

SEPTEMBER  
ISSUE 2020

6 MONTHS OF COVID-19

# Retrospect Edition



THE LIONS' PRIDE  
MEDIA GROUP



# Editors Section

## A Note from the Editor: How to Navigate this Issue

Hello All! My name is Haley Robinson, and I'm the Editor-in-Chief for the Lions' Pride Media Group (LPMG). This little message is to explain how to navigate this edition of the LPMG. This issue was originally going to be published back in March 2020; however, due to the Coronavirus pandemics' rapidly changing statistics and the LPMG being a student-run group, we had to postpone. So, here we are – 6 months later.

This month's print edition blends the articles that were originally written back in March and current updates. **The updated articles are separated from the original article into boxes pulled out from the body text of the article.**

We are presenting it in this way so that, as you flip through our Coronavirus exclusive, you are aware of the most updated information. Also, articles in this edition will be **marked with stamps** indicating which articles were written at the beginning of the year and which are updates.

I really do hope you enjoy our September 2020 Coronavirus – 6 Months Later Edition. Make sure to look out for our Election Edition in October and be sure to stay safe, social distance, and wear your mask so we can #FlattenTheCurve!

For example, the text you are reading right now in this box would be the updated data/information, while the main body text from before is from the original articles written in March when Coronavirus first hit the United States.



## A RECAP OF FLORIDA'S PRIMARIES: WHAT THE CORONAVIRUS MEANS FOR OUR ELECTIONS



**There is no doubt that COVID-19 will affect the 2020 presidential election. The question is: how much? (Marist Poll)**

**Alora Peters**  
Arts & Culture Editor

Last Tuesday marked a crushing defeat for Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders in the three state primary elections that took place March 17. The Vermont senator only managed to grab 27 delegates in the state of Florida, which was roughly 22.8 percent of the vote. On the other hand, former Vice President Joe Biden, soared—drawing over one million voters and 86 delegates, according to a report by The Washington Post.

Biden scored similarly well in Illinois, with 59 percent of the vote; later snagging just over 43 percent of the vote in Arizona. Tuesday's victories meant that Biden has secured 1,180 out of the 1,991 delegates necessary to gain the Democratic presidential nomination, the AP Elections Group reported. Sanders trails behind Biden with only 884 of the necessary delegates, leading many news agencies—including Time

Magazine and Bloomberg News—to say that Biden will, in all likelihood, be the Democratic nominee facing off against President Donald Trump in November's presidential election.

However, while Biden's campaign celebrates and Sanders assesses his losses, the United States continues to grapple with widespread panic due to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has affected political proceedings just as much as it has local grocery stores. The Ohio Democratic primaries, originally scheduled to take place alongside the other three states on Tuesday, were effectively postponed by Governor Mike DeWine, who argued that it was an "unacceptable health risk" and a violation of voters' constitutional rights to allow voting to proceed in light of the coronavirus.

Currently, the state of Ohio plans to delay their Democratic primary election until June in order to give voters the opportunity to place their votes via mail, according to a Cleveland report.

A number of other states and

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# National News

territories—including Maryland, Wyoming, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Georgia, and Kentucky—have also made decisions to postpone elections, USA Today reported. Officials hope that delaying the primaries will give voters more time to vote by mail, rather than risk coronavirus contamination by voting in-person.

It still remains uncertain in what other ways the coronavirus may have already affected voter turnout in the Democratic primaries. According to the Florida Division of Elections, well over a million Democrat voters cast their ballots before the actual March 2020 Election Day, with nearly 700,000 democrat voters utilizing the vote-by-mail option, and another 438,949 attending early voting sessions. This is a sharp increase from Florida's Presidential Preference Primaries back in 2016, when a little over 520,000 Democrats voted by mail and 369,172 voted early.

Encouraging voters to vote by mail seems to be the way that officials can attempt to slow the spread of the deadly virus, while still allowing U.S. citizens to exercise their constitutional rights. As the unpredictable COVID-19 continues to ravage the globe, many speculate that telling voters in November's elections to vote by mail may ultimately be the best option.

But, regardless of how the upcoming presidential election is conducted, the coronavirus will inevitably be one of the key influences on voters, as COVID-19 will impact both the Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns. Since it hit the U.S., COVID-19 has largely disrupted the previously thriving economy, which has been one of President Trump's major successes



**The Democratic Primaries in Florida took place mid-March, when COVID-19 restrictions were first put in place. The General Election will be November 3, and the deadline to register is October 5th.**

while in office. According to Forbes, the Dow Jones stock market index had reached an all-time high back in February but plummeted over 9,600 points on Wed. March 18. Earlier in the week, CNBC reported the Dow had experienced “its third-worst day ever” in terms of largest one-day percentage drops. In other words, the coronavirus has pushed the economy back to its original position when Trump was first sworn into office in 2017..

However, Trump and the economy still have over seven months to bounce back before November's election. This means that, in the meantime, the Democratic party might have just as much cause for concern as the Republicans.

COVID-19 has stalled political campaigns just as much as it has stalled the economy. Both Biden and Sanders have had to suspend numerous public rallies and close

campaign offices, according to the Chicago Tribune, which leaves both candidates with limited virtual and online promotional outlets to draw supporters. Furthermore, the large number of postponed primaries means that the race to nominate a Democratic candidate could possibly be unnecessarily drawn-out while both Biden and Sanders continue to battle for nomination.

On a more positive note, the coronavirus has also marked an occasion for both parties to join forces. Senate Democrats and Republicans collaborated on passing a bipartisan bill that President Trump signed into law Wed. March 19. The bill encompasses \$100 billion in aid that will assist with emergency paid leave for workers and provide free COVID-19 testing.

## UPDATES: RECAP OF FLORIDA PRIMARIES

Joe Biden was officially named the Presidential Candidate of the Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention, which took place at the end of August. Nominated alongside Biden as his running mate is California's former Attorney General, Sen. Kamala Harris. On November 3, Biden and Harris will be facing off against President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, both of whom were nominated by the Republican Party in August at the Republican National Convention.

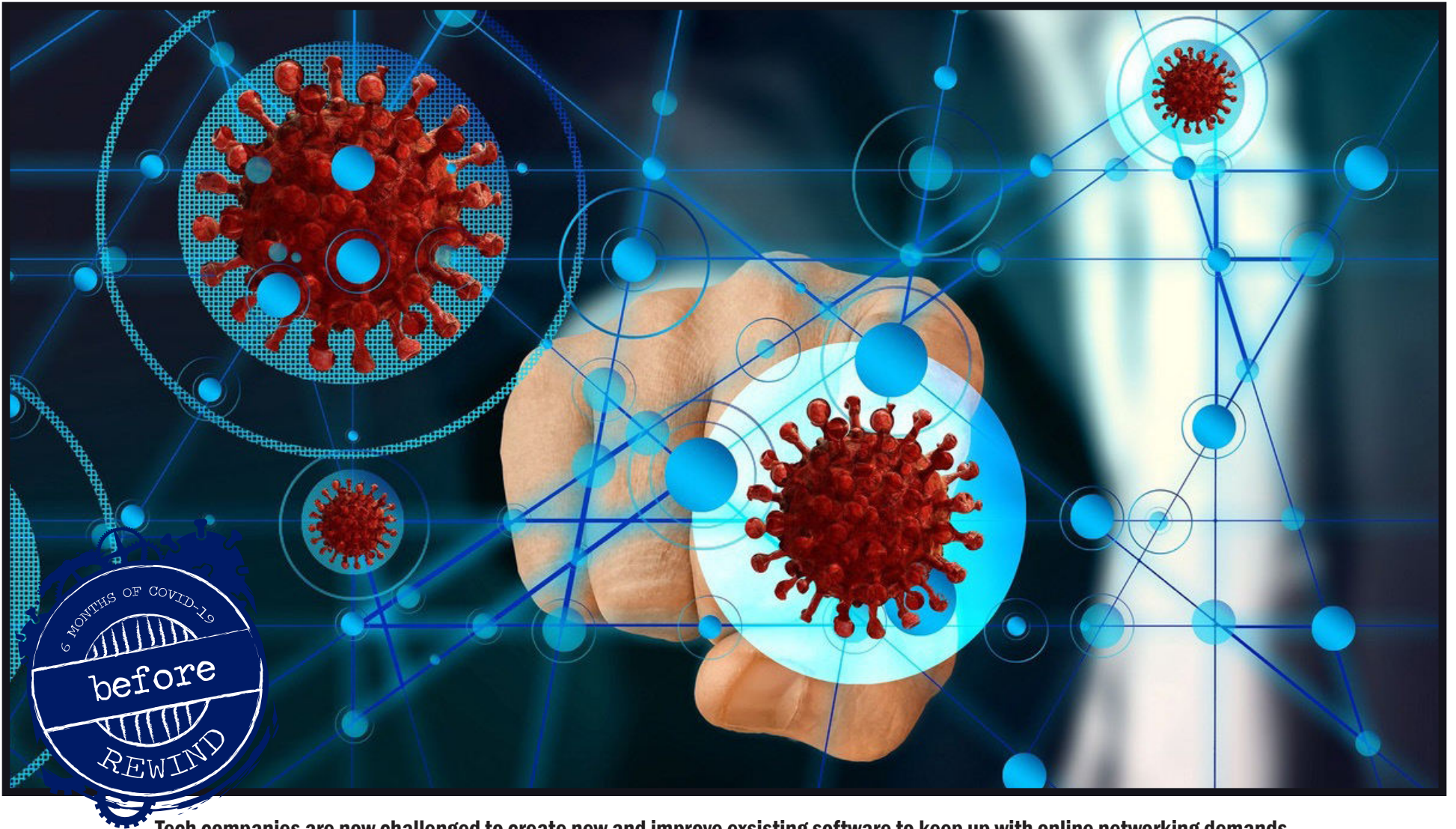
While COVID-19 originally marked an occasion for these two bitterly opposed parties to unite for a common goal, differences of

ideology have left Republicans and Democrats more divided than ever. Democrats are in favor of more restrictive COVID-19 policies, such as a two-month nationwide lockdown, mandatory mask-wearing, and selective stay-at-home orders. In contrast, Republicans have supported easing COVID-19 restrictions, such as allowing public buildings, businesses, schools, restaurants, and religious institutions to safely re-open.

The deadline to register to vote in this important presidential election is October 5. Stay tuned for our upcoming Election Issue this October for news about the election, how to vote, and more!



# World News



Tech companies are now challenged to create new and improve existing software to keep up with online networking demands.

## CLEAR UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FUTURE: HOW THE TECH INDUSTRY IS BEING AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

**Chrisitan Silva**  
*Creative Director*

Have you ever wondered if that unproductive meeting you attended could have been done over a simple email? The answer to that question is what most information technology (IT) workers and employees in other departments are currently experiencing. While unemployment is surging, as seen from the biggest increase since Sept. 2, 2017, according to the Department of Labor's Weekly Claims, there is also a growing number of remote

workers—or people who work from home—utilizing the technology already available, thanks to the technology industry.

People may be afraid of change, and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused vast amounts of employees to adjust their regular work routine. The technology industry may have taken profit hits from lack of corporate social and promotional events, but there is still some light that can foreshadow how the future might be with the use of technology. One of the noticeable outcomes of the coronavirus' impact is that

some jobs are manageable from home.

It is possible that this momentary shift in lifestyle may have revealed to us a new and better way to work. It does raise an important question: could we shift to a way of life that is more geared towards remote work? If we do shift, a lot of technology companies would surely focus their resources and development on providing better services that would be utilized by employees to facilitate their work from home. Employees would reap the benefits of working from home and students can continue their education online. This would

cause an increase in productivity and potential profits in return to the company, with workers having more leisure time to relax and enjoy creating a positive ambiance.

Zoom, Slack, Google Hangouts, and other video chat software are being used now more than ever for remote work and education. Now would be the best time for companies to invest in technology to get ahead in the game. However, this shift in resources and focus could lead companies to prioritize aspects that, in the long run, could negatively affect them. Companies may lose shares



# World News

as the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) market becomes saturated.

Social media has been positively and widely received, with platforms such as Facebook and Instagram offering the Live stream function. Many companies such as Google, Apple, Sony, and Facebook have had to cancel conferences, reveals, and social gatherings due to the social-distancing implementation. Conferences such as E3—which is undoubtedly the biggest yearly video game flagship event—were canceled.

However, companies are now thinking of the possibility of live streaming these events. Those companies that may not have had the opportunity to switch to live-streaming initially due to financial or personal reasons would appreciate and welcome this path. Regular audiences would benefit by viewing all the new gadgets, technology, and games that only exclusive VIP attendees on-ground would have experienced.

For instance, the Game Developers Conference, a major gaming event, streamed some of the talks that were scheduled throughout the conference's original dates, March 16 through March 20, for free. Apple also prioritized its customers' health by canceling its major conference used to announce and reveal their new software features and products, the Worldwide Developers Conference, typically held in June.

In a statement to BBC, Apple said “[they] will host its annual Worldwide Developers Conference in June...[in] an entirely new online format.” The technology industry will be seeing a spike in the use and investments in live streaming services.

Some companies are helping ease the current switch to

online work. Adobe is offering their Creative Cloud products for free. Anyone with access to a computer will now be able to enjoy their products—such as Photoshop, Illustrator, and Premiere Pro—for free, for the time being. During the ongoing quarantines, individuals are able to give these applications a try using their current available downtime.

In the long run, technology companies can benefit from the free exposure of their products, while the customers can benefit from the learning experience if they decide to buy the product in the future.

The technology industry does not seem to be slowing down, despite the coronavirus' spread. Both the technology companies and the people that utilize the streaming and VoIP services can mutually benefit by continuously working, even if it is remote work and online classes.

In a Q and A with a Harvard Business School expert, Prithwiraj Choudhury, the Lumry Family Associate Professor in the Technology and Operations Management Unit, said, “In my research, productivity went up when people went to remote work settings.” However, Choudhury does go on to say that he “would not like to compare those normal circumstances to this moment now, where general anxiety might affect productivity.”

A positive outlook in all of this is to see all the tools we have now that we could have been using all along. Managers and companies are realizing that it could be beneficial to incorporate flexibility into the workplace.



## TECH AND CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Companies are continuing to evolve and adapt to the new circumstances such as remote working and limited in-person gatherings. Since the end of March, technology companies have shifted their resources and development into creating interactive online media. Examples include virtual events, concerts, and appointments. The tech industry was fueled by a need to continue businesses and services, investing in the long run.

By shifting their priorities and their way of attack, new virtual and personalized experiences emerged. Companies now have new tools to use both during and post-COVID-19 for planning and executing events and services. Technology that has either emerged or gained an investment from small to bigger companies include digital and contactless payment, online shopping and delivery, and online entertainment and learning. The pandemic also gave tech companies something to think about in terms of future investments and opportunities: should they invest in automation and artificial intelligence programs and assistance or not?

With COVID-19 forcing companies to reanalyze their work environment and structure, remote work came to fruition and is here to stay. With less of the masses working, technology companies that were questioning automation and AI are likely rethinking their strategies. In the midst of everything, COVID-19 gave them a chance to analyze themselves for the better.



# World News

## ITALY'S SHUTDOWN: QUARANTINING A COUNTRY

Gracie Swind  
Managing Editor



For the first time since World War II, a democratic country has placed its people under a mandatory lockdown that could force citizens into their homes for a month or longer. COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, had its first identified case at the end of 2019 in China. Since then, it has spread at an exponential rate, earning itself the status of a pandemic.

The first case of COVID-19 in Italy, detected on Feb. 18, was that

of a 38-year-old man experiencing respiratory issues. He came into contact with several doctors before being diagnosed and isolated. Although the Italian government acted quickly to try and stifle the spread, Italy's number of cases quickly skyrocketed.

Italy's quarantine began in the northern region of the country on Sunday, March 8, locking down movement within the 'red zones' and banning any movement in and out of them. Weddings, funerals, parties, schools, Mass, and cultural events were inextricably banned. According to MarketWatch writer

and Italian citizen Alison Fottrell, "pasta started flying off the shelves of supermarkets in Milan. If such panic buying was any indication, people were taking [the lockdown] seriously."

On Monday, March 9, Italy was put under a nationwide lockdown, extending the measures put in place the day before to the whole country. Over 16 million Italian citizens were told not to expect the lockdown to be lifted until at least April 3. Italians are now facing weeks on end trapped in their homes. They must obtain special permission to leave their houses and visit the only places still open: banks, pharmacies, and groceries. Prison riots sparked by the suspension of visits caused several deaths in Italian prisons across the nation.

Families who were separated when the lockdown was imposed are now stuck where they were and must weather out the lockdown without one another. Citizens are coping, but it is difficult, both psychologically and physically, to be stuck in one place.

As of the writing of this article, Italy has reported almost 60,000 cases and nearly 5,500 deaths according to Worldometer. Although Italy has been the European country ravaged the worst by COVID-19, other countries have also been experiencing cases and are now facing lockdowns as a result of the virus.

Spain has decided to close its borders and lock down its people as

well. Quarantine in Spain began on Sunday, March 15. According to Lori Zaino, a writer for The New Yorker and a Spanish citizen, citizens "could be fined, or even arrested, if caught leaving [their] homes for nonessential reasons."

The United Kingdom has also been locking down. According to The Telegraph, British Prime Minister "Boris Johnson has placed London and the rest of the UK into lockdown in an attempt to stop coronavirus spreading in the capital. Pubs, restaurants, cinemas, and cafes have all been closed down in an attempt to prevent people mixing with others and making nonessential journeys."

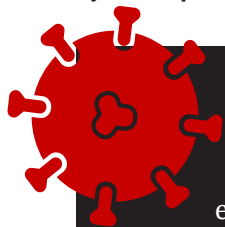
France is tightening local restrictions by placing curfews and banning unnecessary travel. They plan to go into a partial lockdown on Tuesday, March 24, and anticipate the lockdown to last two to four weeks, according to France's official Gouvernement webpage.

Like Florida, Italy and many of its European neighbors have economies that heavily rely on tourism. It is unclear how this shutdown will affect their economies long term. Flight attendants still traveling to Europe have noticed a distinct lack of travelers, both on the planes and in the streets.

Everything is closed, eerie, and quiet. Without tourists in places like London and Barcelona, the streets that are usually so filled with life are dead silent.



Americans are not the only ones buying massive amounts of products for quarantines - Italy had a very similar panic when their northern regions closed down.



## ITALY SHUTDOWN: UPDATE

Italy's complete lockdown finally ended on May 4, after being extended almost a month prior, on April 10, to May 3. After two months of being locked down and closed, Italian people were allowed to return to work and reopen their businesses.

The process to reopen was slow-going for Italy, with restrictions for citizens' movement within the country, limits on how large groups of people could gather, and the gradual reopening of different shops. Book stores, clothing stores, and business that sell food—such

as restaurants, bakeries, and butcher shops—were among the first to open their doors once again. Now, four months later, Italy is enforcing social distancing and mandatory masks, with public transport running at a maximum of 80 percent capacity, among other new measures. Italy is now facing the issue of reopening schools, putting into practice new and rigorous requirements for students and faculty to adhere to; despite concerns, the country's health administrator, Roberto Speranza, assured Italy's Parliament

that they are ready to return.

According to Worldometers, as of the Sept. 11, Italy has had a total of 284,796 coronavirus cases and 35,597 deaths, and less than one percent of current cases are in serious or critical condition.

However, Italy's economy, which is largely reliant on tourism, is taking a massive hit from the closures. According to a recent estimate by the World Travel and Tourism Council, Italian tourism is expected to suffer a loss of €36.7 billion this year, or about \$43.4 billion, and isn't expected to recover for several years.





# World News

## THE ROAD TO A CURE: CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

**Lauren Felts**  
*Former Editorials Editor*

"If anything kills over 10 million people in the next few decades, it's most likely to be a highly infectious virus rather than a war."



Bill Gates said this five years ago in 2015. Along with him, multiple studies and researchers have predicted a world-wide spread pandemic to occur within the next ten years. It is now 2020 and there is a world-wide pandemic occurring with a highly infectious virus killing thousands of people and infecting more as you read this. In 2015, the Ebola virus killed roughly 10,000 people. Thus far, across the world there have been roughly 350,000 coronavirus cases reported since writing this article according to Worldometer, with an estimated total of 15,000 deaths, and is still growing.

As of today, there are over 500 ongoing trials to either prevent you from getting it or stop the spread of the virus according to Dr. Mike Varshavski in his YouTube video on the truth about the virus.

However, none of them are proven to be a cure yet. Just a few days ago, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, stated, "There is not a proven, and that's the underlying word, treatment or prevention, however, there's some anecdotal information that one or two of these may possibly have some benefit."

Currently, the most popular drugs known to be potential treatments for the coronavirus is, one, an anti-malaria drug called hydroxychloroquine. Along with that, a drug known as Remdesivir, a drug that originally was created to treat Ebola, could be a potential candidate for a coronavirus cure.

President Trump spoke about both of these drugs in a press

conference with Dr. Fauci standing right beside him.

"I think it's going to be very exciting," says Trump.

Additionally, the President stated in the conference that he is pushing the FDA to fast-track any drugs that could be a possible cure for the virus. Despite the president's optimism for these drugs, Dr. Fauci mentioned that there is still a 12-month trial period in which they can predict the drug's benefits but are still in the very early stages of these trials. He also spoke about some side-effects to one of the drugs, hydroxychloroquine, in an interview with CBS news.

"If someone is in a dire situation, they need something should you try it even though you don't know it works, that's a decision between the physician and the patient," said Dr. Fauci.

Moreover, Dr. Stephen Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, mentioned, "What's also important is not to provide false hope. We may have the right drug but may not be in the appropriate dosage form right now, and that may do more harm than good."

Something else to take note of is if you feel you might have symptoms of corona which include typical signs of a cold or flu, there is still a chance you don't have it. Supplies are dwindling as of two days ago and there are not enough masks, PPE, thermometers, and testing supplies to last hospitals and staff much longer. Therefore, if you have the symptoms of a fever, cold, or flu, the CDC recommends you getting tested immediately. If you feel fine, refrain.

However, it is important to keep you and your loved ones safe by not coming into close contact with your elders or other family members that could be most vulnerable to the virus, as you could still be a carrier of the virus without showing any symptoms. These are all ways you can treat yourself and avoid getting

## THE ROAD TO A CURE: UPDATED ARTICLE

**Randawnique Coakley**  
*Volunteer Writer*

As of Sept. 14, Worldometer reported the estimated number of deaths is over 900,000 with over 29 million coronavirus infection cases worldwide. Therefore, the race to the vaccine is vital with the increased cases of infections and death since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to the Milken Institute, which tracks the developments of the treatments and vaccine, there are currently 315 treatments and 211 vaccines in development, as of Sept. 10. For vaccine development in particular, there are various stages of trials and testing before the vaccine can be approved and manufactured for the public; there is exploratory stage, followed by pre-clinical stage, and then clinical development stage before a regulatory review and approval, according to the CDC.

Currently, none of the vaccines that have been in development were approved; however, as of Sept. 9, The World Health Organization (WHO) reports 145 vaccine projects are currently in preclinical stages, and several vaccine trials that have surpassed the preclinical phase, with 22 in Phase I, and 13 in Phase II, and 9 in Phase III.

In an interview with the Financial Times in late August, the FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn issued an emergency

authorization to possibly fast track coronavirus vaccine trial before phase three to make the vaccine available as soon as possible. Roughly a week before this interview, President Donald J. Trump placed pressure on FDA to speed up their process as he accused the FDA of moving slowly.

"The deep state, or whoever, over at the FDA is making it very difficult for drug companies to get people in order to test the vaccines and therapeutics. Obviously, they are hoping to delay the answer until after November 3rd. Must focus on speed, and saving lives," tweeted Trump on Aug. 22, where he tagged Hahn. Along with putting pressure on the FDA, Trump also indicated earlier in August his plans of "rushing" the vaccine and efforts to have a vaccine ready "right around," or even before, the Nov. 3 election in an interview with Gerald Rivera.

However, there are concerns from Americans regarding the rush of the vaccine from the Trump administration. According to a survey produced by Kaiser Family Foundation in September, 62 percent of Americans are worried that the political pressure from the Trump administration will lead the FDA to rush to approve a coronavirus vaccine without ensuring it's safe and effective, with 81 percent Democrat, 61 percent Independent, and 35 percent Republican expressing this concern.

COVID-19. Since there are no proven methods of a cure for the virus, taking these simple and easy precautionary measures are the most effective ways of avoiding the deadly spread.

Lastly, and most importantly,

to keep yourself and the ones you surround yourself with safe and healthy, self-isolation at home has been proven to be the most beneficial way to treat yourself and avoid COVID-19.

# 6 Months of COVID-19: W



**Natalia Kurkova**  
*World News Editor*

## USA

Once the virus spread has been officially established as a pandemic, WHO was lawfully allowed to make decisions on financial and political policies in attempts to contain the virus. Some of those decisions, enacted in the U.S. by the CDC, were to establish social-distancing policies, canceling athletic events, and closing schools.

Back in February, when the scope of COVID-19 was still under question, health screening in only three U.S. airports was conducted, JFK International, San Francisco International, and Los Angeles International. Up until August, passengers

coming into the U.S. from international flights were taken to one of the 13 airports with enhanced screening procedures. Passengers on international flights were also required to self-quarantine for two weeks.

This requirement, along with the enhanced screening, has been eliminated last month, according to AFAR. This decision was made after TSA officials calculated that less than 15 passengers on international flights had been infected with COVID-19.

Several theories regarding the first COVID-19 case in the U.S. exist. Trevor Bedford, a computational biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, claimed that

the U.S. outbreak started with a man in Washington who returned from a trip to Wuhan, China. The researcher later denied that claim, however. Another theory is that after the president's ban on travel to China at the beginning of February, a lot of American citizens returned home and brought the virus back with them.

As of Sept. 15, there are 6,751,883 COVID-19 cases in the U.S., with 199,164 deaths. The number of patients who recovered from the virus is 4,029,037.

## Italy

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, Italy is currently at level three of the COVID-19 precautionary measures. The estimated contamination risk in Italy is still high. As of Sept. 15, the number of cases in the country adds to 288,761, with over 35,000 deaths. On the brighter side, 213,950 Italian citizens have recovered from the virus.

Some authorities are blaming the young Italians for Italy's "second wave." The younger adults continue to attend parties and travel to neighboring countries such as Croatia and Greece.

Earlier this summer, for a brief period of time, Italy opened its doors to tourists. Now that winter season is slowly approaching, Italy once again warns travelers to avoid the country. This is bad news for Italy as profits from tourists supported a large portion of the country's

economy. The loss from international tourists at the end of 2020 is estimated to be over \$29 billion, according to Giorgio Palmieri, president of national tourism. He said, "All Italy is expected to be significantly impacted, particularly those dependent on international tourism. Venice, Florence, and Rome."

Because of the loss caused by COVID-19, the Italian government and the EU instituted help for the economy. An amount of \$100 billion. Some citizens are asking for the help is not enough and are asking for more.





# Wuhan to our Backyard

the financial international the end of mated to add billion, CNN. ucci, the Italian rist board, an cities are be impacted, those more on l visitors like ence and

of the damage OVID-19 to onomy, the d financial citizens in the 2.8 billion. s claim that ot enough ng for more

support from the government.

The Harvard Business Review considers the difficult economic situation that Italy is in now as the result of the Italians' initial skepticism and negligence of the warnings of the upcoming pandemic catastrophe. In February, several Italian politicians publicly demonstrated their handshaking as a sign that there was nothing to fear. Another mistake of Italian authorities was that they applied gradual restrictions to social activities and events. This proved to be disadvantageous as the gradual restrictions did not coincide with the virus' hasty spread.

## Wuhan, China

The severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19, was first recorded on Dec. 1, 2019 in Wuhan, China. It was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization

pneumonia-like symptoms, according to The New England Journal of Medicine.

On Jan. 23, Chinese authorities decided to bring Wuhan, with a

# CHINA

Otherwise, people were forced to stay inside. Rules became stricter when authorities began going to people's houses, checking their health, and forcing anyone who was sick to quarantine.

As of Sept. 12, the total number of COVID-19 cases in China is 85,184, with 80,399 recorded recovery cases. The death toll as a result of the pandemic has been steady at 4,632 since mid-April.

**Graphic Created by Christian Silva and Haley Robinson**

(WHO) in March 2020. According to National Geographic, a pandemic is defined by the number of cases, rather than the severity of the symptoms. The first victims of the disease in Wuhan were identified as pneumonia patients. The initial epidemic explosion in China was undisclosed for two months.

The initial COVID-19 cases in China were linked to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market and contact with patients with

population of about 11 million, under lockdown. The surrounding cities were brought under lockdown shortly after. Schools and universities were closed. Transportation all around the city and into the city was cancelled. No exemptions were made for emergencies or medical needs. Moreover, people were not allowed to drive their private cars. In some parts of the cities, only one member of the family was allowed to go outside of the house every two days to buy groceries and medicine.



# Editorial



Fear creates hostility, and that is unfortunately exactly what we've been seeing between people all over the globe; these women in Sydney, Australia displayed a shocking lack of empathy for their fellow shopper, prompting a fight over toilet paper of all things

## IN THE WORDS OF TAYLOR SWIFT, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN:



# CORONAVIRUS' MEDIA COVERAGE

**Gracie Swind**  
Managing Editor

As COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, spreads across the United States and the world at large, panic has been spread right along with it. Everyone is acting like it's end-times with food and paper-product shortages abound, causing pre-existing stress over the disease to explode in a mess of hostility, hoarding, and inhumanity.

Open hostility towards Chinese people and other Asian groups has become commonplace.

Fights over who gets to fill their shopping carts with toilet paper have surfaced in YouTube videos.

Groceries like Costco, Publix, and Winn-Dixie have been

packed from open to close with customers buying bulk of everything from meat to bread to water. The strangest product-hoarding of them all has been that of dairy products, which expire relatively quickly and will lead to waste.

Additionally, hoarding massive amounts of food, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies is only going to lead to more individuals becoming at risk when they can't find the soap or food needed to maintain good hygiene and a balanced diet. The reaction of the public at large has proven that citizens are operating from a place of emotion and fear, not logic and level-headedness.

The question, then, is whether that fear is warranted, and with most questions in life, the answer

is not as simple as a 'yes' or 'no.' While the threat of COVID-19 is very much a proven one, with a little over 15,000 deaths as of the writing of this article according to Worldometer, reports from the CDC show that cases in the U.S. have a composite death rate of only 1.8-3.4 percent.

According to the same CDC report, "this first preliminary description of outcomes among patients with COVID-19 in the United States indicates that fatality was highest in persons aged over or equal to 85, ranging from 10 percent to 27 percent, followed by three percent to 11 percent among persons aged 65-84 years, one percent to three percent among persons aged 55-64 years, under one percent among persons aged 20-54 years, and no fatalities

among persons aged under or equal to 19 years."

COVID-19 is fast-spreading, but the fatality rate is low in the vast majority of age groups. Compare these figures to those of a similar coronavirus, SARS, and we can see that they could be much worse; according to a report by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy from 2003 during the SARS outbreak, "the fatality ratio [of those infected with SARS] is less than one percent for people younger than 25, six percent for those aged 25 to 44, 15 percent for those aged 45 to 64, and more than 50 percent for people 65 or older."

So, is COVID-19 deadly? Yes, but other diseases are much more so, and the world has survived.



# Editorial

Taking the threat of COVID-19 more seriously is a good thing. Social distancing and limiting contact to large gatherings of people will definitely help reduce the spread of the disease and will help keep those at the highest risk safe.

However, the level of panic that we've been seeing recently is not helpful in the slightest. Even in the case of a "shelter-in-place" order, groceries and pharmacies would still be open, and products would still be restocked. Fear of a disease is no excuse for racism or aggravated hostility towards certain groups of people or your fellow human.

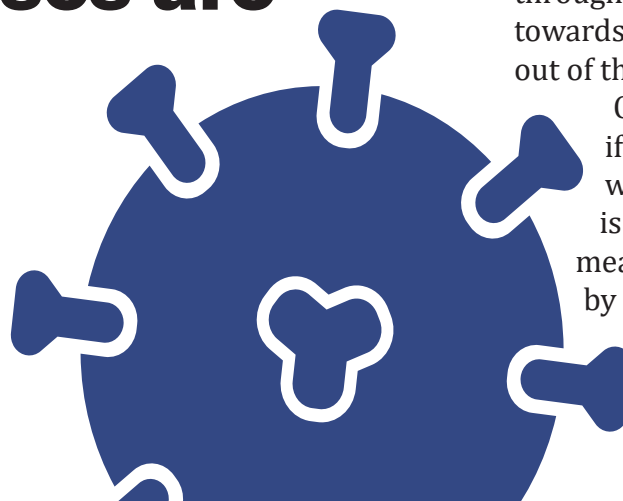
Worrying about your family or personal health and wellbeing

**"So, is COVID-19 deadly? Yes, but other diseases are much more so, and the world has survived."**



during these stressful times is completely valid and reasonable. Being wary of the disease or scared of getting sick is also completely reasonable, but people need to understand that keeping a calm and level head throughout all of this is critical towards making sure we all get out of this in one piece.

Only time will truly tell if the amount of concern we're placing on COVID-19 is warranted, but in the meantime, do your part by keeping your distance, washing your hands, and above all, staying calm.



## UPDATE: YOU STILL NEED TO CALM DOWN...



Six months later, we can now answer with a little more certainty the questions of: was the panic worth it? The short answer is no, it wasn't – here's why.

Panic never helps in any situation and the massive purchasing and hoarding of essential items didn't help anyone stay protected from the virus. Thankfully, stores have been able to stock toilet paper and other essential items in the past couple months, but they are still suffering from a general lack of essential and cleaning items, and have placed limits on the quantity of certain items each person can buy to avoid another hoarding situation.

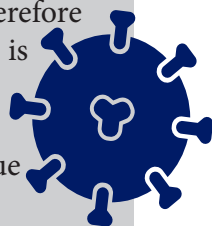
According to the CDC, as of Sept. 10, the United States has clocked in at 6,343,562 cases of COVID-19, with 190,262 deaths. However, cause of death, like many things in this world, is not black and white; often death, especially in our elderly, which make up almost one-fourth of all COVID-19 deaths, is due to many contributing factors. With data that was updated on Sept. 9, the CDC states in a table that lists the comorbidities, defined in Merriam-Webster as "existing simultaneously with

and usually independently of another medical condition," for COVID-19, that of the COVID-19 deaths reported so far, "for six percent of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned [on the death certificate]." This does not mean that the other 94 percent of reported deaths were not COVID-19 deaths, but it does mean that 94 percent of deaths were not purely caused by COVID-19.

As the data has suggested since the beginning, the risk of death from COVID-19 is significantly higher in elderly people and people with preexisting conditions. The report goes on, saying, "for deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death." This means that for the 94 percent of COVID-19 deaths that had other conditions listed as contributing factors on the death certificates, there was an average of more than two additional conditions that contributed to each death. These conditions range from pneumonia and influenza to chronic respiratory diseases to heart diseases of all stripes. Because of this, one cannot look at the deaths that have been attributed to

COVID-19 as being solely the doing of the novel coronavirus, and therefore must acknowledge that COVID-19 is not as deadly to the average citizen as it was believed to be. With these statistics in mind, I once again argue that the panic caused earlier this year due to COVID-19 was unwarranted. While the death of our vulnerably ill and elderly is tragic, it should not call for panic that stretches into the lives of the young and healthy; a measured, reasonable reaction across all ages and health levels in response to a health crisis such as this – social distancing, better personal hygiene, and face coverings for those who are sick – seems to be the more appropriate reaction.

Just because something is deadly does not mean it deserves furtive panic; death due solely to COVID-19 has proven to be rare. We now know with certainty that people with preexisting conditions or those 65 and older are disproportionately more endangered by COVID-19, and those who are younger and free of preexisting conditions are far less likely to be killed by COVID-19, therefore, public panic over a disease that has such a low mortality rate for the average citizen is unwarranted and unhelpful.





# Editorial

## THINK ABOUT OTHERS PLEASE: HOW COVID-19 AFFECTED MY GREAT GRANDFATHERS FUNERAL

**Ryn Williams**  
*Copy Editor*

In the past six months alone, the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected businesses, schools, travelling; and postponed events like weddings graduations and funerals. But how exactly do you postpone a funeral?

CDC Guidelines have hit large, tight-knit families like mine in a very impactful way. Family traditions have changed from hour-long goodbyes and huge birthday parties, several times a year, to now Zooming occasionally and Facebook messaging. It has been alienating and strange. Funerals in my family were a big deal, too, and always drew a huge crowd.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the case when my Great Grandfather passed away on March 20, 2020; only 21 days after COVID-19 was first reported in Florida, and just a week after most schools decided to extend their spring breaks. He never contracted COVID-19; while it wasn't involved in his passing, my family was still directly impacted by the virus.

Despite being closed, the funeral home graciously took us in – under strict circumstances. We had to wear masks the entire time, stay six feet apart at separate tables, and keep



Howard Ledbetter, pictured on an RV trip to Alabama to visit family



Granddaddy's 103rd birthday party: (left to right) Howard & Ava Ledbetter, Ryn Williams



In addition to funerals being distanced, families are still being seperated from thier loved ones in the hospital and hospice.

touching to a minimum. My Great Grandfather was buried next to his loving wife, on March 27, with only 10 family members present: a stark contrast from his last birthday party, which had over a hundred attendees.

My situation is not the only one of its kind. Funerals around the United States have been affected by the CDC Guidelines. On their official website regarding funerals, they encourage people to avoid standing closer than six feet, to wear a mask if distancing is unavoidable, and to gather outside if possible. They also discourage the use of items being passed around, like hymn books or program pamphlets.

Of course, these guidelines don't only affect funerals. Hospital visitations have also been incredibly limited, and the CDC strongly advises against in-person visitation, especially if the person in hospital care is at an increased risk for severe illness.

As a result of this day and age we become desensitized to all the bad news we hear. Despite that, I beg you to not just think of yourselves, and to please take the necessary precautions to fight against the spread of COVID-19. Think of the people whose lives were directly impacted by effects of COVID-19 and contribute to the solution – not the problem.



# Arts and Culture

## ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN TIMEOUT DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



SXSW has its first cancellation in 34 years, due to Coronavirus Pandemic.

**Haley Robinson**  
Editor-in-Chief

COVID-19, or her government name, Coronavirus, more affectionately known as “The Rona” or “Miss Rona,” is wreaking havoc on summer and fall plans. It has been a month since government-recommended quarantines started, and many people are practicing social distancing. It seems this summer will be less of a “hot girl summer” and more so a “sick girl bummer.”

Many large-scale events such as concerts, festivals, and movies are postponing until the winter, forcing summer and fall 2020 into an isolated slump.

The most notable pop culture events postponed are infamous music festivals like Coachella and Bonnaroo, the video game convention E3, the 74th Annual Tony Awards, the Met Gala, which is delayed indefinitely, and Austin, TX film festival SXSW, which hasn't had a cancellation in 34 years.

The big question circulating is if these large festivals, conventions, and award shows will be permanently canceled, or if they will be rescheduled to the end of the year. Coachella has released a statement saying that the festival is rescheduled for October; whereas, SXW has not released a new concrete date. Other industries are periodically releasing updates over social media, specifically Twitter, to keep the public informed on rescheduled dates and alternative online viewing options.

The entertainment industry is also profoundly affected by COVID-19, with many filmmakers postponing release dates until it is safe for groups of people to attend the movie theatres again. Movies that have been pushed back are “A Quiet Place Part II,” “No Time to Die,” “Black Widow,” and “Mulan,” to name a few. Late Night Television is taking a blow as well with the production of “The Tonight Show Starring

Jimmy Fallon” suspended and “The View” continuing without a live studio audience.

Many artists have also canceled tours or postponed shows due to the risk of large crowd sizes; many have also postponed album releases too. According to Billboard, some artists that have rescheduled or postponed tours are BTS, Camila Cabello, Louis Tomlinson, Alicia Keys, Kelly Clarkson, Jonas Brothers, Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, and Dan + Shay.

According to the CDC, as of March 16, 2020, in compliance with President Trump's Coronavirus Guidelines for America – 15 Days to Slow the Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), gatherings of 10 or more people should be canceled.

The 15-day plan, if followed by most of the nation, should diminish the spread of the virus. So, all these cancellations make sense to ensure the virus is not spreading any faster. The hope is that, if the nation follows these precautions, social distancing can be put to bed and a sense of normality can begin to be re-established.

The reality is that, even if the nation diligently quarantines, cases of Coronavirus in the USA will continue to climb. According to the CDC, as of March 17 2020, around 2,000 cases have been documented and only 22 deaths recorded in the US. Most events may stay indefinitely postponed or outright canceled for the foreseeable future until COVID-19 cases start to flatline.



### UPDATE: ENTERTAINMENT 6 MONTHS LATER

Since the initial outbreak of the Coronavirus, the rate of cases and deaths are indefinitely climbing. The CDC's most recent data shows a total death toll of 188.4k and cases surpassing 6.4 million in the United States. Even with these harrowing statistics presented, 6 months later, many businesses and corporations have re-opened with social distancing protocols in place.

Movie theaters as of yesterday are starting to re-open but due to low-profit margins on the newest blockbuster movie, “Tenet,”

Warner Brothers is further postponing “Wonder Woman 1984” as well as “Black Widow.” You can expect to see mid-size budget films, as well as reruns, hit the box office until further notice (“The New Mutants,” anyone?).

As for SXSW and Coachella, both are indefinitely canceled, as are most of the mainstream conventions and festivals. For a full list of canceled or postponed tours, festivals, conventions, movies, and launches, check out the QR code linking The Vultures' article.



# Sports



## COVID-19 AND THE IMPACT ON SPORTS

**William Burns**  
*Former Sports Editor*

COVID-19 has wreaked worldwide havoc and has disrupted billions of lives. Schools are cancelled or have gone online, group events are cancelled, states and countries have been shut down, and people are urged to stay at home. This includes athletes, so many sports seasons are postponed or no longer in progress.

### Local

FL high school sports have been postponed in some school districts, according to News4jax. The Florida State High School Athletic Association (FSHSAA) said the decision to cancel games and practices would be up to the school district, while advising them to follow CDC coronavirus guidelines. The loss of the season could jeopardize an athlete's future career in the sport. This is the opportunity for athletes to hone their skills, get noticed by college scouts, and possibly continue their athletic career at the next level.

For Saint Leo University's athletics, all spring sports and in-progress athletics are cancelled for the remainder of the season. This can also be detrimental to athletic

careers. For some sports and senior athletes, this is their last chance to get noticed by pro scouts and to continue their athletic careers.

When athletics was first cancelled, there was national outrage from collegiate athletes. A few days later, the NCAA announced that they would award spring season athletes another year of eligibility to make up for this season. This is all the NCAA can do, but these athletes can never recreate their exact position when their seasons ended. Furthermore, some senior athletes cannot continue their athletic career once they graduate as they may enter the workforce in a few months. Balancing a full-time job, classes, and a collegiate sport simultaneously is near impossible. So, only athletes pursuing their master's degree or those returning to school for a fifth year can take advantage of the NCAA's opportunity.

### National

The national level encompasses all national tournaments and professional sports leagues in the U.S. This includes the NCAA March Madness Tournament.

March Madness allows top tier

college athletes to bump up their draft stock for the NBA. Some players need this tournament to be noticed as these big games test a player's mettle and allow scouts to see who performs best with thousands of fans roaring at every moment.

The tournament also has a positive economic impact on the cities where the games are held. In 2019, the tournament generated over \$860 million in broadcast and marketing rights alone. With media rights and ticket sales, the NCAA made roughly \$933 million. This figure is just for the NCAA and doesn't factor in all the money fans spend on travel, lodging, meals, gear, and more.

This year, Atlanta was tabbed to host the final four games. Based on historical data, WalletHub projected \$106 million of economic impact in the city alone based on the expected 113,000 fans that would have travelled to Atlanta. Even host cities for the first and second rounds of the tournament could expect to generate several million dollars for their city outside of what the NCAA would make. Additionally, in the betting world, an estimated \$8.5 billion is wagered legally on March Madness, with at least another \$3

**Above:** The NBA partnered with Disney to build an "bubble" in which players could live in while competing.

billion wagered illegally. Professional Sports

All professional sports seasons have been postponed indefinitely.

After Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus, the NBA halted all games and suspended the season to keep players, staff, and fans safe.

The MLB cancelled the rest of Spring Training and postponed Opening Day of the regular season. Opening Day, scheduled for March 26, 2020, is pushed back at least two weeks. The MLB has yet to decide how the regular season schedule will be impacted.

The cancellation of Spring Training plays a big role on the regular season. Minor league players can prove themselves and major league players have to maintain their high performance level to keep their starting role. Without Spring Training and with a shortened regular season, the whole playoff and pennant races could be disrupted. With very few days off in a packed season, there is not much opportunity to reschedule weeks' worth of games.

Major League Soccer suspended its season for a month while they evaluate how to move forward. "Our clubs were united today in the



# Sports

decision to temporarily suspend our season—based on the advice and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Agency of Canada, and other public health authorities, and in the best interest of our fans, players, officials and employees," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said in a statement. "We'd like to thank our fans for their continued support during this challenging time." According to CNN, U.S. men's and women's soccer have also cancelled games through the end of April.

The National Hockey League suspended their season immediately. Due to teams sharing locker rooms and other common areas, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said it was no longer safe to hold games. This development came after Gobert tested positive for the virus. Bettman assured players and fans that they still plan to hold playoffs and award the Stanley Cup.

In the golfing world, the PGA Tour postponed the Masters Tournament and cancelled all proceeding events. This includes all events from the Players Championship to the Valero Texas Open, which occurs from March 30 to April 5, according to a PGA Tour statement.

"We have pledged from the start to be responsible, thoughtful and transparent with our decision process," the Tour said. "We did everything possible to create a safe environment for our players in order to continue the event throughout the weekend, and we were endeavoring to give our fans a much-needed respite from the current climate."

But the situation is rapidly changing, organizers wrote, and "the right thing to do for our players and our fans is to pause." Augusta National Golf Club announced Friday that the Masters, originally set to tee-off on April 9, would be postponed. "Ultimately, the health and well-being of everyone associated with



## Sports 6 Months Later

**Anthony Martinez**  
*Sports Editor*

Six months ago, along with the rest of the world, the sports world, went into a panic. Every sport imaginable was shut down and the possibility of playing next year was also put into doubt. However, sports, one way or another, were able to find their way onto the fields and courts.

Locally, Pasco County officially opened Sept. 7 where sports like volleyball and football were ready to open. There have been some issues, however, as they have been forced to cancel some games just days in.

Saint Leo University decided to push back fall sports until spring, but an official decision on winter sports has not been made yet.

Collegiate sports at the Division I level are a mixed bag, currently. Some conferences, like the BIG 10 or the PAC-12, have completely suspended their sports seasons. Many colleges

are going through with sports; however, with some restrictions. With football, some teams are playing only teams within their own conference and have limited fans at the games. There is also uncertainty with college basketball and March Madness.

Professionally, several sports are handling returning differently. Major sports organization like the NBA or the NHL are holding their playoffs, from when the season was canceled, in a "bubble"—meaning they don't travel. The bubble has been efficient in keeping the players safe, even some fans attend through Zoom to add atmosphere.

Other organizations, like the MLB and NFL, are not in a bubble. They are traveling as usual with more precautions and, typically, do not have fans at the games. The only two NFL teams which currently have fans in their stadiums are the Kansas City Chiefs and the Jacksonville Jaguars; they only allow up to 20 percent of full capacity.

these events and the citizens of the Augusta community led us to this decision," said Chairman Fred Ridley, as reported by CNN. "We hope this postponement puts us in the best position to safely host the Masters Tournament and our amateur events at some later date."

NASCAR opted to hold races without fans in attendance. Only necessary personnel will be allowed in the pits. NASCAR will hold races at Atlanta Motor Speedway and Homestead-Miami Speedway as

scheduled.

The Boston Marathon is postponed until Sept. 14, Mayor Marty Walsh said. It was originally scheduled to take place on April 20.

"Our expectation and the hope right now is that this date will get us to a safer place in relation to the spread of the coronavirus," Walsh said.

The Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the race

understood the decision to postpone.

The International Olympic Committee postponed the 2020 summer games for one year. It was the last major contest to do so, as the IOC tried to keep the late July start date.

All in the name of public safety, these sporting events, leagues, and associations have taken the necessary steps to keep participants healthy and safe from any unnecessary exposure to the virus.



# Retrospect Edition

