

NEWS

ON THE RUN

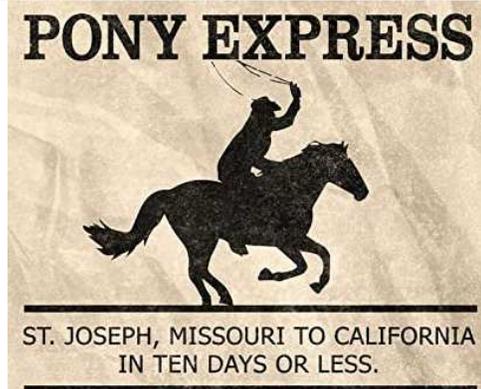
LEVEL THREE: MARCH 30, 2020



White House News



Historic Flashback



Features



News Tidbits



WHITE HOUSE & WORLD NEWS



Voting Remotely in Congress

The main job of Congress is to vote on legislation. That's a problem as coronavirus spreads to members of Congress, because Congress has a rule: No voting remotely, no matter what. For years, a group of younger lawmakers has been trying to change that. They want to vote remotely (from a distance) on simple bills such as naming post offices, but their efforts have gone nowhere.



In the Senate, there's a new proposal to vote remotely for up to 30 days. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer has endorsed the idea for an emergency. "It's just a matter of time, the technology exists. We're just going to have to find a way to do it," Senator Amy Klobuchar said. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opposes the idea. She said that it's Congress's job to stay in Washington: "We are the last to leave," she said about closing Congress's doors entirely.

But now that Congress is getting to a situation where face-to-face voting could be very dangerous, it's possible the centuries-old practice of in-person voting could change. Senators were asked to practice distancing and were given a list of health guidelines to follow while entering the chamber. Three members of Congress have tested positive for the virus, and more than two dozen have gone into quarantine, meaning they could miss important votes on bailout packages.

The fate of a nearly \$2 trillion relief bill was upheld on Monday by the fact that Republican senators remained stuck in quarantine and were unable to vote on it.

Corona's New Presidential Candidate

Have Democrats found an alternative to Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders for the party's 2020 presidential nomination? New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has been giving daily reports daily since the coronavirus crisis began – largely because his state leads the nation, with more than 20,000 confirmed cases of the virus.



Experts agree President Trump's handling of the crisis will be the most critical moment in his presidency so far and could alter his reelection chances. Some lawmakers speculate President Donald Trump may move to delay the election, given that several states have already postponed their primaries. So far, the Republican incumbent and his Democratic rivals - former vice president Joe Biden and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders - have not said they want to postpone the November contest. With front-runner Joe Biden off the campaign trail and isolated in his Delaware home, Democrats are in a tough spot right now.

Congress Pours \$400 Million for Elections

Part of the \$2 trillion federal stimulus bill passed by Congress, includes \$400 million in election assistance. In many states voters will be casting absentee ballots. Voters and poll workers are concerned over the spread of the disease at polling locations, which are often inside schools, libraries and other gathering sites that have been closed.



With at least 12 states and one territory already postponing their primary contests, states are rushing to expand vote by mail efforts. The funding provided by Congress will help states seeking to increase their capacity to run an election by mail, expand early voting and online registration, and increase safety measures at in-person polling sites amid the crisis.

Election officials and voting rights groups are calling for a general move to a full vote-by-mail system for remaining primaries and even the November general election.

Senate Passes \$2 Trillion Relief Bill

Just before midnight Wednesday, the Senate passed a massive \$2 trillion relief package by a vote of 96-0.

Four senators were absent for Wednesday night's vote due to the coronavirus. The Senate vote sent the bill to the House of Representatives, where a vote was approved on Friday. Since several House members have tested positive for coronavirus, the bill was approved by a voice vote; members did not have to travel to the Capitol for a roll call vote. President Trump signed the bill into law on Friday afternoon.



The 880-page legislation is the largest economic relief bill in U.S. history. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (pictured above) met with Senate Republicans behind closed doors arranging the deal. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appeared somber and exhausted as he announced the vote. He then released senators from Washington until April 20, though he promised to recall them back to Washington if urgent legislative action is needed before then.

The bill will bring aid to individuals, small businesses and larger corporations. The legislation's goal is to flood the economy with money at a time of financial near-chaos, with entire states on lockdown and many businesses closed. There are stimulus checks, amounting to \$1,200 per individual, but varying by income and family situation. The airline industry would get billions in support, as would hospitals.

The number of workers who lost their jobs and applied for unemployment benefits was a record 3.3 million people. That is the highest number of initial jobless claims in history, since the Department of Labor started tracking the data in 1967. The prior record was just under 700,000 during a week in October 1982.

Coronavirus Hits the East Coast

One fourth of the world's population have been ordered or urged to stay home. In half of US states, governors have issued stay at home orders. Residents were told to stay indoors as much as possible and all nonessential workers must remain at home. Various states have started threatening jail time for those who disobey coronavirus orders and restrictions.



Because consumers cannot spend money and without businesses making products and hiring people, the economy has effectively ground to a halt. The United States Federal Reserve, the central bank of the country, says the coronavirus is causing tremendous hardship.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio described the outbreak as the biggest domestic crisis since the Great Depression and called for the U.S. military to mobilize to help keep the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

At least 7,300 National Guard members have been deployed to all 50 states, with additional members to the hardest hit states of New York, California and Washington. President Trump said the extra forces will provide backup to state leaders. The federal government will be funding 100 percent of the cost of deploying National Guard units to carry out approved missions to stop the virus while those governors remain in command.

The National Guard has moved into cities across the United States to help with relief efforts by distributing food, sanitizing public areas and building temporary hospitals to prepare for an influx in critical patients. In New Rochelle, New York, at the site of one of the first outbreaks, the National Guard arrived with face masks and an array of cleaning supplies to sanitize the synagogue.



The Constitution was set up to not only have a strong central authority but also to give the states their own authority. The Federal government can make recommendations about what kind of standards they want for public health authorities in a pandemic but those public health authorities reside with state governments at the order of the governor. States have the right to set quarantine and the power to set curfews because of a local public health threat.

Governors want President Trump help them get much-needed protective gear and supplies for doctors and nurses. President Trump instructed FEMA to provide:

- Four large medical stations with 1,000 beds to New York
- Eight large federal medical stations with 2,000 beds for California
- Three small medical stations with 1,000 beds for Washington.

The supplies should be in New York and California within the next 48 hours. He added there will be two naval hospitals, USNS Comfort on the West Coast, and USS Mercy on the East Coast that will be activated.

Currently, there are five states that have not closed all schools: Idaho, Iowa, Maine Nebraska and Wyoming – and even in those states, the majority of schools are shuttered. Virginia closed all schools for the rest of the academic year.

New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it was waiving the \$2.75 fare in an effort to reduce the interaction between riders and drivers. Instead, riders will be required to enter through the back door and stay six feet away from the driver.

Grocery stores have seen their business soar as authorities urge people only to go out for basics, prompting them to stay and cook more at home. Grocery stores have been extremely busy and been forced to close earlier to give workers more time to clean and restock as products fly off the shelves.



Washington DC: Closed

Washington, D.C. area officials urged the public to avoid the city's famous cherry blossoms and are taking the unusual step of closing down public streets to keep visitors away and prevent possible coronavirus spread.

Streets were closed starting at 7 a.m. Sunday, March 22 surrounding major Washington, D.C. tourist sites in an effort to limit crowds. The Metropolitan Police Department closed down a dozen different streets, bridges and traffic circles trying to limit the traditional crowds who pack the area around the Jefferson Memorial and the tree-lined Tidal Basin. Washington's Metro system closed down a pair of stations nearest to the Tidal Basin in the hopes of lessening crowds. The iconic cherry blossoms reached peak bloom on Friday, March 20 and should stay that way for about 10 days.



Alcohol for Sanitizer

The fight against coronavirus in Poland has revealed that no resource will be wasted, even confiscated alcohol. 660 gallons of confiscated alcohol were donated to emergency responders and health care facilities. The alcohol was donated to two hospitals and a fire department. It will be used to help make disinfectants to fight coronavirus in Poland.

The alcohol was originally intended to be destroyed after being confiscated as part of criminal investigations. Photos released by the agency show workers transporting the bottles of undisclosed alcohol into trucks to be redistributed.

In the U.S., some alcoholic beverage plants are being repurposed to help fight the virus. President Trump said that distilleries are "repurposing" their alcohol production to help make the sanitizer Americans need to upkeep hygiene for the virus, which can be transmitted by touching infected surfaces.



Masks Shipped to Hospitals

Textile companies, including Hanes, Fruit of the Loom and American Giant, will start mass-producing protective masks for medical workers under contract with the federal government. The companies aim to achieve weekly production of 10 million masks in about a month's time.



The three-ply cotton masks are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use when more sophisticated N95 masks aren't available. Mask shortages in some parts of the country have forced doctors and nurses to reuse gear or make their own from office supplies, prompting outrage in the medical profession.

Hanes brands will make the masks in factories that normally produce T-shirts, underwear, socks and sweatshirts, in El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency said that additional face masks are being shipped from the national stockpile to U.S. hospitals facing shortages. They are finding more and more masks to ship. We are trying to focus those shipments on the most critical hotspots of the country — places like New York City, Washington state, California.

3M, a large manufacturer of protective N95 masks for medical workers said it is shipping half a million masks to New York and Seattle and is ready to rush additional shipments across the country. 3M will almost double production of the masks over the next year, to an annual rate of 2 billion masks worldwide. 3M factories in South Dakota and Nebraska are now producing 35 million N95 masks a month, 90% of which are designated for health-care workers. The other 10% will go to industrial workers who are "also critical in this pandemic," in sectors including energy, food and pharmaceuticals.

Officials have promised New York City and the other hardest-hit places that critical supplies will not run out. Governor Cuomo urged federal officials to step in quickly as hard-hit states outbid each other for ever scarcer supplies, sometimes doubling or tripling prices.

The national shortage of N95 respirator masks can be traced back to 2009 after the H1N1 swine flu pandemic, when the Obama administration was advised to replenish a national stockpile but did not.



Scott Kelly's Isolation Tips: One Year in Space

Scott Kelly is a retired NASA astronaut who spent nearly a year on the International Space Station, from March 27, 2015, to March 2, 2016.

Being stuck at home can be challenging. When I lived on the International Space Station for nearly a year, it wasn't easy. When I went to sleep, I was at work. When I woke up, I was still at work. Flying in space is probably the only job you absolutely cannot quit. Here are a few tips on living in isolation, from someone who has been there.

Follow a schedule: On the space station, my time was scheduled tightly, from the moment I woke up to when I went to sleep. Sometimes this involved a spacewalk that could last up to eight hours; other times, it involved a five-minute task, like checking on the experimental flowers I was growing in space. Maintaining a plan will help you adjust to home life environment. When I returned to Earth, I missed the structure it provided and found it hard to live without.

Take time for fun activities: I met up with crewmates for game nights, complete with snacks. Don't forget to include in your schedule a consistent bedtime.

For an astronaut, going outside is a dangerous undertaking that requires days of preparation, so I appreciate that I can step outside any time I want for a walk or a hike — no spacesuit needed. Research has shown that spending time in nature is beneficial for our mental and physical

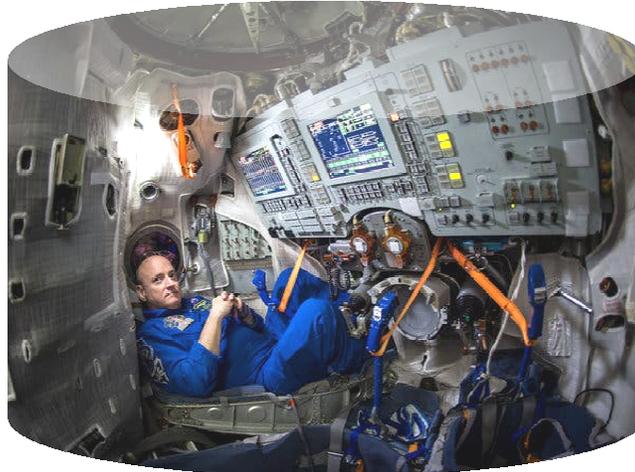
health. Some people are surprised to learn I brought books with me to space. The quiet and absorption you can find in a book is priceless. You can also practice an instrument, try a craft, or make some art.

Keep a journal: NASA has been studying the effects of isolation on humans for decades, and one surprising finding they have made is the value of keeping a journal. Throughout my yearlong mission, I took the time to write about my experiences almost every day. Try describing what you are experiencing through your five senses or write about memories.

Writing about your days will let you look back later on what this unique time in history has meant.

We are all connected: One of the side effects of seeing Earth from the perspective of space is feeling more compassion for others. As helpless as we may feel stuck inside our homes, there are always things we can do. You can donate your time and dollars to charities, and run errands for elderly or sick neighbors. The benefits for the volunteer are just as great as for those helped.

Above all, just keep Davening for a salvation!





NEWS TIDBITS

Boro Park: Safest NYC Neighborhood

Anti-Semitic crimes may have risen this year, but you wouldn't notice it from the statistics released by the New York Police Department. Boro Park was rated the safest neighborhood in New York City, all of which is considered relatively safe when compared to other large cities.

Boro Park and Mapleton — the original name for the neighborhood on 18th Avenue, saw just two crimes per 1,000 residents in the 2019, with a median rent of \$1,978. Coming in second is another adjoining area, the neighborhoods of Gravesend and Bensonhurst. That saw an average of nine crimes. The safest borough is Staten Island which had only 3.4 crimes per 1,000 residents.



Finland: Happiest Place to Live

Happiness does not depend on a counted number of smiles but on the trust and confidence that people have in each other.

Where is the happiest place to live in the world? It's Finland! In fact, Finland has finished top for the last three years. Many Finns are confused at the idea that they could win the award for the happiest country when they are simply content with their lives.



The United Nations has revealed the results of its annual World Happiness Report, and the north European country came out top. The report asked people who live in 156 countries how happy they are based on where they live.

The runner ups, which also happen to be European countries, are Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway. The United States came in 18th place. Some of the least happy places to live were Afghanistan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, all of which have seen war, poverty and food shortages in recent years.

Finland has the youngest ever prime minister. She is a woman and is just 34 years old.



New Homes for Veterans in Need

The Veterans Community Project in Kansas City, Missouri is taking serious steps to improve the lives of America's war heroes. Thanks to generous donations from community members, they've built the Veterans Village, a collection of 49 small houses that homeless veterans can live here completely free, and stay as long as they need to.



Each tiny house costs about \$10,000 to produce, making the village space- and cost-effective. Each house is about the size of a studio apartment, containing furniture, a full kitchen and bathroom. Occupants are provided with food and necessities, as well as a sense of privacy, security, and stability.

Built by Veterans for Veterans, VCP Village is specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of Veterans while recreating the stable support network last offered to them before they left the service. A nearby community center hosts classes and counseling aimed at helping veterans re-adjust to their lives.

Tokyo Olympics Postponed

The Tokyo Olympics were postponed for one year until 2021. The International Olympic Committee made the decision after speaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and local organizers.



The Olympic Games will also continue to officially be called "Tokyo 2020," even as they move to 2021. It is not immediately clear whether the Games will be moved to the summer of 2021 or the spring, when Japan's famous cherry blossoms are in bloom.

The Olympics have never been postponed and have been canceled only in wartime. The organizers said they hope the decision to postpone will help the world heal from the pandemic.

Olympics are international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of competitions with nearly every nation represented. The first celebration of the modern Olympics took place in Athens, Greece's capital city, in 1896. Winter and Summer Olympic Games are separated by 2 years. The next Winter Olympics will be hosted by Beijing, China, in 2022.



Name _____

News Tidbits in Review

Summarize the news in connection to the picture.











On **April 3, 1860**, the Pony Express Service began when a rider set out on horseback from Missouri. He carried a bag of mail with him and traveled west for many miles. Then, he passed his bag on to another rider. This rider traveled some more, then passed the bag to another rider. The next rider did the same, and so on. In the end, the mail arrived in California in nine days and 23 hours. It had traveled 2,000 miles.

The Pony Express was a mail delivery service between Missouri and California with 184 stations along the 1,900 mile route. It followed the Oregon Trail, and then used the Mormon Trail to Salt Lake City. The trail traveled over the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and finally to California. Before 1860, mail got carried by stagecoach, ship or train. It took weeks, or even months.

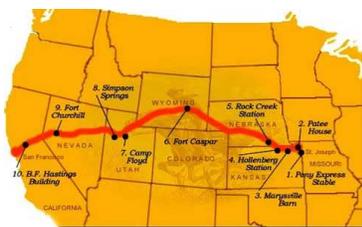
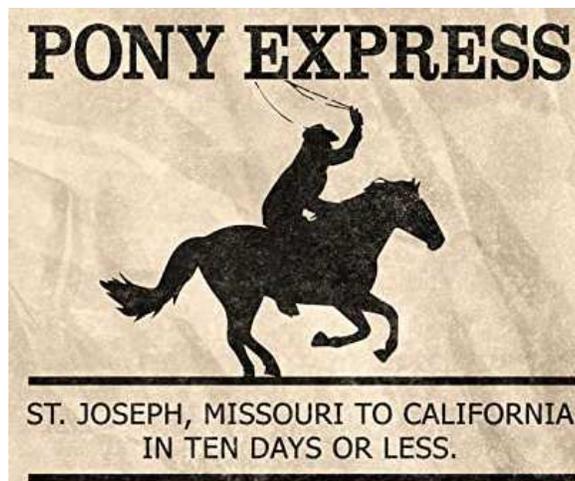
Riders were changed every 75 to 100 miles, with horses switched out every 10 to 15 miles. The mail moved at a good speed. The company's riders set their fastest time with Lincoln's inaugural address in 1861, which delivered mail in less than eight days.

The Pony Express debuted at a time before radios and telephones, when California was still largely cut off from the eastern part of the country. Letters sent from New York to the West Coast traveled by ship, which took at least a month, or by stagecoach, which could take from three weeks to many months. Compared to the slow pace of the existing delivery methods, the Pony

HISTORIC FLASHBACK

PONY EXPRESS

Express' average delivery time of 10 days seemed like lightning speed.



The riders of the Pony Express made \$100 a month, which was a lot of money at the time. They worked hard, riding in bad weather and in dangerous situations. In order to keep the weight down, the riders had to weigh less than 125 pounds. A lot of the riders were young teenagers who

were willing to face the dangers of the ride for the excitement and the money they could earn.

The initial cost of Pony Express delivery was \$5 for every half-ounce of mail. Prices were later reduced to just \$1, but they still remained too high for everyday mail. Instead, the service was mainly used to deliver newspaper reports, and business documents, most of which were printed on tissue-thin paper to keep costs (and weight) down.

The Pony Express was forced to close after the opening of the transcontinental telegraph. Telegraphs could be sent much faster and with less expense. In the end, the Pony Express lost a lot of money.

Despite its place in American history, the Pony Express was only open for a short time. It opened on April 3, 1860 and closed on October 24, 1861. At the height of its business it had over 400 horses and around 180 riders.