

# NEWS

## ON THE RUN

LEVEL THREE: MARCH 23, 2020



White House News



Historic Flashback



Features



News Tidbits



# WHITE HOUSE & WORLD NEWS



## Washington, D.C. Closed

**W**ashington, D.C. Closed  
Congress is shutting the Capitol to the public until April 1. Congressional office buildings and the Congressional Visitor Center, through which tourists enter the Capitol, were also being closed. Only lawmakers and staff will be permitted to enter the buildings. No tours will be permitted in the Capitol Visitor Center, a massive three-level underground structure, which opened in 2008 and has greeted millions of visitors.



All public tours of the White House have been temporarily suspended. Officials are acting out of concern for the health and safety of congressional employees as well as the public. The Supreme Court is also closing its doors to the public.

While comprehensive records about past closures of the Capitol weren't immediately available, the building is seldom closed completely to the public. No visitors were allowed immediately after a 1915 bomb threat against the building.

In the fall of 1918, the Capitol was closed briefly to visitors as the Spanish flu spread around the world, killing millions of people. Around 1,000 people died in the Washington, D.C., region along with at least three members of the House, according to the chamber's historians' office.

## Senators at Work

**S**enators at Work  
The Capitol, scrubbed and abandoned, has already been transformed. Sanitizer stands are posted at basically every entrance, tourists are gone and limited staff remains. Members of Congress, specifically Senate Democrats, are calling to vote away from the chamber floor and conduct committee hearings via Skype. "It's time for the Senate to wake up to the 21st century and make sure we're using technology that allows us to communicate with each other without any danger or risk to public health."



It may become all but impossible for many lawmakers to journey to the Capitol because of the growing risk of getting the virus. It's a time when health experts want people to avoid crowds.

It would also be a sharp break from history. Currently members must cast votes during roll calls in person on the House and Senate floors. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Senators will not vote from home. He added that there are a number of ways "to avoid getting too many people together," including lengthening the time for a roll call vote.

After Congress passed an \$8.3 billion coronavirus response package the first week of March, the House passed a second bill with provisions for paid emergency leave and free testing for the virus. The House then went on recess.

The Senate approved a House-passed relief package that includes free testing for COVID-19 and paid emergency leave, clearing the measure for President Trump to sign. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced ahead that senators would take precautions during the vote. There was a 30-minute roll call vote to avoid Senators congregating at the same time. Senators were encouraged to come in and vote and depart the chamber.

The Senate will now devote its full attention to passing the next relief package. With all the work to be done, it doesn't look like the Senate will be going anywhere. "The Senate will not leave town until we have processed yet another bill to address this emergency," said Mitch McConnell.

**Unemployment**, jobless claims are surging across the U.S. after government officials ordered millions of workers, students and shoppers to stay at home as a precaution against spreading the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease.

In Ohio, more than 48,000 people applied for jobless benefits during the first two days of last week. The tally during the same period the prior week: just 1,825. In neighboring Pennsylvania, about 70,000 people sought unemployment aid in a single day — six times the total for the entire previous week. In Rhode Island jobless claims accelerated from zero to nearly 18,000 in barely one week.

Do states have stockpiled enough money since the last recession to tide over unemployed workers until the crisis ends? Some fear the demand for help could outpace the states' ability to pay claims. States appealed for help from the federal government.

Lawmakers are working to pass another bill to a deal with the coronavirus outbreak. Senate Republicans are working on a \$1 trillion proposal to help Americans. President Donald Trump's administration is proposing an economic stimulus package that would send \$1000 checks to Americans within a matter of weeks to help pay for groceries, bills, mortgages and rent.

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## **N**ew Greeting for World Leaders

President Donald Trump and Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar found themselves in an awkward moment as they met in the White House on March 12: How do you greet a fellow world leader in the midst of a global viral pandemic? The two made the decision not to shake hands. Varadkar and the president opted for something similar to the Indian greeting, putting their hands together and slightly bowing.



# Election Center News



The 11th Democratic presidential debate of the 2020 campaign, only had two candidates: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden. It was their first one-on-one debate Sunday night, March 15, on a stage and in a political climate that was very different from their last encounter three weeks ago. This debate could be the last in the Democratic primary process.

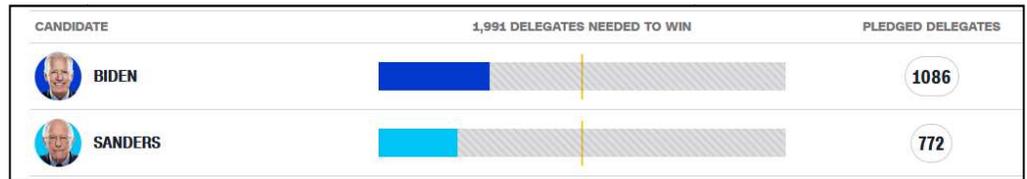
Fears about the spread of the coronavirus have transformed the event. The debate's location has been moved from a convention center in Phoenix, Arizona, to a soundstage in Washington D.C. where there was no studio audience for the candidates to react to. The candidates stood behind lecterns six feet apart in the studio.

The two men in their 70s bumped elbows in greeting; the new form of handshake made clear how strange times have become. They are the last candidates standing in a Democratic primary field that started out with more than 20 candidates that contained a mix of gender, race and age.

The debate lasted two hours – and often devolved into lengthy debates about the voting records of two men who spent decades as Senators in Congress. Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders attacked each other during last night's debate in Washington, but there were two things they did agree on. One: Women are high on their Vice Presidential nomination lists. Biden outright pledged to pick a woman for his running mate, while Sanders said he is strongly considering it. Two: Sanders and Biden have each offered their own responses to the coronavirus outbreak – each arguing they would be the best person to lead the country in a crisis. They outlined their plan after President Donald Trump's address to the nation failed to calm fears. Both candidates "fundamentally disagree with this president on everything."

Arizona, Ohio, Illinois and Florida were set for voting on Tuesday, March 17. Florida, Illinois and Arizona's governors' offices went forward with Tuesday's voting, even though they lost polling sites and workers. Ohio is the only one of the four states that postponed its contest to June. Ohio's governor said elections would force poll workers and voters to place themselves at an unacceptable health risk.

Joe Biden easily defeated Senator Bernie Sanders in three major primaries on March 17. Biden won by



wide margins in Florida and Illinois and also carried Arizona, achieving a strong delegate lead. The outcome could pressure Bernie Sanders to end his campaign and allow Democrats to unify behind Mr. Biden as their nominee.

After Tuesday's losses, Bernie Sanders's campaign manager said that he may end his campaign. The next primary contest is three weeks away and Sanders will have conversations with his supporters to assess his campaign.

Hawaii Representative Tulsi Gabbard ended her presidential campaign and endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden. According to primary results, voters had picked Biden to take on President Donald Trump in the general election. Gabbard also pointed to the coronavirus as a reason for leaving the race. The best way she can serve the country at this time is to continue to work for the health and wellbeing of the people of Hawaii and our country in Congress.

Because of fears over the virus, state election officials announced that Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky and Wyoming's presidential primaries scheduled for March 24, have been postponed. Georgia will hold elections in May, Louisiana mid June, and Kentucky mid May. Wyoming which holds caucuses has suspended in-person voting, but residents will still be able to vote by mail.

The next major day of voting isn't until April 28, and one state that was supposed to vote then -- Maryland -- postponed the primary until June. On schedule for voting are the states of Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and the territory of Puerto Rico.

Many states are trying to figure out safer ways for people to vote, including allowing people to vote by mail. Over 20 states have some sort of election by mail. Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah, and Hawaii already hold their elections completely by mail.

President Donald Trump has halted campaign events temporarily, with plans to shift all events online. The leading Democratic presidential hopefuls also have changed their campaign plans. Senator Bernie Sanders will no longer hold large events or door-to-door canvases and will move to digital formats instead. Former Vice President Joe Biden also will move to suspend large crowd events and move to digital. Biden's campaign say that the team's message and goals are unchanged, but they are seeking more creative ways to achieve them.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is receiving U.S. Secret Service protection. Biden made the request earlier this month after a handful of rowdy interactions with protesters at recent campaign events. The leading candidates in the 2012 and 2016 presidential contests had Secret Service protection by this point in those races. Neither Biden nor Democratic primary rival Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders had requested protection until now. Sanders still has not made a request.

## WORLD NEWS



### Israeli-Palestinian Team Fight Virus

Israeli and Palestinian Authority medical teams have been working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Arab-controlled areas. Israel has been providing support to the P.A. in testing of patients and protection of medical personnel. “Bacteria and viruses do not stop at the border, and the spread of the dangerous virus in the Palestinian Authority can also jeopardize the health of the residents of Israel,” a health coordinator said.



On March 18, Israel closed its borders with the Palestinian Authority. Israel cannot take a chance on admitting large numbers of workers from PA-controlled areas that may be infected. The employers of 25,000 Palestinian workers in construction and agriculture that will remain in Israel will be responsible for housing and feeding them. Tens of thousands of PA workers will not be able to commute to their jobs in Israel, but since many of the businesses that normally employ them – like restaurants and hotels – are not operating anyway, they do not currently have jobs they need to commute to.

### Israeli Lawmakers Sworn: Empty 23rd Knesset

A strange scene took place on Monday as Israel’s 23rd Knesset was sworn in to a largely empty chamber. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin delivered his opening remarks to only three lawmakers present: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein. Supreme Court president Esther Hayut also attended in the gallery, and there was an usher as well. Afterwards, each of the 120 members of the Knesset was sworn in, three at a time, turning the usually festive occasion into a more somber one reflective of the seriousness of the outbreak.



Israel has had three elections in the past year, all failing to yield a government. To form a government, the political party needs 61 Knesset members to vote in favor of his government. “The political crisis is very deep and divides us in half, but we have no other state and no other nation,” President Rivlin said referring to the current political deadlock. “I have only one request of you: Give this people a government.” In his remarks, Speaker Edelstein called for the formation of an emergency unity government, saying there are millions of citizens who badly need an emergency government.

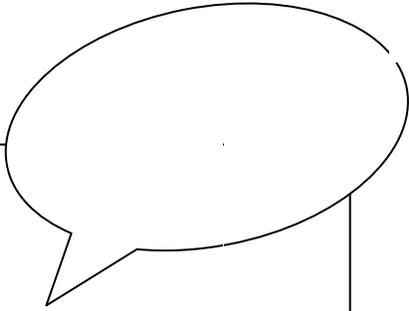
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# World News in Review

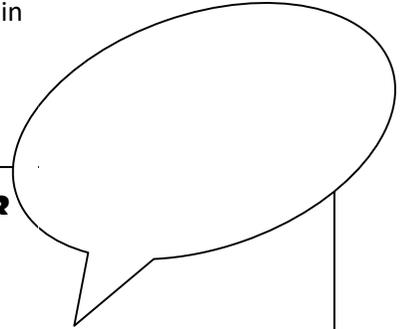


Draw a picture with a caption in relation to the news.

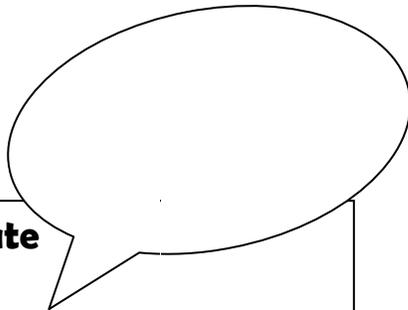
## Capitol Closed



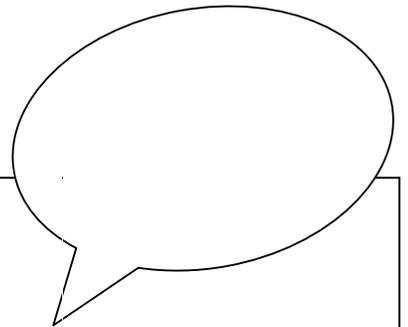
## Senators at Work



## Democratic Debate



## Fight Virus



# Around the World Coronavirus



Canceled, postponed and closed are three of the words being used worldwide for events, flights, businesses and schools. COVID-19 is the technical term. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus, people are being asked to avoid crowds and limit their travel. Organizations are doing their part to help. Libraries, museums, zoos, theme parks and other popular attractions are shutting down. Schools are closing, and companies are having people work from home. There are many retail stores and malls that have temporarily closed or reduced hours in the United States and around the world. What's left behind is an eerie emptiness.

Governments in 73 countries have announced school closures, including 56 countries which closed schools nationwide and 17 countries with localized school closures. China and South Korea closed all their schools, and they're seeing reduced cases. The United Kingdom was the last European country to close its schools. School closures arm low-income families who lack access to technology, internet, nutritious food and childcare services, as well as students with disabilities.

In Italy, where the virus is widespread and the country is on lockdown, the only public places still open were supermarkets and medical facilities. Italy's Jewish community is small and consists of a large number of elderly people who are encountering a crisis which they have not faced since World War Two. Elderly people are being separated from their families as Italy has put in place drastic restrictions on everyday life. A special team was set up by Jewish organizations to attend to their most urgent needs.

In Nepal, authorities have closed access to Mt. Everest. The March-May climbing season is when weather conditions are best for climbing Mt. Everest. It is disappointing news for both guides and climbers who have trained for months for this year's climb. In recent years, overcrowding on Mt. Everest has become a major concern as growing numbers of climbers attempt to scale the deadly mountain.

## Canceling Events

The spread of the coronavirus has resulted in events being postponed or canceled across the country. It might be enough to make people wonder: Is all this necessary? The answer is yes. Just look at Philadelphia in 1918, and the spread of the flu.

In September 1918, Philadelphia held a planned Liberty Loan Parade to promote the government bonds that were being issued to pay for World War I. But the parade took place when the pandemic called the Spanish flu arrived in the city of 1.7 million people.



The virus swept the world between 1918 and 1919. About a third of the entire world's population, about 500 million people at the time were infected with the virus, and about 50 million died. There was no vaccine against the virus.

As U.S. troops came home from World War I, cases popped up. The virus spread to Philadelphia on September 19, 1918. Yet Philadelphia didn't cancel its Liberty Loan Parade, scheduled on September 28. The parade was meant to be a patriotic wartime effort and went on as scheduled, bringing 200,000 Philadelphians together.

By October 1, there were 635 new cases in Philadelphia. Philadelphia was one of the hardest-hit U.S. cities. More than 12,000 people died in six weeks, with about 47,000 reported cases. By the six-month mark, about 16,000 had died and there were more than half a million cases.

The Philadelphia parade is an example of what not to do during a pandemic. St. Louis canceled its parade while Philadelphia did not. In the end, the death toll in St. Louis did not rise above 700. There is a benefit in canceling mass gatherings during pandemics; these cancellations can save lives.

## **National Emergency across America**

Coronavirus brings life in all 50 states of the US to a grinding halt as federal, local governments work to stop spread. It was a week that changed everything. Federal, state and local governments have taken extraordinary steps to try and slow the spread, and help first-responders and hospitals prepare for an influx of patients exhibiting serious symptoms. China showed the world that the best way to contain the virus is to quarantine (isolate) the affected regions, ban all gatherings, and order residents to stay in their homes.

The White House has issued guidelines. Millions of Americans are already working from home and city centers around the country are drastically less crowded. Public health officials are recommending that older Americans try to avoid large gatherings to limit exposure to the virus. People should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 and try to stay at least 6 feet away from each other. People should stay away from restaurants and not travel if possible. It's necessary to buy food. But try to go to the supermarket at times when it's less crowded, stay 6 feet away from other shoppers as much as you can, and wash your hands thoroughly when you get home.

President Trump worked to calm Americans who have seen grocery stores emptied. The aisles and aisles of empty store shelves give the appearance that the United States is running out of food. But the nation's biggest retailers, dairy farmers and meat producers say that isn't so. President Trump said that "there's no need to hoard" supplies, amid concerns of food supply shortages. He assured Americans that grocers would remain open and that the supply chain remained healthy. Vice President Mike Pence urged Americans to buy only the groceries they needed for the week ahead.



Millions of students, in school districts big and small, rely on the free or discounted meals they eat at school. Some people worry that as schools close, children will go hungry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the government agency that oversees the nation's school meal programs. It has instructed schools on how to feed students during these times of emergency.

**New Jersey** Governor Murphy will be mobilizing the state's National Guard to combat the spread of coronavirus "in any way necessary." The drastic step, usually reserved for natural disasters or emergencies, is part of a slew of tightened restrictions for New Jersey residents that state officials hope will quash the spread of COVID-19.



The National Guard will be dispatched to help with testing, distributing food to kids during school closings, and possibly converting buildings to accommodate patients who need to self-quarantine. They will help with transportation, traffic control, security, and using engineers to restore any damaged facilities to working order.

There haven't been enough testing kits to keep up with demand in many parts of the country. Critics have blamed the Trump Administration for not doing enough to increase testing. The White House says it plans to work with private companies to get more tests out there and open drive thru testing sites. Vice President Mike Pence announced that all testing will be free for every American including the uninsured.

**New York** State Governor Andrew Cuomo said Friday he is ordering all workers in non-essential businesses to stay home and banning gatherings statewide. The Comfort, a US Navy hospital ship, will be sent to New York City's harbor. The governor ordered employers to have at least half their staff working from home. New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), which runs the city's bus and subway system, is requesting \$4 billion in aid as the virus has drastically slashed ridership.

**California's** homeless population continues to face hardships from the pandemic. There are about 151,000 homeless individuals in California, half of the country's total street homeless population. State and local authorities are working to move homeless individuals into hotels purchased by the state and into 450 state-owned trailers.



Hand washing stations were established near homeless camps in Sacramento, where more than 5,500 people are homeless on any given night. The hand washing stations will be replaced once a week as they are restocked with soap, water and paper towels. The virus is creating additional hardships for the homeless population, as fast-food restaurants close dining areas and only to-go orders are offered elsewhere.



# USNS Comfort, Navy Hospital Ship

New York State Governor Cuomo called the decision to bring 1,000 bed military 'floating hospital' the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Comfort to New York City harbor an 'extraordinary step'. With the spread of the coronavirus,

Governor

Cuomo warned the state needs to increase its hospital bed capacity by 50,000 in the coming weeks.

It's not clear when the ship would arrive.



Navy hospital ships are floating hospitals with emergency rooms, operating rooms, beds for recovering people, nurses, doctors, and dentists. They are generally used during wartime and after major natural disasters.

The Comfort, home-ported in Norfolk, Va., is one of two hospital ships in the U.S. military, and the only one kept on the East Coast.

Mercy, the second hospital ship, based on the West Coast, will deploy to coastal regions on that side of the country.

The U.S. Navy hospital ship Comfort, has one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States. It has treated thousands around the world. The ship has a supply of 5,000 units of blood and is equipped with X-ray machines, CAT scan units, a dental office, an optometry facility, a physical therapy center and a pharmacy. The 894-foot vessel has about 1,000 beds for patients, 12 operating rooms and a flight deck for heavy-lift helicopters.

In 2001, the USNS Comfort docked in Manhattan, in the days after September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In 2003, the 894-foot-long hospital ship spent 56 days in the Persian Gulf during the invasion of Iraq. The ship's doctors treated 700 people.

Patients included wounded U.S. military members and Iraqi civilians.

In 2005, Comfort docked in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to provide medical support and aid for 1,500 people.

In 2007, Comfort was enlisted for a four-month humanitarian mission in Latin America and the Caribbean. It made stops in a dozen different countries, treating almost 100,000 people.

In 2010, Comfort was sent to Haiti after a large earthquake killed more than 200,000 people. The ship spent two months there, treating more than 800 people.

In 2017, after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, the USNS Comfort headed for the US territory as part of the federal government's support for the island.

Hospital ships were first used on a massive scale during World War I and II, when many passenger liners were converted for use as hospital ships. The first purposely built hospital ship in the U.S. Navy was USS Relief, which was built in 1921.



## NEWS TIDBITS

### Hand Stuck in Car Trunk Lid

**H**ow many firefighters does it take to change a light bulb? The fire department in England recently had to come to the rescue of a man who got his hand stuck while working on the taillight on his car. Photos show the man with his arm reaching through an opening in the trunk lid that houses a portion of the rear light cluster.



Details of the rescue were not shared, but the rescue workers needed to drill through the top of the vehicle's trunk lid and said they managed to release him with only a minor injury. Beware! Before you replace the light, make sure your trunk lid is open.

### Watering a Plastic Plant

**W**ater plants need love, too. They don't, however, need water. There's something great about buying a plant, taking care of it and actually having it survive for more than a week or two. Imagine the shock that one woman must have felt when she realized that a plant she had been caring for and watering for two years was actually made out of plastic.



Caelie Wilkes had this beautiful plant for about two years and was so proud of this plant. It was full, beautiful coloring, just an overall perfect plant. She had it up in her kitchen window. She had a watering plan for it and if someone else tried to water it, she would get so defensive because she just wanted to keep good care of it. Unfortunately, when she decided to transplant the plant to a new vase, she made a shocking discovery.

Wilkes put so much love into this plant and washed its leaves. It's completely plastic, how did she not know this? She pulled it from the container it's sitting on Styrofoam with sand glued to the top!" "I feel like these last two years have been a lie," Wilkes concluded.



## Cherry Blossoms Forecast

Thousands of cherry trees will soon be blooming in the nation's capital. The cherry blossoms were a gift from Japan in 1912, and are a symbol of history and friendship. The time for peak bloom, the day when 70 percent of the Yoshino cherry trees are in full bloom, varies from year to year.



What is the prediction for peak bloom this year? The peak for cherry blossoms is closer than ever. All but one day in March has been warmer than average in Washington, DC. Because of the mild weather over the region the forecast for peak is on March 22. If peak bloom occurs on March 22, it would mark the seventh earliest date on record (since 1921). The earliest peak bloom on record was March 15, 1990.

Such an early bloom would fit in with many other trees in the area, which are leafing and flowering up to two to three weeks ahead of schedule. The abnormally mild weather has accelerated this year's bloom cycle.

***Was this prediction accurate?***

## Kindness at Its Best

The U.S. Senate is set to pass legislation aimed at helping businesses and families deal with the financial impact of the virus which has closed cafes and restaurants across the country and endangered the livelihoods of many people.



Staff at a restaurant in Houston, Texas, got a lesson in the kindness of strangers, when a regular, who has remained anonymous, left the huge tip. On the receipt, the patron even wrote a message of support, which read: "Hold tip to pay your guys over the next few weeks." The tip will be split evenly among the staff, with each worker getting around \$300. The owner of the restaurant said, "We have to let our staff know that we may be off of work for 15 to 30 days. But the gift we got today should help soften the blow."

In another generous gesture this week, a customer at a restaurant in Kentucky left a \$1,000 tip for workers on a bill costing \$64.74. "Your family and staff have always taken such great care of us through the years, we know it's going to be a tough few months," the unnamed customer wrote on the check.

The White House advised the public to avoid groups of more than 10 and says people should stay away from restaurants. Many states have ordered all restaurants to close. The closures to restaurants and other businesses mean that nearly one in five Americans have had a reduction in work hours or have lost their jobs.



## Toilet Paper Exchange

**T**Jonny Blue, a 33-year-old from San Diego, California, saw reports across the country of people hoarding toilet paper. The panic buying on toilet paper and other items such as hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes has led local grocery stores and national chains such as Target and Walmart to limit the amounts shoppers can purchase at one time.

One of Jonny's good friends had a difficult time finding diapers and essential supplies for his kids at a nearby store. Jonny took a cardboard sign bearing the simple request — "Share your toilet paper" — and camped out on the corner of a main road. "It just inspired me to remind people, listen, if you have a lot of something that probably means there are people who probably don't have very much of it, because you took it all," Jonny said. "So sharing it is probably a good thing to keep in mind."

The response was immediate and positive, with motorists honking horns in support. Drivers stopped to drop off rolls of toilet paper. As cars whizzed by another motorist stopped and said he just ran out and was going to a bunch of stores and couldn't find any. Jonny then gave him some toilet paper. Every few moments drivers slowed down just enough to toss out a roll to Jonny's growing bundle.

When things are really challenging, people are looking to band together and be unified. Difficult times can reveal us to ourselves and help us see ourselves more clearly.



## Penguins Roam Free in Chicago Aquarium

**P**The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago is now closed because of the coronavirus, COVID-19. That's given some of the animals at the Shedd the rare chance to see the aquarium as visitors. Since there are currently no visitors at the aquarium, the keepers decided to let some animals go out on "field trips". The penguins have been exploring the aquarium, and seeing it in a way they normally never see it.



A penguin was taken to see fish in a display, at an Amazon exhibit, which features creatures from the Amazon River basin, the largest river system and rainforest on Earth. The penguin got very excited as he saw the fish swimming behind the glass. He got close to the glass to get a better view, but kept looking over his shoulder as if he couldn't believe what he was seeing. Several zoos are also making the most of the time without visitors to take animals around to visit other animals.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# News Tidbits in Review

Summarize the news in relation to the picture.



Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the goldfish image.



Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the sun image.



Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the tips jar image.

Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the share graphic image.



Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the watering plant image.

Four horizontal lines for writing a summary related to the fire truck image.

On **March 25, 1911**, the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burned down, killing 145 workers. The tragedy led to the development of a series of laws and regulations that better protected the safety of factory workers.

The Triangle factory, owned by Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, was located on the top three floors of a 10-story building in downtown Manhattan. It was a **sweatshop** in every sense of the word: a cramped space lined with work stations and packed with poor immigrant workers, mostly teenaged women who did not speak English.



At the time of the fire, there were four elevators with access to the factory floors, but only one was fully operational and it could hold only 12 people at a time. There were two stairways down to the street, but one was locked from the outside to prevent theft by the workers and the other opened inward only. The fire escape could not support the weight of more than a few women at a time.

Blanck and Harris' were known for their anti-worker policies. Their employees were paid a mere \$15 a week, despite working 12 hours a day, every day. When the International Ladies Garment Workers Union led a strike in 1909 demanding higher pay and shorter and more predictable hours, Blanck and Harris' company paid off officials to look the other way.

## HISTORIC FLASHBACK

### TRIANGLE FIRE

On March 25, a Saturday afternoon, 600 workers were at the factory when a fire broke out on the eighth floor. The manager turned the fire hose on, but the hose was rotted and its valve was rusted shut.

Panic ensued as the workers fled to every exit. The elevator broke down after only four trips. Those who fled down the wrong set of stairs were trapped inside and burned alive. Other women trapped on the eighth floor began jumping out the windows. Also, the firefighters' ladders stretched only as high as the seventh floor, and their safety nets were not strong enough to catch the women, who were jumping three at a time. Blanck and Harris were on the building's top floor with some workers when the fire broke out. They were able to escape by climbing onto the roof and hopping to an adjoining building.

The fire was out within half an hour, but not before 145 workers had been killed by the fire. The workers' union organized a march on April 5 to protest the conditions that led to the fire; it was attended by 80,000 people.

Many Jewish immigrants' lives were saved by keeping Shabbos that week!

***Why did immigrants work under poor conditions?***