Fears of global pandemic send stock markets spiraling

By Kimberly Miller

Florida’s beaches washing up on aggregating devices’

Weird ‘detached fish aggregating devices’

What the heck is that thing?

Virus, which has spread to 47 countries, has put pressure on businesses and supply chains around the world

Worldwide markets plummeted again Thursday, deepening a whaling rout triggered by growing anxiety that the coronavirus will wreak havoc on the global economy. The sweeping sell-off pushed the benchmark S&P 500 down 4.4%, its worst one-day drop since 2011. The Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 1,200 points, its largest one-day drop since 2008. The S&P 500 has now plunged 12% from the record it set early this year. Investors came into 2020 feeling confident that the Federal Reserve would keep interest rates low and the economy would keep growing. As the coronavirus spreads, some analysts have said the losses extended a slide caused by growing anxiety.

Stocks are now headed toward their worst week since the global financial crisis. The losses extended a slide that has wiped out the solid gains major indexes posted after the two sides reached a preliminary agreement in January. Even in the early days of the outbreak, markets took things in stride.

But over the past two weeks, a growing list of major companies issued warnings that profits could suffer as factories shut down across China and cruise operators have been forced to cancel trips. Governments have banned large gatherings and tourism has been severely restricted, with airlines, hotels and cruise operators all punting in stock markets.

The CDC considers us at low risk, but that doesn’t mean you don’t want to plan for a potential outbreak,” Governor Ron DeSantis told reporters at the Capitol. "We have a plan for any potential transmission. We have all the resources we need to make sure that we can deal with this."

What if you find a FAD

The Associated Press

Vice President Mike Pence will visit Palm Beach County today to speak to a free enterprise advocacy organization as global fears about a coronavirus pandemic sent the benchmark into a tailspin on growing fears of an economic slowdown. Pence has been tasked by President Donald Trump to lead the federal government’s response to the spread of the virus. What he will tell the Club for Growth, an influential conservative economic policy advocacy group, isn’t public. The event is closed to the press.

The Associated Press

Vice president, in charge of US response to the coronavirus, will speak to the Club for Growth

By Antonio Felix The Palm Beach Post

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The event is closed to the press. The Palm Beach County congressional members

See PENCE, A7

DeSantis: ‘Doing everything in our power to prepare’

By Jeffrey Schweers Tallahassee Democrat

Florida is more likely to get the flu than the coronavirus, state health officials said, but they are still gearing up for a potential outbreak even though no cases have been reported yet.

See MARKETS, A6

What is a ‘detached fish aggregating devices’

By Stan Choe and Alex Veiga

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Boca’s big fest

Everything from ‘Star Wars’ to swing music

PAGE 2
Festival of the Arts BOCA promises tunes, talks, more

By Eddie Ritz
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Want a week of concerts, authors, ideas and movies? Check out Festival of the Arts BOCA which kicks off tonight and runs through March 8.

Get an earful of some seriously great sounds at this year’s event.

Marvel at tonight’s Cirque du Cinema, which fuses cirque acrobatics, classical dance and contemporary theater with a live orchestra cranking out music from movie classics.

On Saturday, celebrate one of the all-time greats with The Symphonia and guest artists The Eroica Trio at the Beethoven Birthday Bash.

Star Wars fans can see “The Empire Strikes Back” on March 6 with The Symphonia, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos, cranking out John Williams’ famous score.

Finally, on March 7, see the international sensation Postmodern Jukebox. This “rotating collective of musical outcasts” reworks popular modern music into different genres especially swing and jazz.

Have a penchant for the written word? Don’t miss a discussion with novelist Jesmyn Ward.

Got a story to tell? Take part in The Moth StorySlam and deliver your best five-minute tale in this competition.

There will also be a showing of the documentary “Forte,” additional musical acts, seminars and so much more.

IF YOU GO

**Festival of the Arts BOCA**
**Where:** Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton; Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton; Mizner Park East Tent, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton;

**When:** 7:30 p.m. tonight through 7 p.m. March 8.

**Information:** festivalboca.org; 561-300-4138.

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**Postmodern Jukebox plays March 7 at Festival of the Arts BOCA. (JACKSONVILLE JAZZ FESTIVAL)**