sanctions are but the plan was built less to address Maduro and more to appeal to the Venezuelan public.

"By leaving power, Maduro loses a great deal," Abrams said. "It's obvious that Maduro is going to resist any plan that calls for him to leave power, but the framework that we've proposed, we think, protects the legitimate rights of the Chavista party to contest elections and to be treated absolutely fairly in a transitional government."

## Soccer: Ajax's Abdelhak Nouri wakes from 32-month coma

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Dutch soccer player Abdelhak Nouri -- who collapsed during a game between Ajax and Werder Bremen in 2017 -- has woken up after being in a coma for nearly three years.

Nouri, 22, fell to the ground due to a cardiac arrest while playing for Ajax during the friendly on July 8, 2017, in Eisenstadt, Austria. He sustained permanent brain damage as a result of the medical episode and incomplete medical treatment. Ajax later admitted that their on-field treatment for Nouri was "inadequate."

Nouri's father and brother and former Ajax teammates Frenkie de Jong, Donny van de Beek and Steven Bergwijn discussed Nouri Thursday during an episode of the Dutch talk show De Wereld Draait Door. Nouri's brother, Abderrahim, revealed that

Abdelhak is no longer in a coma.

"He has not been home very long, we take care of him there now," Abderrahim said.

"I must say that since he is at home it is going much better than before in the hospital.

He is aware of where he is, he is back in a familiar environment with his family.

RELATED NCAA allows Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence's coronavirus fundraiser

"He's no longer in a coma. He's just awake. He sleeps, he sneezes, he eats, he burps, but it's not like he gets out of bed.

He's very bedridden and still very dependent on us. On his good days there is a form of communication, for example, confirmation with his eyebrows or a smile. But you notice that he can't last that very long."

De Jong, who now plays at Barcelona, has stayed in



Abdelhak Nouri of Ajax faced Go Ahead Eagles May 7, 2017, in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Photo by Stanley Gontha/EPA

touch with Nouri. Nouri was 19 when he made his

debut for Ajax's senior team.

He appeared in 15 matches for the Dutch

soccer club while competing in the Eredivisie.

## U.S. Soccer Federation names Will Wilson as new CEO

By Alex Butler  
UPI

The United States Soccer Federation has named Will Wilson as its new CEO and secretary general.

Wilson replaces Dan Flynn, who retired in September after serving in the role for nearly two

decades. Wilson will officially assume his new role on March 30.

"I'm very excited to be joining [the federation]," Wilson said. "I have always admired the federation from afar and have long felt that the U.S. Soccer crest is one of the best brands in the business.

"There is nothing like harnessing our nation's support behind our women's and men's national teams, and I see significant upside in our ability to work with our membership to grow participation levels, increase our commercial business and drive our ability to compete on

the field at the highest level."

Wilson, 50, was executive vice president for football at Wasserman Media Group for the last eight years and was formerly the agent for his nephew and former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck. Wilson has also worked for

Major League Soccer, Soccer United Marketing, NFL Europe and NFL Mexico.

"We are thrilled Will is joining [the federation] as our CEO," federation President Cindy Parlow Cone said. "He brings an unrivaled set of experience and expertise to soccer in America. His global

perspective, background in marketing and growing sporting events and extensive experience in the sports business will be invaluable in growing soccer at all levels.

"Soccer is the world's game and Will is the perfect person to help us grow it to America's game."