

BUSINESS

Microsoft urges antitrust review of Apple app store **Page B6**

Perspective: Many New Londoners are celebrating the departure of the Columbus statue without knowing its history. It's an interesting one. John Ruddy takes a look back. **B3**

RUSSIA

ALASKA

BERING SEA

BRISTOL BAY

DUTCH HARBOR

DATA: ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; MAP: SCOTT RITTER/THE DAY

Troubled waters

America's stay-at-home seafood binge now faces threat from coronavirus

By JEN SKERRITT, DEENA SHANKER,
KIM CHIPMAN and MICHAEL HIRTZER
Bloomberg

EVERY SUMMER, the vast watershed of winding streams and rivers that flow into the easternmost arm of the Bering Sea become a magnet for homing salmon. And for the scores of daring men and women — more than 10,000 in all — who pour into the remote region of Bristol Bay, Alaska, to take their shot at scoring big paydays as seasonal fishermen and industry workers.

This year's rush, wedged in the middle of a pandemic, will be more dangerous than ever, though. The bunkhouses and boats that house the fishermen are tightly packed — just the sort of environment where the coronavirus thrives. The seasonal workers will face a mandatory 14-day quarantine when they enter the state, but locals fear that won't be enough to keep the virus in check.

"It's a migrant work camp, basically — the reality of that is what makes it so dangerous," said Katherine Carrascallan, a commercial fisherman and boat captain from Bristol Bay, which supplies half the world's wild sockeye salmon. "It is hard to imagine how



Fishing crew members wait their turn to have their belongings sprayed with disinfectant before being given a health screening as part of a new protocol to fight coronavirus before boarding last month in Seattle. Ships are leaving Seattle and heading north to the Bering Sea for the start of a six-month season catching and processing fish.

ELAINE THOMPSON/AP PHOTO

we are going to pull this off without having some major outbreaks among the fishermen alone and among the processing workers. It's a huge risk."

U.S. fishing hits full swing over summer months, and there are nascent signs of trouble as outbreaks pop up in hubs like Alaska, Oregon and Washington. The infections come just as Americans have been loading up on seafood at grocery stores. In a twist all too reflective of current times, consumers turned to ocean indulgences like shrimp and crab in the wake of the U.S. meat-industry crisis that saw Covid-19 shutter beef and pork plants.

Now sickness in the seafood industry is the latest threat to America's food supply.

Food workers, who have been deemed essential employees at businesses that mostly stayed open during the pandemic, have seen some of the worst virus outbreaks of any industry outside health care. Thousands of employees at plants that process meat, fruit, vegetables and dairy have fallen sick, and dozens

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Ex-cons confront labor market that's likely to leave them behind

An estimated one out of every four people who've been incarcerated is currently unemployed.

By OLIVIA ROCKEMAN and CATARINA SARAIVA Bloomberg

ERIC HUGHIE FELT LUCKY to land a job making eyeglasses in January. Then his job vanished, along with 40 million others, as the coronavirus tore through America.

But Hughie confronts an even steeper road than most of nation's newly unemployed: He is a convicted criminal.

"I'm afraid of the stereotype," says Hughie, 44, who served three years in

state prison for possession of a weapon. "Who knows how people really might begin to treat you or judge you. I feel like that's really a strike against you in general."

The number of people with a criminal record has soared since the 1980s. Millions of these Americans, a disproportionate number of whom are Black, are struggling to find work so they can rebuild their lives. Their diminished outlook comes as aggressive police tactics have prompted a national soul-searching about the

long history of racism in the U.S.

An estimated one out of every four people who've been incarcerated is currently unemployed. For many, the coronavirus job market looks grimmer than ever, raising the prospects of a return to crime.

"We're not good at successful reintegration in normal times, but right now I don't see that we're doing anything to mitigate the issues they're going to face," said Jennifer Doleac, an associate professor of economics at Texas A&M University who spe-

cializes in crime and discrimination. "I'm very pessimistic about what this means for the re-entry population."

Data on the unemployment rate for Americans with a criminal history isn't well documented, but a number of studies prior to the coronavirus outbreak estimated it at well above 25%. One in 2018 by the Prison Policy Initiative found that formerly incarcerated people are unemployed at a rate of over 27%, and another by the National Employment Law Project

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U.S. HOME CONSTRUCTION POSTS 4.3% REBOUND IN MAY AFTER STEEP DECLINES

Washington — U.S. home construction rebounded 4.3% in May after steep declines caused by shutdowns due to the coronavirus.

The Commerce Department reported last week that new homes were started at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 974,000 last month after steep declines in April and March. Compared with last year, however, construction activity remains 23.2% below last year's pace.

Home builders are hoping that as the nation re-opens, housing will post a strong recovery, helped by super-low mortgage rates. Industry analysts caution that the fledgling rebound could be derailed if infections spike again, causing potential buyers to put off looking for a new home.



AP PHOTO

good indication of future activity, rose a sizable 14.4% in May to an annual rate of 1.22 million units.

The report showed that construction of new single-family homes was up 5.4% while construction of apartments with five units or more increased 16.9%. Construction was up a huge 69.8% in the West and 12.8% in the Northeast but housing starts fell 16% in the South, the biggest market for home construction, and were down 1.5% in the Midwest.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo survey of builder confidence released last week showed a record jump of 21 points in June to a reading of 58. Any reading above 50 indicates a positive market.

— Associated Press

The price at the pump, now and a year ago



Average \$/gal. 1.50 2.00 2.50 3.00

June 19, 2020

June 19, 2019

SOURCE: AAA

SCOTT RITTER/THE DAY