

NEWS

ON THE RUN

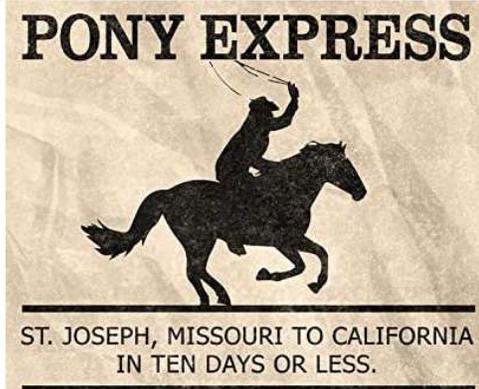
LEVEL TWO: MARCH 30, 2020



White House News



Historic Flashback



Features



News Tidbits



WHITE HOUSE & WORLD NEWS



Voting Remotely in Congress

The main job of Congressmen is to vote on laws. Congress has a rule that the Congressmen may vote only inside the Capitol building. They can't send in their votes by telephone or email. Now, Congress has a problem. Some members of Congress got Coronavirus. They can't come to the Capitol to vote!



For years, some Senators have wanted to pass a new law that would allow Congressmen to vote from outside the Capitol, in case they can't make it in to work one day. The law never got passed because most Congressmen wanted to stick with the old way of doing things. Now, that might change. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi doesn't want to change things. 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 it's getting complicated to keep Congress open. Senators were asked to stay far away from each other. They were also given a list of health rules to follow while inside the Capitol. 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 Monday, a new law to spend \$2 trillion on Coronavirus assistance was held up because some Senators were stuck in quarantine.

Do you think that it's time to change the law?

Corona's Presidential Candidate

When a president has to handle a crisis, it shows a lot about how good the president is at leading his country. President Trump is leading the nation through a crisis right now. Some people like the way he's handling Coronavirus; some



people do not. Experts agree that the way President Trump handles Coronavirus could make a difference in whether he'll win or lose in the election.

Some lawmakers wonder if President Trump will want to delay the election, because several states already had to push off their primaries. All the candidates are in a tough spot right now. President Trump has to deal with this crisis, Bernie Sanders isn't doing well in the polls, and Joe Biden is in isolation at his house in Delaware!

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 could not vote because they were sick or in isolation. Now that the Senate passed the bill, it will go to the House, where it will surely be passed.



The bill is 880 pages long! Because so many businesses are closed until the pandemic passes, many Americans are losing money right now. The bill will provide all sorts of financial (money) help to Americans right now. It is the largest economic relief bill in U.S. history. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (pictured above) met with Senate Republicans to arrange the deal. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appeared serious and exhausted as he announced the vote. He then announced to the Senators that they'll be on vacation until April 20, though he promised to call them back to Washington if an urgent bill must be passed before then.

The bill will help individuals, small businesses and large corporations. The goal is to flood the economy with money at a time when most people aren't spending money. The airline industry will get billions in support, and so will hospitals. Hopefully, the bill will help American get back on its feet as soon as the pandemic is over.

Members of the House of Representatives approved the bill by voice message on Friday. Members did not have to travel to the Capitol to vote because some lawmakers are in quarantine because they were exposed to coronavirus. President Trump signed the bill into law as soon as it came to his desk on Friday.

Coronavirus Hits the East Coast

One fourth of the world's people have been ordered or urged to stay home. In half of US states, governors have ordered residents to stay at home. People have been told to stay indoors as much as possible. Some states have started threatening jail time for those who disobey coronavirus orders.



At least 7,300 National Guard members have gone out to all 50 states, especially New York, California and Washington. The National Guardsmen have moved into cities across the United States to help by giving out food, cleaning public areas, and building temporary hospitals for Corona patients. In New Rochelle, New York, at the site of one of the first outbreaks, the National Guard arrived with face masks and cleaning supplies to clean the synagogue.



Governors want President Trump to help them get supplies for doctors and nurses. President Trump said the government will give:

- 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.

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 year.

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.



Alcohol for Sanitizer

In the U.S., some alcoholic beverage plants will now make hand sanitizer to help fight the virus. The alcohol will be used to help make disinfectants, a chemical liquid that destroys bacteria. President Trump said that the alcoholic drinks companies will help make the sanitizer Americans need in order to keep their hands and surfaces clean from the virus.



Masks Shipped to Hospitals

American companies like Hanes, Fruit of the Loom and American Giant will start making protective masks for medical workers. The companies will be making about 10 million masks in about a month's time.



There have been mask shortages in some parts of the country. The shortages have forced doctors and nurses to reuse masks or make their own from office supplies. That's not safe!

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

Officials have promised New York City and the other cities with many cases that supplies like masks will not run out.



Scott Kelly's Isolation Tips

One Year in Space

Scott Kelly is a retired NASA astronaut. He spent almost a year in space on the International Space Station, from March 27, 2015, to March 2, 2016. He knows what it feels like to have to stay in one place all the time without company!

He has a few tips for all of you stuck at home:

Firstly, follow a schedule. He says, "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."

What can be part of your schedule? School teleconferences, chores at home, and arts-n-crafts are all great ideas. And remember to follow a bedtime! Going to sleep on time makes it easier to wake up on time, and waking on time makes for a well-scheduled day.

Secondly, he suggests making time for fun activities. He said that on the space station, he used to play games with other astronauts. I met up with

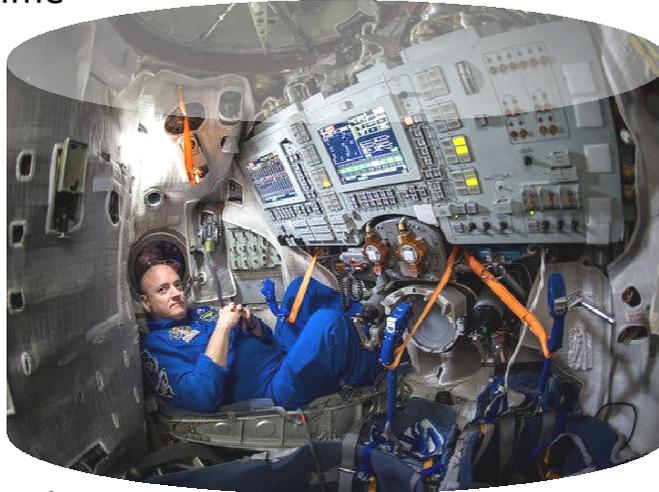
crewmates for game nights, complete with snacks.

When an astronaut goes outside it takes a lot of preparation. For you, going outside is easy! Spending time outdoors helps us feel wealthy and well.

Next, Scott Kelly advises you to keep a journal. He says, "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." He's right! In a few years, you'll enjoy reading your diary about this unique time.

Lastly, Scott Kelly says to try to think about how you can help other people. It might be as easy as a phone call to your grandparents or elderly neighbor. There's always something you can do to make people feel better.





NEWS TIDBITS

Boro Park: Safest NYC Neighborhood

The New York Police Department announced last week that in terms of crime, Boro Park has been rated the safest neighborhood in New York City!

Boro Park and neighboring Mapleton (18th Avenue area) had just two crimes for every 1,000 residents over 2019. Coming in second is the close-by neighborhoods of Gravesend and Bensonhurst. That saw an average of nine crimes per 1,000 residents. The safest borough is Staten Island which had only 3.4 crimes per 1,000 residents.



Finland: Happiest Place to Live

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



The United Nations makes a World Happiness Report every year. The report asks people in 156 countries how happy they are based on where they live. The people in Finland came out on top.

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 hungers in recent years.



New Homes for Veterans in Need

An organization in Kansas City, Missouri is doing some amazing things to improve the lives of America's war heroes. Thanks to generous donations from community members, they've built the Veterans Village, a community of 49 small houses that homeless veterans can live in completely free and stay as long as they need to.



Each tiny house costs about \$10,000 to produce, which is much cheaper than a regular house. Each house is about the size of a small apartment. The small houses come complete with furniture, a full kitchen, and a bathroom. The veterans who live in the village will also get free food and other things they need. The veterans will also be offered free classes nearby to help them figure out their jobs and future.

Tokyo Olympics Postponed

The Tokyo Olympics were delayed for one year until 2021. The Olympic Committee made the decision after speaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



The Olympic Games will also continue to officially be called "Tokyo 2020," even as they move to 2021. It is not 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 delay the Olympics will give the world time to heal from the coronavirus.

Olympics are international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions. During the Olympics, thousands of athletes from around the world compete in all sorts of contests. Nearly every country sends athletes. 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.











