

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 1 of 82

- 1- Fire Dept. Spray-Down Photo
- 2- Omaha Steaks
- 3- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 4- Prairie Doc Column: Behind the Mask
- 5- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 8- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 9- Aug. 9th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 13- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 14- Weather Pages
- 17- Daily Devotional
- 18- 2020 Groton Events
- 19- News from the Associated Press



**The Groton Fire Department had a spray-down Sunday afternoon at the school parking lot.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 2 of 82

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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 3 of 82

This week we should be focusing on the Vikings' upcoming preseason game, but the NFL has canceled preseason games this year because of the pandemic. So instead, this week I'll answer some questions I've received on Twitter. But first, let's go over some quick news and notes.

Linebacker Cameron Smith will be sitting this year out. During a Covid-19 test, it was discovered the second-year player needs open-heart surgery to fix a bicuspid aortic valve. The Vikings brought in linebacker Quintin Poling to replace him.

As detailed last week, Mike Zimmer signed an extension that will keep him in Minnesota for at least the next few years. Shortly after that article was written, the Vikings announced they also signed General Manager Rick Spielman to an extension as well. Spielman and Zimmer have been together since 2014 and have done well enough that Ziggy Wilf and the rest of the Vikings' ownership group felt comfortable locking them in for three more years.

On to some questions!

A lot of you have asked why the Vikings have not brought back defensive end Everson Griffen. The 32-year old has played in Minnesota all 10 years he's been in the league, and as of right now is still a free agent. With all of the upheaval on the defense, and especially with defensive tackle Michael Pierce electing to sit this season out, it makes sense to bring Griffen back. Sources say the Vikings have made multiple offers to the DE, but the two sides remain far apart on compensation. There is still time for the sides to come to an agreement, but the Vikings appear ready to enter the 2020 season with a new starter at the right defensive end position.

Another question that gets brought up a lot is why the Vikings have been unable to move from "good" to "great". Most people believe the biggest reason is the team's inconsistency at quarterback, and there is certainly some truth to that. However, I believe the fault lies along the offensive line. If you've been reading my articles for a while, you'll know I think the offensive line is consistently this team's Achilles heel. The Vikings have tried to fix the line, but for whatever reason, they can't seem to figure it out. Once they do, I think we'll see this team ascend to the "great" tier.

Speaking of the offensive line, another question I get is who the starting five will be once the regular season rolls around. Offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak recently had a video chat with the media, and he went in-depth while explaining his thought process when it comes to the offensive line. He believes Riley Rieff will remain at left tackle and is poised for a great year. He also thinks the other three returning starters will resume their roles this year, with Pat Elflein at left guard, Garrett Bradbury at center, and Brian O'Neill at right tackle. As far as right guard goes, Kubiak mentions Dakota Dozier, Aviante Collins, and rookie Ezra Cleveland as the three players who will compete for that position.

Do you agree with the Vikings signing Zimmer and Spielman to contract extensions? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and let me know. Skol!



By Jordan Wright

## Behind the Mask

Last week I looked in the mirror and saw something I don't usually see, a breakout of pimples. As a dermatologist I am fortunate enough to have the right tricks to keep my skin blemish free most of the time (some lucky genetics don't hurt either). I'm also seeing a lot more acne and rosacea breakouts in my patients over the last few months. What might be the culprit? Wearing a face mask.



By Mandi Greenway, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, wearing a face mask is one of the most important ways we can prevent the spread of the disease. I urge you all to wear a cloth mask when you can't social distance and when in public spaces. The data regarding face masks is clear, but our skin doesn't always behave itself with frequent wearing. The good thing is that there are some simple steps you can take to keep your skin healthy while wearing a mask to protect those around you.

Skin issues from wearing masks can include dry skin, acne, and rosacea. Make sure to wash your face before and after wearing masks with a gentle cleanser. Cleansers are different than soaps and can clean the skin without removing normal oils. Apply a moisturizer that is tailored to your skin type: gel moisturizers for oily skin (or during those humid summer days), lotion for normal skin, and cream for dry skin. Try to get this moisturizer on after each time you wash your face as well as before bed. Dry lips are best treated with plain Vaseline.

If you're going to be wearing a mask for longer periods of time it's best to skip wearing makeup under the mask. Treat your skin gently and avoid harsh treatments like chemical peels or exfoliating. Some of the medicines we use to treat acne with can ironically cause more skin irritation while wearing masks, so be sure to discuss with your physician if you are having problems.

Lastly, be sure you are wearing the correct mask and washing them frequently. Cotton is the least irritating fabric and anyone with acne or rosacea should make sure that the layer that touches the face is cotton. Masks that fit well (snug but not tight) will be less irritating than masks that are too big and slide around on the face.

Hopefully, these simple tips help your skin stay healthy as you continue to wear your mask!

Mandi Greenway, M.D. is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist. She practices dermatology in Mitchell, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 5 of 82

**#168 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

We have our two-week Sunday summary tonight. Growth in cases continues to slow; we have fewer states with large growth rates and more showing declines in growth rate. I have some concerns about troubling signals, but overall, the numbers are going the right direction.

Today's numbers are better than yesterday by enough that I suspect a reporting problem, especially given the weekend. Sundays have really been problematic that way, and I have no indications California has resolved its reporting problem yet. I feel as though another trend that is developing is for me to say we should wait until Tuesday to get a better line on what we're seeing, and I'm going to stay with that here. This is what I have for the day:

We are now at 5,052,100 cases in the US, 1.0% or 48,500 more than yesterday. That's three days below 50,000 new cases this week, which would excite me more if we didn't have our #1 and #2 states for total cases with reporting issues all week. Our worst-days streak is now up to 42 days—six weeks now.

The increases continue, but the pace is slowing for a third week; this is settling into a believable trend. One week increase in total cases was 432,300 (10.2%) last week and is 376,200 (8.0%) this week. Two-week increase was 899,500 (23.8%) last week and is 808,500 (19.1%) this week. I'm hoping this continues.

I track 55 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and 12 of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 30%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Hawaii (109.34% - big increase), Missouri (54.55% - big increase), Montana (48.17% - big decrease), US Virgin Islands (46.26%), Puerto Rico (46.08%), Alaska (44.23% - big decrease), Oklahoma (39.24% - big decrease), Idaho (35.78% - decrease), Kentucky (31.23%), Tennessee (31.16% - decrease), Nevada (31.13% - big decrease), and Georgia (30.41%). Coming off this list are Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, West Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, California, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Carolina, Oregon, and Louisiana. There were no additions.

I am showing just 9 states and territories with 14-day trends that are increasing: Guam, Hawaii, South Dakota, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. I have 23 showing not much change: Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, New Hampshire, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Georgia. And I have 22 declining: Alaska, Washington, California, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama, Maine, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. These lists are quite fluid with a handful of states moving back and forth between them from day to day; but the overall trend for the past week has been downward with fewer states on the increasing list and more in the declining one.

New deaths today are down from yesterday at 541, a 0.3% increase to 162,462. Although today is a substantial decrease from the trends of the past few days, I am not so sure this is a meaningful change, given the weekend and the overall trend. Total weekly deaths are, however, slightly below last week. These numbers are still well above where we were in early June.

Let's talk about air conditioning. As the hottest days of summer arrive, hanging around outdoors to avoid exposure to this virus becomes a less attractive proposition for some of us. We know that ventilation is a big deal for reducing transmission of the virus indoors, and that means we need to think about air conditioning.

We know that outside air coming into a room pushes other air out. I am reminded of some cartoon I watched as a child where one character was saving the life of another one by pumping on his chest, saying, "Out with the bad air, in with the good air." It works that way in rooms too, and so incoming outside air will dilute virus and cause it to be carried it away as we go "out with the bad air." That's why opening windows is such a good idea when that's possible. Better yet, rig a fan in an open window so it blows air to the outdoors; that will speed up the whole process of air exchange.

But that might not be so practical when it's really hot outside, especially for people who are particularly

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 6 of 82

vulnerable to heat-associated illness. Thus, air conditioning. Now air conditioners work in different ways: Some cool and recirculate the same air over and over, and others bring in some outside air to mix with the inside air. There are systems that rely completely on bringing in outside air, but you likely don't have one of those; we see them mostly in hospitals and laboratories. If you have an unit or two stuck in windows, chances are they're the recirculating kind; but if you have a centralized-air system, then it probably brings in a mix of outside air. The fancy ones in business buildings and such are often amenable to adjustment of the ratio of outdoor to indoor air, and it would be a good idea to adjust them to bring in more outdoor air; but that's going to run your cooling costs up. It's a whole lot harder to cool the hot outside air than to maintain the temperature of recirculated air.

What do you do? Recognize that, if you live alone or with people you're pretty sure haven't been exposed, then your system's going to do fine for you; but if you live with people who are trotting around town as if they've never heard of a virus, then you have a bit more to worry about. Any virus in the air will be recirculated and, if no outside air is brought in, the amount of virus will rise as your infected housemate sheds more and more over time. The same would be true if you have people over who are shedding virus. In those cases, you might wish to consider the trick we used back in my youth when ordinary people didn't have air conditioning: We opened the windows at night when the air outside was cooler and let that outside air flood the house, then closed them in the morning to keep out the heat of the day. This would be one way to get some additional air exchange without breaking the bank. And hanging out outdoors is always a good option if you can take the heat.

Additionally, depending on your setup, something to consider is your filter. Dr. Edward A. Nardell, a professor at Harvard Medical School who has written about air conditioning and airborne infections says that the right filter can be just as effective as pulling in outside air. Two certified types that can make a real difference will be labeled MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) or HEPA (high efficiency particulate arrestance). MERV ratings run from 1 to 16, and the higher the number, the smaller particles it will efficiently filter. The HVAC experts (of which I am decidedly not one) recommend MERV 13 or higher for this purpose, and the current recommendations are to use the highest-rated filter that will fit your fan and system. And any HEPA filter will be more efficient than the highest-rated MERV filter. If you're questioning what filter will fit your system, I suggest getting in touch with the same professional who comes to check your system annually and asking for guidance. Do be aware that higher efficiency filters will make your system work harder and also increase your energy costs.

Another option is a stand-alone HEPA filter if you can afford to buy one. Do pay attention to the CADR (clean air delivery rate) on the filter. This is given in cfm (cubic feet per minute) and tells you how large a space the filter will handle. Most of them tell you right in the specs how many square feet the filter is recommended to handle; you want one that can filter all the air in the room at least twice per hour. You're not looking here for miracle filters that use voodoo and energy crystals to clean the air; so don't get distracted. You want solid technology with certified ratings.

All of this said, you should not rely on air filtration to make up for unwise decisions about where you're spending your time. This is an adjunct, not a plan. The usual precautions still apply.

Another piece of seasonal advice comes from the CDC. Flu shots should become available next month, and they're pushing you to go get one as soon as you can. If you're used to having one available at work or at the store, but you're not going in to work or as often to the store, it might slip your mind; and this would be a bad year to let that happen. For starters, the health care system doesn't really need a bad flu season on top of their current troubles. Also, you don't really want to spend a lot of time in the clinic or emergency room mingling with Covid-19 patients. There is an additional consideration, which is that we're not really sure how much more dangerous either flu or Covid-19 might be if you got them both at the same time; I'm not sure I want to find that answer out the hard way. Flu vaccine runs around 50% effectiveness most years, and that might not sound like much; but this really does seem like a good year to at least lessen its severity if you can. An extra 20 million or so doses are being made this year in anticipation of an increased demand; but I wouldn't let it go too late, just in case there's a lot more demand

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 7 of 82

than anticipated. While manufacturers can produce more as needed, once a Covid-19 vaccine is licensed, most folks think all bets are off as we divert all available capacity to meeting that need. There's a special formulation for us olds whose immune system needs a little extra boost, and the current recommendation for who should get a flu shot is everyone over six months old. Unless there's an uber-precocious infant out there reading this, that would include all here present.

It wasn't just in the US that schools closed suddenly last March, and in some places, kids and schools were even more hard-pressed than ours were. Gerardo Ixcoy, a sixth-grade teacher in Guatemala, discovered very quickly that he couldn't rely on remote learning strategies at all. He'd send out assignments on WhatsApp, and then never hear back from the students. When he inquired, parents would tell him they didn't have enough money for data on their phones; they didn't even have enough money for food. Their cell phones were basic and couldn't download apps like Zoom. His district is poor, 42% of adults are not literate, and many jobs dried up with the shutdown. Only 13% of homes have Internet.

Technology wasn't going to cut it; so Ixcoy did what he had to do. He took his savings and bought a used three-wheeled bike; and he converted it into a sort of mobile classroom, mounting a roof with solar panels, a whiteboard, and a plexiglass shield that would stand between him and his students—all of that forming a tiny classroom over the two front wheels. There are colorful figures on the outside and plenty of learning inside. He added a sponge mop whose long handle would be used to indicate the safe distance between him and his students. Then he set off to visit them, each one twice a week, parking in their doorways, donning his mask, and entering his mobile classroom to deliver lessons and assignments for next time. He hauls a pizza box along to teach fractions and an audio player powered by his rooftop solar panels. He writes on his whiteboard and looks over students' work from the approved distance and talks to them. Then he packs it all away, saddles up, and rides off to the next student. Every day.

This guy's no quitter. Faced with insurmountable obstacles, he just set about demolishing them. And he is changing lives. The students call him Lalito, apparently a childhood nickname that stuck. One little boy, Oscar, says the pandemic has upended his life "because now I'm not receiving normal classes. Teacher Lalito only comes for a little while to teach me, but I learn a lot." I would say so. Lalito must be a really good teacher; after all, he taught me something from 2500 miles away. It is that there is always something you can do, however hopeless the situation looks.

Guess I'd better get to work myself.

Take care. I'll be back.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 8 of 82

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug. 01	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4
Minnesota	52,281	52,947	53,692	54,463	55,188	55,947	56,560
Nebraska	25,157	25,422	25,766	26,211	26,391	26,702	26,956
Montana	3,475	3,676	3,814	3,965	4,081	4,193	4,233
Colorado	45,314	45,796	46,204	46,809	47,267	47,727	47,968
Wyoming	2,136	2,172	2,217	2,259	2,297	2,333	2,364
North Dakota	6141	6227	6301	6468	6602	6660	6785
South Dakota	8492	8641*	8685	8764	8867	8955	9020
United States	4,352,304	4,427,493	4,495,224	4,566,275	4,620,502	4,667,957	4,718,249
US Deaths	149,260	150,716	152,075	153,391	154,449	154,860	155,478
Minnesota	+478	+666	+745	+771	+725	+759	+613
Nebraska	+258	+265	+344	+445	+458	+311	+254
Montana	+94	+201	+138	+151	+116	+112	+40
Colorado	+749	+482	+408	+605	+458	+460	+241
Wyoming	+64	+36	+45	+42	+38	+36	+31
North Dakota	+155	+86	+74	+167	+134	+58	+125
South Dakota	48	+149	+44	+80	+103	+88	+65
United States	+57,534	+75,189	+67,731	+71,051	+54,227	+47,455	+50,292
US Deaths	+1,204	+1,456	+1,359	+1,316	+1,058	+411	+618
	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 7	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	
Minnesota	57,162	57,779	58,640	59,185	60,101	60,898	
Nebraska	27,178	27,489	27,821	28,104	28,245	28,432	
Montana	4,314	4,429	4,602	4,757	4,889	4,952	
Colorado	48,394	48,988	49,436	49,893	50,324	50,660	
Wyoming	2,392	2,424	2,449	2,490	2,498	2,533	
North Dakota	6933	7057	7177	7327	7508	7596	
South Dakota	9,079	9168	9273	9371	9477	9605	
United States	4,768,083	4,818,328	4,883,657	4,945,795	4,998,802	5,045,564	
US Deaths	156,753	157,930	160,104	161,456	162,430	162,938	
Minnesota	+602	+617	+861	+545	+916	+797	
Nebraska	+222	+311	+332	+283	+141	+187	
Montana	+81	+115	+173	+155	+132	+63	
Colorado	+426	+594	+448	+457	+431	+336	
Wyoming	+28	+32	+25	+41	+8	+35	
North Dakota	+148	+124	+120	+150	+181	+88	
South Dakota	+59	+89	+105	+98	+106	+129	
United States	+49,834	+50,235	+65,329	+62,138	+53,007	+46,762	
US Deaths	+1,275	+1,177	+2,174	+1,352	+974	+508	

\* The July 29, 2020, daily update includes cases reported to the South Dakota Department between Monday, July 27 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. due to a delay in the daily data extraction.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 9 of 82

## August 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

There's a friend out there who loves you. In fact, the love is so strong that it is not bashful in sharing that love. And the love knows no boundaries. So if you are not careful, you will be bit by the love bug known as COVID-19. South Dakota had 129 positive cases and only 27 recoveries, leaving the net gain of active cases at 101. There were no deaths in the Dakotas.

Brown County had 6 positive cases while Spink and Edmunds counties each added 1 more case. Minnehaha County had 46 positive cases, Lincoln had 17 and Pennington 10. So be careful out there - Covid Cupid is looking for you!

### Brown County:

Total Positive: +6 (442) 4.5%  
Recovered: +3 (390)  
Active Cases: +3 (49)  
Total Tests: +134 (5852)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (20)  
Deaths: 0 (3)  
Percent Recovered: 88.2% (-1.0)

### South Dakota:

Positive: +129 (9605 total) 9.7%  
Total Tests: 1,331 (151,085 total)  
Hospitalized: +5 (876 total). 55 currently hospitalized (up 7 from yesterday)  
Deaths: No Change (146 total)  
Recovered: +27 (8334 total)  
Active Cases: +101 (1,125)  
Percent Recovered: 86.7 -.9  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 2% Covid, 45% Non-Covid, 53% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 64% Non-Covid, 33% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 12% Non-Covid, 83% Available

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding +3 (53)

Fully recovered from positive cases: Bon Homme 13-13, Jerauld 40-39-1, Jones 2-2, Haakon 1-1, Hand 7-7, Hyde 3-3, Perkins 4-4, Potter 1-1, Stanley 14-14, Tripp 20-20.

The following is the breakdown by all counties. The number in parenthesis right after the county name represents the number of deaths in that county.

Aurora: 2 active case  
Beadle (9): +2 positive (20 active cases)  
Bennett: 1 active case  
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered  
Brookings (1): +4 positive (26 active cases)  
Brown (3): +6 positive, +1 recovered (49 active cases)  
Brule: 5 active cases

Buffalo (3): 8 active cases  
Butte (1): +3 positive (7 active cases)  
Campbell: 2 active cases  
Charles Mix: +4 positive (12 active cases)  
Clark: 2 active cases  
Clay: +4 positive, +1 recovered (17 active cases)  
Codington (1): +4 positive (25 active cases)  
Corson: +1 positive (9 active cases)  
Custer: +3 positive (12 active cases)  
Davison (1): +3 positive (16 active cases)  
Day: 2 active cases  
Deuel: +1 positive (3 active cases)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 10 of 82

Dewey: -1 positive (15 active cases)  
 Douglas: 3 active cases  
 Edmunds: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Fall River: 6 active cases  
 Faulk (1): 2 active cases  
 Grant: +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: 1 active case  
 Hamlin: +3 positive (7 active cases)  
 Hand: Fully Recovered  
 Hanson: 4 active cases  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): 3 active cases  
 Jerauld (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: 3 active cases  
 Lake (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +3 positive (28 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +17 positive, +3 recovered (107 active cases)  
 Lyman (2): +1 positive (9 active cases)  
 Marshall: 2 active cases  
 McCook (1): +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 McPherson: 2 active cases  
 Meade (1): +3 positive (26 active cases)  
 Mellette: 1 active case  
 Miner: 4 active cases  
 Minnehaha (68): +46 positive, +10 recovered (385 active cases)

Moody: 5 active cases  
 Oglala Lakota (2): +1 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Pennington (32): +10 positive, +5 recovered (122 active cases)  
 Perkins: 1 active case  
 Potter: Fully Recovered  
 Roberts (1): -1 positive (15 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: +1 positive (7 active cases)  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: 1 active case  
 Todd (5): 5 active cases  
 Tripp: Fully Recovered  
 Turner: 11 active cases  
 Union (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (31 active cases)  
 Walworth: 1 active case  
 Yankton (2): +1 positive (17 active cases)  
 Ziebach: +1 positive (11 active cases)

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, August 9:

- 5,652 tests (1,305)
- 7,596 positives (+91)
- 6,355 recovered (+87)
- 112 deaths (0)
- 1,129 active cases (+1)

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1223	0
20-29 years	2106	2
30-39 years	1874	6
40-49 years	1444	7
50-59 years	1416	17
60-69 years	850	25
70-79 years	373	24
80+ years	319	65

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4742	75
Male	4863	71

# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 11 of 82

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased
Aurora	38	36	376	0
Beadle	593	564	1864	9
Bennett	6	5	537	0
Bon Homme	13	13	751	0
Brookings	137	110	2674	1
Brown	442	390	4396	3
Brule	45	40	739	0
Buffalo	109	98	637	3
Butte	17	9	787	1
Campbell	3	1	94	0
Charles Mix	105	93	1292	0
Clark	16	14	385	0
Clay	128	111	1307	0
Codington	133	107	2805	1
Corson	33	24	445	0
Custer	35	23	789	0
Davison	97	80	2343	1
Day	23	21	629	0
Deuel	11	8	398	0
Dewey	48	33	2092	0
Douglas	17	14	400	0
Edmunds	15	10	407	0
Fall River	22	16	981	0
Faulk	26	23	188	1
Grant	26	20	706	0
Gregory	7	6	390	0
Haakon	2	2	289	0
Hamlin	21	14	631	0
Hand	7	7	284	0
Hanson	21	17	207	0
Harding	0	0	53	0
Hughes	93	78	1708	2
Hutchinson	29	24	891	0

# Groton Daily Independent

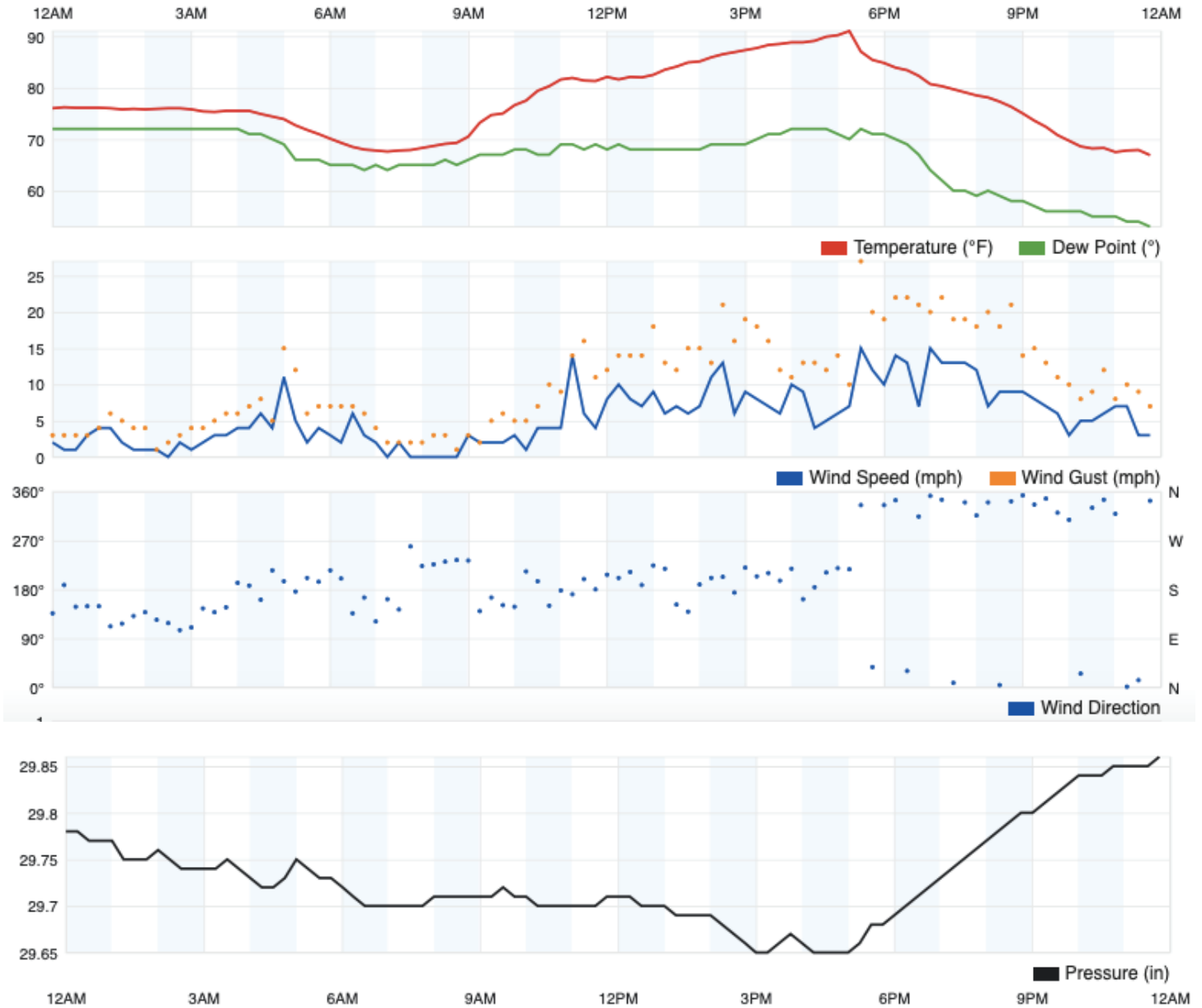
Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 12 of 82

Hyde	3	3	132	0
Jackson	11	7	481	1
Jerauld	39	38	268	1
Jones	2	2	59	0
Kingsbury	14	11	552	0
Lake	94	76	915	2
Lawrence	55	27	2100	0
Lincoln	638	529	6726	2
Lyman	90	79	952	2
Marshall	9	7	456	0
McCook	28	22	633	1
McPherson	8	6	214	0
Meade	94	67	1971	1
Mellette	24	23	381	0
Miner	15	11	251	0
Minnehaha	4422	3969	27174	68
Moody	32	27	627	0
Oglala Lakota	155	129	2930	2
Pennington	891	737	10906	32
Perkins	6	5	182	0
Potter	1	1	286	0
Roberts	80	64	1798	1
Sanborn	13	13	218	0
Spink	25	18	1139	0
Stanley	14	14	251	0
Sully	3	2	72	0
Todd	69	61	2084	5
Tripp	20	20	606	0
Turner	51	40	907	0
Union	214	179	1895	4
Walworth	18	17	690	0
Yankton	114	95	3046	2
Ziebach	35	24	298	0
Unassigned	0	0	7617	0

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 13 of 82

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 14 of 82

Today



Sunny

High: 81 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 58 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 87 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Chance  
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Wednesday



Partly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

High: 86 °F

Mostly Dry Today  
Morning showers in south central  
and southeast SD this morning.  
Highs Today: 78 to 84

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD  
Created: 8/10/2020 5:20 AM  
www.weather.gov/abr  
@NWSAberdeen

Some morning showers are ongoing for south central and southeastern SD, otherwise dry and a bit cooler conditions are expected for the rest of today with high temperatures near 80 this afternoon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 15 of 82

## Today in Weather History

August 10, 1886: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

August 10, 2007: Several supercell thunderstorms developed along a frontal boundary during the evening bringing large hail, damaging winds, along with a couple of tornadoes. An EF0 tornado touched down north of Timber Lake with no damage reported. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly north of Trail City with no damage occurring. Wakpala, in Corson County, and Mobridge saw golf ball sized hail. The hail broke some windows and damaged the siding on several houses in the Mobridge area.

1884: An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later.

1856: A hurricane destroyed Isle Dernieres or Last Island, a pleasure resort south-southwest of New Orleans on this day. The highest points of the island were under five feet of water. The resort hotel was destroyed, along with the island's gambling establishments. Over 200 people perished, and the island lost all its vegetation and split in half. Only one cow remained on the island after the catastrophe. The Last Island is now just a haven for pelicans and other seabirds. The steamer Nautilus foundered during the storm. The lone survivor clung to a bale of cotton and washed ashore sometime later.

1856 - The Isle Derniere (Last Island) disaster occurred off the coast of Louisiana. A storm tide drowned 140 vacationers as a five foot wave swept over Low Island during a hurricane. (The Weather Channel)

1882 - Sandusky OH noted a four minute snow squall during the morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco IA. (The Weather Channel)

1898 - The temperature at Pendleton OR climbed all the way to 119 degrees at set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1924 - Colorado's deadliest tornado killed a woman and nine children in one house along its twenty-mile path east southeast of Thurman. Mennonite men had left the farm to provide possible aid, as the 200-yard wide storm was first seen while far away.(The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature soared to 114 degrees at Plain Dealing, LA, and reached 120 degrees at Ozark AR, to establish record highs for those two states. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Hurricane Allen came ashore above Brownsville, TX, dropping fifteen inches of rain near San Antonio, and up to 20 inches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Tidal flooding occurred along the South Texas coast. Hurricane Allen packed winds to 150 mph, and also spawned twenty-nine tornadoes. Total damage from the storm was estimated at 750 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date. Macon GA hit 101 degrees. A tropical depression deluged southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana with torrential rains. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Citizens of Bluefield, WV, where the Chamber of Commerce provides free lemonade on days when the temperature warms into the 90s, were able to celebrate their record high of 90 degrees. Eight other cities also reported record high temperatures for the date,including Bismarck ND with a reading of 102 degrees.(The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-eight cities in the south central and southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 48 degrees, and Victoria TX with a low of 63 degrees. Oklahoma City OK reported a record cool afternoon high of 71 degrees, and the daily high of 64 degrees at Raleigh NC established a record for August. In Arizona, a record sixty-four day streak of 100 degree days at Phoenix came to an end.(The National Weather Summary)

# Groton Daily Independent

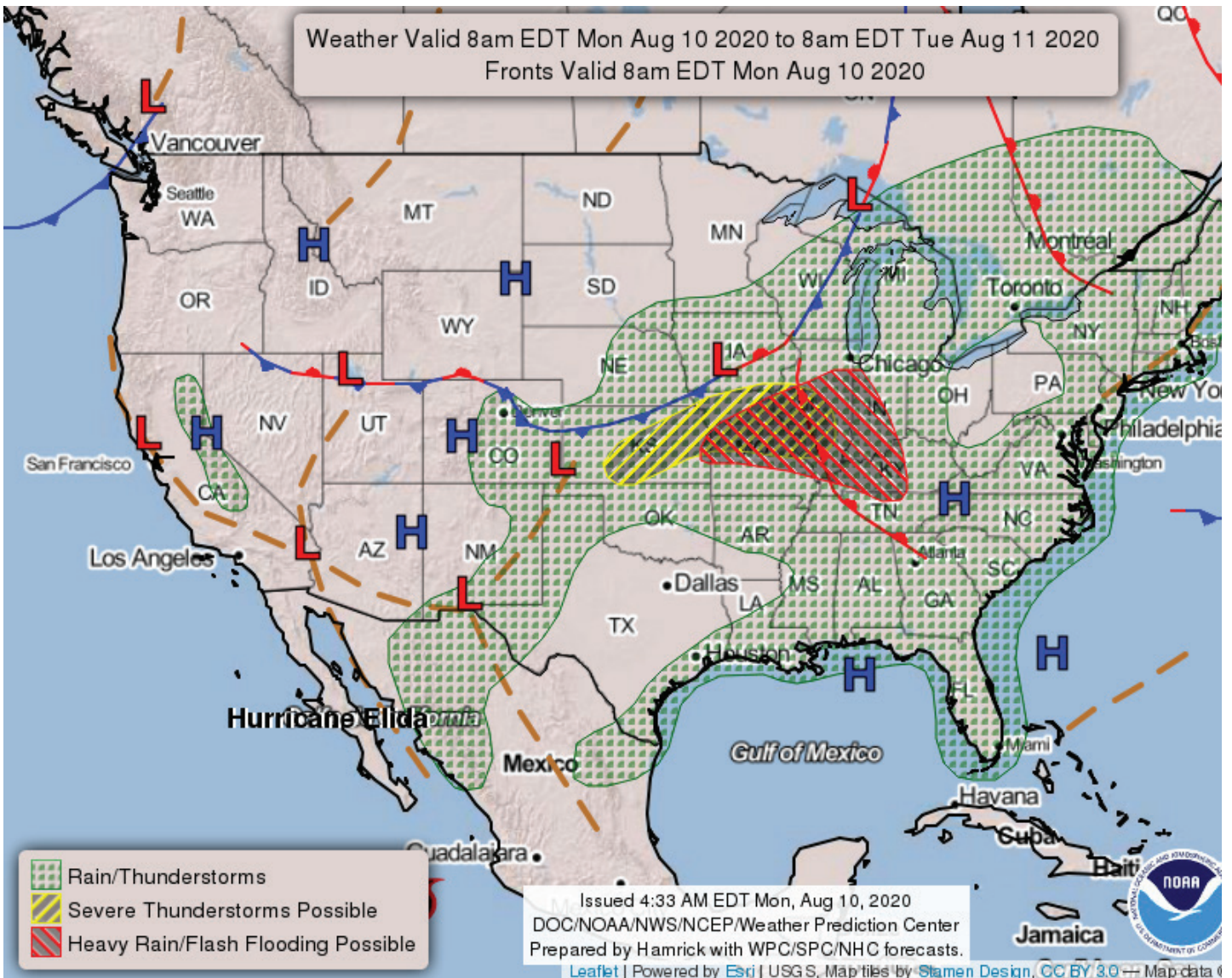
Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 16 of 82

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 91 °F at 5:14 PM**  
**Low Temp: 66 °F at 11:58 PM**  
**Wind: 27 mph at 5:27 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 106° in 1947**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1985, 1982**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 58°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 0.71**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 0.45**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.57**  
**Precip Year to Date: 10.96**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:48 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:30 a.m.**





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 17 of 82



## WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

Looking at a gallon of water in a plastic container hardly suggests that it has any power. If, however, the water seeps into the crack of a rock or space in a cement road and turns into ice, the rock and the road will split into pieces. If, on the other hand, the water is turned into steam, it can drive the pistons of a large engine and turn into a massive amount of power. Water has the potential to do many great things. So do we.

When we become Christians, God empowers us to change our lives into something wholly different and unique. Paul, in our Scripture for today, teaches us that there are four things that Christ can do for us:

1. He gives us wisdom. By walking with Him and listening to Him, we can hear and learn the truth because He is the expert in living.

2. He is righteousness. Righteousness in Paul's writings always means a right relationship with God. We can never achieve a right relationship with God through ourselves or what we try to do. We can only accomplish this "right" relationship with God through Christ.

3. He is holy. It is only through the presence of Christ in our lives that we can be or become all that God intends or expects us to be or become.

4. He is deliverance. Only Christ can forgive us and free us from our past sins, and Only He can deliver us from being enslaved to sin and then set us free from self-destruction.

Prayer: Lord, help us to understand the goodness of Your grace and the power of Your presence in our lives. With You, all things are possible - most importantly salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 18 of 82

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
- **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

## News from the Associated Press

### Shift in alcohol buying means new normal for breweries

By PATRICK ANDERSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Blake Thompson and his fellow beer-makers at Fernson Brewing Co. had planned to use white cans for the Sioux Falls-based brewery's new hard seltzer.

Thompson reached out to the supplier to inquire about getting some extra stock of the white-painted cans commonly used by large manufacturers of hard seltzers.

At first, the supplier said it would only be a matter of weeks before new inventory became available, Thompson said. But then things changed.

"Everyone started canning like crazy," he told the Argus Leader. "I went on the phone and tried to order some cans and the guy was like, 'We can't get those until fourth quarter.'"

Fernson and other breweries in Sioux Falls are adjusting to shifting market conditions in the alcohol industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant increase in retail beer and soda sales has created a drain on the nation's supply of aluminum cans.

Consumers across the United States are buying more of their beverages from retailers and bringing the products home during the coronavirus pandemic, while taps of all kinds remain quiet. While the rush on product has allowed breweries who do retail sales to make up ground, it hasn't been enough to offset the losses suffered by taprooms and bars.

"COVID kind of flipped our business to can sales more than kegs," Thompson said. "We're trying really hard to not have to rely on draft sales, because people just don't want to go out like they used to, which is fair. But they still want to drink."

Shift in drinking habits

Bar business in Sioux Falls is nowhere near what it normally is during the spring and summer months, and even a bit of recovery in recent months wasn't enough to get the city's watering holes up to speed.

City officials repealed rules for in-house dining in May, allowing bars and restaurants to serve as many guests as they please. Previously, a temporary cap on patrons restricted establishments from serving more than 10 guests at a time.

A number of local bar and restaurant owners made the decision to close altogether when COVID-19 first arrived in Sioux Falls, while others limited operations.

Bars instituted new social distance policies and reopened their doors to revelers, and the result was a bit of recovery. But only a bit.

City leaders nixed the rules in the first half of May, but the month stands as the worst for bars since the start of the coronavirus.

June bar sales more than doubled, reaching \$2.7 million. But compare that to June of 2019, when taxable bar sales tallied at \$5.7 million. In fact, for the four-month stretch from March to June, the local taverns have lost \$9 million since the start of the crisis when comparing their sales to the same stretch last year.

The trend is clear: Sioux Falls drinkers prefer their alcohol to-go during the pandemic.

For the four-month period of March to June, taxable sales at liquor stores in Sioux Falls jumped by more than \$3 million from the same period last year.

And Sioux Falls shoppers aren't the only ones to change their drinking habits.

Beer in a can, please?

For beer, it means drinkers are trading a poured pint for bottles or cans.

Lupulin Brewing Co. is on both sides of the trend because of the service it provides at its Sioux Falls taproom and the canning they do out of their center of operations in Big Lake, Minnesota.

Business was still slow in June at the Lupulin taproom, located in the retail center across from Century Stadium 14 theater. But part of that was Lupulin leadership's decision to reopen gradually and keep more limited hours at first, said co-founder Jeff Zierdt.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 20 of 82

Meanwhile, Zierdt and his coworkers are figuring out how to keep enough aluminum cans stocked to meet the rush in demand for Lupulin's retail product.

Lupulin usually ships about 150,000 cans of beer a month between its line of specialty styles that wind up on liquor store shelves in the Midwest, Florida, Arizona, Georgia and Washington — not to mention international shipments to Denmark and Japan.

The global rush on canned beer has contributed to the drain on aluminum cans in the 12-ounce size, Zierdt said.

"That is the one that's taking a huge hit," Zierdt said. "A lot of your beverages, like juices and soda and all of those other types of beverages, are in 12-ounce cans. That one has tightened up quite bit."

Getting creative with canning

Business appeared to be improving last month for the Lupulin taproom.

The Sioux Falls location hit its stride, Zierdt said.

"This month of July we started seeing things pick up again," he said. "Our metrics were back to where we were in February, pre-COVID."

But the trend in consumer behavior and a lack of supply are forcing both Lupulin and Fernson to make adjustments when it comes to canning their product.

For Fernson, it was just a matter of switching the hard seltzer to silver cans, which are pretty easy to obtain, Thompson said. The prices are more competitive, but it's about a four-week waiting period, which is standard if not slightly better than previous years.

Not to mention can-makers such as Ball are adding facilities to improve production capabilities, Thompson said.

It's the bigger beer and soda manufacturers that are feeling the squeeze more than Fernson.

"I think the big soda canners have limited their production to mainly their mainstays," Thompson said.

Zierdt and his crew have one advantage over other breweries in that Lupulin uses mostly 16-ounce cans, except for their Blissful Ignorance double IPA.

However, they are also anticipating what comes next, when the major suppliers of aluminum cans such as Colorado-based Ball Corporation start running out of 12-ouncers.

He and his business partner at Lupulin are looking at ordering inventory for the long-term, he said.

"We're going to try to stay ahead of the game," Zierdt said. "We don't know what we don't know."

## Black Hills beef: Stockpiling a food source for winter

By ALEX PORTAL Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — While his cows munch merrily on the fulsome foliage within the Black Hills National Forest, local rancher Aaron Thompson is hard at work making sure his bovine have plenty to eat come winter.

"We can rely on nature to feed (the cows) through late spring, early fall, summer," Thompson said. "The rest of the time it's on us to figure out how to feed them."

Thompson explained that on ranches with more acreage, crop space can be managed for animals to graze throughout the year. Here in the Black Hills, where space is at a premium, ranchers depend on irrigation to help increase the yield from every acre of crop space.

"As you're aware ... it's not always the growing season around here. The whole point of haying is storing food for when the growing season is on hiatus," he told the Black Hills Pioneer.

Thompson runs a cattle operation on the same land his family has worked since 1888.

To take care of his cows' nutritional needs during the winter months, Thompson grows a rotating crop of grass and alfalfa to get the right mixture of protein and energy into their diet.

"A cow's metabolic needs change a lot based on how cold it is, how much protection they have, can they get out of the wind, what stage gestation she's at ... all that effects what a cow needs," he said.

Thompson uses his irrigation system to grow a robust crop of forage for his cows. Each year he looks to take two or three cuttings worth of hay to be stored for the winter. Thompson needs to be precise in

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 21 of 82

his timing for each cutting of hay to maximize the nutritional value of each bale.

"If you let your hay go way, way, way too long in first cutting, the lignin content goes up and your digestibility (goes down). You're not getting all that you could of out of it," he said.

Thompson said the longer he waits to cut his hay, the more tonnage he may get, but it could be much less nutritious.

"So it's kind of counter-intuitive, you don't want to let it go to it's maximum tonnage, you're wanting to kind of hit a sweet spot between how much good you're getting out of it versus actual tonnage," he said.

Once the hay is cut, it's sorted into rows and left to dry, but even that Thompson must be vigilant on; if the hay is too dry, not only will nutrients be lost, but the bales won't pack together well. Too wet, and the hay will mold and become completely unusable.

"You have to let it dry down and get it into that low enough moisture content to where it's not going to mold but you still have enough moisture to where it's going to go into the bale instead of just dribble out onto the ground," he said. "The idea is when you grab a big wad of hay and twist it, the stems crack ... but the leaves are tough, they feel like sort of a wet shammy."

To add a measure of urgency, Thompson said any hay that is cut and then gets rained on, not only leach nutrients, but has to be left to dry even longer, which holds up the growth for the next cutting.

To cut the grass for hay, Thompson and other ranchers use a swather, they then drive through the pasture a second time raking, or turning, the hay. This allows it to dry. Finally, a third pass is made, this time with a baler, Thompson bales his hay in large round bales weighing approximately 1,200 to 1,600 pounds each.

Lastly the bales are hauled to a stack yard where they will remain for the long winter when they are fed to the cattle.

"The whole time you're screwing around, you keep running over the hay that's coming, so there's a strong impetus to get it cut, baled, off the field as quick as you can," he said.

Thompson said his herd can eat close to 5,400 pounds of hay a day, so to keep his cows happy and healthy throughout the harsh Black Hills winter months he puts up at least 500 tons of hay every season.

"That's what I like to see in the hay stack at the end of summer," he said. "Whether you get that or not is always a fun question."

## Hardy, two-sport star, architect of Orange Crush dies at 87

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. (AP) — Carroll Hardy, a multi-sport star best known as the only man ever to pinch hit for Ted Williams, died Sunday at age 87.

Hardy was also known as the football executive who helped assemble the "Orange Crush" defense in Denver during the 1970s.

The University of Colorado, where Hardy was a three-sport star, said he died of complications from dementia. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Hardy went on to play professional baseball and football after starring in track, baseball and football at Colorado from 1951-55.

CU athletic director Rick George called Hardy "a true icon of the state. His list of accomplishments in his lifetime and the people he touched are really second to none. We have lost a great Buffalo."

Hardy earned a record 10 letters altogether in the early 1950s. An All-American honorable mention in 1953 and '54, Hardy rushed for 1,999 career yards with a whopping 6.87-yard average per carry, which remains the best in school history among players with at least 60 carries.

Hardy led the nation in kickoff return average in 1952 and had six interceptions for the Buffaloes.

On the diamond, Hardy was CU's all-time career batting average leader (.392) with 118 hits in 301 at-bats with 15 homers, 80 RBIs, 107 runs scored and 45 stolen bases.

He once ran a 9.8 in the 100-yard dash on the indoor track.

Hardy was the 33rd overall pick in the 1955 NFL draft by the San Francisco 49ers. and averaged 28.2 yards a catch as a rookie with 12 receptions for 338 yards and four touchdowns.

Before reporting to the 49ers camp, Hardy signed with the Cleveland Indians and played on their A-league

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 22 of 82

team in Reading, Pennsylvania. In 1956, he was hitting .365 in 21 games with the Indians' Triple-A team in Indianapolis when he was ordered to report to the U.S. Army.

He returned to the Indians after his two-year tour of military duty and his major league career spanned a decade from 1958-67 with stops in Cleveland, Boston, Houston and Minnesota.

Hardy was the only man ever to pinch hit for Red Sox icons Williams and Carl Yastrzemski.

"I'd like to have people remember me for hitting 400 home runs and a lifetime batting average of .305, but I didn't do that," Hardy once told the Denver Post. "But it's not bad being remembered as the only man to ever pinch-hit for Ted Williams."

Hardy's first major league homer was a three-run shot in the bottom of the 11th to beat the White Sox when he was sent to the plate in place of Roger Maris in 1958 when both were with the Indians.

Boston traded Hardy to the expansion Colt 45's in 1963 and he later joined the Twins, who sent him to their affiliate in Denver.

During his two-plus seasons with the Denver Bears, he began scouting part-time for the Denver Broncos in the offseason.

That led to a 24-year stint with the Broncos in various roles including assistant ticket manager, director of scouting, pro personnel director and assistant general manager.

He finished his major league career with a September call-up with the Twins in 1967, then turned his attention full-time to football.

Hardy was credited with helping to build Denver's "Orange Crush" defense that led to the Broncos' first Super Bowl appearance in 1977. That dominant defense included Randy Gradishar, Tom Jackson, Louis Wright, Lyle Alzado, Otis Armstrong and Barney Chavous.

Hardy also helped assemble the Broncos' 1986 and '87 Super Bowl teams before his retirement.

Hardy was born in 1933 in Sturgis, South Dakota. He is survived by his wife of nearly 64 years, Janice Mitchell, son Jay and daughters Jill and Lisa.

With the coronavirus pandemic, funeral services will be for family only, but a celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

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Follow Arnie Melendrez Stapleton on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/arniestapleton>

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More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Sturgis arrests and crashes keep pace with last year

South Dakota authorities on Sunday reported the first haul of crashes, arrests and citations from the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in the western part of the state.

The annual rally started on Friday, drawing thousands of maskless riders to the streets and bars of Sturgis. While organizers have said they expect fewer visitors than in other years, the Argus Leader reports the number of arrests, citations and accidents has kept pace with last year.

The Department of Public Safety reported that police made 84 arrests for driving under the influence or drug-related offenses during a 24-hour period spanning from Saturday into Sunday morning. That's up from last year, when 76 people had been arrested in a similar time frame.

Police have also issued more citations, with 226 people getting tickets. The figure is 37 more than last year. But it appears police are less lenient this year and are letting fewer people off with warnings.

So far, police in the region have reported 18 crashes, which is down from last year's mark of 20. None have been fatal.

## South Dakota reports 129 new cases of COVID-19

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota reported 129 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday and no new deaths, according to the Department of Health.

The number of active cases remained above 1,000 for the second consecutive day, with 1,125 people

who have active infections statewide. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by about 24, an increase of 38%.

The number of hospitalizations from the coronavirus increased by seven from Saturday, with 55 people currently requiring hospital care.

Over the course of the pandemic, 9,605 people have been confirmed to have COVID-19. While 87% of them have recovered, 146 people have died.

## Native mascots still a sticking point in high school sports

By SOPHIA EPPOLITO and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

BOUNTIFUL, Utah (AP) — At a mostly white high school near Salt Lake City, the steps leading to the football field are covered in red handprints, arrows and drawings of Native American men in headdresses meant to represent the mascot, the Braves. “Welcome to the Dark Side” and “Fight like a Brave” are scrawled next to images of teepees, a tomahawk and a dream catcher.

While advocates have made strides in getting Native American symbols and names changed in sports, they say there’s still work to do mainly at the high school level, where mascots like Braves, Indians, Warriors, Chiefs and Redskins persist. Momentum is building during a nationwide push for racial justice following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the NFL team in Washington dropping the Redskins name.

At Bountiful High School, there’s nostalgia for the Braves name that’s been used for nearly 70 years and comes with an informal mascot — a student dressed up in feathers. Fans point to tradition when rhythmically extending their forearms for the tomahawk chop, wearing face paint and chanting at football games.

It’s an honor, they say, but not to many Native Americans who see the portrayals throughout high school, collegiate and professional sports. The depictions can affect the psyches of younger Native Americans and create the image of a monolith that doesn’t exist, advocates say.

“There is no tribe that can make a claim to it,” said James Singer, co-founder of the Utah League of Native American Voters. “Nevertheless, many tribal governments, using their tribal sovereignty, have issued statements saying they don’t want these kinds of mascots for school teams.”

It’s not clear how many high schools have built their sports team imagery around Native Americans, but advocates say it’s in the hundreds — down significantly from decades ago.

Schools in Ohio, Michigan, Idaho, New York, Massachusetts and California are changing names, often at the urging of Native Americans. Schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Red Mesa on the Navajo Nation are discussing their Redskins mascots.

“I understand the issue, and then at the same time, you just have to listen to the students who take pride in this but give them the information about why the other side is concerned, too,” said Timothy Benally, who’s on the Red Mesa Unified School District board in Arizona and is Navajo.

On a practical level, getting rid of a mascot means new uniforms, signs on fields and imagery on merchandise.

Dr. Jason Black, a communication studies professor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who co-wrote “Mascot Nation,” said the changes aren’t too costly but finding replacements can take time.

“You’re getting what you pay for, and what you get is respect of human beings and ... rebirth of a community that truly understands how to be responsible with its members,” said Black, who is not Native American. “It is an investment in people, and that’s who matters.”

Only three states have laws either prohibiting or limiting these symbols at public institutions. Maine lawmakers last year banned Native American mascots in public schools. In Oregon, public schools and universities cannot use names, symbols or images that depict Native Americans unless they have an agreement with a local federally recognized tribe. California forbids “Redskins” as a team name or mascot.

Attempts in other states to govern the use of Native American mascots have failed in recent years. At least three — Illinois, Massachusetts and Minnesota — are considering legislation this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

At the college level, Native American mascots seen as “hostile and abusive” have been banned in cham-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 24 of 82

pionship play since 2005. Some schools, including the University of Utah and Florida State University, have agreements with local tribes to use their names and imagery.

Luke Duncan, a Ute tribal official, recently rebuked calls for the University of Utah to stop using the tribe's name, calling the agreement a "source of pride" for tribal members.

Professional sports teams that have Native American-themed names and mascots increasingly are facing backlash, including baseball's Atlanta Braves and the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs. The Cleveland Indians baseball team recently said it would talk with Native Americans as it considers a name change.

Last week, the Chicago Blackhawks said hockey fans would be banned from wearing headdresses when home games resume but would keep its name in honor of Black Hawk, a Sac and Fox Nation leader.

At Bountiful High School in Utah, many alumni support the Braves name. Kurt Gentry, who graduated in 1976, said the mascot was treated with "tremendous respect and honor and power" when he was a student.

"There's a lot of misinformation and oversensitivity that is frankly being propagated by those who have zero understanding of the culture," said Gentry, noting he had a Navajo foster daughter.

Lemiley Lane, who's Navajo, transferred to Bountiful last year as a sophomore and said she was the only Native American student at the school. She was excited for the first assembly but left when she saw the "Brave Man" — a white student wearing a headdress. After that, she skipped school assemblies and sports games.

"I couldn't stay there because I felt uncomfortable; I felt unwelcome," Lane said. "I wanted to go home."

The mascot is no longer allowed at school events, Davis County School District spokesman Chris Williams said. Bountiful's logo was changed in recent years from a Native American man to the letter "B" with a feather or arrow on it, he said.

The fate of the Braves name and logo won't be known before the first football game this month, Williams said.

Carl Moore of Peaceful Advocates for Native Dialogue and Organizing Support said real change won't come without the school educating students about Native American history.

"They change the logo, but it doesn't change the culture," Moore said. "The culture is still racist when you walk up those steps."

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Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Eppolito is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## States on hook for billions under Trump's unemployment plan

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — Whether President Donald Trump has the constitutional authority to extend federal unemployment benefits by executive order remains unclear. Equally up in the air is whether states, which are necessary partners in Trump's plan to bypass Congress, will sign on.

Trump announced an executive order Saturday that extends additional unemployment payments of \$400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Congress had approved payments of \$600 a week at the outset of the coronavirus outbreak, but those benefits expired Aug. 1 and Congress has been unable to agree on an extension. Many Republicans have expressed concern that a \$600 weekly benefit, on top of existing state benefits, gives people an incentive to stay unemployed.

But under Trump's plan, the \$400 a week requires a state to commit to providing \$100.

Many states are already facing budget crunches caused by the pandemic. Asked at a news conference how many governors had signed on to participate, Trump answered: "If they don't, they don't. That's up to them."

Trump expressed a different view on Sunday night, following a day of state officials questioning how they could afford even \$100 per person in additional weekly payments. He told reporters as he returned



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 25 of 82

to Washington that states could make application to have the federal government provide all or part of the \$400 payments. Decisions would be made state by state, he said.

Several state officials questioned how Trump's initial proposal would work and often expressed doubt that they could afford to participate at the level Trump initially set without using federal funds.

Aubrey Layne, secretary of finance for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, said in a phone interview Sunday he believes it would be feasible for Virginia to participate in such a program if states are allowed to use money that's been allocated to them under the already passed CARES Act. He said his preliminary understanding is that states can do so, but he and others are waiting to see the rules published.

The better solution, Layne said, would be for Congress to pass legislation.

"It's ludicrous to me that Congress can't get together on this," he said. "I think it would have been better for the president to use his influence in those negotiations, rather than standing on the sideline and then riding in like a shining knight."

Details about the program were confused on Sunday — and that was even before Trump's declaration that states could ask the federal government to pay all or part of the \$400 week payments.

On CNN's "State of the Nation" White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said conflicting things about whether the federal money was contingent on an additional contribution from the states. Initially Kudlow said that "for an extra \$100, we will lever it up. We will pay three-quarters, and the states will pay 25 percent." In the same interview, though, he later said that "at a minimum, we will put in 300 bucks ... but I think all they (the states) have to do is put up an extra dollar, and we will be able to throw in the extra \$100."

A clarifying statement from the White House said the "funds will be available for those who qualify by, among other things, receiving \$100/week of existing assistance and certify that they have lost their jobs due to COVID-19."

Several advocacy groups that follow the issue, though, said it's clear the way the executive order is structured that the federal money will be contingent on states making a 25 percent contribution.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, called the plan "an impossibility."

"I don't know if the president is genuine in thinking the executive order is a resolution or if this is just a tactic in the negotiation," Cuomo said. "But this is irreconcilable for the state. And I expect this is just a chapter in the book of Washington COVID mismanagement."

In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the plan would cost his state \$500 million to provide that benefit for the rest of the year, and called Trump's plan "not a good idea."

"I could take that money from testing — I don't think that's a good idea," Lamont said.

On CNN, Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine praised Trump for issuing the order.

"He's trying to do something. He's trying to move the ball forward," DeWine said.

Still, he was noncommittal about whether Ohio would participate.

"We're looking at it right now to see whether we can do this," he said.

In Maryland, Michael Ricci, spokesman for Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, said in an email that "we will wait on new guidance from US Department of Labor before looking at any (unemployment insurance) changes."

In Minnesota, Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove said his agency is "awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor."

Kevin Hensil, a spokesman for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, said "reducing the benefit by a third will make it harder for families to get by and it places a larger financial burden on states." He said state officials are studying the impact of the cuts.

In Louisiana, Christina Stephens, a spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards said "Right now we are reviewing the President's order to determine exactly what the impact to the state would be."

And in Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a press release that Trump "cut federal funding for unemployed workers and is requiring states that are facing severe holes in our budgets to provide 25% of the funding."

On ABC's "This Week," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called it "an unworkable plan.

"Most states will take months to implement it, because it's brand new. It's sort of put together with spit

and paste. And many states, because they have to chip in \$100, and they don't have money, won't do it," Schumer said.

Many states struggled to adjust outdated computer systems to accommodate the \$600 payment, which along with the massive influx of new claims resulted in long delays in providing benefits. Reprogramming the computers again to accommodate the new amount could result in similar glitches.

On ABC, Kudlow said that many of those outdated systems have since been upgraded.

"I don't think there will be a huge delay. Labor Department has been working with the states. The states are the ones that process the federal benefits before. So, I don't see any reason why it would be all that difficult," he said.

Associated Press Writers Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland; Larry Neumeister in New York; Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut; Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Thomas Strong in Washington; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Jonathan Lemire in Bedminster, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

## Belarus: Anger erupts over president's election to 6th term

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Election officials in Belarus said Monday that President Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with over 80% of the vote after facing his strongest challenge in 26 years and protests over his cavalier brushoff of the coronavirus, political repression and the country's deteriorating economy.

Thousands of people took to the streets in a number of Belarusian cities and towns on Sunday night, protesting the early count that indicated Lukashenko's landslide victory. Opposition supporters said they believe the election results were rigged and planned to gather in Minsk for more protests on Monday evening.

"We don't recognize these results," opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, 37, said Monday. The Central Election Commission of Belarus gave the former teacher and political novice 9.9% of the vote to the 65-year-old incumbent's 80.23%. Tsikhanouskaya said her team was conducting its own ballot count.

"According to the data we receive from precincts, we won, and this corresponds with what we saw at polling stations," she said. "People stood in lines at polling stations in order to vote for Tsikhanouskaya. I believe my own eyes rather than the data of the Central Election Commission."

Lukashenko called the election "a festive occasion" and accused the opposition of trying to ruin it.

"We won't allow (them) to tear the country apart," he said.

The protesters expressing anger over the outcome of Sunday's election faced rows of riot police who moved quickly to disperse them, firing flash-bang grenades and beating the demonstrators with truncheons. Human rights groups said one person was killed - which the authorities denied - and dozens were injured.

According to the Viasna human rights group, more than 200 protesters were detained. The crackdown followed a tense campaign that saw massive rallies against Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet nation with an iron fist since 1994.

The Interior Ministry said Monday no one was killed during the protests and called reports about a fatality "an absolute fake." According to officials, 89 people were injured during the protests, including 39 law enforcement officers, and some 3,000 people were detained.

The Investigative Committee of Belarus opened a criminal probe Monday into mass riots and violence toward police officers.

European officials urged Belarusian authorities to adhere to standards of democracy and respect the people's civil rights on Sunday.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius told the BNS news agency on Monday that "it's difficult to call this election transparent, democratic and free, regrettably." German government spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin on Monday that reports of systematic election irregularities were credible

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 27 of 82

and the German government doubted the result announced by authorities in Belarus.

"It's obvious that the minimum standards for democratic elections weren't abided by in the presidential election," Seibert said, adding that the European Union would now discuss an appropriate joint response.

Poland's Foreign Ministry issued a statement Monday saying that "the harsh reaction of the law enforcement forces, the use of force against peaceful protesters, and arbitrary arrests are unacceptable."

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called on European Union's leaders to convene an extraordinary summit to discuss Belarus, saying that the 27-member bloc should support the democratic aspirations of people in Belarus.

Several world leaders, in the meantime, congratulated Lukashenko on his win. Chinese leader Xi Jinping was the first among them, saying that "Belarus will certainly achieve new brilliant successes in state-building." He was followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the president of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and the leader of Azerbaijan, Ilkham Aliyev.

The election results "indicate the popular support" for Lukashenko's rule, Tokayev said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in a Facebook post Monday it was "obvious that not everyone in the country agrees with the announced preliminary election results. And, as we know, any legitimacy arises solely from public trust." He urged the government of Belarus to refrain from violence and called for dialogue with the opposition.

Two prominent opposition challengers were denied places on the ballot, but Tsikhanouskaya, the wife of a jailed opposition blogger, managed to unite opposition groups and draw tens of thousands to her campaign rallies, tapping growing anger over a stagnant economy and fatigue with Lukashenko's autocratic rule.

Lukashenko was defiant as he voted earlier in the day, warning that the opposition will meet a tough response.

"If you provoke, you will get the same answer," he said. "Do you want to try to overthrow the government, break something, wound, offend, and expect me or someone to kneel in front of you and kiss them and the sand onto which you wandered? This will not happen."

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, whose assessments of elections are widely regarded as authoritative, was not invited to send observers.

Tsikhanouskaya had crisscrossed the country, tapping into public frustration with a worsening economy and Lukashenko's swaggering response to the pandemic.

Belarus, a country of 9.5 million people, has reported more than 68,500 coronavirus cases and 580 deaths but critics have accused authorities of manipulating the figures to downplay the death toll.

Belarus has sustained a severe economic blow after its leading exports customer, Russia, went into a pandemic-induced recession and other foreign markets shrank. Before the coronavirus, the country's state-controlled economy already had been stalled for years, stoking public frustration.

Lukashenko has dismissed the virus as "psychosis" and declined to apply measures to stop its spread, saying a lockdown would have doomed the already weak economy. He announced last month that he had been infected but had no symptoms and recovered quickly, allegedly thanks to playing sports.

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Associated Press journalists Jim Heintz, Vladimir Isachenkov and Daria Litvinova in Moscow contributed to this story.

## Denmark's fence to keep out wild boars seems to be working

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The number of wild boars in Denmark has fallen since a 70-kilometer (43.4-mile) fence was erected along the German border to protect the valuable Danish pork industry.

The fence was put up last year in an attempt to prevent wild swine crossing from Germany and breeding with farm pigs or possibly passing disease. However, there had been concerns that it would not work because the fence had gaps in it where it crossed roads and rivers.

Since then, however, the number of wild pigs in Denmark has fallen from 35-40 to fewer than 25, even

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 28 of 82

though some piglets have been born in recent months, officials said Monday.

Inge Gillesberg of the Danish Nature Agency said that she could not say whether the fence had stopped the boars from crossing but the agency's cameras along the border had not seen many doing so.

Denmark is the only EU country where pigs outnumber people, with 215 pigs to every 100 residents.

Approx. 90% of Denmark's pork production is exported and exports account for almost half of all agricultural exports and for more than 5 percent of the country's total exports, according to official figures. Danish pig meat is exported to more than 140 countries, with the largest markets being Germany, Britain, Poland, China, Japan, Italy, Russia and Sweden.

No cases of African swine fever have yet been reported in Denmark, or in Germany, though they have been in some neighboring countries.

## Azar visit to Taiwan is fresh thorn in prickly US-China ties

By JOHNSON LAI Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A visit by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to Taiwan this week comes amid mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

From the South China Sea to TikTok, Hong Kong and trade, China and the U.S. find themselves at loggerheads just three months ahead of the American presidential election. In a throwback to the Cold War, the two ordered tit-for-tat closures of consulates in Houston and Chengdu and rhetorical sniping has become a daily occurrence.

Washington likely exacerbated those frictions by sending Azar to Taiwan, making him the highest-level U.S. official to visit the self-governing island since formal diplomatic relations were severed in 1979 in deference to China,

Beijing has been ratcheting up pressure on Taiwan, but that's just one area in which its increasingly assertive foreign policy and the accompanying push-back from Washington have taxed diplomacy on both sides.

Washington drew Beijing's ire last month when it parted with years of ambiguity by explicitly denying most of China's maritime claims in the strategically vital South China Sea. China says it owns the waterway and that activity in the area by the U.S. Navy, including sailing ships close to Chinese-controlled islands, threatens regional peace and stability.

Other disputes center on economic and human rights issues.

A two-year-old tariff war has buttressed U.S. actions targeting Chinese institutions and officials. Washington has been campaigning to exclude Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from the U.S. and its allies, a push China sees as a bare-knuckled attempt to restrain its development as a global technology power.

The U.S. says Huawei is beholden to China's ruling Communist Party and threatens to compromise personal data and the integrity of the information systems in the companies in which it operates. China says there is no proof of that.

President Donald Trump stepped-up the technology confrontation last week with an executive order banning dealings with the Chinese owners of consumer apps TikTok and WeChat, possibly leading to their becoming unavailable in the lucrative U.S. market.

The U.S. has sanctioned Chinese companies and officials over the alleged persecution of Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and has now turned its eye toward stricter Chinese control in Hong Kong.

As Azar was preparing to meet with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday, Hong Kong police arrested newspaper publisher and leading opposition figure Jimmy Lai as part of a crackdown on voices questioning Beijing's policies toward the former British colony, now a semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Washington has moved to withdraw trading and other privileges granted to Hong Kong in response to China's imposition of a sweeping national security law seen as an attack on free speech and political activism. China has denounced such actions as infringing on its domestic political affairs and Beijing-backed officials sanctioned by Washington, including the city's leader Carrie Lam, appeared over the weekend to laugh-off the penalties.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 29 of 82

Human rights complaints are a long-standing source of tension between the sides, and Trump has added to them with repeated allegations that China covered-up the initial outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The accumulated accusations against Beijing have observers saying Trump is hoping mistrust of China will boost his re-election chances come November. Democratic rival Joseph Biden has substantial foreign policy experience and has spent time with China's leader Xi Jinping, but underlying differences between the sides are expected to continue no matter who wins the election.

Beijing has protested Azar's visit as a betrayal of U.S. commitments not to have official contact with the island. Azar's visit was facilitated by the 2018 passage of the Taiwan Travel Act, which encouraged Washington to send higher-level officials to Taiwan after decades during which such contacts were rare.

"I would like to stress again that the Taiwan issue is the most important and sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Monday. "What the U.S. has done seriously violated its commitment on the Taiwan issue."

Warmer American relations with democratic Taiwan are largely a result of strong bipartisan support in Congress, but also appear to show how the Trump administration is willing to defy Beijing's threats and promote an alternative to Chinese Communist Party authoritarianism.

At the start of Monday's meeting with Tsai, Azar said the island's success in dealing with COVID-19 was a "tribute to the open, transparent, democratic nature of Taiwan's society and culture."

An island of 23 million people, Taiwan moved swiftly and aggressively to contain the coronavirus and has recorded just 277 reported cases and seven deaths from the illness.

Since taking office in 2016, Tsai has angered Beijing with her refusal to recognize China's claim to the island. Beijing has in turn cut contact with Tsai and brought increasing diplomatic, economic and military pressure against her, poaching away several of its few remaining diplomatic allies and excluding Taiwan from international gatherings such as the U.N. World Health Assembly.

Such moves have increased already considerable bipartisan sympathy for Taipei in Washington and prompted new measures to strengthen governmental and military ties.

Azar's visit will put further pressure on China-U.S. ties, but won't be seen as entirely unprecedented by China's leaders, said Shi Yinhong, an expert on international relations at Beijing's Renmin University.

"Of course, there will be very negative impact on China-U.S. relations, especially under the circumstances that China and the U.S. have fallen into confrontation in almost all areas," Shi said.

Beijing will respond with diplomatic protests and seek to prevent the further expansion of relations between Taipei and Washington, Shi said.

Azar's visit "is serious, but it is not extraordinary," Shi said.

## Why choice of running mate matters more than usual this year

By STEVE PEOPLES and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For all the secrecy and speculation that typically surrounds the search for a vice presidential candidate, the decision rarely sways an election. But ahead of Joe Biden's imminent announcement, this year could be different.

At a minimum, the decision will shift the force of the campaign — at least temporarily — away from Donald Trump's turbulent presidency onto Biden himself. That's not a place many Democrats are comfortable given Biden's proclivity for gaffes and the persistent lack of excitement behind his candidacy.

More fundamentally, the choice offers Biden an unusual opportunity to unify a party still reeling from Trump's 2016 win and solidify its future. He's already committed to selecting a woman and is considering several Black women. And since the 77-year-old Biden has not committed to seeking a second term, his running mate could be strongly positioned to become the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in 2024 and shape national politics for the next decade.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, who served as Hillary Clinton's vice presidential nominee in 2016, said Biden's decision "may be the most closely held and personally driven vice presidential pick ever."

"Nobody knows this job better than Joe Biden and nobody did the job better than Biden, so he's gonna

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 30 of 82

really control this one on his own," Kaine said in an interview.

He pushed back against those who discount the impact of running mates, estimating he added about 2 percentage points to Clinton's winning margin of 5 percentage points in Virginia.

While Biden has said a top priority is selecting someone who could step into the presidency on Day One, the politics of the moment have pushed the silver-haired white man to the brink of making history. He could become the first presidential nominee of a major party to select a woman of color. While he promised months ago to pick a woman, the nation's reckoning with systemic racism has added pressure to pick a Black woman.

But it's not certain he will do so. Last weekend, he met privately with Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who's white. Biden has said publicly she remains on his short list. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who also is white, has also been a leading contender.

Biden's campaign has refused to comment on his search, but his team has been in recent contact with a small group of finalists that includes at least four women of color: California Sen. Kamala Harris, former national security adviser Susan Rice, California Rep. Karen Bass and Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth.

Some were instructed late last week not to leave Washington, an indication that more in-person interviews, or an actual announcement, was imminent.

Within the party, there is some tension about how soon before the Democratic National Convention Biden should unveil his decision. While finalists and their allies believe the process has already gone on too long, experienced Democratic operatives want Biden to wait as long as possible before the convention's Aug. 17 start date to limit the vice presidential nominee's exposure to the attacks expected no matter whom he picks.

Almost none of the women has strong ties to a specific battleground state that might offer Democrats a geographic advantage this fall, which would represent a break from precedent to some extent. But Biden allies hope the historic nature of his pick might help energize two key Democratic constituencies: women and people of color.

Inside the campaign, some are privately skeptical that even a history-making pick would have a significant impact. There is a strong belief that after only a brief focus on Biden's running mate, the election would quickly return to being a referendum on Trump's presidency, which may be all the motivation Democrats need to drive massive turnout in November.

Yet Biden risks a real backlash from his base if he doesn't pick a woman of color, according to some activists.

"It would be a reckless choice to pick a white running mate with a party that's as dependent on black and brown voters as it is," said Aimee Allison of She the People, a political advocacy network for women of color. "A Black woman as VP is a healing link that our country needs right now to navigate this historic moment."

Running mates are rarely a deciding factor in presidential elections.

Kaine may have given Clinton a modest bump in his home state four years ago, but he did not prevent white men from abandoning Democrats in droves elsewhere. Republican nominee Mitt Romney picked Wisconsin native Paul Ryan in 2012 but lost Ryan's home state by nearly 7 percentage points. Trump, a New York native, won Wisconsin four years later running alongside Mike Pence, who was an unpopular governor in Indiana.

Some historians argue that adding Lyndon Johnson to the ticket helped John F. Kennedy win Texas in 1960 and capture the White House.

John McCain's 2008 selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin might be the most recent example of a running mate swaying an election. In that case, she had a negative impact when she appeared unfamiliar with world affairs and unprepared for the presidency. But those involved in the decision argue larger forces were at work that year and that McCain's loss wasn't just because of Palin.

"There was a lot of fury and chaos inside the campaign that resulted from it, but all of the electoral studies of voting behavior demonstrated there was really no electoral impact with (Palin) on the ticket,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 31 of 82

said former McCain campaign adviser Steve Schmidt, who attributed McCain's loss to the collapse of the nation's economy and voters' desire for change after the George W. Bush presidency.

"In retrospect, it was obviously a terrible decision," Schmidt said of Palin, "but people vote for the top of the ticket."

Former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican who was deeply involved in Ryan's vice presidential preparations in 2012, said the main objective of picking a running mate is to find someone who may compliment the presidential nominee. But above all, the person should do no harm.

The Trump campaign is eagerly awaiting Biden's announcement and the attention it will almost certainly divert from the Republican president's struggle to control the coronavirus pandemic, revive the economy and unify the nation. Given Biden's advanced age, Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh predicted that his pick would be far more significant than those of past nominees.

"Who he picks as VP could be seen as a sort of a living will for him politically," Murtaugh said.

He declined to offer any specific criticism of the finalists when asked. "It doesn't matter to us who he picks," he said, "because whoever it is will provide opportunities for us."

Jaffe reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Julie Pace in Washington contributed to this report.

## Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai arrested, newsroom searched

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities broadened their enforcement of a new national security law on Monday, arresting media tycoon Jimmy Lai, searching the headquarters of his Next Digital group and carting away boxes of what they said was evidence.

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

The police action marked the first time the law was used against news media, stoking fears that authorities are suppressing press freedom. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns China's Communist Party government. Last year, the newspaper frequently urged readers to take part in the anti-government protests.

Hong Kong police arrested Lai on Monday morning, an aide to the businessman said, in the highest-profile detention under the new law since it took effect in late June. Lai, 71, is an outspoken pro-democracy figure who regularly criticizes China's authoritarian rule and Hong Kong's government.

Mark Simon, a Next Digital executive and Lai's aide, said Lai was charged with collusion with foreign powers. He said police searched the homes of Lai and his son and detained several other members of the media company.

Hong Kong police said they arrested at least nine people between the ages of 23 and 72 on suspicion of violating the new security law, with offenses including collusion with a foreign country and conspiracy to defraud. They did not release the names of those arrested or provide further details of the charges.

Following Lai's arrest, about 200 police raided Next Digital's headquarters, cordoning off the area, searching desks and at times getting into heated exchanges with staff. What police were looking for in the building wasn't clear, although they later said they took away 25 boxes of evidence for processing.

Lai, who was arrested at his mansion in Kowloon in the morning, was also brought to the headquarters of Next Digital, where he remained for about two and a half hours before police took him away in a car.

"We are completely shocked by what's happening now, with the arrest and followed by the ongoing raid inside the headquarters of Next Digital," said Chris Yeung, chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association.

"With the passage of the national security law and the really tough powers given to the police in their operations, we have seen now what we call 'white terror' become a reality, which will affect media orga-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 32 of 82

nizations and journalists' reporting."

Police unblocked Next Digital's headquarters at mid-afternoon, with senior superintendent of police Steve Li saying that staff were free to resume their work.

Bruce Lui, a senior lecturer in Hong Kong Baptist University's journalism department, said authorities are using the national security law to make an example of media outlets like Apple Daily and this may harm press freedom in Hong Kong.

"They're used as an example to terrify others ... of what can happen if you don't obey or if you go too far," Lui said. "I think other media may make a judgment to censor themselves."

The share price of Next Digital soared over 200% in the afternoon, following posts on a popular online forum encouraging investors to support the company by buying its stock.

The reason for the charge against Lai wasn't clear.

In May, shortly after Beijing announced its intention to pass the national security law for Hong Kong, Lai condemned the legislation in a series of tweets. The state-owned newspaper Global Times called the tweets "evidence of subversion."

Lai also wrote an op-ed in the New York Times in May stating that China was repressing Hong Kong with the legislation.

"I have always thought I might one day be sent to jail for my publications or for my calls for democracy in Hong Kong," Lai wrote. "But for a few tweets, and because they are said to threaten the national security of mighty China? That's a new one, even for me."

Lai was earlier arrested in February and April for allegedly participating in unauthorized protests last year. He also faces charges of joining an unauthorized vigil on June 4 marking the anniversary of Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Last year, Lai met U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the White House to discuss a controversial bill — since withdrawn — that would have allowed criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China for trial.

But Hong Kong officials have said the security law, which took effect June 30, would not be applied retroactively. The law is widely seen as a means to curb dissent after anti-government protests rocked the semi-autonomous city for months last year.

The legislation outlaws secessionist, subversive and terrorist acts, as well as collusion with foreign forces in the city's internal affairs. The maximum punishment for serious offenders is life imprisonment.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council condemned the arrests in a statement, saying they were a tool for the Chinese Communist Party's "political cleansing and hegemonic expansion." It said the law is being abused to suppress freedom of speech, press freedom and the civil rights of Hong Kong people.

Last month, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said pro-democracy activist Nathan Law and five others were wanted under the law, although all six had fled overseas. Law relocated to Britain in July to continue international advocacy work for Hong Kong.

## Lebanon questions security chief, minister quits over blast

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Lebanese judge on Monday began questioning the heads of the country's security agencies over last week's devastating blast in Beirut as another Cabinet minister resigned in protest.

Judge Ghassan El Khoury began questioning Maj. Gen. Tony Saliba, the head of State Security, according to state-run National News Agency. It gave no further details, but other generals are scheduled to be questioned.

Justice Minister Marie-Claude Najm, who was sprayed with water and verbally attacked last week while visiting a damaged area, meanwhile handed her resignation to the prime minister on Monday, the news agency said. She is the third Cabinet minister to resign over the blast.

A Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Monday, amid speculation the government could resign en masse. If a total of seven out of the 20 ministers resign, the Cabinet would effectively become a caretaker govern-



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 33 of 82

ment. At least nine members of parliament have resigned.

The Aug. 4, blast killed 160 people and wounded about 6,000, in addition to destroying the country's main port and damaging large parts of the capital. Losses from the blast are estimated to be between \$10 billion to \$15 billion, and nearly 300,000 people were left homeless in the immediate aftermath.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by a fire that ignited a stockpile of explosive material that had been stored at the port since 2013. The disaster has been widely blamed on years of corruption and neglect by the entrenched political leadership that has governed Lebanon since its 1975-1990 civil war.

About 20 people have been detained over the blast, including the head of Lebanon's customs department and his predecessor, as well as the head of the port. Dozens of people have been questioned, including two former Cabinet ministers, according to government officials.

The investigation is focused on how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive chemical used in fertilizers, came to be stored at a warehouse in Beirut's port for six years, and why nothing was done about it.

State Security had compiled a report about the dangers of storing the material at the port and sent a copy to the offices of the president and prime minister on July 20.

On Sunday, world leaders and international organizations pledged nearly \$300 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Beirut in the wake of the devastating explosion, but warned that no money for rebuilding the capital would be made available until Lebanese authorities commit themselves to the political and economic reforms demanded by the people.

Protesters have clashed with security forces over the past two days in Beirut. The demonstrators blame the explosion and a severe economic crisis on the ruling elite and are calling for sweeping political change. Similar demonstrations last autumn fizzled out after several weeks.

Iran meanwhile expressed concern that Western countries and their allies might exploit anger over the explosion to pursue their political interests. Iran supports the Hezbollah militant group, which along with its allies dominates the government and parliament.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said "it is natural for people to be frustrated." But he said it would be "unacceptable if some individuals, groups and foreign countries use the incident as a pretext for their purposes and intentions."

## **Extreme poverty rises; a generation sees a future slip away**

By ELIAS MESERET and CARA ANNA Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — As a domestic worker, Amsale Hailemariam knew from the inside out the luxury villas that had grown up around her simple shelter of raw metal and plastic sheeting. And in them, she saw how her country, Ethiopia, had transformed.

The single mother told herself, "Oh God, a day will come when my life will be changed, too." The key lay in her daughter, just months from a career in public health, who studied how to battle the illnesses of want and hunger.

Then a virus mentioned in none of her textbooks arrived, and dreams faded for families, and entire countries, like theirs. Decades of progress in one of modern history's greatest achievements, the fight against extreme poverty, are in danger of slipping away because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world could see its first increase in extreme poverty in 22 years, further sharpening social inequities.

"We are living in a state where we are above the dead and below the living," Amsale said, near tears. "This is not life."

With the virus and its restrictions, up to 100 million more people globally could fall into the bitter existence of living on just \$1.90 a day, according to the World Bank. That's "well below any reasonable conception of a life with dignity," the United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty wrote this year. And it comes on top of the 736 million people already there, half of them in just five countries: Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Congo and Bangladesh.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 34 of 82

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India is struggling with one of the world's largest virus caseloads and the effects of a lockdown so abrupt and punishing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the poor to forgive him. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, has surpassed India with the most people in extreme poverty — roughly half its citizens. And Congo remains one of the world's most crisis-ridden countries, with outbreaks of Ebola and measles smoldering.

Even China, Indonesia and South Africa are expected to have more than 1 million people each fall into extreme poverty, the World Bank says.

"It's a huge, huge setback for the entire world," Gayle Smith, president of the ONE Campaign to end extreme poverty, told The Associated Press. Smith, a former administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development, called the global response to the crisis "stunningly meager."

Most of the millions newly at risk are in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that against countless odds had some of the world's fastest growing economies in recent years. The World Bank shared with the AP the earliest data out of Ethiopia as it takes a global measure of the pandemic's direct effects over several months, showing that the pain is already widespread. Similar efforts are under way in more than 100 countries.

Back in 1991, when Ethiopia began its transformation, the country was exhausted by war. A new leader, Meles Zenawi, was shaking off years of Marxist dictatorship and terrifying drought whose images of withered children left the world aghast. The former rebel had a vision that became his legacy, one of bringing millions of countrymen out of grinding poverty.

Amsale was newly arrived in the capital, Addis Ababa, from what is now neighboring Eritrea, her baby daughter in her arms. For her the child, Bethlehem Jafar, became a tiny symbol of the city's rise.

Bethlehem benefited from the welfare of the state and the charity of those who saw in her a better future. Her mother scraped by through manual labor, vowing her girl would never do the same.

Fellow Ethiopians were moving up in the world, as the government looked to emulate China's astonishing lifting of more than 800 million people from poverty. Some embraced new manufacturing jobs. Others left subsistence farms for the growing sectors of hospitality, services and aviation that catered to the changing times, hoping to join Africa's expanding middle class.

The number of people in extreme poverty dropped dramatically, from nearly half of Ethiopia's population in the mid-1990s to 23% two decades later. "Impressive," the World Bank said.

The high-altitude city of Addis Ababa, Africa's diplomatic capital, became an aviation hub, and a magnet for millions of citizens seeking better lives. Some grasped the first rung of upward mobility in the hustle of the untaxed informal sector, dodging the growing number of cars in the streets that signaled the middle class.

Under the country's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, the capital in the past two years has seen a wave of new construction, including malls and luxury apartments. And a source of national pride is a massive dam near completion on the Nile, funded completely by Ethiopia and its citizens in a bid to pull millions more from poverty.

Now Ethiopians of all kinds are hurting in the pandemic. The country, along with Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa, is expected to see half of sub-Saharan Africa's new extreme poor.

As the huge economic toll ahead became clearer, Ethiopia's prime minister took the global lead in appealing to rich countries to cancel the debt of poorer ones, saying his own country spends twice as much on paying off external debt as it does on health.

In trying to grasp the impact of a global slide into extreme poverty, even some experts feel at a loss. From his home in Addis Ababa, Fitsum Dagmawi has heard his countrymen's fear. As part of the World Bank survey, he is calling people across the country and asking how their lives have changed since the virus arrived.

"We might interview five to 10 people a day, and this pandemic is affecting everyone," he said. "We are feeling this stress every day."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 35 of 82

Some people begin weeping, recounting family member's deaths, asking bewildered questions: What will we do now?

Jobs are gone. Families wonder how to feed their children. The gatherings that played a stabilizing role — church services, weddings, funerals — have been limited or lost.

"I will have to struggle," one head of a household said.

The first round of calls to 3,200 households in Ethiopia found a 61% drop in employment, with many job losses in sectors closely tied to the country's growth: construction, hospitality, restaurants, big hotels.

The second round of calls saw some rebound, but employment could mean anything in a country where most work remains informal. Now some people with degrees find themselves seeking manual labor.

"Small shocks in income can have devastating effects," World Bank senior economist Christina Wieser said.

It shows. In Ethiopia, 55% of households blamed a drop in regular income for the inability to buy items like medicine or staple foods. Nearly 40% had lost all earnings from remittances from the large diaspora, a crucial way to stay afloat.

For many Ethiopians, there is still little cushion between getting by and destitution. Just over 20% of households were relying on savings, and 19% were already eating less. A quarter had run out of food in the last 30 days, and just over 5% of households received support of any kind.

"I have not paid my rent for two months, and I'm not sure my landlord will give me more time," a 32-year-old father of two told the AP. "Just imagine, out of work and living with COVID. It's very stressful."

He was fired in May from a Chinese-owned company in one of the industrial parks that have sprung up in recent years as a government-backed engine of development.

"We were told business is slow due to the virus," the man said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he hoped to be rehired.

So much depends on how long the pandemic lasts. The African Development Bank once assumed that COVID-19 would subside by June, country director Abdul Kamara said. Now, he said, "decades of poverty reduction in Ethiopia could be lost."

Before the pandemic, the bank estimated the country's economy would grow by more than 7% this year. The current worst-case scenario shows just 2.6%.

Ethiopia's revenue losses are estimated at \$1.2 billion, at a time when the government needs more money to expand social safety nets, Kamara said. And some 2.5 million jobs are threatened, roughly the same number of Ethiopians who enter the workforce every year.

For a young woman like Bethlehem, the way forward seems in shambles. She was forced home from her studies as school closed and now shelters with her mother.

Their home is just steps away from a public toilet that overflows with the rainy season. "Even if we protect ourselves from infection, the area we are living in makes us vulnerable," Amsale said. "And that worries us to death."

The better-off neighbors who once welcomed her into their homes to cook and clean now turn her away, fearing the virus.

"They told me we should avoid contact," she said. "There was no help I received from them since."

She and her daughter make do with the equivalent of \$34 a month that Amsale receives from local authorities for helping with projects like beautifying public spaces and sweeping the streets. But she doesn't like to go out, fearing infection.

Bethlehem did not want to be photographed, anxious that images of her in the humble surroundings could further challenge her suddenly difficult future. She sat in their home, going over her books and lingering over a former teacher's scribbled message of hope: "Bethi, we love you so much & wish you success in your education."

Her knowledge of public health makes her keenly aware how poverty compounds the risks of a deadly pandemic.

"I think Ethiopia's peak (virus) season is yet to come, and I really hope some vaccines will be available soon," Bethlehem said. "For now, we are waiting for a miracle that can change our lives."

Anna reported from Johannesburg.

Follow AP pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Trump end run around Congress raises questions on his claims

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump's end run around Congress on coronavirus relief is raising questions about whether it would give Americans the economic lifeline he claims and appears certain to face legal challenges. Democrats called it a pre-election ploy that would burden cash-strapped states.

"When you look at those executive orders ... the kindest thing I could say is he doesn't know what he's talking about or something's wrong there," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "To characterize them as even accomplishing what they set out to do, as something that will take the place of an agreement, is just not so."

After negotiations with lawmakers on the next package of pandemic economic assistance hit a wall, Trump used what he said were the inherent powers of the presidency to forge ahead on tax and spending policy that Congress says it is granted by the Constitution.

Trump asserted he had the authority to defer payroll taxes and extend an expired unemployment benefit, although at a lower amount than what the jobless had been getting during the crisis. His reelection chances imperiled by the pandemic, the Republican president contended his orders "will take care of pretty much this entire situation, as we know it."

But the orders appeared to carry less weight than Trump promoted and cut federal relief spending by shifting more onto the shoulders of struggling states. Critics said the actions crossed a legal line and fell well short of what is needed to help right the fragile economy.

"Paltry," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, given the scope of the economic and health crises.

Though certain to further strain relations with Congress, the moves were framed by the White House as the president breaking through the Washington gridlock in order to directly distribute aid. Advisers hope it will sustain an economic recovery that Trump likely needs to defeat Democrat Joe Biden in November.

With an eye on reversing his slide in the polls, Trump took full credit for the measures, which he signed at his New Jersey golf club on Saturday after congressional talks broke down this past week. Democrats initially sought a \$3.4 trillion package but said they lowered their demand to \$2 trillion. Republicans had proposed a \$1 trillion plan.

Trump accused Democrats of trying to spend more than was needed and adding money for priorities unrelated to the pandemic. He said local aid amounted to "bailout money" for states and cities "badly run by Democrats for many years. ... And we're not willing to do that."

The president wants to continue paying a supplemental federal unemployment benefit for millions of Americans put out of work during the outbreak. But his order called for up to \$400 payments each week, compared with the \$600 that people had been receiving. Trump said states would cover 25% of this money even as many are dealing with major budget shortfalls.

As state officials questioned whether they could afford \$100 per person per week, Trump offered a new angle to the plan. Speaking to reporters Sunday night as he returned to Washington, he said states could make application to have the federal government provide all or part of the \$400 payments. He said decisions would be made on a state-by-state basis.

Trump said earlier that the federal contribution would be redirected from disaster relief money at the Federal Emergency Management Agency — dollars not likely to last more than two months. Shifting FEMA disaster funds also would occur as the peak of hurricane season looms and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns of an "extremely active" season already underway.

Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, struggled during a television interview Sunday morning to

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 37 of 82

clearly explain the specifics of his boss' order on unemployment aid. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the \$100 share from states would come from an earlier pool of federal money and that Trump may waive the requirement about how it can be used.

"Look, that would cost us about \$500 million between now and the end of the year," said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democrat. "I could take that money from testing. I don't think that's a great idea. I could take that money from, you know, mass disinfecting for our schools. I don't think that's a great idea. In fact, I think the president's plan is not a great idea."

Pelosi, D-Calif., criticized Trump for not doing anything to help schools trying to reopen and she said the orders were "unconstitutional slop."

Trump also acted to defer payment of the payroll tax, a long-pushed goal that had little support from either party on Capitol Hill, and federal student loans. His order on housing is not a guarantee against eviction, as he claimed, but instead directs the departments of the Treasury and Housing and Urban Development to identify money that could help those struggling to pay their monthly rent.

Trump said the employee portion of the payroll tax would be deferred from Aug. 1 through the end of the year, and he raised the possibility of making it permanent, though experts said he lacked that authority. The temporary deferral would not directly aid unemployed workers, who do not pay the tax when they are jobless. Employees would need to repay the federal government eventually without an act of Congress.

The president was silent on Saturday on how he would fund Medicare and Social Security benefits that the 7% tax on employee income covers. Democrats seized on the possible threat to Social Security as a signal that Trump wanted to cut the social safety net.

On Sunday night, in the wake of that criticism, Trump told reporters the money would not come from Social Security but from the Treasury if the government didn't require workers to repay the taxes. Again, that would require congressional action.

"If the Democrats want to challenge us in court and hold up unemployment benefits to those hardworking Americans who are out of a job because of COVID, they're going to have a lot of explaining to do," Mnuchin said.

Both the White House and congressional Democrats indicated Sunday they wanted to resume negotiations, but no talks were scheduled.

The breakdown comes with the Nov. 3 election approaching and the White House nervously watching signs that the economic recovery is slowing down as the coronavirus surges.

"This is not presidential leadership," Biden said. "These orders are not real solutions. They are just another cynical ploy designed to deflect responsibility. Some measures do far more harm than good."

Pelosi and Mnuchin were on "Fox News Sunday," Schumer was on ABC's "This Week" and Lamont was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

## 5 things to know today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. **PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CORONAVIRUS RELIEF RAISES QUESTIONS** Critics are asking whether it would give Americans the economic lifeline he claims. And Democratic leaders are calling it a pre-election ploy.

2. **EXTREME POVERTY ON THE RISE** The World Bank says up to 100 million people globally could fall into the bitter existence of living on just \$1.90 a day. Most of them are in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that had some of the world's fastest growing economies in recent years.

3. **WHY BIDEN'S VP PICK IS A BIG DEAL** Political veterans from both parties report that Joe Biden's pick will shift the focus of the 2020 contest, at least temporarily, away from Donald Trump. The decision also marks a critical window into Biden's decision making.

4. **AP WAS THERE: WATTS RIOTS** On Aug. 11, 1965, an uprising began in Los Angeles after the drunken driving arrest of a young Black man by a white California Highway Patrol officer. Watts has never fully recovered from fires that leveled hundreds of buildings or the violence that killed 34 people.

5. HONG KONG MEDIA TYCOON ARRESTED Police have arrested Jimmy Lai and raided the publisher's headquarters in the highest-profile use yet of the new security law Beijing imposed on the city in June.

## **Pandemic wrecks global Class of 2020's hopes for first job**

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — British fashion school graduate Phoebe St. Leger's dream of landing a job at a design label is on hold. Like many others in the global Class of 2020, the pandemic is clouding her career ambitions.

The coronavirus forced the cancellation of her university graduating class's final-year fashion show, removing the chance to show her knitwear collection to people in the industry, some of whom might have liked her work enough to offer her a job.

Instead, St. Leger, 22, returned to her family home in Winchester, southern England, and submitted her classwork online. She has applied for about 40 jobs and received only rejections.

"All the jobs have all dried up - everywhere," she said. She knows graduates from previous years who have been fired or furloughed and is prepared to get a job at a bar. "It's still hard to be hopeful when you're not seeing anyone doing well at the moment."

Around the world, young people armed with new degrees, diplomas and professional qualifications are struggling to enter the workforce as the pandemic pushes the global economy into recession. COVID-19 has thwarted hopes of landing first jobs - important for jumpstarting careers - as employers cut back graduate recruiting plans or even revoke job offers.

The latest U.S. job numbers Friday underscored the murky outlook: 1.8 million jobs were added in July, a sharp slowdown in employment growth from the month before. It means the world's biggest economy has regained just 42% of jobs lost to the coronavirus.

U.S. careers website Glassdoor says the number of jobs advertised as "entry level" or "new grad" was down 68% in May from a year ago. In Britain, companies plan to cut student recruitment by 23% this year, according to a survey of 179 businesses by the Institute of Student Employers.

The wave of delayed employment will ripple out through the economy, says Brian Kropp, chief of HR research at consultancy Gartner.

Many grads will have student loan debts they won't be able to start paying off until they find a job, he said.

"If you can't get an entry level job today, that means that you don't move out of your parent's house, you don't develop real work experience, you don't buy your first home until later, and you don't get married until later."

Michael Welch, 22, has been scouring LinkedIn, Monster and Indeed for postings and connections after earning a University of Connecticut engineering degree. He hadn't planned to start his job search until after graduation.

"That plan was disrupted because I was planning to go into a good job market," he said. "Suddenly I was in one of the worst job markets in recent history."

Welch, who moved back home with his parents, worries about online interviews and starting a job remotely.

"Remote jobs are great for someone who doesn't have to commute and already has a job," he said. But "for someone entering the job market it is a scary prospect. It's difficult to learn technical skills when you're in a remote setting."

Noah Isaak, a 2019 grad and newly certified teacher, has been applying for jobs in the Chicago public school system and has done a few interviews but they didn't lead anywhere. Most of the people he knows from his program are having trouble, too.

Now he's considering applying for minimum wage jobs at Target, Costco, coffee shops and Amazon.

"I'm stressed," said Isaak, 23. "Nothing is really going how we expected it to go. It's comforting that it's not a personal flaw and other people are going through the same struggle. But it is difficult not knowing."

One important long-term effect for young graduates who take longer to find good first jobs is lower pay

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 39 of 82

over the course of their careers, experts said.

Someone who takes a year or more to find their first job lags behind their peers when it comes to promotions and also competes with younger people who come on to the job market later.

The problem, like the pandemic, is global.

Graduate job vacancies for July are down from the previous year in 10 countries, according to Adzuna, a job postings search engine. Britain, India and the Netherlands have seen the biggest declines, with postings down by more than half from a year ago, but other countries including Austria, Australia, Brazil, and France are also seeing double digit percentage drops.

Graduate jobs are expected to shrink in 21 countries, with most unlikely to recover next year, according to a separate report by Britain's ISE.

Maria Jose Casco, a newly qualified doctor, hasn't found work after graduating in Ecuador in April. Casco, 24, said she's been searching for health-related jobs as well as work in other industries.

Even though the pandemic means more need for health services, she found employers aren't hiring for full time jobs.

"They're looking for temporary staff they can easily fire," Casco said. She and her husband are living off savings and his \$480 monthly salary and, like others, are considering emigrating. "Because there is no future, many of my colleagues are looking at the possibility of leaving Ecuador."

The pandemic is compounding problems for young people in countries plagued by chronic economic instability.

Two years after graduating with from Zimbabwe's Midlands State University, 24-year old Emmanuel Reyai is no closer to his goal of getting a job related to his degree in local governance. His search is stymied by both the African country's economic collapse and the coronavirus outbreak.

"I have applied more than 40 times - nothing," he said, clutching a plastic folder containing his academic certificates.

More than two thirds of Zimbabwe's population, including university grads, get by on informal trade such as street hawking. Reyai initially resold cooking gas from a shack in his poor Harare neighborhood but the local council razed it after the outbreak. Now he makes and sells peanut butter around the city.

"There are no hopes of getting a job," said Reyai. "I have tried all I can to apply for jobs but the situation is not getting any better. It is actually getting worse."

In Indonesia, Clara Karina, 25, graduated in January with an accounting degree from a well-known business and finance school in Jakarta.

She wanted to work as a civil servant but applied for jobs at private firms as the government froze recruitment. Only three of 20 companies replied to her applications. Two turned her down and the third is in progress.

"Companies aren't recruiting new employees, they're reducing employees now," Karina said. "I need to be more patient."

For some, there are happy endings.

In China, 23-year-old Li Xin graduated this summer with a statistics degree but had started looking for a job in January - just as the pandemic forced many companies to suspend operations. She encountered apparent scams from companies hiring for finance and IT jobs that wanted hefty "training fees."

Some classmates found banking jobs thanks to their connections. Others without ties ended up in industries unrelated to their degrees. Several are doing tutoring jobs, and Li found one herself but lasted just a week.

She felt hopeless but also realized everyone has it hard.

"I'd sit in the subway, seeing the people come and go around me, and I'd suddenly feel that it wasn't easy for anyone," Li said.

Eventually, Li landed a data analysis job in her hometown near Beijing that started this month. More than half her class, though, have yet to find jobs.

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Gonzalo Solano in Quito, Ecuador, Mae Anderson in New York, Edna Tarigan in Jakarta, Indonesia and

Farai Mutsaka in Harare, Zimbabwe contributed to this story.

Follow Kelvin Chan at [twitter.com/chanman](https://twitter.com/chanman)

## 55 years after riots, Watts neighborhood still bears scars

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There were no fires this time in Watts. There was no looting, no shooting and no National Guard troops patrolling.

Protesters filled the streets around the country in late May and June following the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, demanding an end to police brutality. There was violence and looting in some places, including Los Angeles, but not in LA's Watts neighborhood, forever linked to an uprising that broke out in the segregated community 55 years ago and became known as the Watts riots.

Demonstrators made a point not to go into Watts or other poor neighborhoods this time.

Watts has never fully recovered from fires that leveled hundreds of buildings or the violence that killed 34 people — two-thirds of whom were shot by police or National Guard troops. Those who lived through those frightening days and those who grew up in its aftermath are keenly aware of that past and the lessons it taught.

"People have learned from the history to say we're not going to burn our community," said state Assemblyman Mike Gipson, who was born in Watts a year after the turmoil. "We realize our community is not going to be built again."

Watts has changed from an exclusively Black neighborhood in the 1960s to one that's majority Latino. It remains poor, with high unemployment.

The uprising started Aug. 11, 1965, in a nearby neighborhood after the drunken driving arrest of a young Black man by a white California Highway Patrol officer. The violence reflected pent-up anger over an abusive police force, a problem that has ebbed but not entirely faded, according to those who live here.

Improvements over the years include a more diverse Los Angeles Police Department that better reflects the city's population. One of Watts' major public housing developments, Jordan Downs, is being rebuilt with a nearby retail shopping complex.

A government commission that studied the cause of the rebellion called for better police-community relations and more low-income housing, along with better schools, more job training, more efficient public transportation and better health care. While some gains have been made, those who live here say the area has a long way to go to overcome decades of neglect.

Black residents, people born here and those who work to make life better in Watts spoke to The Associated Press about the challenges they faced and those that remain.

Donny Joubert remembers the chaos of 1965 through the eyes of a 5-year-old.

Smoke filled the air and adults wept in front of a black-and-white TV tuned to images of their community burning and widespread looting.

When he saw National Guard troops walking outside, Joubert thought his plastic toy soldiers had come to life.

"What really shocked me was I look up and I see the same guys I was holding were walking through the development with guns on their shoulders," Joubert said.

Like some young men in the area, Joubert joined a gang and ended up in jail.

But at 20, and with a young daughter, he got a second chance. Through a program founded by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters of California he eventually got a job at the Los Angeles Housing Authority, where he's now a grounds supervisor.

He's also vice president of the Watts Gang Task Force, which meets weekly with police. If there are reports of an abusive officer — someone roughing people up or prone to stopping cars without cause — they tell the captain. The officer may get transferred, though Joubert is concerned that just moves the



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 41 of 82

problem to another neighborhood.

He wants to see more done to prosecute police for brutality and fatal shootings. Only two officers in Los Angeles County have been prosecuted for on-duty killings in the past 20 years, a period in which close to 900 people, mostly Black and Latino, have been killed by law enforcement.

"It's been a crooked system when it came to us. They always had a system to keep us locked up, to keep a knee in our neck," Joubert said. "Every dirty cop that took a Black life, that took a Latino life without cause, we want them in prison because that's what they did to us."

Residents of Watts are still living with collateral damage from 1965, said the Rev. Marcus Murchinson, who preaches at the Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church and also runs a charter high school, drug rehab clinics and offers health care.

Many of the businesses that burned were never rebuilt. A corridor of Black-owned restaurants, clothing stores and bars never rebounded.

The area has long been termed a "food desert" because of a lack of fresh fruits and vegetables and a plethora of fast food restaurants and convenience and liquor stores stocked with booze, junk food and cigarettes. It took 20 years for a supermarket to be built after the uprising.

"It was almost an act of punishment when they burned down the grocery store," Murchinson said of the time it took to get a new one.

Murchinson, 36, who didn't grow up in Watts, said the community has survived uprisings in 1965 and 1992 following the acquittal of the officers who beat Rodney King. But surviving is not enough.

"The spirit of the people of Watts has not changed. They are still resilient. They are still vibrant," he said. "They have the root of survival. That is a good and bad thing. When you have the testimony of surviving, you sometimes think that is success and think surviving equates to thriving, and it doesn't."

He said residents still suffer from years of systemic racism in policing, banking and housing. Multiple generations of the same families continue to live in public housing projects and only a small percentage get off government assistance and achieve the dream of owning a home.

"What project is going on there?" he asked. "The project seems to be to warehouse people and make them comfortable, not competent."

Lavarn Young, 81, who moved to Watts from Texas in 1946, said she's seen a lot of good change since the uprising.

Freeways built nearby make it easier to get around, there's a light rail stop in the heart of Watts and shopping centers eventually replaced businesses that burned down in 1965.

But she said gangs have made the neighborhood more dangerous than it was a half-century ago, even if crime is not as bad as during the crack cocaine epidemic of the 1980s and early '90s.

Young, who was horse race bookie and later worked in special education in schools, lives in her parents' house, which is lined with family photos.

One of her sons lives in the house behind her. He gets by on disability pay after a bullet lodged in his brain when he was shot in the eye. He survived two other shootings, as well.

Young has 15 grandchildren and lots of nephews and nieces who are in and out of the house. She doesn't ask if they are in gangs.

"You don't have to be in a gang, but you're associated with it," she said. "If you're in a Blood hood, you're a Blood. If you're in a Crip hood, you're a Crip. It depends where you were born."

Fences now separate homes on the streets where children once played on one another's lawns, and bars cover many windows.

"Now, you hardly know your neighbors," she said.

Former gang member Eric Frierson, 37, lives in Imperial Courts, one of the housing projects he refers to as "tribal institutions" because of the rivalries that divide residents despite sharing "the same struggle."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 42 of 82

Frierson laments losing focus on becoming a good athlete and falling prey to the “distractions.”

“You come outside and see the sidewalk stained with blood. It doesn’t go anywhere. Every time you go by it, you see it,” he said.

His father was in prison, and Frierson served time for robbery, a felony conviction that prevents him from getting work.

“I went behind that wall. I continued the trend,” Frierson said.

He said he’s not optimistic the current activism will lead to big improvements. But he’s planning to set up some type of club that will provide sorely lacking activities for kids.

Frierson still sees a lot of good within the walls of the housing projects.

“There’s a lot more love in those bricks than they give us credit for,” he said.

Hank Henderson, 62, and his family arrived in Watts from Indianapolis the year before the uprising and has seen the bad and good of the neighborhood. He remembers the fires, shattered windows, burned-out cars and soldiers in the streets.

He saw the businesses that never returned: banks, doctor’s offices, a gas station, pharmacies, a dental office, barbershops, a grocery store and cleaners.

The neighborhood was rough, but Henderson stayed out of trouble — his father wouldn’t tolerate it and he played sports. He was a local Golden Gloves champ and trains young boxers today.

The Black Lives Matter movement and Floyd’s death have brought attention to abuses Black people have witnessed and suffered for years, though Henderson said that situation has improved since LAPD started listening to their complaints.

“The police car says, ‘To protect and to serve’ but ‘seek and destroy’ is what they were doing,” Henderson said. “People are listening now. They’re realizing what’s been going on all these years.”

Henderson moved out of Watts about two years after a son, Rayshawn Boyce, was gunned down in 2009. The suspected killer was caught but never charged because witnesses feared for their safety.

“Here, they got this code. You don’t say nothing,” Henderson said. “They had witnesses at first but then they backed off. They would have had to move, and where were they going to go?”

Henderson left the Nickerson Gardens housing project after nearly 50 years, moving to the suburbs about 30 miles (50 kilometers) inland.

“I didn’t want to get out of here for years. I just wasn’t ready. A lot of people moved out, but they weren’t ready for the real world,” he said.

The divisions in Watts — the gangs, the different housing projects — trickle down to children, who grow up aware of the feuds.

“Our park is surrounded by three different areas,” Benjamin Jackson Jr. said. “Certain kids from our community of Watts can’t get together. We don’t even have a neutral meeting place.”

Jackson grew up in Jordan Downs public housing, a weather-beaten collection of two-story apartment buildings originally built to house steelworkers after World War II. The complex is undergoing a major makeover that will include much-needed retail.

He still lives in the project.

“It’s easy to get in one, harder to get out because we’re born in it,” Jackson said. “The only time seeing anything different from the projects was me being incarcerated.”

Jackson got in trouble at age 10 and was in an out of lockups much of his life. He was a member of the Grape Street Crips, but now, at 44, he’s older, wiser and “no longer a gangbanger.”

He said police used to pick up him and others ostensibly for questioning. On the way to the station, they’d say they had to respond to another call and would drop him in rival turf, all alone.

They no longer do that, but he said he’s still harassed despite being a carpenter who hasn’t been on parole or probation in 10 years.

“They put me up against a wall. ‘Let’s jack him up and see if he got any warrants,’” Jackson said. “They’ll say the music was too loud when I don’t have music playing or spot me with people in the car and will

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 43 of 82

just pull me over.”

He said the main goal is to get out of the projects, to give his children a better life with a house and a yard. The oldest of his seven kids, a 24-year-old daughter, has realized that dream and lives in central California.

“She ain’t never coming back,” Jackson said.

On a small building that backs up to freight train tracks on Compton Avenue, an image of Martin Luther King Jr. is painted on a wall across the word, “DREAM.”

Inside the Shack by the Track, Lorinda Lacy tries to make those letters come to life for Watts residents. In addition to assembling party supplies for a living and serving snacks — hamburgers, cookies, candy — she spends a lot of her time and energy helping others.

Lacy, known as Auntie Moe, is one of many in Watts, including nonprofits and charities, who provide for those in need.

Lacy does all her work on a shoestring budget, providing blankets and pillows to the homeless, feeding children who miss out on school lunches during the summer and providing hundreds of free meals each holiday to anyone who’s hungry. She gets contributions, buys food when it’s cheap and gets handouts from churches and food pantries.

“I don’t have anything to give back but my love,” she said. “I’m not rich. I’m poor.”

Lacy said her brother, the rapper Kevin “Flipside” White, was her inspiration and mentor for giving back to the community. White was part of the group OFTB, or Operation from the Bottom, that recorded with Death Row Records and worked on several tracks with the late Tupac Shakur.

White died in a drive-by shooting in 2013.

Lacy, 45, moved out of Watts 20 years ago because she didn’t want her daughters to grow up with the trauma she experienced.

She said she eventually became “immune” to the violence after stepping over bodies on the way to school and finding out who had been killed the night before or who had their house shot up. As a child, she slept on the floor because of frequent drive-by shootings.

“If it wasn’t every night, it was every other night,” she said.

Even though she moved out, she hasn’t given up on her old neighborhood, where her mother still lives in the house where Lacy grew up.

She’s trying to provide a safe place where people can hang out while she works. Music plays in the background and kids play games outside.

“All I’m doing is taking my stand and doing my part,” she said.

Gipson attributes his success partly to hardworking parents — a father who was a truck driver and a mother who was a domestic worker — who did not spare him from discipline. They taught him to respect others, and neighbors also looked out for him and told his parents when he was out of line.

There was immense pressure to join a gang, and he wanted to be part of one. But Gipson said the leader wouldn’t let him join, partly because he was afraid of Gipson’s mother.

Gipson’s turning point came in middle school when he overcame a speech impediment and low self-esteem and was elected class president.

“It was difficult growing up, but not impossible growing up in Watts,” he said.

Inspired by a cousin who worked as a U.S. marshal, Gipson eventually became a police officer in the city of Maywood and then left for a series of jobs working for politicians and unions. He was elected to City Council in Carson in 2005 and state Assembly in 2014 to represent an area that includes Watts.

He said the legacy of the Watts riots is something he keeps in mind as he tries to make life better for residents.

“I would say, even though I didn’t know them in 1965, those people didn’t lose their lives in order for someone to grow up in Watts and not create and make a better place for the next generation,” he said. “What you have seen, my God, even in 2020 where people feel disenfranchised, marginalized, feel like

they've been pushed aside and left for dead, been invisible, their voices have not been elevated to the point where change is effective."

Asked why so much is still needed in Watts, Gipson said change is slow. He cited the millions poured into rebuilding Jordan Downs. A new hospital that serves the area opened five years ago to replace the county-run Martin Luther King Jr. hospital that was closed after patient deaths and shoddy care.

Floyd's death inspired Gipson to introduce legislation to ban the use of a controversial neck hold that police officers use to restrain suspects. Floyd was handcuffed on the ground and gasping for air as an officer pressed a knee in his neck for nearly eight minutes.

Gipson also wants to see bias training for police, more people of color hired on the force and an affirmative action ban in the state repealed.

"We're not the same California we were 55 years ago or the city of Los Angeles 55 years ago. We're moving forward, we're bringing people together," Gipson said. "Voices are saying, 'We've been mistreated.' Change is in the air."

## **Blast destroyed landmark 19th century palace in Beirut**

By ANDREA ROSA Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The 160-year-old palace withstood two world wars, the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the French mandate and Lebanese independence. After the country's 1975-1990 civil war, it took 20 years of careful restoration for the family to bring the palace back to its former glory.

"In a split second, everything was destroyed again," says Roderick Sursock, owner of Beirut's landmark Sursock Palace, one of the most storied buildings in the Lebanese capital.

He steps carefully over the collapsed ceilings, walking through rooms covered in dust, broken marble and crooked portraits of his ancestors hanging on the cracked walls. The ceilings of the top floor are all gone, and some of the walls have collapsed. The level of destruction from the massive explosion at Beirut's port last week is 10 times worse than what 15 years of civil war did, he says.

More than 160 people were killed in the blast, around 6,000 were injured and thousands of residential buildings and offices were damaged. Several heritage buildings, traditional Lebanese homes, museums and art galleries have also sustained various degrees of damage.

The Sursock palace, built in 1860 in the heart of historical Beirut on a hill overlooking the now-obliterated port, is home to beautiful works of arts, Ottoman-era furniture, marble and paintings from Italy — collected by three long-lasting generations of the Sursock family.

The Greek Orthodox family, originally from the Byzantine capital, Constantinople — now Istanbul — settled in Beirut in 1714.

The three-story mansion has been a landmark in Beirut. With its spacious garden, it's been the venue for countless weddings, cocktail parties and receptions over the years, and has been admired by tourists who visit the nearby Sursock museum.

The house in Beirut's Christian quarter of Achrafieh is listed as a cultural heritage site, but Sursock said only the army has come to assess the damage in the neighborhood. So far, he's had no luck reaching the Culture Ministry.

The palace is so damaged that it will require a long, expensive and delicate restoration, "as if rebuilding the house from scratch," Sursock says.

Sursock has moved to a nearby pavilion in the palace gardens, but this has been his home for many years alongside his American wife, his 18-year-old daughter and his mother, Yvonne. He says the 98-year-old Lady Cochrane (born Sursock) had courageously stayed in Beirut during the 15 years of the civil war to defend the palace. His wife was just dismissed from hospital, as the blast was so powerful that the wave affected her lungs.

Sursock says there is no point in restoring the house now — at least not until the country fixes its political problems.

"We need a total change, the country is run by a gang of corrupt people," he said angrily.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 45 of 82

Despite his pain and the damage from last week's blast, Sursock, who was born in Ireland, says he will stay in Lebanon, where he has lived his whole life and which he calls home.

But he desperately hopes for change.

"I hope there is going to be violence and revolution because something needs to break, we need to move on, we cannot stay as we are."

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump's smoke and mirrors on executive orders**

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump isn't telling the full story when it comes to executive orders on coronavirus relief payments and health care.

Over the weekend, the president suggested that his move to bypass Congress with executive action calling for up to \$400 in weekly unemployment assistance would mean immediate cash in hand for laid-off Americans during the pandemic. There's no guarantee of that. His own economic adviser acknowledged Sunday that various details remained to be worked out, including contributions from the states, and that legal challenges appeared likely.

And on health care, Trump said he would pursue a "major" executive order to require health insurance companies to cover preexisting conditions, something that "has never been done before." Actually, it's been done before — with "Obamacare," a law that Trump is seeking to invalidate.

The claims came in a week where truth took a beating, on topics from mail-in voting to the virus threat.

A look at the claims and reality:

### **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

TRUMP, on how quickly laid-off U.S. workers would get up to \$400 a week bonus payments under his executive order: "It will be rapidly distributed. ... They're going to see it very soon." — news conference Saturday.

THE FACTS: An imminent payment is unlikely, if one comes at all.

It is an open question how many people will receive the \$400 weekly benefit, which is one-third less than the \$600 previously provided by the federal government, and how long it might take to arrive. Trump's executive order seems to leave it up to the states to decide whether to participate and also asks them to cover 25%, or \$100, of the cost, a major hurdle when their budgets are already under severe strain.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow on Sunday insisted the first checks could come "in a couple of weeks," but acknowledged that the administration had yet to fully canvass the states to see if they would be able to afford their payment share. Kudlow also allowed that the executive action could wind up in court. Several lawmakers have questioned the legality of the orders, which bypass legislation that would need to be approved by Congress. On Saturday, Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., called the theory behind the executive orders "unconstitutional slop."

"We think we can do it," Kudlow told ABC's "This Week."

But there was a new wrinkle Sunday night: Trump told reporters that states could apply for federal dollars covering all or part of the \$400 payments. He said decisions would be made on a state-by-state basis.

The previous supplemental unemployment benefit of \$600 per week expired at the end of July.

TRUMP, on whether he was expecting legal challenges to his orders: "I didn't say that. No, no. I didn't say that." — news conference Saturday.

THE FACTS: He did say it.

At his news conference a day earlier in Bedminster, New Jersey, Trump said: "Yeah, probably we get sued, but people feel that we can do it."

TRUMP: "Over the next two weeks, I'll be pursuing a major executive order requiring health insurance companies to cover all preexisting conditions for all customers. That's a big thing. ... This has never been done before." — news conference Friday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 46 of 82

THE FACTS: No executive order is needed to protect people with preexisting medical conditions because "Obamacare" already does that and it's the law of the land. If Trump persuades the Supreme Court to overturn the Affordable Care Act as unconstitutional, it's unclear what degree of protection an executive order would offer in place of the law.

The Obama health law states that "a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage may not impose any preexisting condition exclusion with respect to such plan or coverage."

Other sections of the law act to bar insurers from charging more to people because of past medical problems and from canceling coverage, except in cases of fraud. In the past, there were horror stories of insurers canceling coverage because a patient had a recurrence of cancer.

It's dubious that any president could enact such protections through an executive order, or Obama would never have needed to go to Congress to get his health law passed. Likewise, President Bill Clinton could have simply used a presidential decree to enact his health plan, or major parts of it, after it failed to get through Congress.

Republicans were unable to muscle their replacement through Congress when they controlled the House and Senate in 2017 during Trump's first year. Various GOP bills would have offered a degree of protection for people with preexisting conditions, but the proposed safeguards were seen as less than what the law already provided. The general approach in the Republican legislation would have required people to maintain continuous coverage to avoid being turned down because of a preexisting condition.

## VETERANS

TRUMP: "Our vets are very special. We passed Choice, as you know — Veterans Choice ... And they've been trying to get that passed for decades and decades and decades, and no president has ever been able to do it. And we got it done." — news conference Saturday.

THE FACTS: This is one of Trump's most frequent falsehoods. He's incorrect that he achieved Veterans Choice when other presidents couldn't. President Barack Obama achieved it in 2014. Trump expanded it.

The program allows veterans to see a private doctor for primary or mental health care at public expense if their VA wait is 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive to a VA facility is 30 minutes or more.

## FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

TRUMP, on the threat from Russia, China and Iran of meddling in the U.S. presidential election: "The biggest risk that we have is mail-in ballots. ... It's much easier for them to forge ballots and send them in, it's much easier for them to cheat with universal mail-in ballots." — news briefing Friday.

THE FACTS: Mail-in ballots aren't the biggest risk for foreign interference.

Trying to influence a federal election through mail-in ballots would probably mean paying thousands of U.S. citizens, carefully selected in pivotal states, who are willing to conspire with a foreign government and risk detection and prosecution.

Far easier and cheaper would be a social media campaign seeking to discourage certain groups of people from voting, which is something the FBI has warned about. Or a cyberattack on voter registration data that would eliminate certain voters from the rolls. That could cause havoc at polling places or election offices as officials attempt to count ballots from people who are "missing" from their voter databases.

On Friday, William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, warned about foreign interference and said Russia was already trying to undercut Democratic candidate Joe Biden. Evanina cited in part Kremlin-linked figures who are "seeking to boost President Trump's candidacy on social media and Russian television."

Last month, Attorney General Bill Barr raised the possibility that a "foreign country could print up tens of thousands of counterfeit ballots." He argued they would be hard to detect, but that's been disputed by election experts.

Absentee and mail-in ballots are printed on special paper and must be formatted correctly in order to

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 47 of 82

be processed and counted. Ballots are specific to each precinct, often with a long list of local races, and would be identified as fraudulent if everything didn't match precisely.

## VOTING FRAUD

TRUMP: "You look at some of the corruption having to do with universal mail-in voting. Absentee voting is OK." — Axios interview released Monday.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "Absentee balloting is perfectly acceptable. You have to apply for an absentee ballot, signatures are checked, it's confirmed, it is a long tradition. ... But this universal mail in voting where you're going to see literally ballots showered all across the state -- it is ripe for fraud." — Fox News interview on Aug. 3.

THE FACTS: Trump and his vice president are making a false distinction. Mail-in ballots are cast in the same way as absentee mail ballots, with the same level of scrutiny such as signature verification in many states.

In more than 30 states and the District of Columbia, voters have a right to "no excuse" absentee voting. That means they can use mail-in ballots for any reason, regardless a person is out of town or working. In Florida, the Legislature in 2016 voted to change the wording of such balloting from "absentee" to "vote-by-mail" to make clear a voter can cast such ballots if they wish.

More broadly, voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. The Brennan Center for Justice in 2017 ranked the risk of ballot fraud at 0.00004% to 0.0009%, based on studies of past elections.

Five states relied on mail-in ballots even before the coronavirus pandemic raised concerns about voting in person.

"Trump is simply wrong about mail-in balloting raising a 'tremendous' potential for fraud," Richard L. Hasen, an elections expert at the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, wrote recently. "While certain pockets of the country have seen their share of absentee-ballot scandals, problems are extremely rare in the five states that rely primarily on vote-by-mail, including the heavily Republican state of Utah."

In an apparent turnabout, Trump later in the week urged voters in Florida to vote by mail despite his rhetoric against the practice, arguing in a tweet that its system is "safe and secure, tried and true." Florida is a must-win state for Trump, where Democratic requests to vote by mail have been surging higher.

STEPHEN MILLER, White House senior adviser: "Here's a shocking thing for your audience to consider. Nobody who mails in a ballot has their identity confirmed. Nobody checks to see if they're even a U.S. citizen. Think about that. Any — any foreign national, talk about foreign election interference, can mail in a ballot and nobody even verifies if they're a citizen of the United States of America." — Fox News interview on Aug. 3.

THE FACTS: He's incorrect to assert that measures aren't in place to confirm a voter's identity or prevent fraud with mail ballots.

Ballots typically require voters to provide identifying information such as a birth date or Social Security or driver's license number. In most states, voters also sign the back of the envelope, which is then verified with the signature on their voter registrations.

Many jurisdictions use a bar code on the envelope, which is used to help states identify any duplicate ballots and also let voters know if their ballot was received.

Miller ignores separate built-in safeguards for mail-in ballots. The ballots, for instance, are generally sent to registered voters, who have to provide identifying information at the time of registration, such as an address, birth date and proof of citizenship.

In Miller's hypothetical scenario of a foreign national improperly casting a vote, that ballot would be flagged and rejected for not having a signature on file or for failing to match one that is. Based on the envelope's bar code, state voting officials also could identify and eliminate any duplicate ballots, whether they were submitted mistakenly or fraudulently.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 48 of 82

## NEVADA VOTING

TRUMP, on mail ballots: "There's no verification of signatures. So they don't even know who's going to sign this. They have literally a clause that you don't have to verify the signatures — that they don't have to do it." — remarks Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Not true. Nevada's existing law requires signature checks on mail ballots. A new law also spells out a process by which election officials are to check a signature against the one in government records.

In Nevada's June primary, nearly 7,000 ballots were thrown out due to mismatched or missing signatures.

MERCEDES SCHLAPP, Trump campaign senior adviser: "Even come Election Day, you could still cast a ballot three days later if you don't have a postmark, or seven days later if you have a postmark. ... Say you vote for Joe Biden, then you find out in Nevada that President Trump wins. You can go to your family members, you can go to your colleagues and say, 'Guess what, do you still have that mail-in vote? Let's cast it, because you can cast it several days after the election.'" — CNN interview Tuesday.

THE FACTS: It's a distortion for her to assert that Nevada voters could still cast ballots several days after the election.

Under the new law, ballots must be postmarked or "cast" by Election Day to be counted. Election officials are given up to seven days to receive and count those ballots after the election. That additional time for receipt is routine practice in many states for overseas and military voters who submit ballots by mail.

Separately, the law states that if a mail ballot is received up to three days after the election, it can be counted if the date of the postmark is unclear or missing. The aim is to provide enough time for delivery and processing of ballots that are properly mailed on Election Day, though the Trump campaign alleges in a lawsuit filed this past week that the three-day provision would allow some ballots to be improperly mailed after the election and then counted.

That scenario is not the same as granting wide license to cast ballots "several days" after the election, as Schlapp asserts.

The campaign's suit acknowledges that the window for alleged mischief is small because most mail in Nevada already takes at least one or two days to arrive. Some of those ballots may display postmarks showing they were sent late, which would disqualify them.

TRUMP: "What they're going to do is blanket the state, anybody that ever walked, frankly, will get one." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: His imagery of any living being in Nevada receiving a mail-in ballot, regardless of age or other eligibility factors, is false.

The new law requires that ballots be sent to "active" registered voters. "Active" registered voters are generally those with a current address on file with their local elections office.

There are additional requirements to be registered to vote. In Nevada, a person must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the state, at least 18 years old, not currently in state or federal prison, and not found to be mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

## NEW YORK VOTING

TRUMP, on two Democratic congressional primaries: "They don't know what happened to them, is there fraud, is there -- it's a disaster." — news briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: While there were vote-counting delays, there's no evidence of fraud in the two Democratic congressional primaries in New York City that Trump refers to, which were won by city council member Ritchie Torres and Rep. Carolyn Maloney. Nor did Trump offer any proof of fraud.

New York state decided to allow anyone to vote by mail in the June primary because of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 400,000 people voted by absentee ballot in New York City, a figure that was 10 times the number of absentee ballots cast in the 2016 primary.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 49 of 82

Opening and counting those ballots by elections officials took weeks. New York City's Board of Elections ultimately certified the results six weeks after the election.

## CORONAVIRUS

TRUMP, asked if a vaccine for COVID-19 could become available before the election: "I think in some cases, yes possible before, but right around that time. ...I'm rushing it. I am. I'm pushing everybody." — interview Thursday on the Geraldo Rivera radio program.

THE FACTS: He's offering a more ambitious timeline than his health experts and omitting key facts.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious diseases expert, has said he is "cautiously optimistic" that a coronavirus vaccine will be ready by early next year. Even then, Fauci made clear that the vaccine would not be widely available right away.

"Ultimately, within a reasonable period of time, the plans now allow for any American who needs a vaccine to get it within the year 2021," Fauci told Congress last month.

Under White House orders, federal health agencies and the Defense Department are carrying out a plan to deliver 300 million vaccine doses on a compressed timeline. That will happen only after the Food and Drug Administration determines that one or more vaccines are safe and effective. Several candidates are being tested.

The push for a speedy vaccine has drawn concern from some scientists that the White House will pressure U.S. regulators to approve a vaccine before it's ready.

In an op-ed this past week, FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn said his agency will not be influenced by any political pressure and will make decisions "based solely on good science and data."

TRUMP: "Children are almost — and I would almost say definitely — but almost immune from this disease, so few. ...They don't have a problem, they just don't have a problem. ... And I've have watched some doctors say they're totally immune." — Fox news interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: They aren't immune. Although it's true that children are less likely than adults to develop COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has nevertheless counted more than 250,000 infections by the virus in Americans younger than 18, or roughly 7% of all cases.

The number of kids who have been infected but not confirmed is almost certainly far higher than that, experts say, because those with mild or no symptoms are less likely to get tested.

Trump overlooks severe COVID-19 illnesses and some deaths of children in the U.S., even though kids in general tend to get less sick from it than adults do. He also glosses over the fact that kids can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The CDC in April studied the pandemic's effect on different ages in the U.S. and reviewed preliminary research in China, where the coronavirus started. It said social distancing is important for children, too, for their own safety and that of others.

"Whereas most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious COVID-19 illness resulting in hospitalization still occurs in this age group," the CDC study says.

The CDC in May also warned doctors to be on the lookout for a rare but life-threatening inflammatory reaction in some children who've had the coronavirus. The condition had been reported in more than 100 children in New York, and in some kids in several other states and in Europe, with some deaths.

Trump's claim prompted Facebook to delete his post with a link to the Fox News video because of the misinformation. Twitter temporarily blocked the Trump campaign from tweeting from its account, until it removed a post with the same video.

AP's Election Research and Quality Control Group in New York, and Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi in Denver, Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas, Sam Metz in Carson City, Nevada, and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Lauran Neergaard, Zeke Miller and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 50 of 82

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## Morikawa delivers great shot in quiet moment to win PGA

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The best shot of his life, the shot that made Collin Morikawa a major champion, was never supposed to happen.

He knew the tee on the 16th at Harding Park would be moved forward at the PGA Championship. He said during practice rounds that wouldn't tempt him to go for the green. But this was Sunday afternoon, right after Morikawa had chipped in for birdie to break out of a seven-way tie, and at this moment was tied again with Paul Casey.

"I knew I had to hit a good one," he said.

The shot will be remembered as one of the best in a major that hardly anyone witnessed, not with spectators banned during the COVID-19 era for majors.

Morikawa hit driver on the 294-yard hole that was perfect in flight and even better when it landed, hopping onto the green and rolling to 7 feet for an eagle that all but clinched victory on a mostly quiet, chilly afternoon at Harding Park.

In the first major without spectators, the 23-year-old Californian finished with a bang. The chip-in for birdie, the tee shot for eagle, it added to a 6-under 64 and the best closing round by a PGA champion in 25 years, and a two-shot victory over Casey (66) and Dustin Johnson (68).

The only regret was the lack of a roar this shot deserved. He had no idea how good it was until he got closer to the green.

"This is one time I really wish there were crowds," he said with a broad smile. "I was just praying for a straight bounce ... and then after it bounced, it kind of got behind a tree that we couldn't see around the corner. So once it bounced, I was like 'OK, I will take it anywhere.'

"I peeked around right and looked around the tree, and it looked really, really good."

The COVID-19 pandemic that moved the PGA Championship from May to August was allowed to be played only if spectators were not allowed. But there was one person who won't forget what he saw.

Casey, with his first good shot at winning a major, birdied the 16th to tie Morikawa for the lead. Standing on the tee at the par-3 17th, he looked back and saw the ball roll toward the cup.

"What a shot," was all Casey could say. "Nothing you can do but tip you cap to that. Collin had taken on that challenge and pulled it off. That's what champions do."

Golf's latest major champion was still in the vicinity of Harding Park just over a year ago, finishing up his degree at California and his All-American career, part of a new cast of young stars in a sport filled with them.

He only played Harding Park about a dozen times while in college, but never set up with rough like this or with the tees all the way back.

Now he has three PGA Tour victories and is No. 5 in the world, taking his place among the young stars by beating a cast of world-class players on the public course in San Francisco.

"Those are moments I'm always going to remember," said Morikawa, who became the sixth player to capture this major before turning 24.

For Johnson, it was another major that got away. He had a one-shot lead and didn't do too much wrong on the day except for not keeping it in the fairway for better chances of birdie. He drove into the hazard on the 16th and chipped in for birdie when it was too late, and a birdie on the 18th gave him a tie for second.

It was his fifth runner-up finish in a major — his only title is the 2016 U.S. Open — and his second straight runner-up in the PGA Championship.

Brooks Koepka proved to be all talk. He looked at the crowded leaderboard on Saturday night and didn't see anyone with his experience of four major championships, even dishing on Johnson because he has

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 51 of 82

“only won one.”

Koepka didn't make a birdie until the 12th hole. He went from two shots behind to a 74, tying for 29th. “It's my first bad round in a major in a while,” said Koepka, who said he spent the back nine mostly trying to cheer on Casey and his bid to win a first major at age 43.

Youth rules these days.

Morikawa finished at 13-under 267, and left so many others wondering how close they came.

Matthew Wolff, who grew up with Morikawa in Southern California and turned pro last summer with him, shot a 65 and joined Jason Day, Bryson DeChambeau, Tony Finau and PGA Tour rookie Scottie Scheffler at 10-under 270.

Cameron Champ, among eight players who had a share of the lead at some point, lost momentum with a double bogey at the turn. DeChambeau dropped two shots at the turn and never caught up until it was too late.

Morikawa, in only his 28th start as a pro and his second major, played bogey-free. His only mistake was at the end, when it was time to hoist the Wanamaker Trophy, the heaviest of the four major trophies. The lid came off and tumbled to the grass as Morikawa's eyes bulged.

If that was his only mistake, consider it a successful day. A major success.

## **Puerto Rico halts primary voting in centers lacking ballots**

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico on Sunday was forced to partially suspend voting for primaries marred by a lack of ballots as officials called on the president of the U.S. territory's elections commission to resign.

The primaries for voting centers that had not received ballots by early afternoon are expected to be rescheduled, while voting would continue elsewhere, the commission said.

“I have never seen on American soil something like what has just been done here in Puerto Rico. It's an embarrassment to our government and our people,” said Pedro Pierluisi, who is running against Gov. Wanda Vázquez, to become the nominee for the pro-statehood New Progressive Party.

Meanwhile, Vázquez called the situation “a disaster” and demanded the resignation of the president of the elections commission.

“They made the people of Puerto Rico, not the candidates, believe that they were prepared,” she said. “Today the opposite was evident. They lied.”

A federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances issued a statement saying the “dysfunctional” voting process was unacceptable and blamed it on what it said was inefficiency by the elections commission.

The unprecedented situation comes as voters ventured out amid a spike in COVID-19 cases across Puerto Rico, an island of 3.2 million people that has reported more than 12,800 probable cases, more than 8,500 confirmed cases and at least 274 deaths.

Gireliz Zambrana, a 31-year-old federal employee, worried about the number of people gathered at a voting center in Río Grande as they huddled together while waiting for it to open.

“They were trying to get away from the sun,” he said, adding that he never got to cast his vote.

The president of the governor's party, Thomas Rivera Schatz, along with the president of the main opposition Popular Democratic Party, held an unusual joint press conference and said they agreed the remaining primaries should be held on Aug. 16, a move that Vázquez said she supported. The two parties are both holding their primary elections with the winning nominees among six gubernatorial candidates in November's general election.

Other politicians argued that the entire primary be scrapped and held at another date.

An incredulous Schatz noted that there were still trucks with ballots inside parked at the commission's headquarters as they spoke there on Sunday afternoon.

“The question is, why haven't they left?” he said.

It was not immediately clear how many voters were turned away or how many centers received delayed

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 52 of 82

ballots. A commission spokeswoman said the president was not granting interviews.

To further complicate things, Edgardo Román, president of the Bar Association of Puerto Rico, told The Associated Press that it's unclear what alternatives are legally viable because the island's electoral law is not clear.

"It doesn't contemplate this scenario," he said.

At least one voter filed a lawsuit against the commission and the electoral officials of the two main parties late Sunday via the American Civil Liberties Union.

The situation infuriated voters and politicians of all stripes as they blamed Puerto Rico's elections commission and demanded an explanation for ballots reaching only a handful of voting centers by the afternoon.

"This is indignant, abusive and an attempt against the democracy of our country," said Marcos Cruz, mayor of the northern town of Vega Baja that was still awaiting ballots.

Meanwhile, officials from the island's two main parties scrambled to find solutions as they urged voters to still show up at centers that remained open late into the night.

Yadira Pizarro, a 44-year-old teacher, ran out of patience at a shuttered voting center in Carolina where she had waited more than four hours under a blistering sun.

"I cannot believe this. This is some serious negligence," she said.

One of the most closely watched races on Sunday is that of the pro-statehood Progressive New Party, which pits two candidates who served as replacement governors following last year's political turmoil. Vázquez faces Pierluisi, who represented Puerto Rico in Congress from 2009 to 2017.

Pierluisi briefly served as governor after Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigned in August 2019 following widespread street protests over a profanity-laced chat that was leaked and government corruption. But Puerto Rico's Supreme Court ruled that Vázquez, then the justice secretary, was constitutionally next in line because there was no secretary of state.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Popular Democratic Party, which supports Puerto Rico's current political status as a U.S. territory, is holding a primary for the first time in its 82-year history. Three people are vying to become governor — San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, known for her public spats with U.S. President Donald Trump following the devastation of Hurricane Maria; Puerto Rico Sen. Eduardo Bhatia; and Carlos Delgado, mayor of the northwest coastal town of Isabela.

## Police break up protests after Belarus presidential vote

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Phalanxes of Belarusian police in full riot gear violently dispersed thousands of demonstrators who poured into the streets to challenge the early count from Sunday's presidential election indicating the longtime authoritarian leader won a sixth term by a landslide.

Hundreds of people were detained, according to a leading rights group.

The brutal crackdown that began late Sunday and lasted through the night followed a tense campaign that saw massive rallies against President Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled the ex-Soviet nation with an iron hand for 26 years.

Election officials declared that early returns show 65-year-old Lukashenko winning with more than 80% of the vote while the main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former English teacher and political novice, had about 8%.

Tsikhanouskaya rejected the official claims, saying "I will believe my own eyes — the majority was for us."

Thousands of her supporters quickly took to the streets of the capital to protest what they saw as official manipulations of the vote. They faced rows of riot police in black uniforms who moved quickly to disperse the demonstrators, firing flash-bang grenades and beating them with truncheons.

After breaking up the big crowds, police relentlessly chased smaller groups of protesters across downtown Minsk for the next several hours.

Several other cities across the country saw similar crackdowns on protesters.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova said that police efforts to restore order were continu-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 53 of 82

ing overnight, but wouldn't say how many people were detained.

Ales Bilyatsky of the Viasna human rights group told The Associated Press several hundred were detained and hundreds injured in the police crackdown.

"What has happened is awful," Tsikhanouskaya told reporters Sunday.

An AP journalist was beaten by police and treated at a hospital.

At Minsk' Hospital No. 10, an AP reporter saw a dozen ambulances delivering protesters with fragmentation wounds and cuts from stun grenades and other injuries.

"It was a peaceful protest, we weren't using force," said 23-year-old protester, Pavel Konoplyanik, who was accompanying his friend who had a plastic grenade fragment stuck in his neck. "No one will believe in the official results of the vote, they have stolen our victory."

Konoplyanik, whose legs were also cut by fragments of police grenades, said he doesn't want to leave the country but fears that he might have no other choice.

Two prominent opposition challengers were denied places on the ballot, but Tsikhanouskaya, the wife of a jailed opposition blogger, managed to unite opposition groups and draw tens of thousands to her campaign rallies, tapping growing anger over a stagnant economy and fatigue with Lukashenko's autocratic rule.

Lukashenko was defiant as he voted earlier in the day, warning that the opposition will meet a tough response.

"If you provoke, you will get the same answer," he said. "Do you want to try to overthrow the government, break something, wound, offend, and expect me or someone to kneel in front of you and kiss them and the sand onto which you wandered? This will not happen."

Mindful of Belarus' long history of violent crackdowns on dissent — protesters were beaten after the 2010 election and six rival candidates arrested, three of whom were imprisoned for years — Tsikhanouskaya called for calm earlier Sunday.

"I hope that everything will be peaceful and that the police will not use force," she said after voting.

After the polls closed, about 1,000 protesters gathered near the obelisk honoring Minsk as a World War II "hero city," where police harshly clashed with them, beating some with truncheons and later using flash-bang grenades to try to disperse them. Some of the protesters later tried to build barricades with trash containers, but police quickly broke them up.

Three journalists from the independent Russian TV station Dozhd were detained after interviewing an opposition figure and were deported.

Tsikhanouskaya emerged as Lukashenko's main opponent after two other aspirants were denied places on the ballot. Viktor Babariko, head of a major Russia-owned bank, was jailed for charges he called political, and Valery Tsepkalo, entrepreneur and former ambassador to the United States, fled to Russia with his children after warnings that he would be arrested and his children taken away.

Tsepkalo's wife Veronika became a top member of Tsikhanouskaya's campaign, but she left the country too early Sunday, fearing for her safety, said campaign spokeswoman Anna Krasulina. Over the weekend, eight members of Tsikhanouskaya's campaign staff were arrested.

Many voters were defiant in the face of Lukashenko's vow not to tolerate any protests.

"There is no more fear. Belarusians will not be silent and will protest loudly," 24-year-old Tatiana Protasevich said at a Minsk polling place.

As polls opened, the country's central elections commission said more than 40% of the electorate had cast ballots in five days of early voting, a process the opposition saw as offering fertile ground for manipulation.

"For five nights nobody has guarded the ballot boxes, which gives the authorities a wide field for maneuverings," Veronika Tsepkalo told AP before leaving Belarus.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, whose assessments of elections are widely regarded as authoritative, was not invited to send observers.

Tsikhanouskaya had crisscrossed the country, tapping into public frustration with a worsening economy and Lukashenko's swaggering response to the pandemic.

Belarus, a country of 9.5 million people, has reported more than 68,500 coronavirus cases and 580

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 54 of 82

deaths but critics have accused authorities of manipulating the figures to downplay the death toll.

Lukashenko has dismissed the virus as "psychosis" and declined to apply measures to stop its spread, saying a lockdown would have doomed the already weak economy. He announced last month that he had been infected but had no symptoms and recovered quickly, allegedly thanks to playing sports.

Yet for some voters, Lukashenko's long, hardline rule was a plus.

"He is an experienced politician, not a housewife who appeared out of nowhere and muddied the waters," retiree Igor Rozhov said Sunday. "We need a strong hand that will not allow riots."

Associated Press journalists Jim Heintz and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this story.

## States on hook for billions under Trump's unemployment plan

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — Whether President Donald Trump has the constitutional authority to extend federal unemployment benefits by executive order remains unclear. Equally up in the air is whether states, which are necessary partners in Trump's plan to bypass Congress, will sign on.

Trump announced an executive order Saturday that extends additional unemployment payments of up to \$400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Congress had approved payments of \$600 a week at the outset of the coronavirus outbreak, but those benefits expired Aug. 1 and Congress has been unable to agree on an extension. Many Republicans have expressed concern that a \$600 weekly benefit, on top of existing state benefits, gives people an incentive to stay unemployed.

But under Trump's plan, the \$400 a week requires a state to commit to providing \$100.

Many states are already facing budget crunches caused by the pandemic. Asked at a news conference how many governors had signed on to participate, Trump answered: "If they don't, they don't. That's up to them."

Trump expressed a different view on Sunday night, following a day of state officials questioning how they could afford even \$100 per person in additional weekly payments. He told reporters as he returned to Washington that states could make application to have the federal government provide all or part of the \$400 payments. Decisions would be made state by state, he said.

Several state officials questioned how Trump's initial proposal would work and often expressed doubt that they could afford to participate at the level Trump initially set without using federal funds.

Aubrey Layne, secretary of finance for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, said in a phone interview Sunday he believes it would be feasible for Virginia to participate in such a program if states are allowed to use money that's been allocated to them under the already passed CARES Act. He said his preliminary understanding is that states can do so, but he and others are waiting to see the rules published.

The better solution, Layne said, would be for Congress to pass legislation.

"It's ludicrous to me that Congress can't get together on this," he said. "I think it would have been better for the president to use his influence in those negotiations, rather than standing on the sideline and then riding in like a shining knight."

Details about the program were confused on Sunday — and that was even before Trump's declaration that states could ask the federal government to pay all or part of the \$400 week payments.

On CNN's "State of the Nation" White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said conflicting things about whether the federal money was contingent on an additional contribution from the states. Initially Kudlow said that "for an extra \$100, we will lever it up. We will pay three-quarters, and the states will pay 25 percent." In the same interview, though, he later said that "at a minimum, we will put in 300 bucks ... but I think all they (the states) have to do is put up an extra dollar, and we will be able to throw in the extra \$100."

A clarifying statement from the White House said the "funds will be available for those who qualify by, among other things, receiving \$100/week of existing assistance and certify that they have lost their jobs due to COVID-19."

Several advocacy groups that follow the issue, though, said it's clear the way the executive order is

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 55 of 82

structured that the federal money will be contingent on states making a 25 percent contribution.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, called the plan "an impossibility."

"I don't know if the president is genuine in thinking the executive order is a resolution or if this is just a tactic in the negotiation," Cuomo said. "But this is irreconcilable for the state. And I expect this is just a chapter in the book of Washington COVID mismanagement."

In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the plan would cost his state \$500 million to provide that benefit for the rest of the year, and called Trump's plan "not a good idea."

"I could take that money from testing — I don't think that's a good idea," Lamont said.

On CNN, Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine praised Trump for issuing the order.

"He's trying to do something. He's trying to move the ball forward," DeWine said.

Still, he was noncommittal about whether Ohio would participate.

"We're looking at it right now to see whether we can do this," he said.

Christina Stephens, a spokeswoman for Democratic Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said: "Right now we are reviewing the President's order to determine exactly what the impact to the state would be."

In Maryland, Michael Ricci, spokesman for Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, said in an email that "we will wait on new guidance from US Department of Labor before looking at any (unemployment insurance) changes."

In Minnesota, Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove said his agency is "awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor."

Nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians are relying on that additional unemployment to pay their bills and put food on the table.

Kevin Hensil, a spokesman for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, said "reducing the benefit by a third will make it harder for families to get by and it places a larger financial burden on states." He said state officials are studying the impact of the cuts.

And in Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a press release that Trump "cut federal funding for unemployed workers and is requiring states that are facing severe holes in our budgets to provide 25% of the funding."

On ABC's "This Week," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called it "an unworkable plan.

"Most states will take months to implement it, because it's brand new. It's sort of put together with spit and paste. And many states, because they have to chip in \$100, and they don't have money, won't do it," Schumer said.

Many states struggled to adjust outdated computer systems to accommodate the \$600 payment, which along with the massive influx of new claims resulted in long delays in providing benefits. Reprogramming the computers again to accommodate the new amount could result in similar glitches.

On ABC, Kudlow said that many of those outdated systems have since been upgraded.

"I don't think there will be a huge delay. Labor Department has been working with the states. The states are the ones that process the federal benefits before. So, I don't see any reason why it would be all that difficult," he said.

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Associated Press Writers Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland; Larry Neumeister in New York; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut; Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Thomas Strong in Washington; and Jonathan Lemire in Bedminster, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

## Trump end run around Congress raises questions on his claims

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump's end run around Congress on coronavirus relief is raising questions about whether it would give Americans the economic lifeline he claims and appears certain to face legal challenges. Democrats called it a pre-election ploy that would burden cash-strapped states.

"When you look at those executive orders ... the kindest thing I could say is he doesn't know what he's talking about or something's wrong there," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "To characterize them as

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 56 of 82

even accomplishing what they set out to do, as something that will take the place of an agreement, is just not so."

After negotiations with lawmakers on the next package of pandemic economic assistance hit a wall, Trump used what he said were the inherent powers of the presidency to forge ahead on tax and spending policy that Congress says it is granted by the Constitution.

Trump asserted he had the authority to defer payroll taxes and extend an expired unemployment benefit, although at a lower amount than what the jobless had been getting during the crisis. His reelection chances imperiled by the pandemic, the president contended his orders "will take care of pretty much this entire situation, as we know it."

But the orders appeared to carry less weight than Trump promoted and cut federal relief spending by shifting more onto the shoulders of struggling states. Critics said the actions crossed a legal line and fell well short of what is needed to help right the fragile economy.

"Paltry," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, given the scope of the economic and health crises.

Though certain to further strain relations with Congress, the moves were framed by the White House as the president breaking through the Washington gridlock in order to directly distribute aid. Advisers hope it will sustain an economic recovery that Trump likely needs to defeat Democrat Joe Biden in November.

With an eye on reversing his slide in the polls, Trump took full credit for the measures, which he signed at his New Jersey golf club on Saturday after congressional talks broke down this past week. Democrats initially sought a \$3.4 trillion package, but said they lowered their demand to \$2 trillion. Republicans had proposed a \$1 trillion plan.

Trump accused Democrats of trying to spend more than was needed and adding money for priorities unrelated to the pandemic. He said local aid amounted to "bailout money" for states and cities "badly run by Democrats for many years. ... And we're not willing to do that."

The president wants to continue paying a supplemental federal unemployment benefit for millions of Americans put out of work during the outbreak. But his order called for up to \$400 payments each week, compared with the \$600 that people had been receiving. Trump said states would cover 25% of this money even as many are dealing with major budget shortfalls.

As state officials questioned whether they could afford \$100 per person per week, Trump offered a new angle to the plan. Speaking to reporters Sunday night as he returned to Washington, he said states could make application to have the federal government provide all or part of the \$400 payments. He said decisions would be made on a state-by-state basis.

Trump said earlier that the federal contribution would be redirected from disaster relief money at the Federal Emergency Management Agency — dollars not likely to last more than two months. Shifting FEMA disaster funds also would occur as the peak of hurricane season looms and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns of an "extremely active" season already underway.

Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, struggled during a television interview Sunday morning to clearly explain the specifics of his boss' order on unemployment aid. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the \$100 share from states would come from from an earlier pool of federal money and that Trump may waive the requirement about how it can be used.

"Look, that would cost us about \$500 million between now and the end of the year," said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democrat. "I could take that money from testing. I don't think that's a great idea. I could take that money from, you know, mass disinfecting for our schools. I don't think that's a great idea. In fact, I think the president's plan is not a great idea."

Pelosi, D-Calif., criticized Trump for not doing anything to help schools trying to reopen and she said the orders were "unconstitutional slop."

Trump also acted to defer payment of the payroll tax, a long-pushed goal that had little support from either party on Capitol Hill, and federal student loans. His order on housing is not a guarantee against eviction, as he claimed, but instead directs the departments of the Treasury and Housing and Urban De-



velopment to identify money that could help those struggling to pay their monthly rent.

Trump said the employee portion of the payroll tax would be deferred from Aug. 1 through the end of the year, and he raised the possibility of making it permanent, though experts said he lacked that authority. The temporary deferral would not directly aid unemployed workers, who do not pay the tax when they are jobless. Employees would need to repay the federal government eventually without an act of Congress.

The president was silent on Saturday on how he would fund Medicare and Social Security benefits that the 7% tax on employee income covers. Democrats seized on the possible threat to Social Security as a signal that Trump wanted to cut the social safety net.

On Sunday night, in the wake of that criticism, Trump told reporters the money would not come from Social Security but from the Treasury if the government didn't require workers to repay the taxes. Again, that would require congressional action.

"If the Democrats want to challenge us in court and hold up unemployment benefits to those hardworking Americans who are out of a job because of COVID, they're going to have a lot of explaining to do," Mnuchin said.

Both the White House and congressional Democrats indicated Sunday they wanted to resume negotiations, but no talks were scheduled.

The breakdown comes with the Nov. 3 election approaching and the White House nervously watching signs that the economic recovery is slowing down as the coronavirus surges.

"This is not presidential leadership," Biden said. "These orders are not real solutions. They are just another cynical ploy designed to deflect responsibility. Some measures do far more harm than good."

Pelosi and Mnuchin were on "Fox News Sunday," Schumer was on ABC's "This Week" and Lamont was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

## Trump's pandemic relief orders are limited in scope

By ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) —

President Donald Trump's new executive orders to help Americans struggling under the economic recession are far less sweeping than any pandemic relief bill Congress would pass.

Trump acted Saturday after negotiations for a second pandemic relief bill reached an impasse. Democrats initially sought a \$3.4 trillion package, but said they lowered their demand to \$2 trillion. Republicans had proposed a \$1 trillion plan.

The are questions about how effective Trump's measures will be. An order for supplemental unemployment insurance payments relies on state contributions that may not materialize. A payroll tax deferral may not translate into more spending money for workers depending on how employers implement it.

But the president is trying to stem a slide in the polls with a show of action three months before he faces Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the November election.

Here is a look at the four executive orders.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The president moved to keep paying a supplemental federal unemployment benefit for millions of Americans out of work during the outbreak. His order called for payments up to \$400 each week, one-third less than the \$600 people had been receiving under a benefit that expired last month.

How many people will receive the benefit and for how long is open to question. Trump said the payments would be funded 75% by the federal government and 25% by states. But it is unclear if states will pay that share, given acute budget shortfalls amid the economic recession. The federal government had been covering the full cost of the now-expired \$600 supplement.

Ariel Zetlin-Jones, associate professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business, said several states have already depleted their unemployment compensation trust funds and have requested federal loans to keep making payments. Trump's order, he said, is likely to exacerbate the debt burden for states and prove costlier in the long term because state governments borrow at higher

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 58 of 82

costs than the federal government.

"This higher debt burden is one reason governors may resist enacting at least their share of \$400 promised in the executive order," Zetlin-Jones said.

The Trump administration is setting aside \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund to pay for the extra jobless benefits. Under the order, the payments will last through Dec. 6 — or until the disaster fund's balance falls to \$25 billion. With hurricane season now underway, the fund currently has a balance of about \$70 billion.

## PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL

Under the president's order, employers can defer collecting the employee portion of the payroll tax, including the 6.2% Social Security tax on wages, effective Aug. 1 through the end of the year. The order is intended to increase take home pay for employees making less than about \$100,000 a year. White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow estimated Sunday that the payroll tax deferral could save employees about \$1,200 through the end of the year.

However, employees would need to repay the federal government eventually without an act of Congress. Consequently, many employers may choose to continue collecting the tax and set it aside to meet that future obligation, said Michael Graetz, a Columbia University law professor and co-author of "The Wolf at the Door: The Menace of Economic Insecurity and How to Fight It."

"I don't know how much of this is going to get into workers' pockets," Graetz said.

Trump is proposing that Congress pass a permanent payroll tax cut, but the prospects of such a measure is uncertain. Democrats and some Republicans are against any change to the payroll tax because it could deplete the Social Security and Medicare Trust funds.

Both programs were already in dire condition before the pandemic, with Medicare expected to become insolvent in six years and Social Security unable to pay full benefits starting in 2035. Those government projections came before millions of taxpayers were thrown out of work.

Trump offered no explanation how the government would fund Medicare and Social Security benefits that the 7% tax on employee income covers.

## EVICITION CRISIS

The president did not extend a federal eviction moratorium that protected more than 12 million renters living in federally subsidized apartments or units with federally backed mortgages. That moratorium expired July 25.

Instead, Trump directed the Treasury and Housing and Urban Development departments to identify funds to provide aid to those struggling to pay their monthly rent. He also directed HUD to take action to "promote the ability of renters and homeowners to avoid eviction or foreclosure."

In an appearance on CNN on Sunday, Kudlow said the order gives the housing authority wide power to stop evictions, for instance by citing the risk of COVID-19 spread in a community. But he acknowledged that it does not explicitly ban evictions.

It's unclear how much immediate relief the order will provide tens of millions of people at risk of being evicted over the next months. Around 30 state moratoriums have expired since May. The Aspen Institute has estimated that 23 million renters are at risk of eviction by Sept. 30.

Housing experts have called for a national moratorium on evictions combined with financial assistance for those struggling to pay rent.

## STUDENT LOANS

Trump's executive order extended a moratorium on student loans backed the federal government, which was initially passed by Congress and would have expired on Sept. 30. The moratorium also forgave interest on the deferred payments.

The order does not cover loans from private lenders since the government would have repay those providers and the president lacks the authority to direct funds for such a purpose. The order also does not amount to student loan forgiveness, which House Democrats have proposed in a pandemic relief package, but which Republican lawmakers have rejected.

## 5.1-magnitude quake hits North Carolina, causes minor damage

SPARTA, N.C. (AP) — The most powerful earthquake to hit North Carolina in more than 100 years shook much of the state early Sunday, rattling homes, businesses and residents.

The National Weather Service in Greenville said the 5.1-magnitude temblor struck at 8:07 a.m., following a much smaller quake several hours earlier.

There were no reports of serious injuries, but some minor structural damage was reported in Sparta, as well as cracks in roads. Images on social media also showed items knocked off of grocery store shelves.

The U.S. Geological Survey said on its website that there are chances for one or more aftershocks in the next week, forecasting a 45% chance for earthquakes of magnitude 3 or greater. The chances of another quake as strong as the one on Sunday or greater was about 1%, the geological survey said.

Alleghany County, which includes Sparta, declared a state of emergency Sunday afternoon.

Michael Hull was standing in his driveway at his home in Sparta when he noticed a group of deer running. "Not even a minute passed and the side-to-side motion started," Hull said. "It takes you a minute to realize what's happening, and you just can't believe it. Then it was over. It was loud, like God was shaking a mountain at you, literally."

Karen Backer was in her Greensboro apartment when she heard initially mistook banging in her kitchen for her roommate.

"Nope, it was the cabinet doors 'clinking' open and closed! My neighbors on the other hand said they felt our apartment building shaking," Backer said. "Well, sadly, nothing surprises me in 2020, but a hurricane and an earthquake in the same week is crazy."

It was the largest earthquake to hit the state since 1916, when a magnitude 5.5 quake occurred near Skyland, the weather service said.

The quake's epicenter was about 2.5 miles (four kilometers) southeast of Sparta, just south of the Virginia-North Carolina border, the geological survey said. The USGS said the population in the affected region resides in structures "that are resistant to earthquake shaking, though vulnerable structures exist."

The quake was felt in nearby states including Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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Tom Foreman, Jr., contributed from Winston-Salem.

## US tops 5 million confirmed virus cases, to Europe's alarm

By NICOLE WINFIELD and LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

ROME (AP) — With confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. hitting 5 million Sunday, by far the highest of any country, the failure of the most powerful nation in the world to contain the scourge has been met with astonishment and alarm in Europe.

Perhaps nowhere outside the U.S. is America's bungled virus response viewed with more consternation than in Italy, which was ground zero of Europe's epidemic. Italians were unprepared when the outbreak exploded in February, and the country still has one of the world's highest official death tolls at over 35,000.

But after a strict nationwide, 10-week lockdown, vigilant tracing of new clusters and general acceptance of mask mandates and social distancing, Italy has become a model of virus containment.

"Don't they care about their health?" a mask-clad Patrizia Antonini asked about people in the United States as she walked with friends along the banks of Lake Bracciano, north of Rome. "They need to take our precautions. ... They need a real lockdown."

Much of the incredulity in Europe stems from the fact that America had the benefit of time, European experience and medical know-how to treat the virus that the continent itself didn't have when the first COVID-19 patients started filling intensive care units.

More than four months into a sustained outbreak, the U.S. reached the 5 million mark, according to the running count kept by Johns Hopkins University. Health officials believe the actual number is perhaps 10 times higher, or closer to 50 million, given testing limitations and the fact that as many as 40% of all those who are infected have no symptoms.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 60 of 82

"We Italians always saw America as a model," said Massimo Franco, a columnist with daily Corriere della Sera. "But with this virus we've discovered a country that is very fragile, with bad infrastructure and a public health system that is nonexistent."

With America's world's-highest death toll of more than 160,000, its politicized resistance to masks and its rising caseload, European nations have barred American tourists and visitors from other countries with growing cases from freely traveling to the bloc.

France and Germany are now imposing tests on arrival for travelers from "at risk" countries, the U.S. included.

"I am very well aware that this impinges on individual freedoms, but I believe that this is a justifiable intervention," German Health Minister Jens Spahn said last week.

Mistakes were made in Europe, too, from delayed lockdowns to insufficient protections for nursing home elderly and critical shortages of tests and protective equipment for medical personnel.

Hard-hit Spain, France, Britain and Germany have seen infection rebounds with new cases topping 1,000 a day, and Italy's cases went over 500 on Friday. Some scientists say Britain's beloved pubs might have to close again if schools are to reopen in September.

Europe as a whole has seen over 207,000 confirmed virus deaths, by Johns Hopkins' count.

In the U.S., new cases are running at about 54,000 a day — an immensely high number even when taking into account the country's large population. And while that's down from a peak of well over 70,000 last month, cases are rising in nearly 20 states, and deaths are climbing in most.

In contrast, at least for now Europe appears to have the virus somewhat under control.

"Had the medical professionals been allowed to operate in the States, you would have belatedly gotten to a point of getting to grips with this back in March," said Scott Lucas, professor of international studies at the University of Birmingham, England. "But of course, the medical and public health professionals were not allowed to proceed unchecked," he said, referring to President Donald Trump's frequent undercutting of his own experts.

When the virus first appeared in the United States, Trump and his supporters quickly dismissed it as either a "hoax" or a scourge that would quickly disappear once warmer weather arrived. At one point, Trump suggested that ultraviolet light or injecting disinfectants would eradicate the virus. (He later said he was being facetious).

Trump's frequent complaints about Dr. Anthony Fauci have regularly made headlines in Europe, where the U.S. infectious-disease expert is a respected figure. Italy's leading COVID-19 hospital offered Fauci a job if Trump fired him.

Trump has defended the U.S. response, blaming China, where the virus was first detected, for America's problems and saying the U.S. numbers are so high because there is so much testing. Trump supporters and Americans who have refused to wear masks against all medical advice back that line.

□ "There's no reason to fear any sickness that's out there," said Julia Ferjo, a mother of three in Alpine, Texas, who is "vehemently" against wearing a mask. □ Ferjo, 35, teaches fitness classes in a large gym with open doors. She doesn't allow participants to wear masks.

□ "When you're breathing that hard, I would pass out," she said. "I do not want people just dropping like flies."

And health officials watched with alarm as thousands of bikers gathered Friday in the small South Dakota city of Sturgis for an annual 10-day motorcycle rally. The state has no mask mandates, and many bikers expressed defiance of measures meant to prevent the virus's spread.

Dr. David Ho, director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, who is leading a team seeking treatments for COVID-19, decried such behavior, as well as the country's handling of the virus.

"There's no national strategy, no national leadership, and there's no urging for the public to act in unison and carry out the measures together," he said. "That's what it takes, and we have completely abandoned that as a nation."

When he gets on Zoom calls with counterparts from around the globe, "everyone cannot believe what

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 61 of 82

they're seeing in the U.S. and they cannot believe the words coming out of the leadership," he said.

Amid the scorn from other countries, Trump national security adviser Robert O'Brien, newly recovered from a bout with the virus, gave an upbeat picture Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"We're going to fight like heck. We're working hard on vaccines. We're working hard on testing machines that are portable and fast. ... We're working on therapeutics," he said. "I'm so impressed with our scientists and our doctors and our first responders and the folks who are attacking this disease, and God bless them all."

Many Europeans point proudly to their national health care systems that not only test but treat COVID-19 for free, unlike the American system, where the virus crisis has only exacerbated income and racial inequalities in obtaining health care.

"The coronavirus has brutally stripped bare the vulnerability of a country that has been sliding for years," wrote Italian author Massimo Gaggi in his new book "Crack America" (Broken America), about U.S. problems that long predated COVID-19.

Gaggi said he started writing the book last year and thought then that the title would be taken as a provocative wake-up call. Then the virus hit.

"By March the title wasn't a provocation any longer," he said. "It was obvious."

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Pane reported from Boise, Idaho. AP reporters from around Europe contributed.

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Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## World donors demand change before money to rebuild Beirut

By SARAH EL DEEB and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — World leaders and international organizations pledged nearly \$300 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Beirut in the wake of the devastating explosion, but warned on Sunday that no money for rebuilding the capital will be made available until Lebanese authorities commit themselves to the political and economic reforms demanded by the people.

Over 30 participants to the international conference offered help for a "credible and independent" investigation into the Aug. 4 Beirut explosion, another key demand of the Lebanese crowds who took to the streets Saturday and Sunday.

In Beirut, two Lebanese Cabinet ministers, including a top aid to the premier, resigned amid signals that the embattled government may be unraveling in the aftermath of the devastating blast that ripped through the capital. The blast killed 160 and wounded 6,000, raising public anger to new levels.

The resignation of Information Minister Manal Abdel-Samad, in which she cited failure to meet the people's aspirations and last week's blast, was followed by a swirl of reports that other ministers were also resigning.

Late Sunday, Environment Minister Demanios Kattar resigned, calling the ruling system "flaccid and sterile."

He stepped down despite closed-door meetings into the evening and a flurry of phone calls between Prime Minister Hassan Diab and several ministers following Abdel-Samad's announcement. The political haggling had appeared to put off more resignations, and a Cabinet meeting is planned Monday.

If seven of the 20 ministers resign, the Cabinet would effectively have to step down and remain in place as a caretaker government.

Maha Yahya, the director of the Beirut-based Carnegie Middle East Center, said the discussions clearly point to backroom deals that seek to put together a new government that's acceptable to domestic and international powers, as well as the angered public.

The current government "really has been a lame duck," she said, unable to undertake any reform or show independence in a highly divisive political atmosphere. "Even the ministers are deserting the sinking ship."

Meanwhile, four more lawmakers announced Sunday they were resigning from the 128-seat parliament, joining four others who declared it earlier. Parliament is also due to convene later this week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 62 of 82

As the political negotiations took place, protesters converged again on the parliament area Sunday afternoon, setting off another night of violent demonstrations. Hundreds of protesters clashed with security forces, attempting to breach the heavily-guarded parliament. Security forces responded with tear gas and chased the protesters in the streets of downtown, in a smaller repeat of scenes from the night before.

The protesters blame the ruling elite for the chronic mismanagement and corruption that is believed to be behind the explosion in a Beirut Port warehouse. Hundreds of tons of highly explosive material were stored in the waterfront hangar, and the blast sent a shock wave that defaced the coastline of Beirut — destroying hundreds of buildings.

The final statement from participants at Sunday's donor conference co-organized by France and the United Nations read: "In these horrendous times, Lebanon is not alone."

The teleconference participants promised emergency aid — focusing on medicine and hospitals, schools, food and housing.

The donors pledged the aid will be coordinated by the U.N. and delivered directly to the Lebanese people — in a clear indication that no money is going to the government and its coffers.

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country once governed Lebanon as a protectorate, said, "We have to do everything we can so that violence and chaos do not win the day."

"The explosion of August 4 was like a thunderbolt. It's time to wake up and take action. The Lebanese authorities now have to put in place ... political and economic reforms."

Amid the conference participants were President Donald Trump, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and other top officials from China, the European Union and the Gulf Arab countries.

At the angry demonstrations Saturday, protesters set up gallows and nooses in central Beirut and held mock hanging sessions of cut-out cardboard images of top Lebanese officials.

Demonstrators held signs that read "resign or hang." One police officer was killed and dozens of people were hurt in confrontations that lasted for hours and where security forces used rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

On Saturday and in a new expression of rage, protesters also fanned out around the city, storming a couple of government ministries and briefly declaring the Foreign Ministry as the headquarters of their movement. In the economy and energy ministries, the protesters ransacked offices and seized public documents claiming they would reveal how corruption has permeated successive governments.

In the country where civil war raged for 15 years, few, if any, have been held accountable for it and most of the warlords remain in power or leading powerful political factions.

On Sunday, France's ambassador to Lebanon said his country is taking part in the investigation of the Aug. 4 blast. Bruno Foucher tweeted that 46 officers are operating as part of the judicial investigation. That probe was started by a French prosecutor after a national of France, Jean-Marc Bonfils, was killed in the blast and others injured.

It is "a guarantee of impartiality and speed" in the investigation, Foucher tweeted.

The government, backed by the powerful militant Hezbollah group and its allies, announced it is defaulting on Lebanon's sovereign debt and has since been engaged in difficult, internally divisive talks with the International Monetary Fund for assistance. The coronavirus restrictions deepened the impact of the economic and financial crisis and fueled public anger against the new government. Lebanese have criticized Diab's government for being unable to tackle the challenges, saying it represents the deep-seated political class that has had a hold of the country's politics since the end of the civil war in 1990.

In a televised speech Saturday evening and in an attempt to diffuse public anger, Diab offered to propose early parliamentary elections said he was prepared to stay in the post for two months to allow time for politicians to work on structural reforms.

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Corbet contributed from Paris.

## DC shooting leaves 1 dead, some 20 injured

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dispute that erupted into gun fire during a large outdoor party in Washington, D.C., early Sunday left one person dead and some 20 others injured, including an off-duty officer “struggling for her life,” according to police.

Christopher Brown, 17, died in the shooting that occurred after midnight in a southeast side neighborhood where people had gathered for music and food, Peter Newsham, the chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, told reporters.

“There was some kind of a dispute,” Newsham said. “Multiple weapons were produced.”

Police said at least three shooters may have been involved, though no arrests were immediately announced. Newsham said a motive for the shooting wasn’t clear.

Fellow officers took the injured off-duty officer to a local hospital.

“She’s struggling for her life right now,” he said. He added that “the rest of the gunshot wounds, as far as we know, are non-life-threatening.”

Nelson Bostic, a resident in the area, told WTOP he heard a burst of rapid gunfire, then saw “people laying on the ground” and “ducking under cars.”

“It was terrible,” he said.

Relatives of the teenager killed described him as someone who was full of energy and quick to smile. He also had a 1-year-old son.

“A lot of people know him as just a good person,” his mother, Artecka Brown, told WUSA9. “That was an innocent life taken for no reason.”

There may have been hundreds of attendees at the party despite city restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic on such large gatherings.

“We can’t tolerate these types of gatherings in our city during COVID-19,” Newsham said. “It’s just too dangerous.”

Mayor Muriel Bowser, speaking to reporters near the scene of the shooting, noted that public drinking and marijuana use outside were prohibited, as were gatherings of more than 50 people as a precaution against spreading the coronavirus.

“It’s very important that as a community we have a zero-tolerance for this activity,” she said. Bowser added that police will have to make some “difficult decisions” and “break up these events.”

The gathering had been advertised on fliers as the “34th-n-EAT” cookout that would start late Saturday, The Washington Post reported. It would, the flier added, be a “drama free event.”

## Beirut explosion bares pitfalls of sending aid to Lebanon

By LORI HINNANT and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hospitals and schools, then shattered and bent water pipes, then the crater that once was Lebanon’s port.

The rebuilding needs of Lebanon are immense, but so is the question of how to ensure the millions of dollars promised in international aid is not diverted in a country notorious for missing money, invisible infrastructure projects and its refusal to open the books.

And the port — the epicenter of the explosion that shattered Beirut, the center of Lebanon’s import-based economy, and a source of graft so lucrative that Lebanon’s political factions were willing to divide its control so everyone could get a piece — sits at the heart of the fears.

Sunday’s international donor teleconference raised a total of 252.7 million euro (\$298 million) in emergency aid, organizers said.

The conference was hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, who was mobbed last week by tearful victims of the Beirut ammonium nitrate explosion begging him to ensure the corruption they blame for the blast that devastated the capital does not profit from its destruction. The French presidency said France contributed 30 million euros (\$35 million).

The head of the International Monetary Fund, which wants an audit of the national bank before handing

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 64 of 82

over any money, was clear: No money without changes to ensure ordinary Lebanese aren't crushed by debt whose benefits they never see.

"Current and future generations of Lebanese must not be saddled with more debts than they can ever repay," IMF head Kristalina Georgieva said during the conference. "Commitment to these reforms will unlock billions of dollars for the benefit of the Lebanese people."

International leaders, government officials and international organization participated Sunday in the tele-conference co-organized by France and the United Nations to bring emergency aid to Lebanon, including President Donald Trump.

International diplomacy usually calls for careful language. Rigged votes are "irregular." The response to furious protests should be "measured." Disappearing funds require "transparency."

But Macron's response to the crowd in Beirut and in a later speech there was unusually blunt: The aid "will not fall into corrupt hands" and Lebanon's discredited government must change.

In the short-term, the aid streaming into Lebanon is purely for humanitarian emergencies and relatively easy to monitor. The U.S., France, Britain, Canada and Australia, among others, have been clear that it is going directly to trusted local aid groups like the Lebanese Red Cross or U.N. agencies.

"Our aid is absolutely not going to the government. Our aid is going to the people of Lebanon," said John Barsa of USAID.

But actual rebuilding requires massive imports of supplies and equipment. The contracts and subcontracts have given Lebanon's ruling elite its wealth and power, while leaving the country with crumbling roads, regular electricity cuts, trash that piles on the streets and intermittent water supplies.

"The level of infrastructure in Lebanon is directly linked today to the level of corruption," said Neemat Frem, a prominent Lebanese businessman and independent member of parliament. "We badly need more dollars but I understand that the Lebanese state and its agencies are not competent."

Lebanon has an accumulated debt of about \$100 billion, for a population of just under 7 million people — 5 million Lebanese and 2 million Syrians and Palestinians, most of them refugees. Its electricity company, controlled like the port by multiple factions, posts losses of \$1.5 billion a year, although Frem said most factories pay for their own generators because power is off more than it's on.

"There's grand theft Lebanon and there's petty theft Lebanon. Petty theft Lebanon exists but that's not what got the country in the hole we're in," said Nadim Houry, executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative.

Prior aid, Houry said, ended up as a tool in the hands of the political leaders, who kept their slice and doled out jobs and money to supporters.

Protesters, tired of the small indignities they endure to get through a day — 37% of people report needing to pay bribes, compared with 4% in neighboring Jordan, according to Transparency International — and the larger issue of a collapsing state, are going after both.

"The public is going to be incredibly distrustful of the way this is done, and I think rightly so," said Frank Vogl, a co-founder of Transparency International and chairman for the Partnership for transparency Fund.

On Saturday, they seized offices of the Economy Ministry, hauling away files they said would show corruption around the sale and distribution of wheat. Lebanon's wheat stockpile, stored next to the warehouse filled with ammonium nitrate, was destroyed in the explosion.

"We restored the economy ministry to the Lebanese people," one man called out as they rifled through the desks.

Julien Courson, head of the Lebanon Transparency Association, said the country's non-profits are forming a coalition to monitor how relief and aid money is spent. He estimated Lebanon loses \$2 billion to corruption each year.

"The decision-makers and the public servants who are in charge of these files are still in their positions. Until now, we didn't see any solution to the problem," he said.

A first step would be an online clearinghouse for every contract linked to reconstruction, Courson said. And the first project has to be highly visible and spread the benefits widely, said Christiaan Poortman, board chairman of Infrastructure Transparency Initiative.



"That will help keeping some of the political stuff at a distance," Poortman said. "Donors will have to be on top of this. The issue of procurement is always where lots of corruption takes place ... it needs to be done quickly, and there is always the temptation to not follow the rules and go ahead and do something where a lot of people are going to make a lot of money."

Speaking at a news conference in which he conspicuously did not appear alongside Lebanese President Michel Aoun, Macron said he was approaching Lebanon with "the requirements of a friend who rushes to help, when times are hard, but not to give a blank check to systems that no longer have the trust of their people."

Hinnant reported from Paris. AP writers Sarah El-Deeb in Beirut and Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed.

## Israeli jeweler makes \$1.5m gold coronavirus mask

By ISAAC SCHARF Associated Press

MOTZA, Israel (AP) — An Israeli jewelry company is working on what it says will be the world's most expensive coronavirus mask, a gold, diamond-encrusted face covering with a price tag of \$1.5 million.

The 18-karat white gold mask will be decorated with 3,600 white and black diamonds and fitted with top-rated N99 filters at the request of the buyer, said designer Isaac Levy.

Levy, owner of the Yvel company, said the buyer had two other demands: that it be completed by the end of the year, and that it would be the priciest in the world. That last condition, he said, "was the easiest to fulfill."

He declined to identify the buyer, but said he was a Chinese businessman living in the United States.

The glitzed-up face mask may lend some pizzazz to the protective gear now mandatory in public spaces in many countries. But at 270 grams (over half a pound) — nearly 100 times that of a typical surgical mask — it is not likely to be a practical accessory to wear.

In an interview at his factory near Jerusalem, Levy showed off several pieces of the mask, covered in diamonds. One gold plate had a hole for the filter.

"Money maybe doesn't buy everything, but if it can buy a very expensive COVID-19 mask and the guy wants to wear it and walk around and get the attention, he should be happy with that," Levy said.

Such an ostentatious mask might also rub some the wrong way at a time when millions of people around the world are out of work or suffering economically. Levy said that while he would not wear it himself, he was thankful for the opportunity.

"I am happy that this mask gave us enough work for our employees to be able to provide their jobs in very challenging times like these times right now," he said.

## Mauritius races to contain oil spill, protect coastline

By ANDREW MELDRUM and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Thousands of students, environmental activists and residents of Mauritius were working around the clock Sunday, trying to reduce the damage to the Indian Ocean island from an oil spill after a ship ran aground on a coral reef.

An estimated 1 ton of oil from the Japanese ship's cargo of 4 tons has already escaped into the sea, officials said. Workers were seeking to stop more oil from leaking, but with high winds and rough seas on Sunday there were reports of new cracks to the ship's hull.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has declared a state of emergency and appealed for international help. He said the spill "represents a danger" for the country of 1.3 million people that relies heavily on tourism and has been hurt by travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Satellite images show a dark slick spreading in the turquoise waters near wetlands that the government called "very sensitive." Wildlife workers and volunteers, meanwhile, ferried dozens of baby tortoises and rare plants from an island near the spill, Ile aux Aigrettes, to the mainland.

"This is no longer a threat to our environment, it is a full-blown ecological disaster that has affected one

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 66 of 82

of the most environmentally important parts of Mauritius, the Mahebourg Lagoon," said Sunil Dowarkasing, an environmental consultant and former member of parliament.

"The people of Mauritius, thousands and thousands, have come out to try to prevent as much damage as possible," said Dowarkasing, who spoke from the relief efforts at Bois des Amourettes by the lagoon.

He said people have created long floating oil booms to try to slow the spread into the lagoon and onto the coast. The hastily made fabric booms are stuffed with sugar cane leaves and straw and kept afloat with plastic bottles, he said. People are also using empty oil drums to scoop up as much oil as possible from shallower waters.

University students and members of the local Lions and Rotary clubs are among the volunteers, he said. "We are working flat out. It's a major challenge, because the oil is not only floating in the lagoon, it's already washing up on the shore," said Dowarkasing. "The booms are really working in many spots."

He said the steady winds and waves have spread the fuel across the eastern side of the island.

"We've never seen anything like this in Mauritius," he said.

The lagoon is a protected area, created several years ago to preserve an area in Mauritius as it was 200 years ago.

"The coral reefs had begun to regenerate and the lagoon was getting back its coral gardens," said Dowarkasing. "Now this might all be killed again by the oil spill."

A French military transport aircraft was carrying pollution control equipment to Mauritius and a navy vessel with additional material planned to sail from the nearby French island of Reunion.

Residents and environmentalists alike asked why authorities didn't act more quickly after the ship, the MV Wakashio, ran aground on a coral reef on July 25.

"That's the big question," Jean Hugues Gardenne with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation told The Associated Press. "Why that ship has been sitting for long on that coral reef and nothing being done."

For days, residents peered out at the precariously tilted ship as a salvage team arrived and began to work, but ocean waves kept battering the ship. Cracks in the hull were detected a few days ago and the salvage team was quickly evacuated. Some 400 sea booms were deployed to contain the spill, but they were not enough, he said.

In Japan, officials of the company that owns the ship, Nagashiki Shipping, and the ship's operator, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, apologized Sunday for the oil leak.

At their first news conference since the ship ran aground two weeks ago, the officials said they have sent experts to Mauritius to join in the cleanup effort. They are trying to do so in an environmentally safe way, without using emulsifiers and other environmentally harmful chemicals, said Kiyooki Nagashiki, president of the shipowner Nagashiki Shipping.

"First of all, we are doing the utmost to prevent further oil spill and to remove it from the sea," said Akihiko Ono, vice president of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines. "We are aware of a potential major impact on the tourism in the area and we take it very seriously."

The officials said the Wakashio left China on July 14 and was on its way to Brazil. The ship was about 1 mile off the southeast coast of Mauritius when it went aground, even though it was supposed to be 10 to 20 miles (16 to 32 kilometers) away from the island, Mitsui executive Masanori Kato said. Mitsui is investigating why the ship went off course.

The officials said the companies were continuing to remove fuel from the ship using a vessel small enough to safely operate in the shallow waters. They said the operation is time-consuming because of rough waves. The shipowner and operator are working with a salvage ship to lift the tanker while trying to prevent any further oil leaks.

The ship's engine room and ballast tank were damaged and had water seeping inside, but its 20 crew members have been safely evacuated, officials said.

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo. AP journalists Cara Anna and Nqobile Ntshangase contributed from Johannesburg.

## Amid pandemic, future of many Catholic schools is in doubt

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the new academic year arrives, school systems across the United States are struggling to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Roman Catholic educators have an extra challenge — trying to forestall a relentless wave of closures of their schools that has no end in sight.

Already this year, financial and enrollment problems aggravated by the pandemic have forced the permanent closure of more than 140 Catholic schools nationwide, according to officials who oversee Catholic education in the country.

Three of the nation's highest-ranking Catholic leaders, in a recent joint appeal, said Catholic schools "are presently facing their greatest financial crisis" and warned that hundreds more closures are likely without federal support.

"Because of economic loss and uncertainty, many families are confronting the wrenching decision to pull their children out of Catholic schools," said New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

They urged Congress to include funding in the next pandemic relief bill for scholarship assistance for economically disadvantaged families to use at Catholic or other private schools.

Many Catholic schools already have received substantial federal aid from the U.S. Department of Education and from the Paycheck Protection Program, which was designed to pay wages at businesses or nonprofits impacted by the pandemic.

The pace of closures has been relentless since March. Within the past month, Catholic leaders have announced the shuttering of five schools in Newark, New Jersey, and 26 in the New York City area. Among the schools closed earlier was the Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore, a 173-year-old girl's high school that's the alma mater of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Several of the closures have promoted protests and petition campaigns by angry parents, and Catholic officials have been scrambling to help affected families.

The Diocese of Brooklyn's school superintendent, Thomas Chadzutko, said the closures were unavoidable due to the pandemic's "devastating effects" on enrollment and finances.

Parents were offered a \$500 grant if their children enrolled in other Catholic schools, but many were bitter that the closures were announced with little time to make alternative school plans.

"It is a complete travesty how the Brooklyn Diocese can shut down schools within a pandemic and with less than two months' notice," parent Javier Cortes wrote in an online post about the closure of Queen of the Rosary Catholic Academy. "Treating children like this is NOT the Catholic thing to do!"

Also ordered closed was Nativity of Our Blessed Lady, an elementary school in the Bronx.

"I was part of the first graduating class and now I walked out of there hysterical in tears," said Hope Wilson, who attended the school as a child and later taught there for 30 years. "It's heartbreaking."

In Newark, Shante McGlone Burgess was devastated by the news that St. Francis Xavier School was closing. All three of her children attended the elementary school last year, though the family is not Catholic.

"They were very welcoming there," McGlone Burgess said. "At a public school, I don't think my children would have gotten the same camaraderie, as well as the structure."

St. Francis Xavier is one of many schools being closed that serve predominantly Black and Hispanic communities. Three bishops who oversee matters related to education and racial issues recently sent an appeal to U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, seeking support for families of color with students in Catholic schools.

"A Black or Latino child is 42% more likely to graduate from high school, and two-and-a-half times more likely to graduate from college if he or she attends a Catholic school," wrote Bishops Michael Barber of Oakland, California, Joseph Perry of Chicago and Shelton Fabre of the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese in Louisiana.

At the National Catholic Educational Association, there's acute concern about the closures' consequences.

"Catholic schools have a very profound impact on young people of low-income backgrounds, students of color, kids from single-parent homes," said the NCEA's chief innovation officer, Kevin Baxter "That makes it all the more tragic if we lose the Catholic schools that serve those populations."

One consequence of the turmoil: increased interest in Catholic-oriented homeschooling.

Chris Sebastian, a spokesman for the Mother of Divine Grace School, said it is preparing to serve about 6,000 students in the new school year, compared with 4,800 last year.

The school, based in California but serving families across the U.S. and overseas, offers a structured Catholic curriculum and assigns an educational consultant to work with each family that signs up.

"COVID is the primary motivator for people enrolling," Sebastian said. "People are afraid of the pandemic and not wanting the stress of required masks."

The Rev. Thomas Vassalotti, pastor of Queen of the Rosary Catholic Academy's parish in New York, said numerous parents affected by that closure — and wary of switching to public schools — are expressing interest in homeschooling, perhaps in a cooperative with assistance from the parish.

For Catholic schools that are reopening, there is no national directive as to how they should handle the question of in-person classes. Decisions are being made diocese by diocese, often influenced by local and state rules.

In Los Angeles, archdiocese officials had hoped to open the new year with in-person classes. They now will have to start out with distance learning, due to an order from Gov. Gavin Newsom barring public and private schools from reopening campuses if their counties are on a monitoring list for high rates of new coronavirus cases.

The situation is different in Dallas, where the diocese plans to open schools Sept. 2, six days before the earliest date when secular schools can start in-person classes. The diocese chose that option after Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said religious schools were exempt from local orders delaying in-person instruction.

And in Evansville, Indiana, Catholic schools reopened Aug. 5 with a full program of in-person instruction. Schools were told to spread out desks, place students in small groups and require face coverings.

Mary Pat Donoghue, who heads the education office of the national bishops' conference, said she expects a wide variety of reopening plans, with a common aim of getting students back in the classroom as quickly as health conditions allow.

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Associated Press video journalist Jessie Wardarski, in New York, and Justin Pritchard, in Los Angeles, contributed to his report.

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## Ohio governor's conflicting COVID-19 tests raise backlash

By DAN SEWELL and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio governor's positive, then negative, tests for COVID-19 have provided fuel for skeptics of government pandemic mandates and critics of his often-aggressive policies.

"I'm sure the internet is lighting up with 'Well, you can't believe any test,'" Mike DeWine said in a WCOL radio interview Friday, after a whirlwind of events the day before when the initial positive showing forced the Republican to scrub a planned meeting with President Donald Trump. And on Sunday, he told CNN's "State of the Union" that "people should not take away from my experience that testing is not reliable or doesn't work."

Instead of seeing Trump at the Cleveland airport, DeWine returned to this state capital for new testing with his wife, Fran, through Ohio State University's medical center. They then went to their southwestern Ohio farm in Cedarville, where DeWine said he planned to quarantine for 14 days. But within hours, he had received Columbus test results that were negative. The first test, part of protocol for people meeting with the president, was a rapid-result antigen test, while the Columbus testing was a genetic, laboratory test whose results are considered more reliable.

The governor's office said Saturday another test for each by Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center again

returned negative results for DeWine and his wife.

The conflicting results come as Americans have grown frustrated about access to testing and by slow results. Ohioans also remain divided over DeWine's actions to deal with the pandemic, with some saying his early shutdown actions unnecessarily damaged businesses. He was an early advocate of wearing masks to stop the COVID-19 spread even as other Republicans in Ohio remain unconvinced.

State Rep. Nino Vitale, a conservative GOP gadfly from Urbana, tweeted a photo of DeWine wearing a mask minutes after the positive test was announced Thursday.

"I think the question must be asked. Has he not been wearing his mask, or do masks not stop the spread?" Vitale said in his post, which also stated he wished the governor no ill will.

DeWine said he received some "not so nice" texts during the day Thursday about wearing masks. He reasserted Friday that while they might not be 100% effective, they do help prevent spread and have been made a noticeable difference in the state's most-populated cities.

Critics were blasting him on his official Twitter account, too.

DeWine, 73, a former U.S. senator and House member who is in his first term as governor, at first appeared to have been only the second U.S. governor to positive for the coronavirus.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt announced he contracted the virus last month. Stitt, a Republican who has been disdainful of mask mandates, said he contracted COVID -19 by hugging friends.

Longtime Cincinnati-area conservative activist Mike Wilson, who has been analyzing and writing about coronavirus data since he contracted COVID-19 this summer, saw a storm of strong reactions on his Facebook page including from some who said DeWine's results show the pandemic is "a scam."

"At this point, this is clearly not a hoax," said Wilson, who has fully recovered from the virus. He said continued pandemic-deniers are mostly "outliers," but many other people are frustrated over what they see as DeWine's overreactions and also about the testing issues. Test results, including false positives, affect individual lives by triggering quarantines that are a rising concern as Ohio schools prepare to reopen.

The number of positive cases in Ohio had decreased after the first surge, hitting a low in late May. But numbers again began to rise in mid-June as Ohio began to reopen businesses.

DeWine had resisted a statewide mask mandate until July 23. He quickly backed off an earlier try at a mask requirement inside businesses and balked at closing down bars, instead recently mandating a "last call" at 10 p.m. and an 11 p.m. closing time. Nearly 3,700 Ohio deaths have been linked to the coronavirus.

Wilson thinks by now, DeWine and other government officials should allow people to make their own decisions on which precautions they need or are willing to take.

"We've found that people's individual behavior matters more than those government actions anyway," Wilson said.

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Sewell reported from Cincinnati.

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Follow Dan Sewell at <https://twitter.com/dansewell> and Andrew Welsh-Huggins at <https://twitter.com/awhcolumbus>

## **Black people in Portland struggle to be heard amid protests**

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Chaotic and often violent protests against racial injustice have topped the headlines for days, but lost in the shouting are the voices of many Black Portland residents themselves — and their feelings about the unrest are nuanced and diverse.

Some feel the overwhelmingly white crowds of protesters — and particularly those committing vandalism — are co-opting the Black Lives Matter movement. Others welcome white demonstrators because with their larger numbers they can draw attention to the city's racial inequity in ways that Black demonstrators alone can't.

Some believe deeply that there can't be a Black Lives Matter movement without defunding the police.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 70 of 82

Others say a recent vote to cut a specialized gun violence reduction unit is behind a sharp spike in shootings that's devastated their community.

Primarily, there is a persistent worry that a critical opportunity for achieving racial justice in Portland's tiny Black community could be lost. Many cite competing voices and the harsh glare of a national spotlight, which has reduced the situation to a culture war when the reality is much more complex.

"It happens so much that the things that we care about get hijacked and get put on the back burner. And that just gets put into a big barrel with everything else," said Neil Anderson, a Black business owner. "We all want the same thing. But so often we get drowned out."

The city's Black Lives Matter protests rocketed into the national consciousness in mid-July, when President Donald Trump sent agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to protect a federal courthouse that had increasingly become a target of protesters.

The action galvanized the city and united demonstrators, but it also exposed a simmering tension between Black demonstrators and their white allies, as well as disagreements among Black residents themselves about the way forward.

The Wall of Moms, a group of mostly white women and self-described parents, gathered nightly to form a human chain between protesters and federal agents. Within two weeks, the group had imploded, with some Black community leaders accusing its leadership of trying to monetize their movement. The group reformed under Black leadership and a new name.

Demetria Hester, a Black woman who leads the new Moms United for Black Lives, said the departure of federal agents and the dissolution of the Wall of Moms has refocused the protests.

"These are the moms who actually want to ... make our reparations happen. Make this revolution happen," she said.

Seneca Cayson, who helped lead peaceful gatherings in downtown Portland, has mixed feelings. He feels white protesters who commit vandalism and taunt law enforcement are distracting from his message, but he also recognizes they are drawing attention to racial injustice in a way he could never do.

"What the white people have is something that we don't, and that's rights," said Cayson, as he prepared to lead another peaceful rally with several other Black men. "We are fighting alongside them to ... be equal."

The Portland Police Bureau, with its newly appointed Black police chief, is for many Black residents just as polarizing as the protests.

For many, part of breaking down racial barriers means defunding the police entirely. The city population is less than 6% Black but people of color were disproportionately stopped by the gun violence reduction team. An analysis of police use of force published last month found that in 2019, officers were much more likely to use force against Black people — and particularly young Black men — than other groups despite overall trends towards less use of force.

"It is the entire culture of the Portland Police Bureau that is fundamentally unmanageable and must change," said Jo Ann Hardesty, the city's first Black councilwoman and an activist who has pressed for police reform for 30 years. "Thirty years is a long time to be asking for the exact same reforms. The difference now is there are tens of thousands of Portlanders who want the exact same thing."

In June, the City Council cut nearly \$16 million from the Police Bureau budget. The cuts shuttered programs like the gun violence reduction unit, a youth services program and ended the presence of school resource officers in three school districts.

In July, the city experienced a sharp rise in gun violence that has overwhelmingly hurt Black people. There were 99 shootings -- more than triple the amount from the previous July — and the city has tallied 366 non-suicide shootings this year compared to 388 in all of 2019. Roughly two-thirds of the victims in July were Black, said police Sgt. Derrick Foxworth.

Kimberly Dixon, who lost her son to gun violence in 2013, said the dissolution of the gun violence reduction team has hurt the Black community. Mayor Ted Wheeler said he is working on a solution that will be made public soon.

"You took away the expertise that was there, the relationships that were there," Dixon said. "That con-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 71 of 82

nectivity is important, historical context is important. When you disbanded it, did you rebuild? ... This is the carnage that is left in the community.”

Some Black residents, however, say they can't imagine racial justice in their city without doing away with the police. Vandalism, and even violence, during protests to elevate Black grievances after hundreds of years of oppression is appropriate, they say.

Teressa Raiford, head of Don't Shoot Portland and a former mayoral candidate, said people who are questioning the legitimacy of protest through so-called "direct action" against police are on "the wrong side of history."

"There are people that are hellbent on protecting the status quo and the system as the way it is even if the outcomes don't serve us," she said. "The politicizing of Black people is not only vicious, it's violent and we're not being heard."

Raiford said: "The disgusting people, in my opinion, are the people with guns and tasers that are attacking people that are showing up to protests. When we talk about anarchy ... you know that we have stolen people that were brought to stolen land where they were used as slaves. And I think people are realizing that — including white people."

Naishadham reported from Atlanta. Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus> and Suman Naishadham on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/SumanNaishadham>

## Native mascots still a sticking point in high school sports

By SOPHIA EPPOLITO and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

BOUNTIFUL, Utah (AP) — At a mostly white high school near Salt Lake City, the steps leading to the football field are covered in red handprints, arrows and drawings of Native American men in headdresses meant to represent the mascot, the Braves. "Welcome to the Dark Side" and "Fight like a Brave" are scrawled next to images of teepees, a tomahawk and a dream catcher.

While advocates have made strides in getting Native American symbols and names changed in sports, they say there's still work to do mainly at the high school level, where mascots like Braves, Indians, Warriors, Chiefs and Redskins persist. Momentum is building during a nationwide push for racial justice following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the NFL team in Washington dropping the Redskins name.

At Bountiful High School, there's nostalgia for the Braves name that's been used for nearly 70 years and comes with an informal mascot — a student dressed up in feathers. Fans point to tradition when rhythmically extending their forearms for the tomahawk chop, wearing face paint and chanting at football games.

It's an honor, they say, but not to many Native Americans who see the portrayals throughout high school, collegiate and professional sports. The depictions can affect the psyches of younger Native Americans and create the image of a monolith that doesn't exist, advocates say.

"There is no tribe that can make a claim to it," said James Singer, co-founder of the Utah League of Native American Voters. "Nevertheless, many tribal governments, using their tribal sovereignty, have issued statements saying they don't want these kinds of mascots for school teams."

It's not clear how many high schools have built their sports team imagery around Native Americans, but advocates say it's in the hundreds — down significantly from decades ago.

Schools in Ohio, Michigan, Idaho, New York, Massachusetts and California are changing names, often at the urging of Native Americans. Schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Red Mesa on the Navajo Nation are discussing their Redskins mascots.

"I understand the issue, and then at the same time, you just have to listen to the students who take pride in this but give them the information about why the other side is concerned, too," said Timothy Benally, who's on the Red Mesa Unified School District board in Arizona and is Navajo.

On a practical level, getting rid of a mascot means new uniforms, signs on fields and imagery on merchandise.

Dr. Jason Black, a communication studies professor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 72 of 82

co-wrote "Mascot Nation," said the changes aren't too costly but finding replacements can take time.

"You're getting what you pay for, and what you get is respect of human beings and ... rebirth of a community that truly understands how to be responsible with its members," said Black, who is not Native American. "It is an investment in people, and that's who matters."

Only three states have laws either prohibiting or limiting these symbols at public institutions. Maine lawmakers last year banned Native American mascots in public schools. In Oregon, public schools and universities cannot use names, symbols or images that depict Native Americans unless they have an agreement with a local federally recognized tribe. California forbids "Redskins" as a team name or mascot.

Attempts in other states to govern the use of Native American mascots have failed in recent years. At least three — Illinois, Massachusetts and Minnesota — are considering legislation this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

At the college level, Native American mascots seen as "hostile and abusive" have been banned in championship play since 2005. Some schools, including the University of Utah and Florida State University, have agreements with local tribes to use their names and imagery.

Luke Duncan, a Ute tribal official, recently rebuked calls for the University of Utah to stop using the tribe's name, calling the agreement a "source of pride" for tribal members.

Professional sports teams that have Native American-themed names and mascots increasingly are facing backlash, including baseball's Atlanta Braves and the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs. The Cleveland Indians baseball team recently said it would talk with Native Americans as it considers a name change.

Last week, the Chicago Blackhawks said hockey fans would be banned from wearing headdresses when home games resume but would keep its name in honor of Black Hawk, a Sac and Fox Nation leader.

At Bountiful High School in Utah, many alumni support the Braves name. Kurt Gentry, who graduated in 1976, said the mascot was treated with "tremendous respect and honor and power" when he was a student.

"There's a lot of misinformation and oversensitivity that is frankly being propagated by those who have zero understanding of the culture," said Gentry, noting he had a Navajo foster daughter.

Lemiley Lane, who's Navajo, transferred to Bountiful last year as a sophomore and said she was the only Native American student at the school. She was excited for the first assembly but left when she saw the "Brave Man" — a white student wearing a headdress. After that, she skipped school assemblies and sports games.

"I couldn't stay there because I felt uncomfortable; I felt unwelcome," Lane said. "I wanted to go home."

The mascot is no longer allowed at school events, Davis County School District spokesman Chris Williams said. Bountiful's logo was changed in recent years from a Native American man to the letter "B" with a feather or arrow on it, he said.

The fate of the Braves name and logo won't be known before the first football game this month, Williams said.

Carl Moore of Peaceful Advocates for Native Dialogue and Organizing Support said real change won't come without the school educating students about Native American history.

"They change the logo, but it doesn't change the culture," Moore said. "The culture is still racist when you walk up those steps."

Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Eppolito is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## For pandemic jobless, the only real certainty is uncertainty

By SHARON COHEN AP National Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — For three decades, Kelly Flint flourished as a corporate travel agent, sending everyone



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 73 of 82

from business titans to oil riggers around the planet. Then came the worst pandemic in a century, leaving her jobless and marooned in an uncertain economy.

Furloughed since March, Flint has dipped into her retirement account to pay her bills, frustrated that her \$600 weekly emergency federal aid payments have expired. She yearns, too, for an end to the twin disasters that now dominate her life: recession and pandemic.

"I don't deal well with the unknowns," she says. "I never have."

Across America are legions of Kelly Flints, women and men who don't know when they'll receive another paycheck — or if.

The coronavirus outbreak and resulting economic upheaval have thrown millions of lives into disarray. Industries have collapsed, businesses closed, jobs disappeared. Compounding the misery is a question no one can answer: When will this all be over?

In recent congressional testimony, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell repeated his earlier warning: The strength of any recovery will rely on the nation's ability to contain the virus. The outlook for the U.S. economy, he said, is "extraordinarily uncertain."

Uncertain. If 2020 had to be condensed into a single word — and there are many, many words to describe it — uncertainty would hover at the top of the list. Uncertainty about health. About the future. About the country itself. And uncertainty about livelihoods and jobs and economic security in a historical moment where each day seems to bring a fresh wave of unwanted developments.

America has faced economic calamity before, most recently during the recession of 2008, when the jobless rate soared to 10%. That pales in comparison to the two crises that have cost more than 160,000 American lives and ushered in spiraling unemployment — 30 million job losses, of which 17.5 million people remain unemployed.

"It's not just the scope of the losses," says Martha Gimbel, an economist at Schmidt Futures. "Until we have solved the public health crisis or have a timeline ... none of us is going to know what's going on."

Uncertainty, painted onto the landscape by the numbers. And behind each one, a human being.

## LISA VINES

When she lost her job, she wrestled with a flood of emotions: shock, panic, then determination.

"I went into survival mode," Vines says. "My faith kicked in like a ninja."

Her first task was to research every possible government benefit. But even with that, she turned to food banks to provide for herself and her 8-year-old granddaughter, who shares her home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Vines was stunned when she was laid off in March from her sales job at a promotional product company. She'd worked there 20 years. "You think you're going to be taken care of," she says.

A calm set in as Vines inventoried her life, knowing she had a small savings and a home she could sell. "I looked at my granddaughter and said, 'OK, we're to get through it,'" she says.

She doesn't know what the future holds. One possibility: working for the same company, but on a commission basis. But at 56, she has a philosophy: "You learn what to worry about and what to pray about."

She's confident a way forward will emerge. "I'll either be here or I'll build my peace elsewhere," Vines says. "I can't get wrapped up in the unknowns when I have blessings in front of me."

## JARED SAIGH

He had a road map for his future. A new job in his hometown in rural Michigan. A chance to use his marketing skills. The comfort of living with his parents.

Saigh was eager to start over after being laid off in 2019 from a Detroit-area marketing company. After a half-year of searching for work, Saigh decided it would be cheaper to continue his quest from home. He moved in with his parents in Iron River, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

A few months later, Saigh was hired to lead a nonprofit attached to his local hospital. He'd be working 5 miles from home, reuniting with friends in Iron River, population 3,000 — and doing something positive for his community.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 74 of 82

"It was just perfect," he says. "It was like, "Wow! Everything is falling in place."

Then the pandemic swooped in. Hospitals faced new financial pressures. The offer was rescinded. Saigh went from dream job to no job.

It was back to sending out resumes, checking LinkedIn, canvassing for interviews during one of the most brutal job markets in decades. "It can be overwhelming at times just to go through this again," he says.

He considers himself lucky, avoiding rent and other expenses living with his parents. He recently turned down a job offer to head a local economic organization; it didn't seem like the right fit, and he feared there might not be money for the position beyond the end of the year.

Now, Saigh plans to do some photo and video freelance work as he tries to land another job. He's adjusted to an economy where so much remains unknown.

"I've learned that you can't possibly plan for everything and, though it's a cliché, you've just got to roll with the punches," he says. "And I've learned to go where the next thing leads me. Hopefully, that will be soon."

## JAMES JACKSON

Every day, he confronts the realities of too many bills, not enough money, a job that's on hold — and no timetable for when any of it will change.

Jackson is among tens of thousands of hospitality workers who've been sidelined in an industry devastated by the pandemic. His employer, the Diplomat Beach resort in Hollywood, Florida, closed in March because of the outbreak. That left Jackson, an assistant to the bartender and server at a hotel restaurant, and his wife, an elementary school teacher, scrambling to provide for their three asthmatic children.

They've tried to shield them from money troubles. "It's not their job to go out and make things happen," Jackson says. "As a parent, you don't want to give kids the perception that the ground is crumbling under your feet."

Complicating the situation is Florida's unemployment system, which has been marred by computer glitches and lengthy delays. Despite countless calls over the months, Jackson, 51, says he has yet to receive a single \$275 weekly state unemployment check — even though his last day of work was March 21. That cap is among the stingiest in the nation.

The stress has frayed his nerves. His doctor, who waived copayments for visits, prescribed medicine for his high blood pressure, but he can't afford it. His hair is thinning. He gets migraines.

Jackson and his wife have traditionally depended on help from her teaching salary, but she's been off during the summer. With \$3,200 in monthly bills, the two regularly face tough choices. "If you do have money," he says, "do you spend it on gas or do you get food?"

Jackson is hoping to find a warehouse job for now. He worries about having enough food for his kids — 8 to 18 — and being able to afford school supplies, clothes and everything else they'll need in coming months.

He refuses to look too far ahead. "This is a day-to-day process," he says, "and I can't worry about the things I cannot change."

## BRETT LIPSHUTZ

He can't help but think he was a victim of bad timing.

Last year, after tiring of being an educator, he gave up a job teaching French in a private school in suburban Milwaukee. He was recruited to become a bilingual software trainer, traveling to Canada three weeks a month. In the spring, he rushed back to the U.S. as the border was about to close.

Then suddenly, at 46, Lipshutz was out of work — something entirely new for him. He filed for unemployment and joined a support group of jobless workers in Wisconsin. He began figuring out how much to dip into savings that had taken years to amass.

"Not having enough money can paralyze you," he says. It's a lesson he learned at a young age.

"I grew up with a single mom on welfare in the '80s," Lipshutz says. "And I know what it's like to collect

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 75 of 82

government cheese and free lunch and to live paycheck to paycheck and feel that stress of financial instability. .... It brings back trauma from that time of, 'Oh, my God, am I going to have to live like that again?'"

Lipshutz's second software project was canceled because of budget cuts. He's now starting a tofu business with friends. He also expects to be back in the classroom this fall, teaching French to Milwaukee public high school students.

Lipshutz has become more comfortable, too, accepting the limitations of this chaotic environment.

"There are certain things you can't control, and you have to let it go," he says. "I can't control the pandemic. I can't control the job market."

"In the back of my mind," he adds, "there's still a tiny drawer of anxiety and worry. ... But I'm starting to tell myself, 'Listen, you're going to be fine.'"

## MORGAN GITHMARK

For her, the pandemic has been a health risk and a job destroyer.

Last March, she had to quit her job at a marketing company in North Carolina because face-to-face encounters with customers at big-box stores were potentially dangerous. A diabetic, Githmark, 24, has an increased chance of becoming seriously ill if she contracts the coronavirus.

"I feel like I don't have very much of a purpose now," she says. She feels as if she's "floating around in life" as she searches for work, with her father helping retool her resume. She knows her job possibilities are limited because she can't be exposed to large groups of people.

Githmark plans to enroll in grad school, though she hasn't chosen a field of study. She taught in a charter school in Durham, North Carolina, before moving into marketing. She may return to education.

Meanwhile, gardening and writing help relieve the tension. "It's just been a very stressful time," she says, and sighs.

## MICAH ANDERSON

When the Portland, Oregon, club where he tended bar was forced to close in the pandemic's early days, he had no time to plan how he'd pay his bills. But he knew some routine expenses would have to wait.

At the top of the list were \$250 monthly payments he'd been making for more than a decade to whittle down \$45,000 in student loans. There was no way he could shoulder that. His immediate worries were food and shelter, and he was pleasantly surprised when he was given some leeway in paying rent and utilities.

For the past six months, Anderson, 37, has relied on state unemployment and \$600-a-week pandemic-related federal benefits that just expired. In Washington, Democrats and Republicans are clashing over how much of that aid should continue and for how long.

Anderson has been cautious about spending. He walks almost everywhere. He has reduced his food budget to essentials. He doesn't go out with friends. He's become politically active, calling the offices of federal lawmakers, urging them to back a bill creating a \$120 billion fund to help rescue restaurants and bars.

And as stressful days give way to sleepless nights, he and his friends commiserate over their shared predicament.

"You've got kind of overwhelming sense of dread," he says, echoing the sentiments of a friend who said being caught in the pandemic is "like standing on the shore and you're looking at this huge tsunami wave coming in. and you know it's going to hit. But there's not a whole lot I can really do about it."

## DEANNA KOUSKOULAS

She isn't one to point fingers. She knows many others who've looked at the staggering numbers of unemployed and don't feel the same way.

"I see a lot of people blaming companies, saying, 'How dare they lay off their employees!'" she says. "But those decisions have to be made."

Kouskoulas, 30, was laid off in April, about six months after being hired for a copywriting-marketing job

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 76 of 82

at a suburban Detroit construction company.

She's now interviewing for jobs, preparing for the post-pandemic era. She spends part of every morning sharpening and expanding her skills, studying graphic design on YouTube, among other things, "so I can come out strong when things do go back to normal." And she speaks regularly with a CEO she once worked for who acts as her mentor.

Shortly after Kouskoulas lost her job, she thought she had a lucky break: She was hired to do marketing at a software firm. She worked 60-hour weeks, she says, but was repeatedly rebuffed when she asked for a paycheck. After four weeks, she'd had enough.

In recent weeks, Kouskoulas says she senses the "quietness in the economy" that existed a few months ago has lifted and there are more opportunities. But she also worries some employers will be consolidating roles, producing fewer jobs with more responsibilities.

She's prepared, too, for what she expects will be "a long haul."

"At the end of the day," she says, "the only person who's going to get me out of this is me."

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Uncertainty ripples outward. There are so many things that, because of it, simply can't be done.

It spreads to those who've permanently lost jobs as well as furloughed workers wondering if they'll be called back. "People may tell you to retrain," says Gimbel, the economist. "What are you supposed to retrain for? You don't know what the economy is going to look like. Everyone is frozen because it's so unclear how the situation is going to evolve."

And long-term planning? Even murkier — impossible, really, says Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork.

"We don't know whether at the end of the year there are going to be 15 million people without a job or 5 million people," he says. "From top to bottom, every single person in the economy is affected by this uncertainty in one way or another."

Job uncertainty is new for Flint, 53, the travel agent. She's never been unemployed, and it's "doubly scary," she says, because she's single. Her furlough is up at the end of October, but there's no guarantee she won't be laid off before then. Every week, she sends out fresh resumes from her home in Galveston, Texas. And every day, she fends off scam artists who call with bogus job offers as they try to ferret out her private information.

"I've had anxiety that I've never had before. I've even had panic attacks. I've had crazy dreams of zombies," she says. "It has worn on me."

For Micah Anderson, the uncertainty has been the hardest part — "having zero idea of what next week is going to even look like."

"I'm the type of person who, if I if I have an idea of what I'm facing, I can try to make a plan that makes sense," Anderson says. "But you don't really know what it is you need to do."

"You just have no clue. You make decisions the best you can. And you hope that they turn out OK."

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Contributing to this report were Desiree Mathurin and Haleluya Hadero in Atlanta. Sharon Cohen, a Chicago-based national writer for The Associated Press, can be reached at [scohen@ap.org](mailto:scohen@ap.org) or on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SCohenAP>

## No parties, no trips: Colleges set COVID-19 rules for fall

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

As they struggle to salvage some semblance of a campus experience this fall, U.S. colleges are requiring promises from students to help contain the coronavirus — no keg parties, no long road trips and no outside guests on campus.

No kidding. Administrators warn that failure to wear masks, practice social distancing and avoid mass gatherings could bring serious consequences, including getting booted from school.

Critics question whether it's realistic to demand that college students not act like typical college students. But the push illustrates the high stakes for universities planning to welcome at least some students back.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 77 of 82

Wide-scale COVID-19 testing, quarantines and plexiglass barriers in classrooms won't work if too many students misbehave.

"I think that the majority of students are going to be really respectful and wear their masks, social distance, keep gatherings small," said incoming Tulane University senior Sanjali De Silva. "But I fear that there will be a distinct group of students that will decide not to do that. And it'll be a big bummer."

Tulane students have already received a stark warning from the school in New Orleans, an early pandemic hot spot. After a summer weekend of large gatherings, Dean of Students Erica Woodley wrote to students, stressing her key point in bold, capital letters.

**"DO NOT HOST PARTIES OR GATHERINGS WITH MORE THAN 15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE HOST. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL FACE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY,"** Woodley wrote, signing off with, "Do you really want to be the reason that Tulane and New Orleans have to shut down again?"

The emphasis on student behavior is part of a broader effort to create safe bubbles on campus even if the virus surges elsewhere. The University of Texas at Austin is not allowing parties either on or off campus. In Massachusetts, Amherst College is prohibiting students from traveling off campus except in certain cases, such as medical appointments and family emergencies.

Many universities have spelled out expectations for student behavior in pledges and compacts that cover everything from mask wearing to off-campus travel. The pledges often cover faculty and staff, too.

It's unclear how well these rules will work. Critics say the very nature of the college experience — with cramped housing and intense social activity — works against success. Some colleges are already backing off plans for in-person classes this fall.

"The majority of kids who go to college are civic-minded, responsible people. They're also young," said Scott Galloway, professor of marketing at New York University. "If some of them don't comply, it's a problem. And I think some to many will have a difficult time ignoring every instinct pulsing through their body at that age that they're supposed to socialize and find mates."

Galloway plans to teach online this fall and return to campus when there's a vaccine.

Outbreaks involving fraternities have already been reported at some schools, including the University of Southern California, the University of Washington and the University of Mississippi. The University of California at Berkeley recently decided to begin the fall semester with fully remote instruction after a local flare-up of cases linked to fraternity parties.

"After weeks of developing a very elaborate plan for a hybrid model in the fall," officials decided "it was just too risky to teach face-to-face," Chancellor Carol Christ said during a virtual event hosted by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The pledges apply the advice public health officials have been giving since March for college settings. Yale's compact includes a commitment to remain in Connecticut during the fall semester through Nov. 21 and a promise not to "invite or host non-Yale-affiliated individuals" on campus without permission. Ohio State University's "Together As Buckeyes Pledge" includes a promise to conduct daily health checks.

"We want to be clear: Our return to on-campus operations in the autumn is fully dependent on each member of the university community following all requirements and guidance," read a July 24 letter from Ohio State officials.

Cornell University students must agree not to organize, host or attend events that may cause "safety risks" to people, under a school compact released this week. University of Pennsylvania students are warned in the school's compact that alcohol and drugs are not an excuse for risky COVID-19-related behavior. Syracuse University's pledge includes commitments to get a flu shot and to avoid going to social gatherings with more than 25 people.

"I think that people will really keep each other in check. I know I will," said Suhail Kumar, an incoming Syracuse sophomore. "If I see my roommates unmasked or not following protocol, I'm definitely going to let them know because I don't want to jeopardize anything for myself."

Failure to comply with the pledges will be treated as a disciplinary violation.

Syracuse students can face "serious consequences" for violating COVID-19 guidance, and students who host large parties could face sanctions up to suspension and expulsion, according to the school's web site.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 78 of 82

At Penn, incoming senior Ben Zhao is optimistic the new rules will be followed.

Zhao, who is from the Chicago suburb of Northbrook, Illinois, is looking forward to being back on campus after an interrupted spring semester, even with the prospect of online classes. He misses his friends, the school newspaper, where he is executive editor, and studying with classmates.

"They're all big things that I don't want to necessarily miss out on for my senior year," he said.

## Starvation looms for Morocco's horses as tourism collapses

By AMIRA EL MASAITI Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — Abdenabi Nouidi sold his favorite horse for \$150 to help feed the others on the team that pulls tourists in carriages through the buzzing streets of Marrakech, and he is still scared about the future for the others.

The prospect of starvation looms for carriage horses and other animals normally used in Morocco's tourist mecca, since visitors have vanished during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, or SPANA, says hundreds of Morocco's carriage horses and donkeys are threatened amid the collapsing tourism industry. They are among the estimated 200 million horses, donkeys, camels and elephants worldwide providing various livelihoods for over a half-billion people.

The North African kingdom closed its doors to outsiders after the first virus case was confirmed March 2. It also recently issued a ban on domestic travel to eight cities, including Marrakech.

Thousands of people in the city depend on the carriage horses for their livelihood. A single horse carriage in Marrakech supports four to five families, including owners, drivers and stable boys, driver Abdeljalil Belghaoute said.

He spoke from his carriage, waiting in a line near the famed Jamaa El Fnaa square, hoping that someone would want a ride.

"If you have a shop, you can close it. If you sell goods, you store them. But imagine having ... horses who need to eat, drink and get medical care," said Abdeljalil Nouidi.

For two decades, the four Nouidi brothers have taken tourists on sightseeing jaunts in horse-drawn carriages. Now they have empty pockets and mouths to feed, both at home and at the rundown complex outside Marrakech where drivers stable their horses.

The brothers were forced to sell seven of their horses in July. Abdenabi Nouidi's favorite, Cocotte, was among them.

"This is not something I can easily forgive myself for," he said, recalling a promise he made to Cocotte 15 years ago to keep him forever.

The Nouidi brothers say their horses are visibly nervous and know an abrupt change in their lives may be coming. With no carriage work, the horses' routine has been disrupted, feed is running low and stablemates are leaving for good.

SPANANA helped carriage owners provide the basics for their horses when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Morocco. It delivered three months' worth of feed to almost 600 horses in the city and the neighboring town of Ait Ourir during the country's lockdown.

"It became very clear to us when the lockdown was first imposed that many of Marrakech's working animals would need our help or face a dire outcome," said the head veterinarian at SPANA's Marrakech center, Hassan Lamrini.

The center, in a working-class neighborhood, is a mecca for the city's thousands of working animals. Since 1988, the team of vets and technicians have cared for donkeys, mules and horses free of charge.

Lamrini said the center has treated an increasing number of cases of colic, an abdominal pain that causes complications in the digestive system, often due to malnutrition. Colic can be fatal.

"There is not much in the world that matters to me more than caring for these animals. They are my entire life," said Boujamaa Ninich, who has dedicated 50 years to working with SPANA. He spends weeks on end sleeping in a little room at the center to ensure the animals are cared for after dark.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 79 of 82

"They give so much to their owners. There is so little that we can give back," he said.

Marrakech was nearly at a standstill on a recent visit. The Jamma El Fnaa square, a vast area with hawkers, food vendors and snake-dancers, was nearly deserted.

"Only tourism can save us from this catastrophe we're facing," said Belghaoute, the carriage driver hoping for a fare.

The Moroccan government earlier this year launched a social media campaign to encourage citizens to explore their country, but spiking numbers of COVID-19 cases led to the travel ban for eight of the country's top tourist cities.

Authorities counted 28,500 infections and 435 deaths as of Thursday, but experts say all counts in all countries understate the true toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing, missed mild cases and other factors.

"The longer this goes on, horses and families will struggle to survive. We're really scared by how bad this can get," Belghaoute said.

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Azar leads highest-level US delegation to Taiwan in decades

By JOHNSON LAI Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar arrived in Taiwan on Sunday in the highest-level visit by an American Cabinet official since the break in formal diplomatic relations between Washington and Taipei in 1979.

Beijing has already protested Azar's visit as a betrayal of U.S. commitments not to have official contact with the island. China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by military force if necessary.

Azar is due to meet with the island's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen along with health officials during a three-day visit aimed at highlighting cooperation in the fight against the coronavirus.

Taiwan's government-run health care system has been credited with keeping the number of coronavirus cases to under 500 with just seven deaths, despite its close proximity to China where the virus originated.

China sees Taiwan as a key irritant in its troubled relationship with Washington, with whom it is also at odds over trade, technology, the South China Sea and China's response to the virus pandemic.

The U.S. maintains only unofficial ties with Taiwan in deference to Beijing, but is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

Azar is the first health secretary to visit Taiwan and the first Cabinet member to visit in six years. In 2014, then-Environmental Protection Agency administrator Gina McCarthy visited Taiwan, sparking protests from Beijing.

Azar's office said he will hold discussions on COVID-19, global health and Taiwan's role as a supplier of medical equipment and technology.

Azar's visit was facilitated by the 2018 passage of the Taiwan Travel Act, which encouraged Washington to send higher-level officials to Taiwan after decades during which such contacts were rare and freighted with safeguards to avoid roiling ties with Beijing.

China has cut contacts with Tsai over her refusal to recognize China's claim to the island and has brought increasing diplomatic, economic and military pressure against her, including by poaching away several of its remaining diplomatic allies and excluding it from international gatherings including the World Health Assembly. That, in turn, has increased already considerable bipartisan sympathy for Taipei in Washington and prompted new measures to strengthen governmental and military ties.

Also Sunday, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu met with the first representative of Somaliland to the island ahead of the territory's opening of a representative office in Taipei.

Wu earlier tweeted that Mohamed Omar Hagi Mohamoud had "braved Chinese pressure" — a reference

to reports that China had sought to block relations between Taiwan and the region on the Horn of Africa that broke from the rest of Somalia but is not recognized by the United Nations as an independent country.

"The fact `sovereignty & friendship aren't for sale' deserves international recognition," Wu tweeted.

On his arrival, Mahamoud tweeted that "We are ready to establish good relations with all countries - those we share values of democracy are special."

## Masks in class? Many questions as Germans go back to school

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Masks during class, masks only in the halls, no masks at all. Distance when possible, no distance within same-grade groups, no distance at all.

As Germany's 16 states start sending millions of children back to school in the middle of the global coronavirus pandemic, the country's famous sense of "Ordnung," or order, has given way to uncertainty, with a hodgepodge of regional regulations that officials acknowledge may or may not work.

"There can't, and never will be 100% certainty," said Torsten Kuehne, the official in charge of schools in Pankow, Berlin's most populous district where 45,000 students go back to school Monday. "We are trying to minimize the risk as much as possible."

Germany has won plaudits for managing to slow the spread of the coronavirus quickly, efficiently and early, but the opening of schools is proving a new challenge as the country struggles to balance the concerns of anxious parents and children, skeptical scientists, worried teachers and overtaxed administrators.

Many around the world will be closely observing the real-life experiment offered in Germany to see what works and what doesn't. U.S. President Donald Trump is pushing for American schools to reopen in person and on time even as the country nears 5 million confirmed coronavirus cases, and in Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has stressed the government's moral duty to ensure children return to class next month - despite having the highest official death toll in Europe.

The U.N. said this week that as many as 100 countries have yet to announce a date for schools to reopen, and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of a possible "generational catastrophe" in education. He urged that restarting school be made a "top priority" once countries have the coronavirus under control.

Germany has seen some 217,000 confirmed cases and 9,200 deaths, and brought down a peak of some 6,000 new daily infections in March to the low hundreds. Numbers have been creeping back up, however, and topped the 1,000 per day mark in recent days for the first time in about three months.

Israel attempted a full reopening in May, at a time when the coronavirus was widely thought to have been beaten in the country, only to suffer new outbreaks that led to schools being shut down again and a surge in the spread of the virus nationwide. In South Africa, four grade levels were restarted in June but then closed back down when the country's virus cases surged.

As Berlin prepares to send its nearly half-million students back to school on Monday, many fear something similar could happen.

"The concerns are enormous, because the schools are hotspots," said Doreen Siebernik, who heads the Berlin branch of the GEW teachers' union. "I know that there are pupils coming to school who have contact with hundreds, with thousands of people every day."

Berlin's plan includes requiring students - and teachers - to wear masks in hallways, but not during instruction or in the playground. Sports, music and drama will be allowed, but with restrictions, like requiring choir members to keep at least 2 meters from one another.

Berlin's minister for education Sandra Scheeres said "it's not possible in a school" to always keep students 1.5 meters (5 feet) from one another, but that the distance should be kept if feasible. Students are to be kept in "cohorts" — groups that should not mix — so that if there is an outbreak, only those affected would need to be quarantined.

The state government recommends those groups don't mingle outside school either, but it was not clear how that could be enforced.

"There are conflicting priorities, health protection on the one hand, which is very important to us, and



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 81 of 82

on the other hand that we want to ensure the right to education of every single child," Scheeres said.

A Berlin Institute of Technology study on coronavirus transmission concluded that classrooms should be ventilated for a full 15 minutes every half hour. Scheeres' current plan calls for windows to be opened following each 45 minute class.

Dr. Isabella Eckerle, head of the emerging viruses research group at the University of Geneva, said there was still a lot to learn about how children are affected by the coronavirus and transmit it, but that it was clear from school openings in other countries they could spark wider outbreaks.

"If we go back to the normal school day now clinging to wishful thinking that children do not play a role in the pandemic, that will come back to haunt us," she said. "Instead of ideologically charged discussions, we need pragmatic concepts to get us through the winter."

In a sharply-worded open letter to Scheeres and the city's mayor, Marco Fechner, a father of two and parent representative in the Pankow district, noted that many classroom windows don't open, and that the government has stricter mask rules for supermarkets and its own offices than schools.

He urged the administration to focus more resources to permit some learning from home, so that class sizes and contact could be kept to a minimum.

"This decision is absolutely incomprehensible to me as a father, and I fear for the health of my children and our relatives," Fechner wrote.

Similar concerns are playing out elsewhere, like in Scotland where schools also are due to reopen on Tuesday. There is uncertainty about whether measures to increase hand washing and social distancing — with limited mixing between classroom groups but no mandatory masks — will work.

Berlin's back-to-school guidelines are middle-of-the-road among German states.

The first students to return, in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, had no mask requirement but the "cohort" principle was in place and the education minister said mask regulations were in the works. In a worrisome sign, two schools were temporarily closed Friday after new cases of coronavirus were detected.

Students over age 10 who returned to school in Hamburg on Thursday were required to wear masks, but could take them off once seated in classrooms.

In Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, 2.5 million students face the country's strictest measures as they return on Wednesday, including a mask requirement while in class.

Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn said Germany's staggered returns and different approaches will help determine what works and what doesn't.

Meantime, schools and districts have been improvising their own solutions to conform with voluminous government guidelines.

In Berlin's Pankow, Kuehne has been talking with school lunch suppliers all summer to work out a plan to serve meals at staggered times, and in classrooms, to avoid large groups in the cafeteria.

"I wouldn't say I'm worried, but I see the very, very big challenges ahead of us as school authorities, schools and parents," he said.

\_\_\_\_ AP reporters Josef Federman in Jerusalem; Jill Lawless in London; Mogomotsi Magome in Johannesburg and Dorothee Thiesing, Frank Jordans and Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin contributed to this story.

\_\_\_\_ Follow AP pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 10, the 223rd day of 2020. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 10, 1944, during World War II, American forces overcame remaining Japanese resistance on Guam.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 038 ~ 82 of 82

On this date:

In 1680, Pueblo Indians launched a successful revolt against Spanish colonists in present-day New Mexico.

In 1861, Confederate forces routed Union troops in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio at his summer home on the Canadian island of Campobello.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged. (The Allies responded the next day, saying they would determine the Emperor's future status.)

In 1962, Marvel Comics superhero Spider-Man made his debut in issue 15 of "Amazing Fantasy" (cover price: 12 cents).

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actor Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1991, nine Buddhists were found slain at their temple outside Phoenix, Arizona. (Two teenagers were later arrested; one was sentenced to life in prison, while the other received 281 years.)

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged with 11 counts in the Oklahoma City bombing (McVeigh was convicted of murder and executed; Nichols was convicted of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison).

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage.

In 2016, Lonnie Franklin Jr., the Los Angeles serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper," was sentenced to death for the murders of nine women and a teenage girl. Franklin was found dead in his cell on March 20, 2020.

Ten years ago: The House pushed through an emergency \$26 billion jobs bill that Democrats said would save 300,000 teachers, police and others from layoffs; President Barack Obama immediately signed it into law. Hollywood producer David L. Wolper, 82, died in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Five years ago: A draft of a secret study obtained by The Associated Press found that air traffic controllers' work schedules often led to chronic fatigue, making them less alert and endangering the safety of the country's air traffic system. A power plant operator in southern Japan restarted a nuclear reactor, the first to begin operating under new safety requirements following the Fukushima disaster.

One year ago: Jeffrey Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found unresponsive in his cell at a New York City jail; he was later pronounced dead at a hospital. (The city's medical examiner ruled the death a suicide by hanging.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rhonda Fleming is 97. Singer Ronnie Spector is 77. Actor James Reynolds is 74. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 73. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 71. Singer Patti Austin is 70. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 68. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 66. Actor Rosanna Arquette is 61. Actor Antonio Banderas is 60. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 59. Singer Julia Fordham is 58. Journalist-blogger Andrew Sullivan is 57. Actor Chris Caldovino is 57. Singer Neneh Cherry is 56. Singer Aaron Hall is 56. Former boxer Riddick Bowe is 53. Actor Sean Blakemore is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 53. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 52. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 49. Actor Angie Harmon is 48. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 47. Actor-turned-lawyer Craig Kirkwood is 46. Actor JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 41. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nikki Bratcher (Divine) is 40. Actor Aaron Staton is 40. Actor Ryan Eggold is 36. Actor Charley Koontz is 33. Actor Lucas Till is 30. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 23. Actor Jeremy Maguire is 9.