

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 1 of 72

- [1- Church Services Today](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [21- SD News Watch: Experts: S.D. health-care system could be overwhelmed if COVID-19 takes hold](#)
- [25- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [27- COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA](#)
- [28- Subway Ad](#)
- [29- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [30- Weather Pages](#)
- [33- Daily Devotional](#)
- [34- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [35- News from the Associated Press](#)



## Church Services Today

St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church will not be having in-person services today; however, they will be livestreaming a service. The Groton C&MA and the First Presbyterian Church will be having in-person services; however, the C&MA church will be livestreaming their service.

If you are at-risk or not feeling well, please consider the livestream service.

10:45 a.m.: Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

9:00 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Church (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

11:00 a.m.: United Methodist Church: (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

11:00 a.m.: First Presbyterian Church

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 2 of 72

## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.*



*His going forth is established  
as the morning; He will  
come to us like the rain,  
like the latter and former  
rain to the earth.*

HOSEA 6:3

© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Numbers in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In Luke 11, what group of people did Jesus say took away the key of knowledge? *Prophets, Carpenters, Lawyers, Scribes*

3. Whose son, Mahershalalhashbaz, is the longest human name in the Bible? *Judas, Enoch, Isaiah, Abednego*

4. The Ark of the Covenant was carried around and around what city? *Ramah, Moroni, Jericho, Nicopolis*

5. From John 13, who said to Jesus, "Thou shalt never wash my feet"? *Paul, Peter, Andrew, Thomas*

6. Who was Jonah's father? *Eli, Joppa, Tirzah, Amittai*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Lawyers; 3) Isaiah; 4) Jericho; 5) Peter; 6) Amittai

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Grandma Jo's Stew

Kids love all the vegetables and meat chopped into tiny pieces in this crockpot recipe.

16 ounces lean round steak, cut into 36 pieces

2 cups sliced carrots

1 cup chopped onion

1½ cups chopped celery

2 cups diced raw potatoes

1 cup frozen peas

1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup

1 (8-ounce) can cream-style corn

2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

1. Spray a slow-cooker container with butter-flavored cooking spray. In prepared container, combine meat, carrots, onion, celery, potatoes and peas.

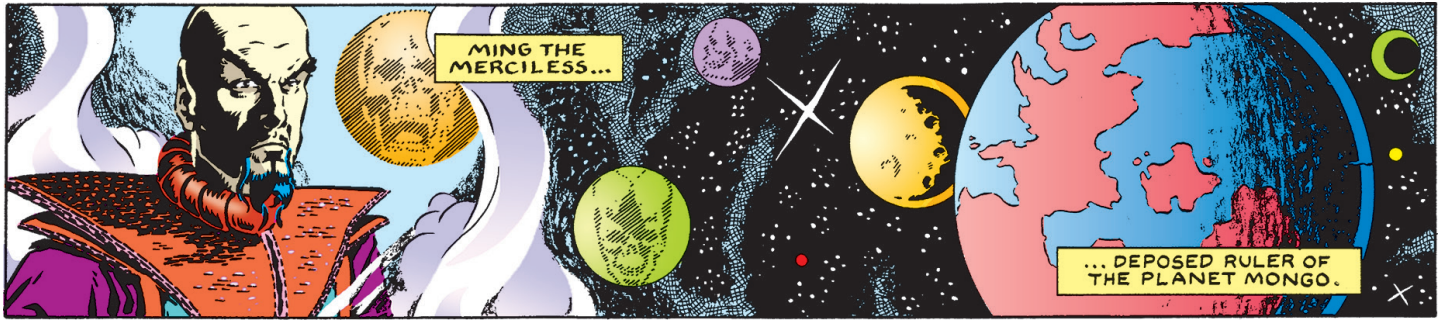
2. In a small bowl, combine tomato soup, corn, parsley flakes and black pepper. Stir soup mixture into meat mixture. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours. Mix well just before serving. Makes 6 (1 1/2 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 237 calories, 5g fat, 20g protein, 28g carb., 336mg sodium, 4g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 4 of 72



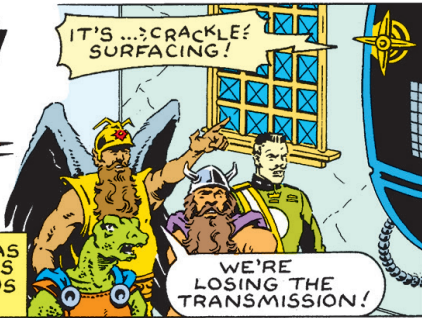
MING THE MERCILESS...

... DEPOSED RULER OF THE PLANET MONGO.

## FLASH GORDON

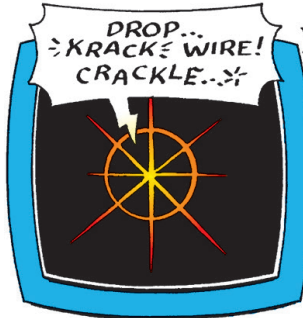
3-15 BY JIM KEEFE

A WORLD WATCHES AS THE PEACE COUNCIL IS BESET BY A RAVENOUS SEA BEAST.



IT'S... CRACKLE? SURFACING!

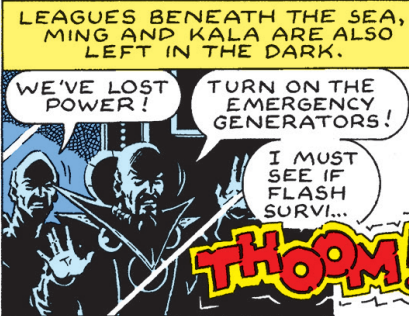
WE'RE LOSING THE TRANSMISSION!



DROP... KRACKLE WIRE! CRACKLE...



TYREE!



LEAGUES BENEATH THE SEA, MING AND KALA ARE ALSO LEFT IN THE DARK.

WE'VE LOST POWER!

TURN ON THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS!

I MUST SEE IF FLASH SURVIVES...

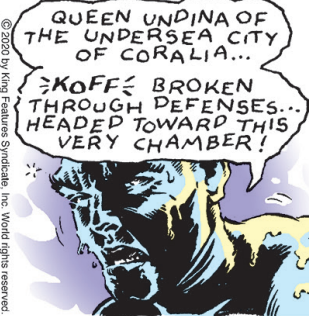
**THOOM!**



WHAT IN BLAZES...?!

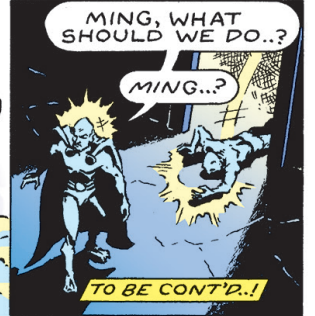
MY LIEGE... THE PALACE... UNDER ATTACK!

WHA... BY WHO?!



QUEEN UNDINA OF THE UNDERSEA CITY OF CORALIA...

KOFFE BROKEN THROUGH DEFENSES... HEADED TOWARD THIS VERY CHAMBER!

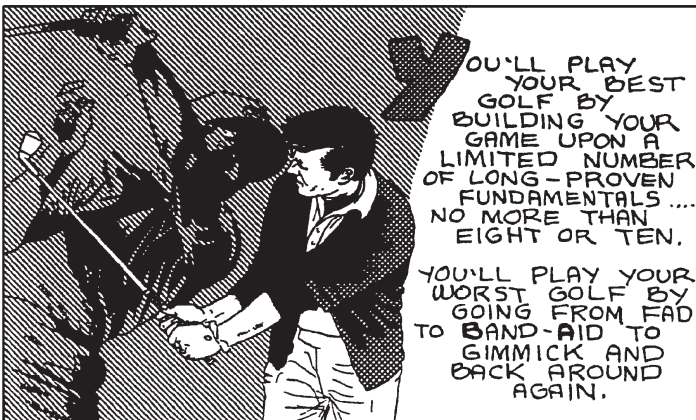


MING, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

MING...?

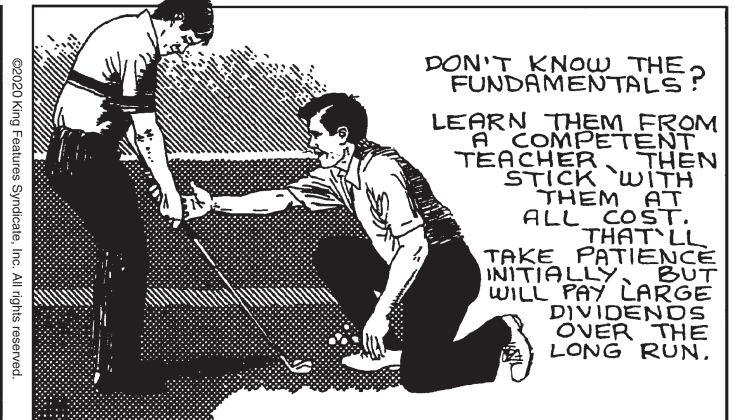
TO BE CONT'D..!

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOU'LL PLAY YOUR BEST GOLF BY BUILDING YOUR GAME UPON A LIMITED NUMBER OF LONG-PROVEN FUNDAMENTALS... NO MORE THAN EIGHT OR TEN.

YOU'LL PLAY YOUR WORST GOLF BY GOING FROM FAD TO BAND-AID TO GIMMICK AND BACK AROUND AGAIN.



DON'T KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS?

LEARN THEM FROM A COMPETENT TEACHER, THEN STICK WITH THEM AT ALL COST.

THAT'LL TAKE PATIENCE INITIALLY, BUT WILL PAY LARGE DIVIDENDS OVER THE LONG RUN.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



## Just How Effective Are Essential Oils?

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I have a relative who sells one of the popular brands of essential oil products and related equipment. She sends out many social network postings about the benefits of these products, including sharing postings from others who sell the products.

I do not purchase these for several reasons. I am sensitive to many airborne scents and have a scent-free home, but my primary concern is that she seems to be practicing medicine by claiming what I believe to be unproven health benefits. These are very costly and, at a minimum, harm is done by persuading people to spend a great deal of money for products that may not do what they are claimed to do. I am also concerned that families with young children seem to be using these products — my relative has even sent some to her children's school for use in the classroom.

Can you please comment on possible benefits/harm from these products? — J.R.

**ANSWER:** Essential oils from plants have been used to scent the air for millennia. There are certainly many claims about purported health benefits, but there is little evidence to support their use for those purposes. Health claims for aromatherapy should be taken with skepticism. One exception is that several reviews have found that some aromatherapies can reduce anxiety levels, and possibly some symptoms of depression.

As I frequently note, however, the placebo effect is powerful, and if you expect that a treatment, such as aro-

matherapy, will help your symptoms, it very well may. As such, I have no objection to people who want to use them for mild symptoms. I do object when people forgo potentially effective treatment for serious illness.

Your point about cost is a real issue, but essential oils do not have to be very expensive.

Harm from aromatherapy is generally limited to allergic or non-allergic irritation of the nose and skin. Essential oils are not to be taken internally, and even topical use can lead to problems, as they can be absorbed into the body directly through the skin.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Why are there two names for every drug? In a recent article, for example, you mention fluoxetine (Prozac) and bupropion (Wellbutrin). Clearly the name in parenthesis is the common name people use. Why does the other name exist, and why is it used at all? This adds unnecessary complexity and confusion. For example, a nurse asked me about Efudex, and I didn't know what she was referring to, as the label on the medication I had reads "fluorouracil." — C.P.

**ANSWER:** Every drug has at least three names: a chemical name, a generic name and a brand name. The chemical names are so complex that nobody (but chemists) uses them. I prefer using generic names, since they are the same regardless of country, and generic names often give a clue to the type of medication. Generic names are lowercase.

Brand names (capitalized) are the ones most often known (drug companies often try to find easy-to-remember brand names and hard-to-remember generic names), but not always. In the example you gave, Efudex is one brand name (Adrugil and Carac are others), and fluorouracil (or 5-fluorouracil, often abbreviated 5-FU) is the generic name.

\*\*\*

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).*

© 2020 North America Synd., Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



1. Name the bridge in Bobbie Gentry's 1967 hit "Ode to Billie Joe."

2. Which singer was born Jean Caliste? What was her only big hit single?

3. Who released "You Can't Always Get What You Want," and when?

4. Who was the first to release "Lawdy Miss Clawdy"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Boy, the way Glenn Miller played, Songs that made the hit parade. Guys like us we had it made."

### Answers

1. The Tallahatchie Bridge, a wooden bridge near Money, Mississippi. It collapsed after being set on fire in 1972 and was replaced with a concrete bridge in 1986.

2. Jean Knight, with "Mr. Big Stuff," in 1971. She got a Grammy nom in 1972 for the song.

3. The Rolling Stones, in 1969, on their "Let It Bleed" album. The song was listed at No. 100 on the 2004 list of the "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

4. Lloyd Price, in 1952, followed by Elvis Presley in 1956.

5. "Those Were the Days," the theme song to the long-running TV show "All in the Family," with Archie Bunker played by Carroll O'Connor. The show ran from 1971 to 1979.

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 6 of 72

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## GRIN and BEAR IT

Wagner



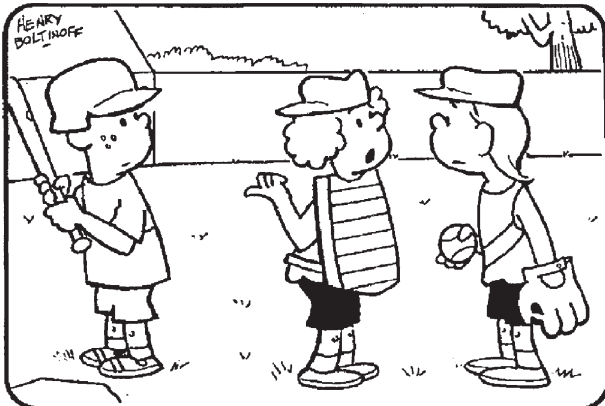
North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Wagner

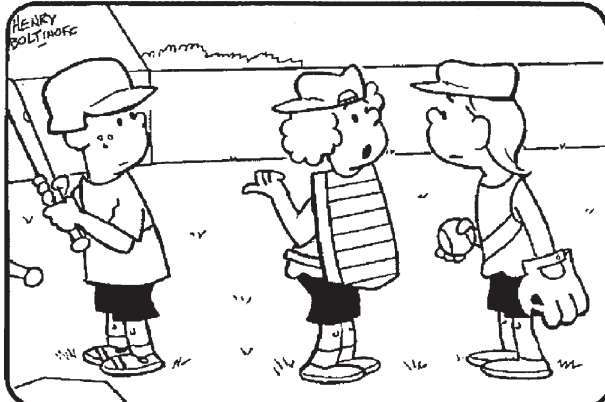
"I'm here for you, Mr. Figby ... by the hour."

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Differences: 1. Bat on the ground. 2. Ball has turned. 3. Umpire's hat is different. 4. Batter's pants are different. 5. Tree is gone. 6. Pitcher has no socks.



- “Having a fancy dinner where you’ll serve wine? You can pour box wine into a glass decanter. It will look and taste better because decanting aerates wine.” — *O.D. in Washington*

- Set a timer to remember to add softener to your load of laundry, and another for when the load is done. Buzzers can’t always be heard, and it’s best to not let your wet laundry sit.

- For oven spillovers, saturate a washcloth and lay over the mess when the oven has almost cooled. The heat will couple with the moisture to loosen it!

- To loosen dirt in window tracks, try this trick: Sprinkle baking soda along the track, and use a detail brush to loosen stuck dirt. Vacuum out debris, and then dust with a lightly damp rag. Should be clean!

- “Do you still watch DVDs? I do.

...you can watch them on TV, and when they get a scratch, you can try this trick: Rub the surface with a little clear lip balm. Buff from center to edge in a straight line. The balm fills the cracks, making it watchable.” — *F. in Georgia*

- Dollar stores and other discount chains are great places to pick up cleaning supplies, paper goods and school supplies on the cheap. They carry national brands that can save you a bundle.

*Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 8 of 72



## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

1.				T	O	P	S		
2.				T	O	P	S		
3.	T	O	P	S					
4.					T	O	P	S	
5.	T	O	P	S					
6.					T	O	P	S	
7.	-		T	O	P	S			
8.						T	O	P	S

**YOU'RE THE TOPS!** Well, you will be if you can spot the two tops above that are exactly alike. The time limit is one minute.

### SPIN-N-SPELL

You'll be "tops" if you can figure out the words asked for in the hints given below. Each word contains the word "tops" either at the beginning or at the end.

Illustrated by David Coulson

**Question #3.** "Can you think of a four-letter word that, when three of its letters are removed, the meaning will remain the same?"

Answer: The word is "FIVE." After you remove 'F' and 'E', you are left with a "V", which is the Roman numeral for the number FIVE. The meaning remains the same.



1. Businessmen love them.
2. Famous in WWII.
3. Found on boats.
4. Needed in baseball.
5. A must for farmers.
6. Runs coast-to-coast.
7. Found on cameras.
8. The baddest animal of all.

**A TRICKY WORD-SQUARE!** See if you can make the correct words appear in this puzzle. To solve this word-square, you must find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words must read the same both across and down.

1. The art of conjuring (MAGIC, in place).
2. A place for sports.
3. A costume.
4. Accustom to unpleasantness.
5. A plan for robbery.

1	M	2	A	3	G	4	I	5	C
2	A								
3	G								
4	I								
5	C								

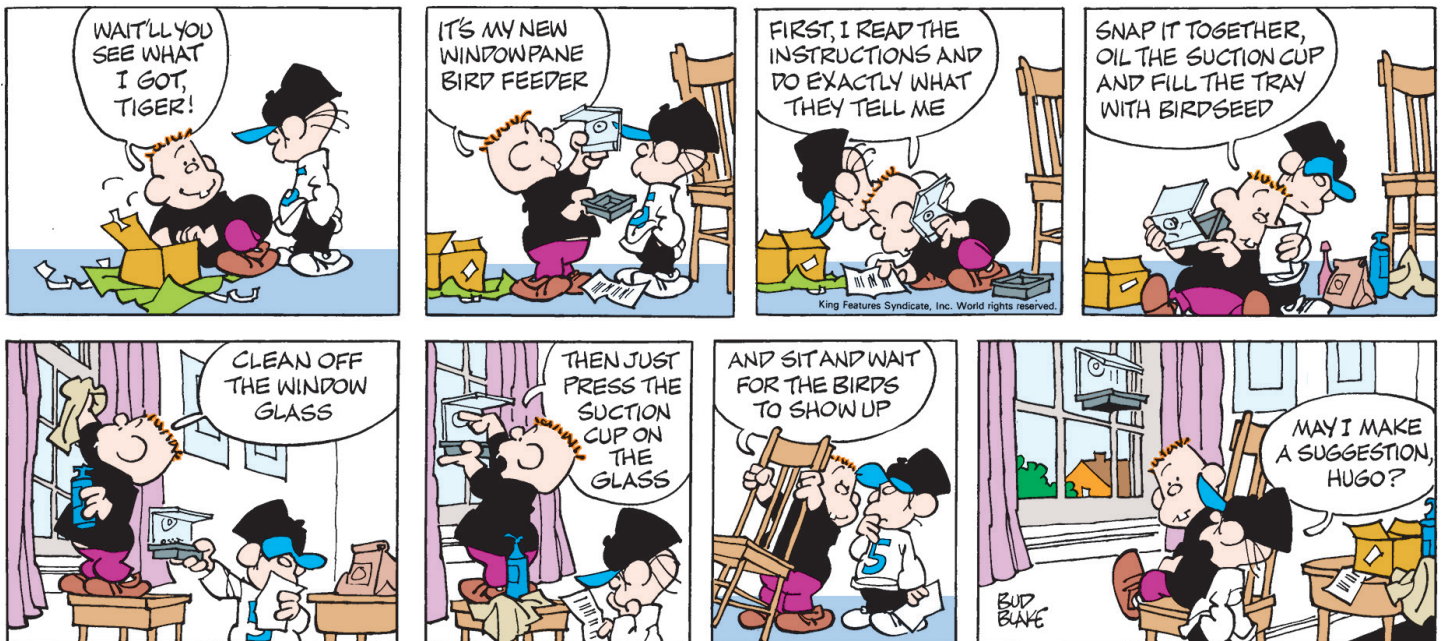


Answer: 1. Magic. 2. Arena. 3. Getup. 4. Inure. 5. Caper.

Answers: 1. Laptops. 2. Flattops. 3. Topsoil. 4. Backstops. 5. Topsoil. 6. Blacktops. 7. F-stops. 8. Triceratops.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 9 of 72

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Sacred wading bird
- 5 Suitable
- 8 Morse "T"
- 12 Created
- 13 Meadow
- 14 Erstwhile Peruvian
- 15 Series of missed calls
- 17 Celebrity
- 18 Pair
- 19 Consecrate with oil
- 21 Cognizant
- 24 Huffed and puffed
- 25 Shrewd
- 26 Lunch holder
- 30 Tokyo's old name

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
			18				19	20				
21	22	23				24						
25					26				27	28	29	
30				31					32			
33			34						35			
			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 31 Canonized one
- 32 Beer-like brew
- 33 Joke that won't work on radio
- 35 On the briny
- 36 Thy
- 37 Theater staffer
- 38 Treeless tract
- 41 Blond shade
- 42 Ark builder
- 43 Long-popular jazz tune
- 48 Shrek, for one
- 49 Pirouette pivot

- 50 Car
  - 51 German city
  - 52 Finish
  - 53 Encounter
- DOWN**
- 1 Mischievous tyke
  - 2 "Humbug!"
  - 3 Altar affirmative
  - 4 Guard
  - 5 Chorus member
  - 6 Shooter ammo
  - 7 Annoying follower

- 8 Drop from a will
- 9 Opposed
- 10 Read cursorily
- 11 Rodgers collaborator
- 16 Lamb's mama
- 20 Salamander
- 21 Dogfight participants
- 22 Gully
- 23 Awestruck
- 24 Pipe type
- 26 Loaf of French bread
- 27 Wild party
- 28 Sheltered
- 29 Paraphernalia

- 31 Halt
- 34 It's handy if you have to break your word
- 35 Religious retreat
- 37 Handle
- 38 Uppity one
- 39 Takeout phrase
- 40 Deserve
- 41 On in years
- 44 Charged bit
- 45 Regret
- 46 Corroded
- 47 Obtained

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 10 of 72

## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	B	I	S		A	P	T		D	A	S	H
M	A	D	E		L	E	A		I	N	C	A
P	H	O	N	E	T	A	G		S	T	A	R
		T	W	O		A	N	O	I	N	T	
A	W	A	R	E		B	L	E	W			
C	A	G	Y		B	R	O	W	N	B	A	G
E	D	O		S	A	I	N	T		A	L	E
S	I	G	H	T	G	A	G		A	S	E	A
			Y	O	U	R		U	S	H	E	R
S	T	E	P	P	E		A	S	H			
N	O	A	H		T	I	G	E	R	R	A	G
O	G	R	E		T	O	E		A	A	U	T
B	O	N	N		E	N	D		M	E	E	T

## LAFF - A - DAY

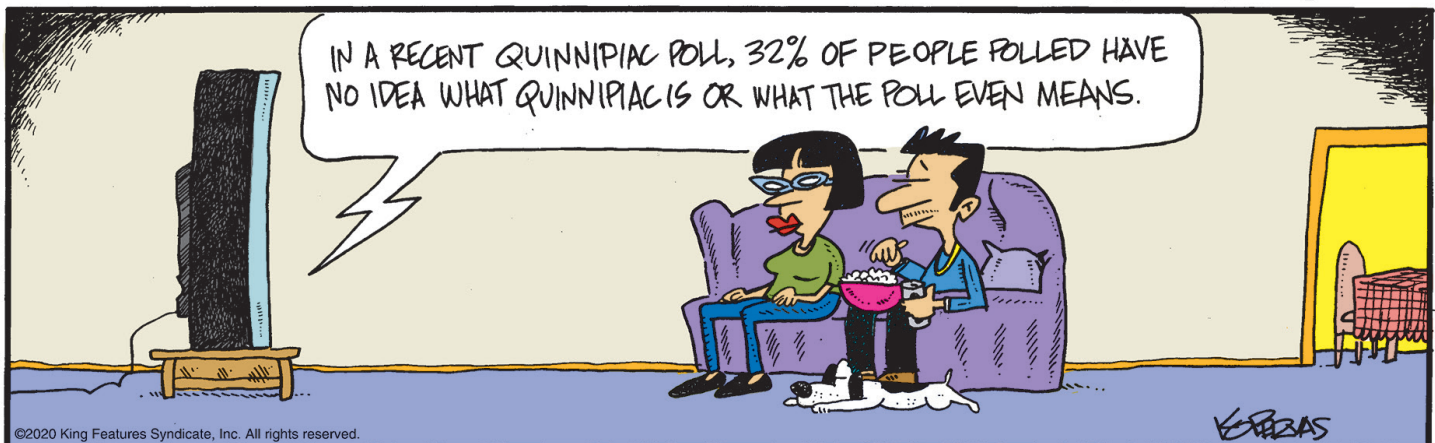


©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

"I can see part of the trouble already."

## Out on a Limb

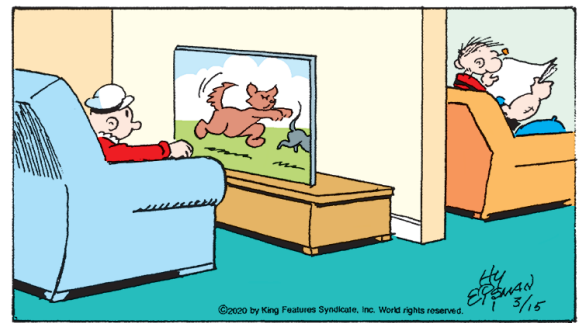
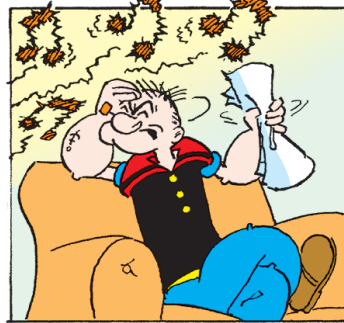
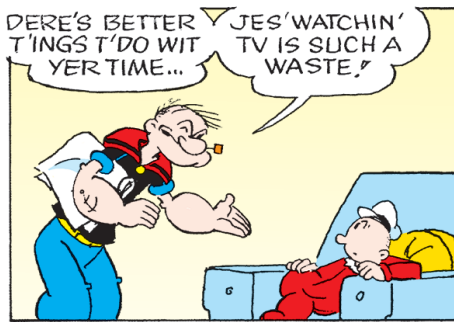
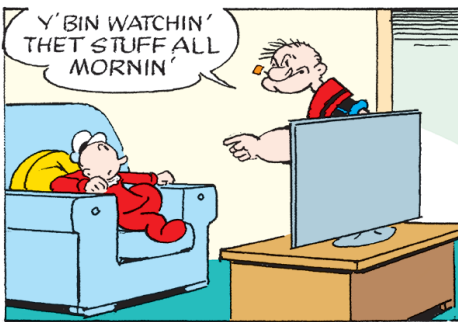
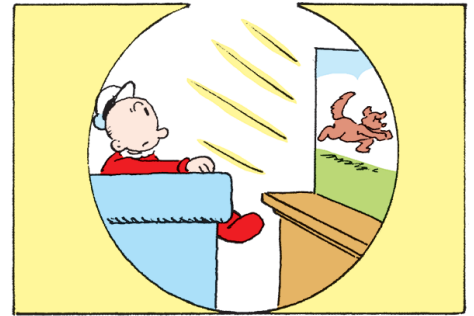
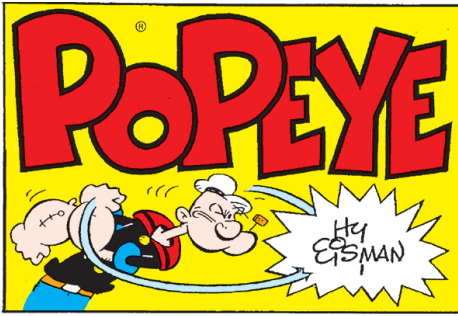
by Gary Kopervas



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

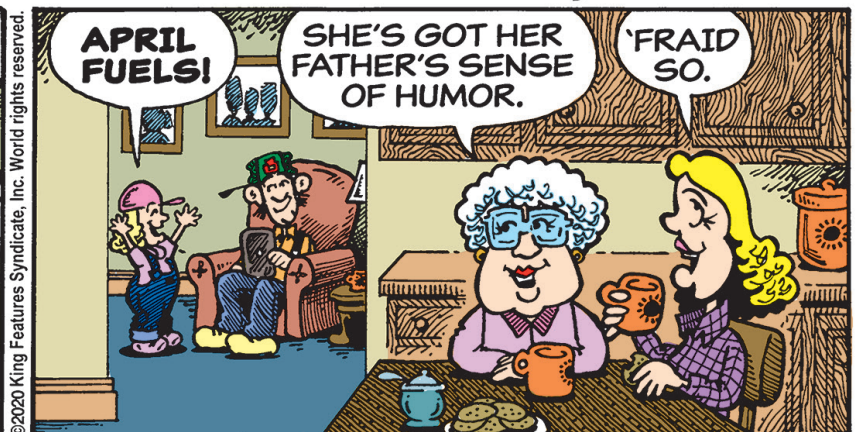
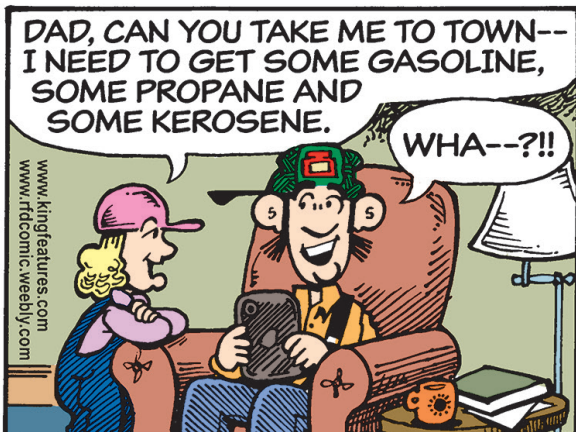
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 11 of 72



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 12 of 72

Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
By Gianni and Schultz

**Our Story:**  
GRU-ZOR AND VAL STAND LOCKED IN COMBAT, BUT SOMETHING LUNGING FROM THE WEEDS STOPS THEM COLD...

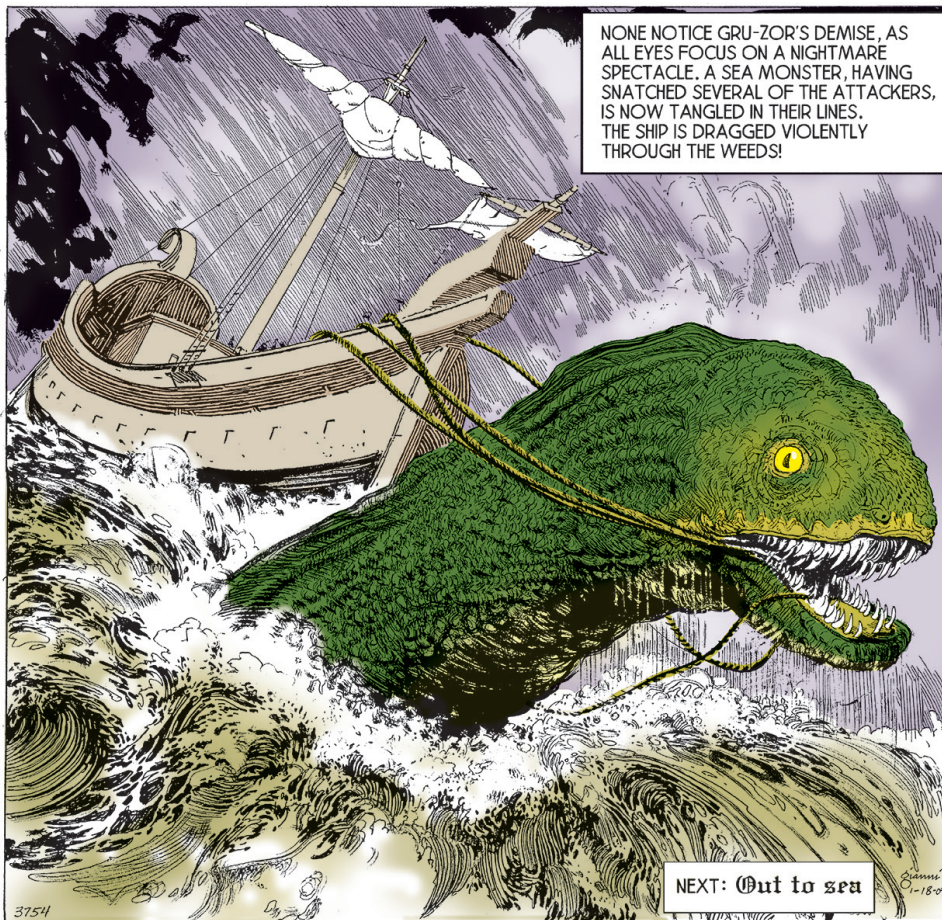
A close-up illustration of Prince Valiant and Gru-Zor. Valiant is on the left, looking determined with a yellow sword held up. Gru-Zor is on the right, looking angry and holding a dagger.

... ALLOWING ONE OF THE BEASTMEN TO FINISH OFF HIS FORMER LEADER IN A MANNER MOST UNGALLANT.

An illustration of two beastmen in a physical struggle. One is on top of the other, appearing to be in the process of finishing him off. The scene is set on a wooden platform or ship deck.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

NONE NOTICE GRU-ZOR'S DEMISE, AS ALL EYES FOCUS ON A NIGHTMARE SPECTACLE. A SEA MONSTER, HAVING SNATCHED SEVERAL OF THE ATTACKERS, IS NOW TANGLED IN THEIR LINES. THE SHIP IS DRAGGED VIOLENTLY THROUGH THE WEEDS!

A large illustration of a wooden sailing ship being dragged through a field of seaweed by a massive green sea monster. The monster's head is in the foreground, with its mouth open, showing sharp teeth. The ship is tilted and being pulled towards the monster.

3754

NEXT: Out to sea

Gianni  
-18-09

## The Spats

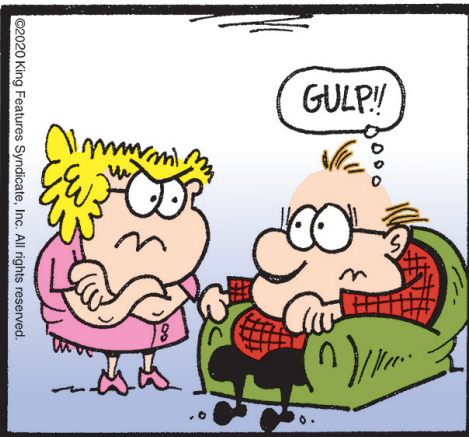
by Jeff Pickering

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN.

A cartoon panel showing a woman with yellow hair and glasses talking to a man with glasses sitting in a green chair. The man has a thought bubble above him.

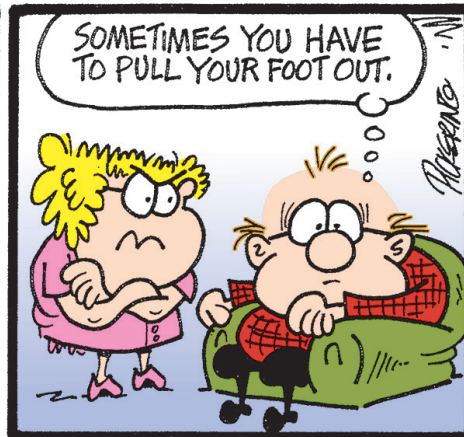
© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

GULP!!

A cartoon panel showing the same woman and man. The man has a speech bubble saying 'GULP!!' and a thought bubble above him.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PULL YOUR FOOT OUT.

A cartoon panel showing the same woman and man. The man has a speech bubble saying 'SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PULL YOUR FOOT OUT.' and a thought bubble above him.

PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Stay Put to Stay Out of Harm's Way

A show of hands, please: How many of us are getting nervous since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that seniors and those with medical conditions should stay at home as much as possible due to the coronavirus? (Those medical conditions include heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.)

I've spent several days wondering whether I actually have to go out as often to get the things I need. I've learned:

- Petco, PetSmart and Chewy, the pet food and pet supplies companies, will deliver. If you get on a repeat delivery schedule, the prices are lower than at the stores, and the heavy packages come right to your door.

- Instead of standing in line at the always-crowded post office, I can

order stamps online at [usps.com](https://usps.com). Call 1-800-782-6724 to learn more.

- My grocery store still doesn't deliver, but if I order online they will at least bring my purchases out to the car.

- CVS, however, does deliver, and as of now, it's free. In my area, either the post office or a courier will make the delivery. I decided to have my prescriptions sent by mail.

- I made a few calls and two restaurants in my area will now deliver when they didn't before.

- There's even a mobile oil-change company that will come to my house to service my car.

So, what will I do with all my non-shopping spare time, now that I don't need to go out as often? My list looks like this: order puzzles and paperbacks from Amazon, start spring cleaning, begin outlining a novel to write this summer, sign up on Duolingo [[www.duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com)] for free language lessons on the computer, and order seeds (and all the supplies) to get a head start on growing a few vegetables on the porch this year.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 14 of 72

1. What business executive was chairman of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and served as the sixth commissioner of Major League Baseball from 1984 to 1989?

2. In February, 42-year-old Zamboni driver David Ayres became the first emergency backup goaltender to record a win in NHL history. For what team did Ayres suit up?

3. Who was the only member of the University of Michigan's 1991 Fab Five recruiting class to never play a game in the NBA?

4. The 1982 Atlanta Braves and the 1987 Milwaukee Brewers share the Major League Baseball record for consecutive wins to start a season with how many?

5. Cheryl Miller won two women's basketball national championships (1983-84) and three Naismith College Player of the Year awards (1984-86) as a member of what team?

6. Old Trafford stadium is home to



what English Premier League soccer club?

7. What was the name of the character played by Alex Karras, a Detroit Lions defensive lineman from 1958-70, on the 1980s TV sitcom "Webster"?

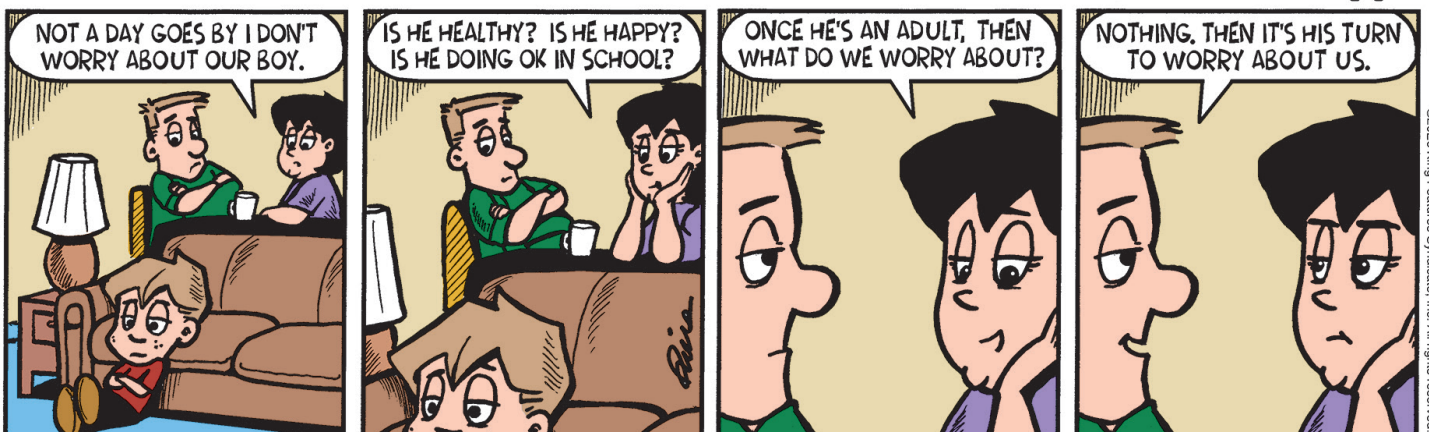
## Answers

1. Peter Ueberroth.
2. The Carolina Hurricanes.
3. Ray Jackson.
4. 13.
5. The USC Trojans.
6. Manchester United F.C.
7. George Papadopolis, a sportscaster and retired football star.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Economic Impact of COVID-19

It's no secret, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed serious hardships on many South Dakotans and Americans across the country. From the closing of schools, to the negative effects on small businesses, as well as the struggles of social isolation, this illness is greatly affecting all our day-to-day lives. To mitigate these effects, South Dakota's delegation is working around the clock alongside our state and local officials to provide relief to those affected.

Our governor quickly called on the Small Business Administration (SBA) to activate the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program in South Dakota because of the pandemic. I, along with Senators Thune and Rounds stood alongside her, urging the SBA to approve this request immediately.

On March 14, I voted in support of a comprehensive bipartisan federal aid package – the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This relief package ensures the continuation of support services, prioritizes testing and diagnosing COVID-19 cases, bolsters containment and mitigation efforts, and creates programs to financially support employees and employers adversely impacted by the pandemic. This includes the creation of a temporary national paid sick leave program and a refundable payroll tax credit to cover the cost that will inevitably be incurred by employers. The Senate joined the House in passing this relief act, and the bill was signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020. This relief is in addition to the \$8.3 billion of emergency supplemental funding I supported in early March to assist the initial response to the coronavirus.

The Senate and House are working on a third comprehensive package that will focus on the economic impacts the pandemic has had on small businesses, individuals, and hard-hit industries, as well as additional health care resources. We need to ensure any phase three bill is fact-based, fiscally responsible, and helps not only big industries like the airlines and manufacturers, but smaller businesses that are being hit hard by this economic uncertainty. Most importantly, we need more tools to stabilize volatility in the ag economy. Our ranchers and producers were struggling before this pandemic and market conditions have only deteriorated.

While it is the government's duty to provide assistance to the nation in great times of need, we also have responsibilities as good citizens to take care of one another. Take the CDC's social distancing recommendations seriously. Check in on friends and neighbors. Make sure those at higher risk in your communities have the supplies necessary during this uncertain time. South Dakota's communities are strong and will be a significant factor in how we survive this crisis as a state.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 16 of 72



## Tele-Health Services Can Help During COVID-19 Crisis

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the world, many are concerned about access to healthcare. Fortunately, tele-health services have become more common and are especially helpful for people living in rural areas, where a clinic or hospital may be many miles away. As we seek to limit the COVID-19 outbreak by encouraging keeping your distance from others, video chats or phone calls with medical professionals have become easy and helpful ways to receive care, all from the comfort of our homes.

The best way to prevent getting COVID-19 is to avoid potential exposure. This means not going to busy restaurants or events where there are large groups of people. It also means that if you feel ill, you should call, email or video chat with your doctor before going to their office to minimize the chance of spreading any illness to others. Tele-health services allow patients to receive quality medical care without traveling to a doctor's office or hospital, where they could get others sick.

As we know, seniors are especially susceptible to COVID-19. Earlier this month, the Trump administration announced that Medicare would immediately expand coverage to tele-health services across the nation. This will allow seniors with health problems to stay home and avoid additional risk of exposure to coronavirus. This is a win-win for patients and health care providers during this time of crisis.

Since South Dakota is a large, rural state where families can live a hundred miles or more from a health-care facility, expanding tele-health services has been a priority of mine. I'm a cosponsor of the CONNECT for Health Act, which would allow for permanent expanded tele-health services for Americans who utilize Medicare. Our bipartisan bill would allow for certain current geographic restrictions and service restrictions to be waived, and would allow rural health clinics to provide tele-health services so that tele-health is accessible to even more individuals.

Earlier this month, the Senate passed legislation aimed at providing resources to state and local governments in their efforts to combat the coronavirus. This legislation, which passed with bipartisan support, included language that waived certain federal restrictions preventing Americans from receiving tele-health care from some facilities. Now a number of options are available for South Dakotans wanting to connect with a doctor via video chat or phone call. Both Avera and Sanford Health offer tele-health services to their patients. Monument Health in Rapid City is part of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. Providers at Monument are able to participate in e-consultations with providers at the Mayo Clinic to come up with the best treatment plans for their patients in Rapid City. The VA also offers tele-health services for veterans.

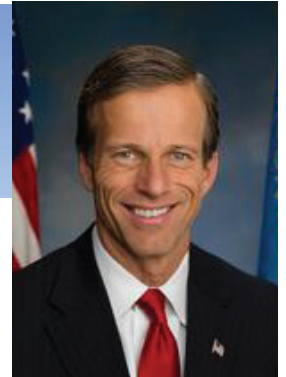
Avera recently opened the Helmsley Telehealth Education Center in Sioux Falls which will offer a national telehealth certification program so medical staff can learn the best methods for providing tele-health care.

As we continue to deal with COVID-19 and keep our distance from others, tele-health appointments are a good way for patients to seek medical attention without physically visiting a medical facility. They're also more affordable than a visit to the hospital.

We'll continue working on legislation that makes it easier to access health care when you need it, no matter if you're located in a rural or urban area. It's important that we all take care of our health during this COVID-19 outbreak, and tele-health appointments can help more people receive quality care.



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Extraordinary Times Require Swift and Bold Action

By now, it would be hard to find any American who hasn't been affected one way or another by the coronavirus outbreak. Our day-to-day lives have been upended, people around us are anxious, and we're learning about new terms like "social distancing." Everyone is wondering how long this outbreak will last, when it will peak, and what life will look like on the other side. While I wish I knew the answers to those questions, I'm certain we'll eventually get beyond this, and we'll be stronger for it.

It's not often that our nation faces moments like these – moments where Americans are asked to band together to confront a collective challenge. There are things we all can do to help. Yes, it can be inconvenient, but by staying home and avoiding large crowds, we can hopefully put a dent in this pandemic. And you're going to hear a lot more of this in the coming days and weeks, but continue to wash your hands regularly and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. These are among the most consistent tips I hear from the medical professionals who I've been in touch with in recent days.

Like you, I've seen stories about some folks who are taking these recommendations less seriously than others. I can't stress this enough, but successfully beating this outbreak will require a bit of sacrifice from all of us. If the worst side effect is feeling inconvenienced, that's a small price to pay to help ensure we protect our communities and loved ones. For many people, though, it goes beyond a simple inconvenience. Not everyone can telework, so staying home can mean missing a paycheck. That's where Congress can step up to help.

The Senate is focused on providing as much relief to the American people as possible and doing it as quickly as possible. We've already sent two relief packages to the president, which are now law. We've invested in research and development, provided support to medical professionals around the country, ensured that anyone who needs to be tested for the coronavirus can be tested at no cost to the patient, and leaned on 21st century tools like telemedicine. It's a good start, but there's more relief on the way.

These are extraordinary times that require swift and bold action, which is why I've been working with my colleagues to develop another round of proposals to address the economic effects of this crisis – to ensure workers and small businesses around the country can effectively weather this storm. I'm glad to report that the Treasury Department has already approved one of my proposals that would extend this year's federal tax filing deadline from April 15 to July 15. The last thing on people's minds right now is filing their taxes, so the least we can do is give them a temporary reprieve from having to deal with the IRS in the middle of this outbreak. To those South Dakotans who are expecting a tax refund and would like to file early, you can exercise that option today.

I've heard from many folks who are looking for additional ways to pitch in and help their communities and neighbors through this difficult time. Small businesses across South Dakota are going to feel the effects from this outbreak, so as simple as it sounds, I'd encourage those who want to help to consider ordering food from your favorite local restaurant, purchasing an online gift card from a Main Street shop, or calling in orders for products or services that can be redeemed at a later date.

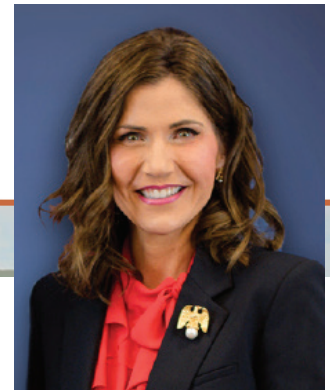
We're all in this together, but America's elected leaders have a heightened responsibility, particularly in times like these, to prove that we can rise to the occasion. In the coming days, I hope we can live up to that goal. In the meantime, I want South Dakotans to know that I'm leaving it all on the field. We'll get beyond this – together.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 18 of 72



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## South Dakotans Come Together to Respond to COVID-19

Since January, my team at the Department of Health has been preparing for this virus and what that may mean for South Dakota. At the moment, our numbers continue to be encouraging, but we do still expect things to get worse before they get better.

Thanks to the proactive steps we developed with healthcare providers, schools, leaders and businesses and communities across the state, we have delayed community spread beyond initial projections. The combination of good hygiene, social distancing, and staying home when sick, have helped us stay ahead of the virus' spread. I want to thank everyone for their due diligence.

At the moment, all the individuals that have tested positive in South Dakota are at home resting and healing up. That's good news for everyone. The other good news is, though it doesn't get nearly enough attention in the press, that there are untold stories of how people are coming together at this difficult time.

For example, the Dairy Queen in Pierre purchased iPads for the high-risk and vulnerable folks that are "shut in" in Pierre. These iPads are helping isolated individuals stay in touch with friends and family during this time.

There's also a story of a young man (17 years old) that voluntarily gave up his shift hours to coworkers who needed the money more than him. Or the grocery stores who have special shopping times for seniors and high-risk folks so they can shop without being exposed to crowds that may be carrying the virus. And the business manager for Todd County's School District who is sending out 5000 meals a day to kids in his school district. To date, we have 90 percent of our school districts getting meals to kids while schools are closed.

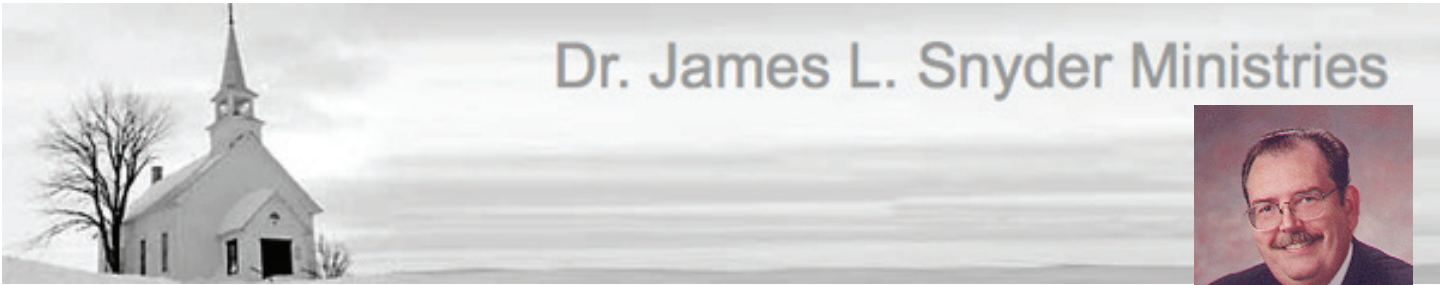
Parents who work in essential jobs, like emergency personnel, medical professionals, law enforcement, and many others, may be feeling pressure with their kids at home because schools are closed. I'm asking South Dakotans to get creative and help problem solve for these families. If you are not in the vulnerable population and are at home with the capacity to care for some kids, would you please consider opening up your home to these families?

Perhaps one silver lining of this national emergency is that it forces us to stay home and think local. I am inspired to see South Dakotans looking out for each other. Together, we will get through this. We always do.

To learn more about ways you can protect yourself and the people around you, visit [COVID.SD.GOV](https://COVID.SD.GOV) or call 1-800-997-2880.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 19 of 72



## Some Things Seem Too Good To Be True

Recently I discovered something. The more I try to keep up with the latest trend, the further behind I get. I am not a complete technical idiot, but I'm not too far off. The only thing I can say about me is that I at least try.

The best example of all of this has to do with my cell phone. Is there anybody on the planet today that does not have a cell phone? And, the most important question, is there anybody driving a car that is not at the same time on that cell phone? Who in the world are they all talking to?

My guess is they are all talking to each other. At least, they are not talking to me.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finally convinced me to go into cahoots with her and get cell phones. The plan was this. She got to pick out the cell phones, and I got to pay the bill. I must say I beat her on this one.

She only got to take the cell phone once but I, get to pay the bill every month. I was chuckling to myself that I finally pulled one over on her until I realized that I get to pay the bill every month. Every month! This is the last time I will try to pull something over on her. I never win.

Consequently, we are now in the cell phone industry. I am not sure it is all working out for the good.

I have yet to master the technical skill associated with successfully using my cell phone. Although my cell phone is rather small, it has more buttons on it than Bozo the clown's costume. Not only are there more buttons than I can count, but each button is smaller than I can see. Who in the world designed such small buttons?

I really think that my cell phone was designed for some midget.

At this point, I cannot tell the difference when my cell phone is ringing or when I am receiving a text message. When a text message comes in, I try to answer the cell phone, and nobody seems to be on the other end. When I try to read the text message, there are only letters instead of words. It takes me a half-hour to figure out one text message. Where is Sherlock Holmes when you need him?

I may not be the brightest letter on the keyboard, but I do know how to spell words. It seems that to use a cell phone today, you have to throw out words and start using letters. I will never get the hang of that.

When somebody is on the phone, and I am talking, all of a sudden, the phone goes dead. I can talk for 3 minutes before realizing nobody is on the other end. I find this most frustrating.

I am not sure that the convenience of the cell phone is worth the frustrating elements associated with

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 20 of 72

having the cell phone.

In a crowded restaurant the other day, my cell phone went off. Not thinking too much of my environment, I answered the cell phone. It was a friend calling me.

The conversation started rather jovial for all practical purposes. Suddenly I became conscious I had an audience. There are times when I prefer not to have an audience. This was one of those times.

I realized some of the people around me were eavesdropping in on my conversation. Then the unthinkable happened. My cell phone suddenly went dead. It went dead in the middle of a rather humorous joke I was telling. Now, what was I to do?

It really was not my fault that the phone went dead. I did not plan it that way. Besides, I hate it when somebody stops in the middle of a joke, and you never get to the punchline.

For a few seconds, I was not sure what the proper protocol is when your phone goes dead, and you have an audience. I had to do some swift thinking and come up with what I thought was a brilliant plan.

I understand that when you do have an audience, you have a certain responsibility with that audience. So, not to disappoint my audience, I continued my conversation on the cell phone as though somebody was actually on the other end. I was able to finish my joke, and then I paused, not knowing what else to do. I merely continued the conversation I was having with my friend, who was not on the other end of this time.

Sometimes it is good just to keep up a good front. From the snickers of the people around me in that restaurant, it was well worth finishing that joke. I hate to waste a good joke. After all, they are so hard to come by these days.

Many things are just too good to be true, and many of them I probably will never really get the hang of it. One thing I never really will fully understand is God's love for me.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Although this sounds too good to be true, it is true nevertheless.

## Experts: S.D. health-care system could be overwhelmed if COVID-19 takes hold

By: Nick Lowrey

If the COVID-19 pandemic grows rapidly in South Dakota — as it has in other states and nations — the state's hospital systems are likely to be quickly overwhelmed, according to medical experts in South Dakota and elsewhere.

It is unknown if the state has enough ventilators or intensive-care beds, and patients in rural areas or smaller cities would likely need to be transported to urban areas to receive proper care for the disease, they say.

South Dakota's public health and medical providers say they are confident in the health-care system's ability to handle a surge in COVID-19 patients, but experts worry that if an outbreak grows too fast, hospitals will be unable to properly house and care for all patients.

Nationally, an analysis of hospital capacity by researchers at Harvard University found that even a moderate outbreak, in which 40% of adults contract the virus, could overwhelm hospitals all over the country.

Though specific numbers are difficult to come by, national statistics and survey data suggest that there simply is not enough room in intensive care

units or enough mechanical ventilators in the country, let alone in South Dakota, to serve all the patients that would need help breathing if the spread of the COVID-19 virus cannot be controlled.

The number of hospital beds and ventilators available in South Dakota, and how many of those beds can be used for intensive care, isn't publicly available, and state officials and medical providers refuse to release the data.

State public health officials have access to a database called HAv-BED that tracks hospital bed availability in near-real time. Department of Health spokesman Derrick Haskins told South Dakota News Watch that assigning a hard number to ICU and ventilator availability is difficult because the numbers change multiple



**As Avera Health's flagship hospital, Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls likely would be on the front lines of handling a COVID-19 outbreak in South Dakota. Hospital leaders and staff have actively participated in statewide planning and training programs aimed at preparing medical facilities for emergencies, such as the global COVID-19 pandemic. One of the first steps hospital staff have already taken is to limit the use of key, disposable medical supplies in an effort to conserve as much as possible should supplies run short during an outbreak, said Dr. David Basel, vice president of clinical quality for Avera Medical Group.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 22 of 72

times per day. The state also maintains a stockpile of medical supplies for emergencies that does include ventilators, but Haskins wouldn't say how many ventilators were in the stockpile.

Two of the state's major hospital systems, Avera Health and Sanford Health, also declined to disclose to News Watch how many ventilators they currently have available.

"The reality is, even though we have excellent health care here ... there are still more residents in the upper Midwest than there are beds and ventilators," said Dr. Jeremy Storm, an infectious disease specialist from Sioux Falls. "The numbers, I think, are pretty dramatic. There is, approximately,

a 20% hospitalization rate, 20% of hospitalized patients requiring an ICU bed and approximately 50% of them are ending up on a ventilator."

Scarcity of hospital beds and ventilators could mean that COVID-19 patients, particularly those in rural areas of South Dakota, would have to be transported between hospitals. Hospitals in Sioux Falls, for example, might take more COVID-19 patients who need help breathing, while the Sanford Hospital in Chamberlain might be asked to take patients who don't need such intense treatment, said Dr. Mike Wilde, vice president of Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

"It appears this illness does cause a dependence on advanced life support and a lot of that support really can only be found at a larger facility," Wilde said. "But we still need to take care of our patients that come in with illnesses that we commonly see. Perhaps some of our network partners could have some of those patients go to their facilities while, in turn, we take the patients with the needs specific to (COVID-19)."

The American Hospital Association, which annually surveys about 80% of U.S. hospitals on bed and equipment availability, estimates there are about 924,000 fully staffed hospital beds in the country, if federal facilities are included in the count. Community hospitals account for a little more than 790,000 beds in a country of 328 million people, according to AHA data.

The U.S. also has a relatively low ratio of hospital beds in relation to population when compared to other industrialized countries. The International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates the U.S. has about 2.8 hospital beds per 1,000 people. Meanwhile Italy, a country that has seen hospitals overwhelmed by a massive, fast-moving COVID-19 outbreak, has roughly 3.2 beds per 1,000 people, according to OECD data. China, where the COVID-19 virus originated, is estimated to have 4.3 beds per 1,000 people; Japan has the most at more than 12 per 1,000 people.

Another choke point, experts say, will be the availability of intensive care units and mechanical ventilation equipment. As many as 20% of people hospitalized for COVID-19 need intensive care. About half of COVID-19 patients in the ICU need help breathing because the virus causes pneumonia, which impedes the ability of a person's lungs to absorb oxygen.

Exactly how many ventilators U.S. hospitals have is not known. The most recent data on the subject is more than 10 years old, according to the Society of Critical Care, an association of intensive care professionals. The data suggests there were around 62,000 ventilators that can help children and adults available in the U.S. in 2009. Another roughly 36,700 older model ventilators were available for use on adults, an

"The reality is, even though we have excellent health care here ... there are still more residents in the upper Midwest than there are beds and ventilators ... the numbers, I think, are pretty dramatic."

-- Dr. Jeremy Storm, an infectious disease specialist based in Sioux Falls



Dr. Jeremy Storm of Sioux Falls

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 23 of 72

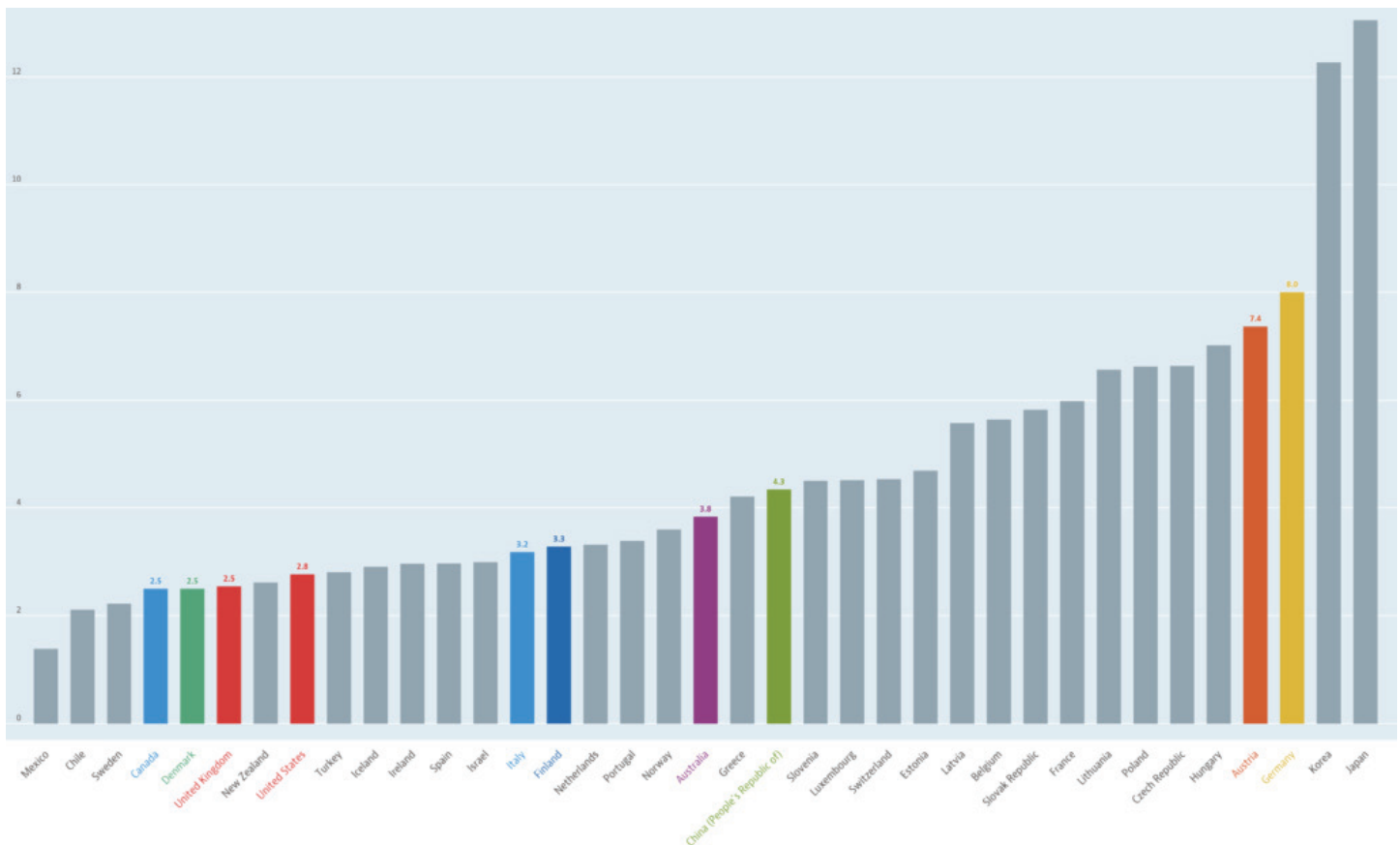
SCC report said.

Storm said countries such as Italy and Iran, where COVID-19 has run rampant, offer cautionary tales for South Dakota. In Italy, more than 27,900 people have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and more than 2,500 people have died, according to the World Health Organization. Hospitals there have been overwhelmed and doctors have been forced to prioritize which patients can get life-saving care and which are left to face illness and possibly death without treatment.

In the U.S., President Donald Trump on March 17 suggested that federal officials and the military could build temporary medical facilities to handle an influx of new COVID-19 patients, if needed. The announcement came as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases nationwide topped 8,500 and the number of reported deaths from the disease rose to 140.

As of March 18 in South Dakota, 11 people are confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 and one man has died. A total of five confirmed cases have been found in Minnehaha County, the state's most populous county. The rest of the confirmed cases have been spread across six counties in the eastern half of the state. One man from Pennington County — who became the state's only confirmed fatality due to COVID-19 — was found to have the disease but had been outside the county for more than two weeks when he died.

Each confirmed case of COVID-19 in South Dakota is thought to have originated from outside the state,



**This chart shows the estimated hospital beds per 1,000 people in each member nation of the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development had as of 2018. The U.S. -- shown in the second red line from the left -- had the 12th-fewest hospital beds per 1,000 people at 2.8. Mexico is worst at less than 2 and Japan is highest at more than 12. Public health officials worry that there may not be enough hospital beds to treat critically ill patients if there is a surge in the number of COVID-19 diagnoses. Courtesy Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 24 of 72

officials say. That is good news for South Dakota hospitals because it suggests community-level transmission hasn't started yet. However, it is likely that there are many more people infected with COVID-19 than have been tested for the disease.

"There is a limiting factor right now, which is a number of tests that can be performed. So, there's more cases out there than we've even identified," Storm said.

State Epidemiologist Joshua Clayton announced on March 18 that the state health lab had run out of testing supplies on March 16 and wasn't able to run more tests. The difficulties in completing tests for COVID-19 are a big reason why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and medical professionals have been pleading with all South Dakota residents, whether sick or not, to distance themselves from others and wash their hands regularly.

South Dakota hospitals have been working with first-responders to plan strategies for dealing with mass casualty events, mass radiation exposure and even global pandemics for more than a decade. Five years ago, the state's hospitals spent a year planning and training to deal with a coronavirus epidemic, said Lynn DeYoung, executive director of the South Dakota Healthcare Coalition. The organization serves as a coordinator for medical disaster planning and training.

New innovations such as telemedicine also will play a critical role in helping keep doctors and nurses from being infected with COVID-19 and in dealing with long-term shortages of health-care workers. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on March 17 expanded its coverage of telehealth services to include in-home, virtual doctor visits for routine checkups.

"We're pretty blessed that this has come to us at this point, rather than, say, about 15 years ago," said Dr. David Basel, vice president of clinical quality at Avera Medical Group. "We've had time to prepare for this, develop a lot of these lines of communication between the CDC, the state Department of Health, other hospitals and other community resources and so that's really helped prepare us to handle this new, novel threat."

Flexibility within the health-care community will be critical to helping manage an influx of COVID-19 patients if they arrive, providers said.

"Even in times where there is not a crisis or emergency, we are continuously disaster planning and high-surge planning for situations like this," said Wilde. "The question does keep coming up regarding bed numbers. The reality is, we can really move that number around based on need in the moment, on a day-to-day basis. We have a physical number of ICU beds, but that can move very quickly."

In terms of hospital bed availability, South Dakota is in decent shape compared to the rest of the country. The state has more hospital beds per person, around 4.8 beds per 1,000 people, than any other state, according to an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonprofit that studies the health-care industry.

Gov. Kristi Noem held a meeting and press conference Wednesday with officials from Monument Health, formerly Regional Health, that provides health care to much of western South Dakota, including Rapid City. Monument CEO Paulette Davidson said at the press conference that the medical group has undergone extensive preparations to handle the COVID-19 epidemic.

"We have spent the last several weeks and actually months across the western South Dakota region preparing for COVID-19," Davidson said. "We brought our clinical teams together, our physicians and our caregivers, our leaders, to prepare for what could happen in western South Dakota and we are well prepared. We have a large health system in our community and our region, we have providers outside Monument Health, we have clinicians that are all doing what needs to be done to take care of our communities."

Noem said at the press conference that she has spoken with health and government officials from other states and in Washington, D.C. and is confident South Dakota is taking appropriate steps to slow the spread of the virus.

"The focus we have is on management," Noem said. "It's on making sure that going forward that we're taking actions to avoid overwhelming our healthcare systems."

Noem said she has met with leaders from Sanford and Monument health systems, and that "they're very comfortable with where we are as a medical community and our response."



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 25 of 72

## Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller

Well, today's a little bit better day overall in terms of raw numbers, although there are places where that's not true. The rate of increase today eased off a bit across the country and in many individual places as well. Of course, one day isn't a trend, and there are still states seeing big increases. Bit of a patchwork.

We are now at 23,662 cases in 50 states and 3 territories; this represents a 33% increase over yesterday. Considering we had 48% increases each of the past two days, this feels better; but two of the big-number states posted big increases again today: NY increased by 46% to 10,356 cases and NJ increased by 48% to 1336 cases. WA and CA, which have had big numbers for a very long time, slowed down considerably: CA at 1346, a 17% increase, and NJ at 1336, an 8% increase. Also with over 700 cases are MI, IL, and FL; and with over 500 are MA, GA and CO. 6 more states have over 200, 13 have over 100, 9 plus DC have 50-99, 12 plus 2 territories have 19-49, and just the VI is still in single digits.

A serious concern is that we still do not have any idea, two months in, how many cases are actually out there. Due to a shortage of testing capacity, no one thinks we have any kind of handle on that. And in places like NY where cases are coming in a flood, it has been proposed to stop testing and simply assume everyone is positive for the virus. Behind this strategy is a recognition that every specimen collection for a test uses a set of PPE (personal protective equipment) for the health care worker, equipment that needs to be saved for those caring for known cases. Supplies are critical; workers are reusing single-use equipment because there simply is no choice. I'll have more to say on this subject later, but it is important to recognize the strain and the risks with which these people are working.

And that is true for health care workers across the country, even in places with few Covid-19 cases. It's easy to forget that, in addition to coping with this virus, health care institutions are still caring for patients with flu, heart attacks, cancer, strokes, and other infections, among a thousand other diagnoses. Many hospitals have restricted or prohibited visitors, which places additional burdens on the workers because there are no family members or friends of patients to interface with workers or simply be with patients. A social worker I know reports there are people dying alone in their rooms because family members are not permitted and stretched-thin health care workers can't afford to sit by the bedside either. This creates enormous emotional burdens in addition to the raw workload.

Having taught health care workers of all kinds for upwards of 40 years, I can tell you the vast majority of these folks choose their career fields because they are committed to helping people. Letting patients die untended and alone doesn't fit that approach to health care. At all. And yet, there is frequently simply no choice; the living need attention so they don't join the dying. Add to the workload and the emotional strain the constant worry about becoming infected so you can't work and of taking an infection home to your family and about things getting worse before they get better, and we have a population under immense pressure, as well as at risk.

322 people have died in 31 states plus DC and PR. Big numbers are in WA with 96 and NY with 80. Other states with more than 10 deaths are CA, NJ, FL, LA, and GA. 24 states are in single digits. TN and MN reported their first deaths today.

So that's today's status. I have a couple of pieces of new information.

One is a new twist on symptoms. It has become apparent that digestive symptoms show up in nearly half of Covid-19 patients, sometimes before respiratory symptoms do. This is something which hasn't received a great deal of attention until recently. It is important to note that someone presenting with diarrhea might not even be suspected of having this virus, yet there appear to be fair numbers of people presenting just this way with no respiratory symptoms until later. So this is something which requires more attention, both in the public and in health care.

And I was sent an article today about risks and personal protection for health care workers which, based on experience in Asia and in some American settings, would seem to indicate we can safely stretch our PPE supplies farther than has been thought. There is some good evidence the full deal--N95 mask, face shield, goggles, gowns, gloves--may be able to be reserved for aerosol-generating procedures and may not be needed for every interaction with an infected patient. In fact, with rigorous attention to hand hygiene and

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 26 of 72

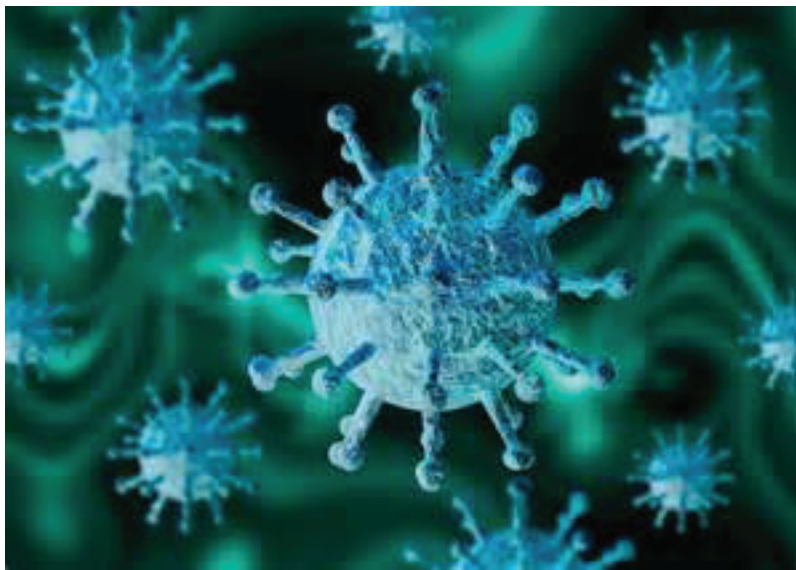
disinfecting surfaces, restrictions on visitors, and standard droplet precautions for limited uses, it appears health care workers can be quite well protected from infection. There is a new set of guidelines for PPE provided. This could be a game changer if it turns out to be reliable information. The article is written by a practicing physician and appears to be evidence-based, so I have some hope there's something there.

There is one more glimmer of positive news embedded in that article. From the evidence presented, it does appear that "invisible" cases, that is, people not showing symptoms, may not be driving as many serious infections as previously thought, and it also appears that, while we don't want to get sloppy, more indirect forms of transmission might not be as prevalent as thought either. Small comforts, but we'll take them where we can find them.

I posted a copy of this article from the New Yorker on my page earlier today. It's set to public, so you can view it if you wish. It's well worth a read.

I know this is old news by now, but stay home, practice distancing when you're out and about, wash your hands many, many times a day, scrub down frequently-touched surfaces, keep your hands away from your face. And be kind. Take care of one another. Give a damn. It will never matter more.

Stay well, and help someone else stay well too.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 27 of 72

## COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota is the lone ranger when it comes to new cases compared to our neighboring states. No new cases were reported in South Dakota, keeping our total of the COVID-19 at 14, the fewest with our Midwest neighbors. North Dakota had two more cases with a total of 28 and three being hospitalized.

It is interesting to note that all all states bordering South Dakota, except for Montana, have community spread. Minnesota went 115 to 137 positive cases on Saturday, Nebraska went from 27 to 42 cases, Colorado went from 277 to 475, Wyoming went from 18 to 24 and Montana went from 15 to 27.

In the United States, there are 15, 219 cases with 201 deaths.

Total cases: 15,219

Total deaths: 201

### SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS

Test Results	# of Cases
Positive*	14
Negative	691
Pending	268

*\*Positive test results are no longer required to be sent to the CDC for confirmation*

### SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES WITH COVID-19 CASES

County	# of Cases
Beadle	4
Bon Homme	1
Charles Mix	1
Davison	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	5
Pennington	1

*There is no known community transmission at this time.*

### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases
0 to 19 years	0
20 to 29 years	1
30 to 39 years	3
40 to 49 years	4
50 to 59 years	3
60 to 69 years	3
70 to 79 years	0
80+ years	0

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases
Male	11
Female	3

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 28 of 72

## We're here for you.

Groton Subway is still open for takeout.



It's our priority to serve you the delicious meals you love in the easiest and safest ways possible.

**Groton Subway  
is open daily  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**605/397-SUBS (7827)  
1202 N 1st St - Suite D  
Groton**



**FREE Footlong when  
you buy ANY  
Footlong**

Add 2 Footlongs to your cart & discount automatically applies for participating shops.

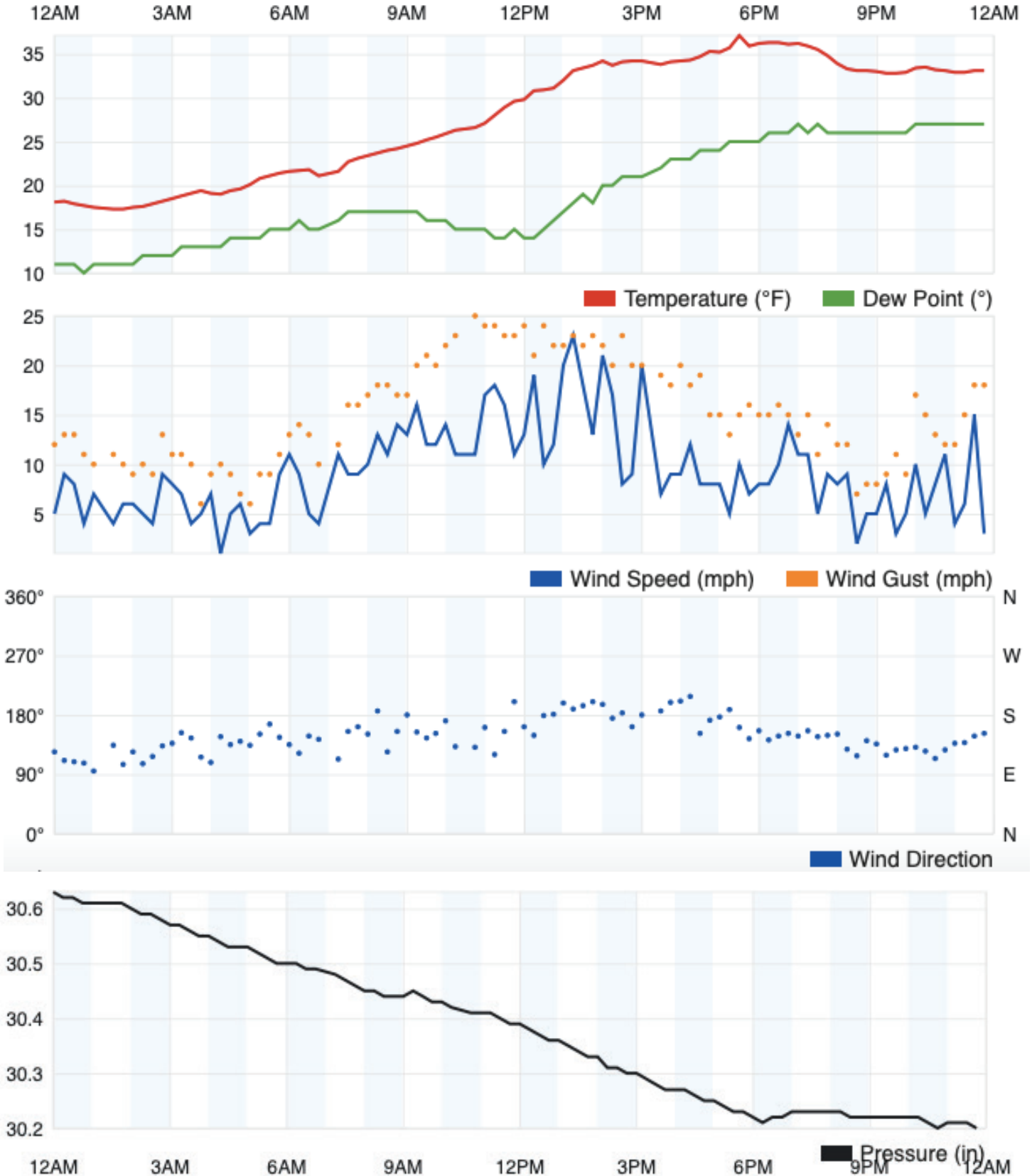


Free sub of equal/lesser price. No Extras. At participating restaurants. No add'l discounts.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 29 of 72

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 30 of 72

Today



Partly Sunny

High: 44 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

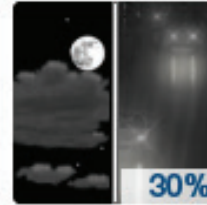
Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 49 °F

Monday  
Night



Partly Cloudy  
then Chance  
Rain

Low: 35 °F

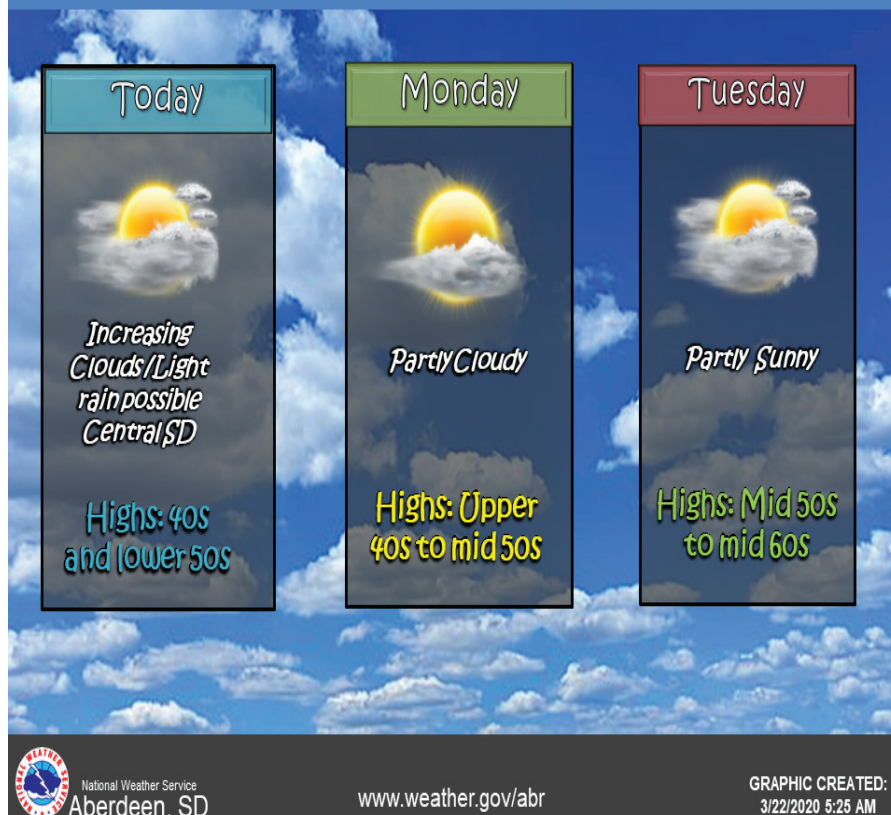
Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 56 °F

## Warming up through Tuesday



A warm up will occur for today through Tuesday with mid 50s to the mid 60s expected by Tuesday for highs. Some light rain may occur for parts of central South Dakota into northeast South Dakota this afternoon into this evening.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 31 of 72

## Today in Weather History

March 22, 1966: The blizzard began on the 22nd in the west moving southeastward into Nebraska and then moving northeastward across the southeastern part of South Dakota. Winds up to 50 mph caused blowing snow which reduced visibility to near zero. Seven to 8 inches of snow fell on the plains of South Dakota with up to 2 feet in the Black Hills. Traffic was paralyzed due to snow-blocked roads. Schools and many businesses were closed. One death was attributed to the storm to exposure and exhaustion. A heart attack indirectly caused one death in Sioux Falls.

March 22, 1987: Snowmelt and rainfall caused some rivers and small streams to rise to very high levels in central South Dakota. Lowland flooding around the basins occurred, submerging some minor roads and streets. Also, high water levels and ice damaged some railroad bridges between Wakpala and Mahto in Corson County.

March 22, 2009: A stretch of warmer weather occurred from March 14th to 17th, which resulted in high temperatures in the 40s and low 50s. The snow depth in Fargo on the 14th was 15 inches with a melted water equivalent of 3.10 inches. By the 17th, the snow depth in Fargo had dropped to 6 inches. The snow was followed by a couple of colder days, which temporarily slowed down any additional snowmelt. The second period of warmer weather began on March 20th and continued through the 24th. During this period, high temperatures again climbed into the 40s and low 50s. Most of the remaining snow in Fargo melted during this stretch of warm weather, with the Fargo snow depth falling from 2 inches to 0. Conditions were about the same in Grand Forks, with the snow depth dropping to 0 by the 24th. These two warm-ups resulted in a quick response in river levels, especially across the southern Red River Valley and west central Minnesota. The Red River also showed a response, especially in the southern Red River Valley. With all the runoff moving into the river systems, water covered many roads and resulted in numerous road closures. The water covered entire sections of land as well and threatened many homes. A winter storm event on March 24th and 25th brought more snow to the region, along with a turn to colder temperatures. This resulted in the first crest for many rivers in the southern Red River Valley and west central Minnesota. However, river levels at most points along the Red River continued to stay high. Another winter storm event hit much of the area March 30th to 31st, dropping up to 2 feet of snow in the southern Red River Valley. There was a lot of moisture in this new snow, with snow to liquid ratios of less than 10 to 1. This set the stage for continued flooding into April and early May. The North Dakota Governor issued a statewide disaster declaration on March 13 in anticipation of spring flooding. Most counties in eastern North Dakota later received a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

1888: Chicago's morning low dips to one degree below zero, the latest sub-zero Fahrenheit reading in the city's history. This record still stands today.

1893: The first tornado was recorded in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on this date. It destroyed 14 buildings and injured four people as it passed through the center of town. There was minor damage to the Weather Bureau office, which was located at Grand and Robinson in south Oklahoma City.

1920: A spectacular display of the "Northern Lights" was visible as far south as Bradenton FL, El Paso, TX and Fresno, CA. At Detroit MI, the display was described "so brilliant as to blot out all stars below the first magnitude."

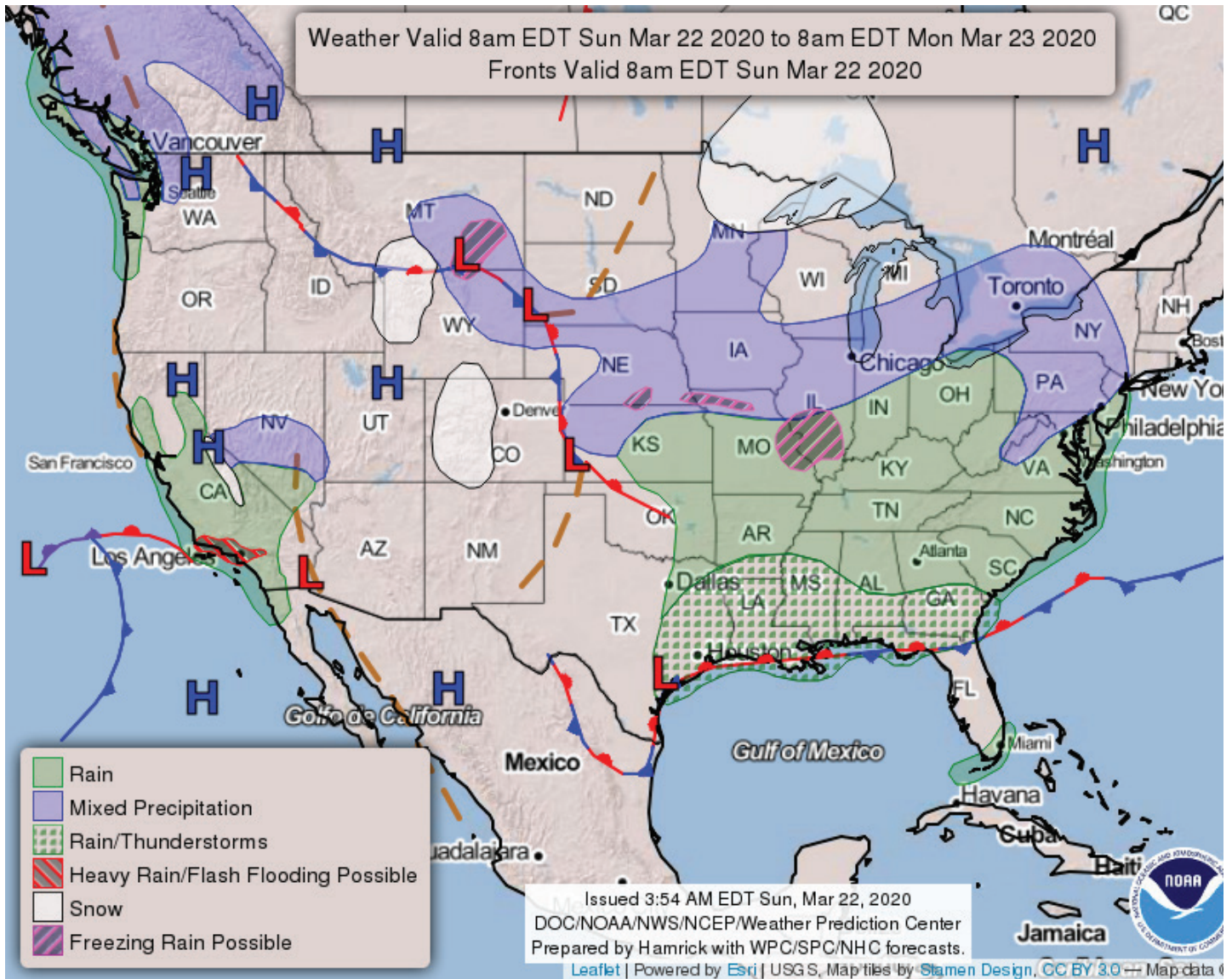
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 32 of 72

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 37 °F at 5:28 PM**  
**Low Temp: 17 °F at 1:21 AM**  
**Wind: 27 mph at 1:20 PM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 79° in 1907**  
**Record Low: -16° in 1899**  
**Average High: 43°F**  
**Average Low: 22°F**  
**Average Precip in March.: 0.71**  
**Precip to date in March.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 1.73**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:50 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.**





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 33 of 72



## THE GOAL

Florence Chadwick swam across the English Channel from England to France in 13 hours and 20 minutes in 1950. The following year she swam from France to England becoming the first woman to swim the channel in both directions.

Two years later she decided to swim from the Catalina Islands to Palos Verdes, California, a distance of 26 miles. She was surrounded by people in small boats who were concerned for her well-being. They were prepared to help her if she became tired or encountered any danger from sharks. After 15 hours, a thick fog settled in, and she began to doubt her ability to complete her journey. An hour later she was pulled from the water, unable to see the shore. After getting into the boat, she learned that she had stopped one mile short of her goal - the shore.

Two months later she tried again - this time successfully. Even though a thick fog once again came in, she accomplished her goal because she kept a mental image of the coastline in her mind.

Paul said, "Fix your minds on what is true, right, honorable, lovely and admirable." To achieve our goal to live "Christ-like," we must "fix our minds on Christ" and not let the "fog settle in!"

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes focused on You when we are confused and need direction. Help us to see You clearly and trust in Your strength to sustain and protect us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Philippians 4:8-10 Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 34 of 72

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 03/14/2020 Youth Girls/Boys Basketball Tourney Grades 4th-6th (Baseball/Softball Foundation Fundraiser)
  - 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - 04/04/2020 Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - 04/25/2020 Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - 04/25-26/2020 Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
  - 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - 05/11/2020 Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 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
  - 07/31-08/04/2020 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
  - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
- 
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
- 
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 35 of 72

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

01-05-07-22-27

(one, five, seven, twenty-two, twenty-seven)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

05-21-26-47-50, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(five, twenty-one, twenty-six, forty-seven, fifty; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.75 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

Powerball

02-23-40-59-69, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

(two, twenty-three, forty, fifty-nine, sixty-nine; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

### South Dakota won't give inmates releases because of virus

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in South Dakota say they're not planning special releases for state prison inmates because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Some jails across the country, including in Rapid City, are taking measures to lower their populations. The parole board in North Dakota met Friday and gave early release dates to 56 prisoners.

South Dakota Department of Corrections spokesman Michael Winder told the Rapid City Journal that elderly and seriously ill inmates are allowed to apply for early release under "compassionate parole" laws, but there will be no special releases. The state Board of Pardons and Paroles is meeting next month.

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota has called on Gov. Kristi Noem to exercise her commutation power to help reduce the risk of inmates or prison staff contracting COVID-19. A spokeswoman for Noem said the governor has rejected that idea.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

### Tribes take measures to slow spread of new coronavirus

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Sharon Bahe has made her home on the Navajo Nation a refuge, placing cedar branches and burning sage to help purify the space and praying for protection for herself and her children home from boarding school and a toddler with severe asthma.

Her community of about 500 in northern Arizona has become a hot spot for the new coronavirus, with

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 36 of 72

several cases confirmed. While other kids play outside, she tells hers they can't "until the virus goes away."

Officials on the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation, on Friday broadened a stay-at-home order from Chilchinbeto to the entire reservation: No visitors in, and residents can't leave their homes except for essential tasks, including to get food and medical supplies.

The order is among the strictest yet in Indian Country, though tribes across the U.S. for weeks have been preparing amid worries that the outbreak could quickly overwhelm a chronically underfunded health care system and affect a population that suffers disproportionately from cancer, diabetes and some respiratory diseases.

They've shut down casinos, hotels and tourist destinations — often their primary revenue sources — and reminded citizens of the resiliency of their ancestors.

"Tribes are really just big families in a lot of ways," said Matthew Fletcher, a law professor at Michigan State University. "The threats to your family are something you're going to take seriously."

Tribal elders, revered for their knowledge and cultural guidance, are the biggest concern, and outreach and other efforts are underway on the Navajo Nation, which spans three states in the U.S. Southwest. Many families there live miles apart in homes that hold multiple generations but can lack electricity, running water and reliable internet.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. But for the elderly and people with existing conditions, it can cause more severe illness. The vast majority of those who are infected recover.

A federal funding package in response to the virus included \$40 million for tribes for epidemiology, public health preparedness, infection control, education and other things.

But the money hasn't reached tribes because there's no mechanism for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to get it to the Indian Health Service, the agency responsible for providing primary medical care to Native Americans. Tribes and tribal organizations run some hospitals and clinics under federal contract.

"Everyone is on high alert right now. They're waiting, they're asking us," said Stacy Bohlen, executive director of the National Indian Health Board who is from the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

In the meantime, tribes are taking action to slow the spread of the virus.

In South Dakota, Oglala Sioux Tribe President Julian Bear Runner prohibited church groups from bringing volunteers to help repair homes on tribal land. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe canceled about 300 spring turkey and prairie dog hunting permits for non-tribal members.

In Montana, the Northern Cheyenne and the Crow tribes enacted a 10 p.m. curfew, partly to ensure law enforcement isn't bogged down, and restricted movement on and off their land. They also asked residents who attended hugely popular basketball tournaments off the reservation to self-quarantine.

The Bay Mills Indian Community has special hours for the elderly at a grocery store on the densely populated reservation in northern Michigan and a gas station with full service to limit exposure to the pumps, said tribal Chairman Bryan Newland.

It also is among tribes nationwide that have closed casinos and is paying its 400 employees. The National Indian Gaming Association has asked Congress for at least \$18 billion in federal aid over six months to address shortfalls from closing casinos, which tribes depend on because they don't have a property tax base.

For others, it's tourism, but those operations, too, are shutting down. They include Monument Valley on the Navajo Nation and the famed blue-green waterfalls of the Havasupai reservation in northern Arizona.

Tribal leaders say all tribes are at risk but some face unique situations. Of the country's 574 federally recognized tribes, 229 are in Alaska where supplies must be flown in or shipped on barges. Kevin Allis, chief executive of the National Congress of American Indians, said that could expose isolated Alaska Native villages and create a disaster.

The villages have clinics, but residents must travel to regional hubs or farther for serious medical issues. "This is a very scary situation for them," Allis said.

Some health care clinics and hospitals that serve Native Americans have closed or scaled back services to focus on the coronavirus. Community health representatives on the Navajo Nation have been driving long distances to people's homes to teach them about the virus and what to do if they exhibit symptoms.

They're using a new Navajo phrase that translates to "a step above the big illness," said Mae-gilene Begay,

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 37 of 72

who oversees the program.

The Navajo Nation had at least 14 confirmed cases as of Friday evening. Others have been confirmed at health care facilities for Native Americans in the Portland, Oregon, area and in the Great Plains. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma said one of its citizens has died from COVID-19.

Bills in Congress seek to create parity for tribes, giving them direct access to a federal drug repository and gear if they exhaust their supplies, and the ability to apply directly to the CDC for a health emergency preparedness program. A federal funding package signed Wednesday gives \$64 million to IHS.

But Democratic U.S. Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico said that "can't be the end of the work."

Bahe was busy Friday getting supplies to stay home for the long term. Her children kept themselves occupied on electronic devices while she stressed frequent hand-washing and general cleanliness. She said she already had enough oxygen and medication for her toddler.

"I was telling my kids we have to keep doing what we're doing because we're not sick yet," she said.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez wore a mask and gloves Friday while addressing tribal lawmakers. He said the tribe was preparing food packages for elders and will take over all billboards on the 27,000-square-mile (69,930-square-kilometer) reservation to enforce CDC guidelines. It's also considering roadblocks.

"I love you, Navajo Nation, but please listen to authorities, leadership when they say, 'Stay home,'" he said. "That's the best way to fight this virus."

The Indian Health Service is talking weekly with tribes to keep them informed. The agency said all of its facilities can swab patients for COVID-19, though supplies are depleted nationwide, and testing is done at outside labs. Chief medical Officer Michael Toedt highlighted a drive-up testing location in northwestern New Mexico and the replacement of office visits with calls and video conferencing.

Newland and other tribal leaders said they're still not assured they will get needed resources that should be guaranteed through acts of Congress and treaties with the U.S. from generations ago.

"What we really want to know is where can we get our test kits, where do we get economic relief, and we want information as close to real time as possible about how closely we are affected in terms of concerned cases," Newland said. "Other than that, we can figure it out."

---

Associated Press writers Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Paul Davenport in Phoenix and Rachel D'Oro in Anchorage, Alaska, contributed to this report. Fonseca is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/FonsecaAP>

## Two people seriously hurt in bus rollover in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two people sustained serious non-life threatening injuries when a bus carrying 12 passengers rolled over Friday morning on Interstate 29 in southeastern South Dakota, the state Highway Patrol said.

The patrol said the Jefferson Line Bus was northbound on I-29 five miles from Elk Point when the driver attempted to pass a pickup truck and lost control. The bus overturned into the east ditch.

In addition to the two people who were seriously hurt, nine people had minor injuries. The passengers were taken to various medical facilities.

The highway patrol is considering charges against the driver, a 67-year-old man from Lawrence, Kansas. He was taken to an area hospital although he was not hurt, authorities said.

## Virus marches on in Italy, Iran as medical supplies dwindle

By COLLEEN BARRY and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

SOAVE, Italy (AP) — Italy, Iran and the United States reported soaring new death tolls as the coronavirus pandemic marched relentlessly across the globe Sunday, prompting a scramble in hard-hit regions to set up more hospital beds and replenish the dwindling medical supplies needed to keep health workers safe.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte went on TV near midnight, announcing that he was tightening the country's

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 38 of 72**

lockdown and shutting down all production facilities except those providing essential goods and services. While he cautioned citizens to be calm and patient, insisting there "is no alternative," scientists elsewhere released graphics showing that avoiding even one infection means that scores more are avoided down the line.

Italy announced its biggest day-to-day increase of infections, which rose to 53,000 people, with nearly 800 new deaths. As bodies pile up in Italian hospitals, morgues and churches, and as medical workers plead for more help, there is no sign yet that Italy is taming its arc of its contagion. Italy now has 4,825 deaths, more than all of China, where the virus first emerged late last year.

In Britain, where Sunday was Mother's Day, the government had a stark message for millions of citizens: Visiting your mother could kill her. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson implored citizens to forego traditional family visits and Sunday lunches.

"We cannot disguise or sugar coat the threat," he said. "If your mother is elderly or vulnerable, then I am afraid all the statistics show that she is much more likely to die from coronavirus."

"This time the best thing is to ring her, video call her, Skype her, but to avoid any unnecessary physical contact or proximity," he added.

Iran's supreme leader refused U.S. assistance Sunday to fight the new coronavirus, citing an unfounded conspiracy theory that the virus could be made by America. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments come as Iran faces crushing U.S. sanctions over its nuclear actions. Iran says the new coronavirus has killed 1,685 people among its 21,638 confirmed cases — a toll that experts from the World Health Organization say is almost certainly underreported.

In the U.S., where multiple states have ordered residents to stay indoors, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the government is "literally scouring the globe looking for medical supplies." Health care workers from Oklahoma City to Minneapolis sought donations of protective equipment. Staff at a Detroit hospital began creating homemade face masks for workers. Even rural hospitals were strained as people increasingly felt the pandemic closing in.

In Washington, negotiators from Congress and the White House resumed top-level talks on a ballooning \$1 trillion-plus economic rescue package, urged by President Donald Trump to strike a deal to steady a nation upended by the coronavirus pandemic. Trump continued to strike a confident tone about the nation's ability to defeat the pandemic soon, even as health leaders acknowledged that the U.S. is nowhere near the peak of the pandemic.

"We are going to be celebrating a great victory in the not too distant future," Trump declared.

At least 38 people tested positive at New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail complex and nearby facilities — more than half of them inmates. Another inmate became the first in the U.S. to test positive in a federal jail.

Worldwide, more than 307,000 people have been infected and over 13,000 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. About 150 countries now have confirmed cases, and deaths have been reported in more than 30 American states.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever or coughing. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Some 92,000 people have recovered, mostly in China.

Spanish health authorities say intensive care units in the hardest-hit areas are close to their limit. The army was building a field hospital with 5,500 beds in a convention center in Madrid, where hotels are also being turned into wards for virus patients without serious breathing problems.

In the U.S., New Jersey and St. Louis were added to a growing list of areas where residents were ordered to stay home. Hawaii's governor instituted a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine starting Thursday of both returning residents and visitors traveling to the state and urged people to delay planned vacations to the Pacific archipelago. People under quarantine may only leave their homes or hotels for medical emergencies.

Singapore said Sunday that it will fully shut its borders from Tuesday after recording its first two deaths. All short-term visitors will from Tuesday be barred from entering or transiting through the city-state in order

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 39 of 72

to reduce the the risk of imported cases, while citizens or residents will face a 14-day quarantine.

Sri Lanka on Sunday blocked any passenger flights and ships from entering the Indian Ocean island.

The Chinese city of Wuhan — where the global pandemic was first detected and the first city to be locked down — went a fourth consecutive day on Sunday without reporting any new or suspected cases. Wuhan must go 14 straight days without a new case in order for draconian travel restrictions to be lifted, but a special train brought in more than 1,000 car factory employees to the key automotive city for the first time since the outbreak.

Parks and other public gathering places are reopening in China as people return to work and businesses resume. However, the country has placed increasing restrictions on those coming from overseas, who have made up the majority of its new infections in recent days.

All arrivals to Beijing from abroad must quarantine themselves for two weeks in a hotel at their own expense. And beginning Monday, flights into the capital will be diverted to twelve airports in other cities, where passengers will have to pass a health inspection before they can fly onward to Beijing.

China's first recent case of community infection was reported Sunday in the southern province of Guangzhou, where a woman contracted COVID-19 from someone who came in from Turkey. As the outbreak has died down domestically, an influx of people coming into the country has stoked fears of a resurgence.

---

Associated Press writers Yanan Wang in Beijing; Frances D'Emilio in Rome; Jill Lawless in London; Amy Forliti in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Bharatha Malawaraarachchi in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia; Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; researcher Henry Hou in Beijing and other AP reporters around the world contributed to this report.

---

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

---

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Strong quake shakes Croatia, damaging buildings in capital

By DARKO BANDIC Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — A strong earthquake shook Croatia and its capital on Sunday, causing panic, the evacuation of hospitals and widespread damage — including to the city's iconic cathedral — all amid a partial coronavirus lockdown.

A 15-year-old was reported in critical condition and several others were injured, news outlets reported.

The European seismological agency, EMSC, said the earthquake measured 5.3 and struck a wide area north of the capital, Zagreb, at 6:23 a.m. (0523 GMT) Sunday. The epicenter was 7 kilometers (4 miles) north of Zagreb at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said earthquake was the biggest in Zagreb in the last 140 years.

Many buildings in the capital cracked and walls and rooftops were damaged. Downtown streets were littered with debris. Concrete slabs fell on cars and chimneys landed in front of entrances.

Footage from the scene showed mothers dressed in nightgowns hugging their newborn babies in a parking lot as they evacuated a damaged maternity hospital amid freezing temperatures. The women, newborn babies and incubators were being moved to a new location with the help of the army.

Zagreb's iconic cathedral was also damaged, with the top of one of its two spires collapsing. The cathedral was rebuilt after it toppled in the 1880 earthquake.

Power was cut as people ran out of their homes. Several fires were also reported. At least two other tremors were recorded later. Residents shared photos of belongings falling off shelves, broken bottles and glass inside homes.

Officials first said a 15-year-old was killed, but doctors later said that she is in critical condition and that

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 40 of 72

they are fighting for her life. They gave no immediate details on the extent of other injuries.

The earthquake struck amid a partial lockdown of the capital because of the spread of the coronavirus. People were told to avoid public areas, such as parks and public squares, but had little choice as they fled their residences.

Up to five people are allowed to be together while keeping distance.

The prime minister urged the citizens to remain calm and stay outside their homes in the central parts of Zagreb, which sustained the most damage.

"We have two parallel crisis that contradict each other," Plenkovic said after an emergency meeting of Croatia's top officials.

Croatia's army and all emergency services will start clearing the streets as soon as possible, while assessment will start of the damage at the same time.

"We will try to clear the streets as soon as possible," he said. "Stay outside your homes and keep distance."

Interior Minister Davor Bozinovic said the situation was complicated by the restrictive virus-related measures in place.

"There are rules for when there is an earthquake, but when there is an earthquake at the same time when there is a global pandemic, then it's a much more complex situation." Bozinovic told the state HINA news agency.

Associated Press writers Dusan Stojanovic and Jovana Gec contributed to this report.

## **38 positive for coronavirus in NYC jails, including Rikers**

**By ROBIN McDOWELL and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press**

New York City was hit by the nation's largest coronavirus jail outbreak to date this week, with at least 38 people testing positive at the notorious Rikers Island complex and nearby facilities — more than half of them incarcerated men, the board that oversees the city's jail system said Saturday.

Another inmate, meanwhile, became the first in the country to test positive in a federal jail.

In a letter to New York's criminal justice leaders, Board of Correction interim chairwoman Jacqueline Sherman described a jail system in crisis.

She said in the last week, board members learned that 12 Department of Correction employees, five Correctional Health Services employees, and 21 people in custody at Rikers and city jails had tested positive for the coronavirus.

And at least another 58 were being monitored in the prison's contagious disease and quarantine units, she said.

"It is likely these people have been in hundreds of housing areas and common areas over recent weeks and have been in close contact with many other people in custody and staff," said Sherman, warning that cases could skyrocket. "The best path forward to protecting the community of people housed and working in the jails is to rapidly decrease the number of people housed and working in them."

New York officials have consistently downplayed the number of infections in its prisons and jails, The Associated Press has found in conversations with current and former inmates.

The city's jail agency and its city-run healthcare provider did not respond to messages seeking comment on the letter. On Friday, the city's Department of Corrections said just one inmate had been diagnosed with coronavirus, along with seven jail staff members. Late Saturday, the department acknowledged 19 inmates had tested positive — two fewer than in the board's letter — and 12 staff members.

Earlier this week, Juan Giron was transferred to Rikers Island from an upstate facility after his sentence was vacated because the judge had failed to consider him for youthful offender treatment. After going through intake, where he underwent health screening, he was taken to a dormitory that housed more than two dozen men, their beds lined up next to one another, spaced a few feet apart.

"This is like a shelter. So everybody is out and about. You're talking to people, mingling" Giron said. "Last night, a guy is brought in at around 6 p.m., and a few hours later, two police officers come in with masks



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 41 of 72

and gloves on and try to give the guy a mask. They looked scared, didn't even want to touch him. They told him to pack up, so he packed up and they took him out. It was crazy."

"We asked one of the officers and they said, 'That's the process we are doing now for guys who have the virus,'" Giron said, adding that others who had had contact with the man have not been questioned or notified about his status.

More than 2.2 million people are incarcerated in the United States — more than anywhere in the world — and there are growing fears that an outbreak could spread rapidly through a vast network of federal and state prisons, county jails and detention centers.

It's a tightly packed, fluid population that is already grappling with high rates of health problems and, when it comes to the elderly and the intern, elevated risks of serious complications. With limited capacity nationally to test for COVID-19, men and women inside worry that they are last in line when showing flu-like symptoms, meaning that some may be infected without knowing it.

The first positive tests from inside prisons and jails started trickling out just over a week ago, with less than two dozen officers and staff infected in other facilities from California and Michigan to Pennsylvania.

Sherman wrote to Commissioner of New York City's Department of Correction, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's Acting Commissioner, and district attorney asserting that those who are at higher risk from infection, including people over 50 or with underlying health conditions, should be considered for early release. So should people detained for administrative reasons, like parole violations, she wrote.

Mayor Bill de Blasio earlier this week said prosecutors were working to identify candidates and by Friday night, prosecutors in New York City agreed to release 56 Rikers inmates on their own recognizance.

Bianca Tylek, executive director of the national criminal justice advocacy organization of Worth Rises, said that wouldn't cut it.

"There are nearly 1,500 people incarcerated on Rikers Island for low level offenses or technical parole violations who can be released immediately," she said. "Releasing them would reduce their risk of infection, reduce the risk for all those who remain incarcerated, and reduce the spread of the virus into the public."

A man incarcerated in New York City, meanwhile, became the first confirmed case in the federal prison system.

The man, who is housed at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, complained of chest pains on Thursday, a few days after he arrived at the facility, the federal Bureau of Prisons told the AP. He was taken to a local hospital and was tested for COVID-19, officials said.

He was discharged from the hospital on Friday and returned to the jail, where he was immediately placed in isolation, the agency said, adding medical and psychiatric staff were visiting him routinely.

Others housed with the man are also being quarantined, along with staff members who may have had contact with him.

There have been two positive cases among BOP staff members: an employee who works at an administrative office in Grand Prairie, Texas, and another employee who works in Leavenworth, Kansas, but who officials said did not have contact with inmates since becoming symptomatic.

The Bureau of Prisons has temporarily halted visitation at all 122 federal correctional facilities across the U.S., including both social and legal visitation, though officials have said some exceptions could be made for legal visits.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and even death.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe cases may take three to six weeks to recover.

---

McDowell reported from Minneapolis and Balsamo reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Michael R. Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

## **Pandemic bonds prove good for investors, less so for nations**

**By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer**

LONDON (AP) — To offset the crushing costs of trying to stem a global epidemic, the World Bank and partners announced the creation of "pandemic bonds" several years ago: the idea was to leverage private capital from Wall Street firms that would help stricken poor countries.

But since the bonds were launched in 2014, backed by about \$190 million in promised financing from donor countries, investors have reaped more profits than countries battling epidemics. And even in the current pandemic, any payout to stricken countries would barely make a dent into what the outbreak has cost them.

Former World Bank chief economist Lawrence Summers has described the bonds as "financial goofiness." The bonds were launched in the aftermath of the devastating Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the current coronavirus outbreak is exposing flaws in their design.

"The countries that need help are not the ones getting the funds," said Felix Stein of the University of Cambridge, who has researched the bonds. "It's the Wall Street investors that are benefiting."

The bonds are a form of disaster insurance and work essentially like this: the World Bank sells bonds to private sector investors, who get a yearly return, partly paid for by donor countries. If an epidemic occurs, the investors lose the capital they initially used to buy the bonds. That money is sent as aid to countries affected by the epidemic.

The problem, experts say, is that investors like Baillie Gifford and Amundi and Oppenheimer were getting high returns - as much as 11% a year.

And the bonds required a certain number of people to die before countries receive any payout, among other conditions, complicating any immediate efforts to snuff out the virus.

Upon their launch, the bonds were described by the World Bank as a way "to help prevent a high-severity infectious disease outbreak from becoming a pandemic" by making essential financing available to key responders.

According to the bonds' criteria, 12 weeks must pass before a payout for a coronavirus epidemic can be made. The outbreak must also be sustained, have affected at least two countries, and have caused at least 250 deaths.

The World Bank said that date would be met on March 23 and that a decision for a payout would then be made by an independent agency. The bank said the maximum potential payout was about \$196 million. Only the world's poorest countries are eligible for funds, making any immediate pay-out unlikely, as the hardest-hit countries include China, Italy, Iran, Spain and South Korea.

Taxpayers in Australia, Germany and Japan and the International Development Association, meanwhile, have put up about \$176 million so far to back the bonds.

In a 2019 paper published in the BMJ, Clare Wenham of the London School of Economics and a colleague found that as of last year, the pandemic bonds had paid nearly \$115 million to investors while providing only \$61 million via a "cash window" mechanism to Congo, for its most recent Ebola epidemic.

Wenham said the payout conditions are too arbitrary and long.

"By the time the required number of people die in a certain number of countries, the pandemic is clearly going to have spread quite significantly," she said, describing the mechanism as "flawed" and overcomplicated.

To date, the new coronavirus has infected more than 307,000 people and killed over 13,000. The illness has been deemed a pandemic by the World Health Organization, meaning it will likely reach every country in the world. For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough.

For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Some 92,000 have already recovered from the virus, mostly in China.

Wenham said the bonds might work better if the payout was linked to another trigger, like when the WHO declares a global health emergency like it did in late January.

"If the whole idea is to help prevent a pandemic, it doesn't make sense to wait until the pandemic is spreading before paying out," she said.

Olga Jonas, an economist at Harvard University who previously worked at the World Bank, says it's unclear why the pandemic bonds are even necessary.

"The World Bank has ample financial capacity to finance responses to outbreaks because it has \$29 billion of liquid assets," she said.

Earlier this month, the World Bank announced it would make \$14 billion available to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bank declined to say if the pandemic bonds would be continued in another form after COVID-19.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Virus rebels from France to Florida flout lockdown practices

By ELAINE GANLEY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Young German adults hold "corona parties" and cough toward older people. A Spanish man leashes a goat to go for a walk to skirt confinement orders. From France to Florida to Australia, kitesurfers, college students and others crowd the beaches.

Their defiance of lockdown mandates and scientific advice to fight the coronavirus pandemic has prompted crackdowns by authorities on people trying to escape cabin fever brought on by virus restrictions. In some cases, the virus rebels resist — threatening police as officials express outrage over public gatherings that could spread the virus.

"Some consider they're little heroes when they break the rules," said French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner. "Well, no. You're an imbecile, and especially a threat to yourself."

After days of noncompliance by people refusing to stay home and venture out only for essential tasks, France on Friday sent security forces into train stations to prevent people from traveling to their vacation homes, potentially carrying the virus to the countryside or beaches where medical facilities are less robust. The popular Paris walkway along the Seine River was closed and a nightly curfew was imposed in the French Mediterranean city of Nice by Mayor Christian Estrosi, who is infected with the virus.

Florida's governor closed all of the state's beaches after images of rowdy spring break college crowds appeared on TV for days amid the rising global death toll, which surpassed 13,000 on Sunday. Australia closed Sydney's famous Bondi Beach after police were outraged at pictures of the crowds.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that people from 18-to-49 account for more than half of the state's coronavirus cases, warning them "you're not Superman, and you're not Superwoman."

Many people were not complying with social distancing recommendations to stay away from each other in New York City's vast city park network ahead of a ban on congregating in groups that goes into effect Sunday night, Cuomo said.

"You can wind up hurting someone who you love, or hurting someone wholly inadvertently. Social distancing works, and you need social distancing everywhere," Cuomo warned.

As new coronavirus cases in China dropped to zero several days in a row, the chief medical officer for the International Clinic of Wuhan was alarmed at those elsewhere refusing to follow rules to contain the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 44 of 72

virus. Dr. Philippe Klein said people should look to China's confinement of tens of millions as an example to emulate "with courage, with patience, with solidarity."

"I exhort you, the French, to apply the rules in our way," said Klein, who is French.

Worldwide, over 307,000 people have been infected. For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. But it can cause more severe illness in others, especially older adults and people with existing health conditions. Some 92,000 people have recovered, mostly in China, where the virus first struck late last year.

The virus rebels tend to range from restless teens to wealthy adults who can travel to their getaway homes. Even in Italy, where the virus death toll soared beyond China's last week, authorities are still trying to rein in people from going outside for fresh air, sun and visits with friends to escape walled-in lives.

French farmers' markets where people congregate to shop for food have posed a special challenge for police trying to keep people apart from each other at the recommended 2 meters (6 feet), along with neglected urban housing projects where distrust and disobedience of authorities runs deep.

In Clichy-Sous-Bois, a Paris suburb where nationwide riots triggered by police harassment allegations erupted in 2005, a person bit a police officer trying to enforce confinement rules, said Linda Kebbab, a police union spokesperson. And a large crowd threatened to spit on officers who had planned to disperse them in the southeastern city of Lyon but left instead, she said.

In the southern German state of Bavaria, Gov. Markus Soeder lamented that "there are still corona parties, there are young people who cough at older people and shout corona for fun and, above all, there are an incredible number of groups being formed."

National police in Spain, which has the second-highest number of coronavirus infections in Europe after Italy, are using helicopters to spot groups of people meeting up outdoors. Then agents are sent in to break up the gatherings.

Spanish police have also taken to highlighting examples on social media of what people should not do in public during the country's state of emergency. In the southeastern Murcia region, they posted video of police stopping a person waddling outside in a full-body dinosaur costume and tweeted that pets can be taken for brief walks by owners but that "having a Tyrannosaurus Rex complex is not" allowed.

And in Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia, police posted a picture of a man walking a goat on a leash, apparently trying to take advantage of the pet walking exception.

France now has 100,000 security personnel on the streets who are issuing fines amid a new national "Stay Home" mantra and warnings by officials that the country's two-week lockdown could be extended if the country's infection rate keeps rising. France on Sunday had nearly 15,000 infections.

In Greece, Prime Minister Kyriakos tried to convince people to stay home, warning citizens that future virus prevention measures depend "on our behavior."

But after Florida's governor shut down the state's famed beaches, some businesses were still trying to draw in tourists, including Clearwater Mega Bite Shark Boat, a 40-foot (12-meter) vessel with a bow shaped like a shark's snout that cruises the Gulf of Mexico off Florida's western coast.

The boat can carry 50 passengers but the owner was limiting trips to 10 to comply with federal advice. Only four people signed up for a Saturday trip, said an employee named Chase who answered the phone but declined to give his last name.

"Normally we'd be packed this weekend," he said.

---

Associated Press writers contributing to this report: Frances d'Emilio in Rome; Joe Wilson in Barcelona; Elena Becatoros in Greece; Geir Moulson and David Rising in Berlin; Michael Hill in Albany, New York; Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida; and Sarah El Deeb in Beirut.

\_\_\_\_ The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

\_\_\_\_ Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## The Latest: Japan urges against nonessential travel to US

By The Associated Press undefined

TOKYO (AP) — The Latest on the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected more than 307,200 people and killed more than 13,000. The COVID-19 illness causes mild or moderate symptoms in most people, but severe symptoms are more likely in the elderly or those with existing health problems. More than 92,300 people have recovered so far, mostly in China.

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Japan urges no nonessential travel to the United States.
- Singapore to fully shut its borders after recording its first two deaths.
- Colombia reports its first death from the coronavirus.
- Sri Lanka police detain nearly 300 for breaching curfew.

Japan has issued a travel warning for its nationals, urging not to make unessential trips to the United States because of the rapidly expanding coronavirus outbreak in that country, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Japan has taken similar steps to most European countries and banned trips to China, South Korea as well as Iceland, San Marino and parts of Italy, Switzerland and Spain.

As of Saturday, the U.S. had 15,219 confirmed cases and 201 deaths, the ministry said, citing the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

The foreign ministry also said the decision came after the U.S. raised travel caution to Japan and four countries to level three, urging Americans not to make nonessential trips to Japan and requiring a 14-day self-imposed quarantine for Japanese nationals entering the U.S.

SINGAPORE — Singapore says it will fully shut its borders starting Tuesday after recording its first two deaths.

The city-state has banned visitors from several countries and requires all short-term visitors to observe a 14-day home quarantine. But the government says all short-term visitors beginning Tuesday will be barred from entering or transiting through the country.

It said in a statement Sunday that this will reduce the risk of imported cases and free up resources to focus on its citizens. It said Singapore citizens, permanent residents and foreigners with a long-term work pass can return but must undergo a 14-day self-quarantine.

The city-state of nearly 6 million people has recorded 432 cases so far. On Saturday, it reported that a 75-year-old Singaporean woman and an Indonesian visitor, 64, have succumbed to the virus.

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia is reporting its first death from the new coronavirus.

Officials said Saturday that he was a 58-year-old taxi driver who had driven tourists from Italy, which is one of the countries worst hit by the virus.

Colombia's Ministry of Health says the man had previous health issues, including untreated diabetes.

President Iván Duque has prohibited all non-resident foreigners from entering the country and has decreed a mandatory quarantine starting Tuesday.

Colombia has confirmed 210 cases of the coronavirus.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Police say they have detained 291 people for breaching a three-day curfew which has been imposed as part of strict measures designed to contain the spreading of the coronavirus in the Indian Ocean island nation.

Police said Sunday the detentions were made by police during patrols to ensure that people stay in their homes. The curfew was imposed on Friday and will end on Tuesday.

Some of them were arrested for boozing at a playground while some were loitering on streets during the curfew.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 46 of 72

The government is urging people to stay at homes as the number of positive cases have risen to 77.

**PERTH, Australia** — Australia has unveiled a 66.4 billion Australian dollar (\$38.50 billion) stimulus package in a bid to ward off a recession and safeguard employment from the coronavirus pandemic.

The package includes cash payments for eligible small businesses and welfare recipients. The total economic assistance packages so far total almost 10% of the country's GDP.

Australia has recorded more than 1,000 cases of the virus as fears heighten that it is headed for its first recession in nearly three decades.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says: "We want to help businesses keep going as best they can or to pause instead of falling apart. We want to ensure that when this crisis has passed Australia can bounce back."

He says more draconian social distancing measures would be considered during a Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach was closed on Saturday after thousands of people flouted regulations that prohibit more than 500 people gathering.

**SEOUL, South Korea** — South Korea on Sunday reported 98 more cases of the new coronavirus, taking the total here to 8,897.

Fatalities in South Korea increased by two to 104, according to the state-run Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**HONOLULU** — Hawaii's governor has instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine starting Thursday of all people traveling to the state as part of efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus, Hawaii News Now reported.

The order applies to returning residents as well as visitors.

"We need to come together as a community to fight this virus," Gov. David Ige said at a news conference in the state Capitol. "This mandate is the first of its kind in the nation. We want this action to send the message to visitors and residents alike that we appreciate their love for Hawaii but we are asking them to postpone their visit."

The state announced 11 new cases of people with the coronavirus, bringing Hawaii's total to 48, according to Hawaii News Now. Three of them are hospitalized.

The U.S. Army announced a soldier with the 25th Infantry Battalion based in Hawaii tested positive for the coronavirus, the first case linked to the Army community in the state, Hawaii News Now reported. The soldier is in isolation.

**SEATTLE** — Target Corp. has apologized for selling face masks in Seattle stores while hospitals face a dire shortage.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said his office intervened when it received reports Saturday that the much-needed N95 masks were on Target shelves.

Target said on Twitter that the masks were being sold in error and that it was removing them from shelves and donating them to the Washington Department of Health. The company said it would also search its inventory for additional masks to donate.

**BRASILIA, Brazil** — The U.S. Embassy in Brazil says it is making "final arrangements" to return home 103 American citizens and two permanent residents.

They are currently stranded aboard the Silver Shadow cruise ship off the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife. The vessel has been in isolation and its passengers not allowed to disembark since a 78-year-old Canadian passenger tested positive for the coronavirus.

The embassy's Saturday statement says a special charter flight will be sent out "as soon as possible."

**NEW YORK** — Columbia University's chief surgeon, Dr. Craig Smith, has been raising alarms about the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 47 of 72

rapid surge of patients and dwindling supplies in daily letters to colleagues that are being posted to the Columbia surgery department's Twitter account.

Smith warned that new projections estimate the number of coronavirus patients will continue to grow over the next 22 to 32 days, overwhelming the New York-Presbyterian system's emergency rooms and intensive care units, even with measures taken to build new capacity.

The projections show the system's hospitals needing 700 to 934 ICU beds when the outbreak reaches its peak.

Just Friday, Smith wrote, the system saw a 50% increase in coronavirus patients, making for a total of 300 being treated and another 200 awaiting test results. He said hospitals in the system are burning through about 40,000 masks a day -- about 10 times the normal amount.

At NYU Langone Health, another hospital operator in New York City, the "ERs are extremely busy" and some patients are being treated in space retrofitted to expand capacity, spokesman Jim Mandler said Saturday.

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, have tested negative for the coronavirus. The vice president's press secretary, Katie Miller, tweeted the results of the tests Saturday night.

Pence had announced earlier Saturday that, out of an abundance of caution, he and his wife would be tested for the virus. A member of the vice president's staff had tested positive for the virus.

The vice president had said the staffer, who did not have close contact with either the president or vice president, was doing well. Still, Pence stood just a few feet from President Donald Trump at the podium during their press conference.

BEIJING — The Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global pandemic was first detected, went a fourth consecutive day on Sunday without reporting any new or suspected cases of the virus.

Elsewhere, the country reported 46 new cases over the previous 24 hours, 45 of them coming from overseas. The health ministry did not say where the domestic case was found. Another six deaths were also reported, one in Wuhan, four in the surrounding province of Hubei and one elsewhere.

China now recorded a total of 81,054 cases and 3,261 deaths. A total of 72,244 people have been declared cured and released from hospital.

Wuhan must go 14 straight days without a new case in order for draconian travel restrictions to be lifted and the city remains isolated from the rest of the province, which is itself closed off to the rest of the country. Even while social distancing and quarantines for new arrivals remain the norm, China is striving to restore activity in the world's second-largest economy.

Wuhan is a center of China's crucial auto industry and a special train carrying more than 1,000 employees of Dongfeng Motor Corporation arrived Saturday afternoon in the city for the first time since the outbreak. All were sent directly by bus to factories or residential communities.

WASHINGTON — Washington DC has announced 21 new identified cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus, including a 9-year-old girl, bringing the total to 98. The new infections include a cluster of young people, with 12 victims identified below the age of 40.

District of Columbia health officials have long predicted that the local numbers would spike as more people were tested. Earlier Thursday, they announced that a third member of the DC fire department had tested positive.

Mayor Muriel Bowser has declared a state of emergency and closed all schools through the end of the month. The popular Cherry Blossom Festival has been postponed, White House and Capitol tours have been cancelled and the National Zoo, Smithsonian museum network and Kennedy Center have closed.

Washington's tally doesn't include people who may have been infected in Washington but live in nearby northern Virginia or southern Maryland.

MOSCOW — The Russian Defense Ministry says it is ready to fly its mobile medical teams and disinfectants to the United States.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 48 of 72

tion equipment to Italy to help it deal with the new coronavirus.

The ministry's statement followed Saturday's phone call between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in which the Russian leader offered to send military medical personnel and equipment to help Italy contain the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

The Russian Defense Ministry says its transport planes stand ready to airlift eight mobile medical teams along with various medical equipment and aerosol disinfection trucks to Italy.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu had a call with his Italian counterpart Lorenzo Guerini, who said Italy was ready to receive Russian planes with medical personnel and equipment starting Sunday.

WASHINGTON — An inmate at a federal jail in New York City has tested positive for the new coronavirus, marking the first confirmed case in the federal prison system.

The federal Bureau of Prisons says the man is housed at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn and complained of chest pains on Thursday, a few days after he arrived at the facility.

Officials say he was taken to a hospital and tested for COVID-19. The inmate was discharged from the hospital on Friday and returned to the jail, where he was immediately placed in isolation.

The Bureau of Prisons learned Saturday he had tested positive for COVID-19.

The Palestinian Health Ministry has announced the first two cases of the coronavirus in the Gaza Strip. The ministry said early Sunday that the cases were for two people who returned recently from Pakistan.

The discovery increases fears of a potential outbreak in the crowded enclave, amid an overstretched health care system that struggles under years of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade and Palestinian political division.

ROME — Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte has told the nation he is tightening the lockdown to fight the rampaging spread of the coronavirus, shutting down all production facilities except those that are "necessary, crucial, indispensable to guarantee essential goods" for the country. Conte said Italy is living through "its gravest crisis since World War II."

Conte said while it's not easy to renounce habits, that sacrifice pales in comparison to the sacrifices made by other citizens, ranging from doctors and nurses to supermarket clerks and security forces.

Local authorities in Italy's northern regions have been pleading with the national government to enact ever stricter measures. The most hard-hit region, Lombardy, accounts for more than 60% of Italy's rapidly surging death toll.

Italy's economy has been stagnant for several years, and some in the country were reluctant to shut down industry, in a move that would deepen Italy's economic crisis.

The new stricter measures will be in effect until April 3.

PARDUBICE, Czech Republic — A giant transport plane landed late Saturday at an airport in the Czech Republic loaded with over 100 tons of much needed supplies for the medical sector to combat the outbreak of the coronavirus. The transport was part of a NATO program.

The Czech Defense Ministry said the plane was flying from the city of Shenzhen in south-eastern China with over 106 metric tons (117 tons) of equipment.

The Czech Republic has 995 infected people with the coronavirus.

The flight was made possible by the Strategic Air Lift International Solution (SALIS), whose goal is to provide to participating NATO allies a capability to transport heavy and oversized cargo.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

**Paratrooper exercise is all about preparation - and the jump**

**By SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 49 of 72

TOLEMAIDA AIR BASE, Colombia (AP) — Under a covered pavilion near a steaming runway at Colombia's Tolima Air Base, dozens of American paratroopers lie sweating on a concrete slab. Green and brown camouflage face paint drips from their brows.

The soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division can't move much — they're loaded down with rifles and nearly 100 pounds of gear. In less than an hour, it will all drop out of a C-130 aircraft moving 150 mph.

The group's banter quiets to make way for directions from jumpmasters moving from one soldier to the next, making sure buckles and straps are in place.

Spc. Parker Firth is quieter than usual. After 22 jumps, he admits he's still scared. "When the doors open, it's not in your hands anymore," the 22-year-old said. "You just got to believe in the parachute to open. Whatever happens happens."

For these 75 American paratroopers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, this weeklong training exercise with the Colombian Army is not a deployment — a word reserved for occasions like the New Year's Eve mobilization that sent members of the division's Immediate Response Force to the Middle East, amid rising tensions with Iran. For now, 2,500 division paratroopers remain in the Middle East on standby.

It's intense training like the exercise in Colombia that allows the soldiers to deploy with lightning speed. Their readiness inspired the old saying around Fort Bragg: "When the president dials 911, the 82nd answers the phone." The division, with nearly 18,000 paratroopers, operates under a constant state of readiness, rotating soldiers on and off standby.

The Associated Press was given rare access to accompany the group on its January joint training mission with Colombia, amid a humanitarian crisis in neighboring Venezuela that has sent hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees fleeing over the border. U.S. diplomatic and political efforts to replace Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro with opposition leader Juan Guaido have been unsuccessful.

There have been no signs pointing to potential military intervention by the U.S. or Colombia. But as the United States has spent billions of dollars restoring peace and building a partnership in a region that's heavily influenced by Russia and Iran, cementing relationships like the one with Colombia is key to U.S. strategy.

U.S. and Colombian forces spend several days mapping out the exercise, which simulates the securing of an air base. They spend hours jumping off elevated wooden platforms and practicing their landings in what resemble oversized sandboxes.

"It's an honor to jump with the 82nd Airborne Division," Colombian Maj. Gen. Pablo Alfonso Bonilla Vasquez tells the Americans, adding that their cooperation will send a message to the region.

The night before the jump, Sgt. Juan Dominguez sits on the floor and pulls at a maze of straps on his rucksack. The 33-year-old joined the U.S. Army at 27, later than many of his comrades. It was always a dream, but his wife and five children needed to be taken care of before he enlisted. He said he wants "to show my kids that even though I'm afraid of heights, you can overcome pretty much anything."

At 4 a.m. on jump day, Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Fair and the soldiers of Bravo Company 325th Infantry Regiment rise and begin loading their gear onto buses bound for the airfield.

This is Fair's second stint in the military. The 37-year-old left in 2006 but realized civilian life wasn't his speed. "You miss the little things, like how easy it is to fall asleep on a gravel road on the range, with rocks digging into your back and you're so ridiculously exhausted that you can just fall asleep anywhere," he said.

Fair calls himself a "super-patriot" and is fiercely proud of the soldiers he leads: "They're motivated, they're in shape, they're funny, they're quick-witted, they're aggressive. They're alpha males and that's the kind of men you want on the front lines defending you."

On this mission, only one paratrooper sent from Fort Bragg is a woman — the division, much like the Army, is mostly men. Senior medic Sgt. Sara Sanders grew up hearing about the 82nd's legacy from her father and grandfather, both paratroopers. "Everyone grew up wanting to be professional ballerinas," she said. "And I was like, 'No, I want to be in the Army.'"

On jump day, all the members' preparation is put to a test. The soldiers are nervous but calm. (And if any say they aren't, "they're either lying to you or have something wrong upstairs," Staff Sgt. Wesley Lee says.)

Packed into the C-130, waiting for the flashing green light that tells them it's time to jump, they are no

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 50 of 72

longer Americans or Colombians. They are just soldiers, focused on their task.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Walrath is first out the door. The jump — his first in 10 years — is a sign of leadership to his soldiers and a symbol of friendship to the Colombian general leading the way through the door on the other side of the airplane.

One by one, Colombian and American paratroopers follow, stepping off the ledge and spiraling downward. As each jumps, a white canopy unfolds above, slowing their fall but not the pace of their breath.

The division declares the exercise a success, with only one minor injury: a broken bone on the Colombian side.

The next day, the troops from both nations gather on Tolemaida Air Base. They have earned the right to wear one another's jump wings. For Fair, this is not just an alliance on paper; it's a bond among soldiers. "And if it comes to it, and we have to fight together," he said, "they know we've got each other's backs."

Follow Morgan at [www.twitter.com/StorytellerSBM](https://www.twitter.com/StorytellerSBM)

## McConnell: 'Very close' on rescue package topping \$1T

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, LISA MASCARO and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top-level negotiations between Congress and the White House are pushing toward resolution on a ballooning \$1 trillion-plus economic rescue package, as President Donald Trump urged a deal to steady a nation shuttered by the coronavirus pandemic.

With a population on edge and financial markets teetering, all sides indicated late Saturday that a deal is within reach. At issue is how best to keep paychecks flowing for millions of workers abruptly sidelined by the crisis.

Talks also narrowed on a so-called Marshall Plan for hospitals as well as industry loans to airlines and others all but grounded by the virus outbreak and national shutdown. The post-World War II Marshall Plan helped to rebuild Western Europe.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced late Saturday all sides were "very close" to a bipartisan resolution.

McConnell instructed committee chairmen to assemble draft legislation. Officials put the price tag at nearly \$1.4 trillion and said that with other measures from the Federal Reserve it could pump \$2 trillion into the U.S. economy.

"We are poised to deliver the significant relief that Americans need with the speed that this crisis demands," McConnell said.

Talks will resume Sunday morning when the top four congressional leaders of both parties are set to confer privately at the Capitol with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in hopes of striking a final accord.

A spokesman for Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there is "not yet an agreement." Spokesman Justin Goodman said Democrats look forward to reading the draft and further negotiations.

"Everybody's working hard and they want to get to a solution that's the right solution, I think we're very close," Trump said at Saturday's briefing, striking a confident tone about the nation's ability to defeat the pandemic soon.

On Capitol Hill, the Senate convened the rare weekend session as negotiators raced to complete the package. The Senate's goal is to hold an initial vote Sunday and win Senate passage on Monday.

The urgency to act is mounting, as jobless claims skyrocket, businesses shutter and the financial markets are set to re-open Monday eager for signs that Washington can soften the blow of the healthcare crisis and what experts say is a looming recession.

Trump has largely stayed out of the details, but said Saturday that he would be lobbying the lead negotiators.

On one topic, Trump appears to be agreeing with Democrats as Washington tries to steer clear of the politically toxic bailouts from the last economic crises.

Trump expressed a clear distaste for any industry, including the airlines, that would use federal assistance to buy back its own stock in an effort to increase profits. Banning stock buy-backs is one of Democrats'

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 51 of 72

top business priorities in the emerging package.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other top White House officials were on Capitol Hill for a second day of nonstop negotiations. But no announcement was expected.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has been in talks with Mnuchin, returned to Washington on Saturday and was scheduled to join Sunday's meeting.

Negotiations are focused on providing direct relief to Americans, with one-time checks of \$1,200, as well as ongoing payroll support and enhanced unemployment benefits for the newly out of work.

Talks are also focused on loans to airlines and other industries blindsided by the crisis, as well as possible aid to the states and billions for hospitals and healthcare providers on the front lines of the outbreak.

The emerging package builds on a GOP proposal but Democrats push for add-ons, including food security aid, small business loans and other measures for workers.

"We're making very good progress," Schumer said late Saturday. "We're going to continue working though the night."

On Saturday, Trump opened the daily virus briefing with a roll call of his administration's accomplishments, a week-in-review meant to rebut criticism that the White House was moving too slowly to combat the crisis.

The president pushed back against accusations that he was sluggish to act for fear of upsetting China, though he told aides last month that he had not wanted to alienate Beijing by criticizing its secretive handling of the initial outbreak.

Trump did not lose his temper, as he did the day before. But mixed, vague messaging still ruled the briefing.

For example, as hospitals across the nation report a dire shortage of supplies to care for an expected surge of patients, Vice President Mike Pence said the government was completing a half-billion-dollar order for masks. But none of the government officials at the briefing could suggest when the masks would reach medical facilities, a moment of confusion that caused Trump to grow visibly frustrated.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, tried not to over-promise the effectiveness or speed of medication that could possibly be used to treat the virus. After Trump had exited the briefing room, Fauci answered a question about a Trump tweet about the drugs by saying, "I'm not totally sure what the president was referring to."

Trump also sowed confusion about his use of the Defense Production Act to force American businesses to manufacture needed medical supplies, saying that while he invoked the act this week, he has not yet needed to utilize it to compel businesses to mobilize, despite the pronounced supply shortage.

Pence announced that, out of an abundance of caution, he and his wife, Karen, would be tested for the virus after a member of the vice president's staff had tested positive. The result for both was negative, Pence press secretary Katie Miller tweeted Saturday night.

Pence had said the staffer, who did not have close contact with either the president or vice president, was doing well.

The emerging rescue plan from Congress would be a striking intervention at enormous cost being crafted with a speed unseen since the 2008-09 financial crisis and recession.

It builds on Trump's request for Congress to "go big."

A central element is now \$350 billion for small businesses to keep making payroll. Companies with 500 or fewer employees could tap up to \$10 million in forgivable small business loans to keep paychecks flowing.

That's on top of a proposal for one-time checks to all Americans, \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 for couples, cut off at higher incomes.

Democrats are pushing for increased eligibility for unemployment insurance for those who jobs are simply disappearing.

For industry, the initial GOP plan called for \$208 billion in loans to airlines and other industries, which would have to be repaid.

Negotiators are still hammering out whether there will be money to the states, whose governors have requested billions, as well as how much will be going to hospitals and healthcare providers.

Trump acknowledged the outbreak was hurting his family's business of hotels and country clubs but said he did not know whether his business would be one of the many to seek government assistance.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 52 of 72

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Bev Banks contributed. Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Alan Fram and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

This story has been corrected to show that Pence said the infected staffer did not have close contact with him or the president, not that the staffer did

## N Korea says Trump's letter offers anti-virus cooperation

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump sent a personal letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, seeking to maintain good relations and offering cooperation in fighting the viral pandemic, Kim's sister said Sunday.

The latest correspondence came as Kim observed the firing of tactical guided weapons over the weekend, drawing criticism from South Korea, as the nuclear talks remain deadlocked.

In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, Kim's sister and senior ruling party official, Kim Yo Jong, praised Trump for sending the letter at a time when "big difficulties and challenges lie ahead in the way of developing ties" between the countries.

In the letter, she said Trump explained his plan to "propel the relations between the two countries ... and expressed his intent to render cooperation in the anti-epidemic work" in an apparent reference to the global coronavirus outbreak. She said her brother expressed his gratitude for Trump's letter.

North Korea has repeatedly said there hasn't been a single case of the coronavirus on its soil. Some foreign experts question that claim and say an outbreak in the North could cause a humanitarian disaster because of its poor medical infrastructure. Last month, the State Department expressed concerns about North Korea's vulnerability to a potential coronavirus outbreak and said it was ready to support efforts by aid organizations to contain the spread of the illness in the North.

There was no immediate comment from the White House.

Kim Yo Jong said Trump's letter is "a good example showing the special and firm personal relations" between the North Korean and U.S. leaders. But she said it's not a good idea to "make hasty conclusion or be optimistic about" the prospect for bilateral relations.

"In my personal opinion, I think that the bilateral relations and dialogue for them would be thinkable only when the equilibrium is kept dynamically and morally and justice ensured between the two countries," she said. "Even at this moment we are working hard to develop and defend ourselves on our own under the cruel environment which the U.S. is keen to 'provide.'"

Earlier, Trump sent birthday greetings to Kim Jong Un, who was believed to have turned 36 on Jan. 8. Senior North Korean official Kim Kye Gwan said at the time that the birthday messages won't lead his country to return to talks unless the U.S. accepts its demands.

Kim and Trump have met three times and exchanged letters and envoys on many occasions since 2018, when they launched talks on the fate of Kim's advancing nuclear arsenal. The two leaders have avoided harsh language against each other and Trump once said he and Kim "fell in love."

But their diplomacy has largely come to a standstill since the breakdown of their second summit in Viet-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 53 of 72

nam in February 2019, when Trump rejected Kim's demands for broad sanctions relief in return for a partial disarmament step.

Kim pressed Trump to come up with new proposals to salvage the negotiations by the end of last year. Kim later vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent, unveil "a new strategic weapon" and warned he would no longer be bound by a major weapons test moratorium.

In recent weeks, North Korea has fired a slew of artillery and other rockets into the sea in what experts say is an attempt to improve its military capabilities. The weapons were all short range and did not pose a direct threat to the U.S. mainland. A resumption of long-range missile or nuclear weapons tests by Kim would likely completely scuttle diplomacy with Trump, experts say.

KCNA said Kim watched the test firing of tactical guided weapons on Saturday with Kim Yo Jong and other top officials. South Korea's military called the demonstration "very inappropriate" at a time when the world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's military said Saturday it detected two presumed short-range ballistic missiles that flew from a site in western North Korea across the country and landed in the waters off the east coast. The weapons flew 410 kilometers (255 miles), according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

The death toll from the global coronavirus pandemic has surpassed 13,000 people worldwide and sickened more than 292,000. Traditional tourist magnets like London are eerily quiet. Presidential nominating contests in the U.S. are being pushed back, and a \$1 trillion-plus U.S. economic rescue package is being negotiated. Organizers of the Tokyo Olympics are facing resistance from athletes who want the games postponed. Angola has announced its first coronavirus case, bringing to at least 40 the number of African countries to report an infection. New York state now has more than 10,000 cases and is scrambling for medical equipment and hospital beds. Spain now has the third-highest number of infections worldwide. The first two cases of the coronavirus in the Gaza Strip have been discovered.

Here are some of AP's top stories Saturday on the world's coronavirus pandemic. Follow [APNews.com/VirusOutbreak](https://www.apnews.com/VirusOutbreak) for updates through the day.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— Negotiators from Congress and the White House were holding talks on crafting a \$1 trillion-plus economic rescue package. The sweeping aid package of paychecks for suddenly jobless Americans, money for hospitals and aid to industry is all but certain to swell far beyond the initial \$1 trillion price tag. Combined with other actions by the Federal Reserve, it could pump \$2 trillion into the economy, officials say.

— The Tokyo Olympics have reached a critical phase. Japanese organizers and IOC President Thomas Bach say the games will open July 24 at the \$1.4 billion national stadium in Tokyo. But athletes are complaining: They can't train, qualifying events have been canceled and the chaos is sure to favor some over others. Giant questions remain about bringing 11,000 athletes from 200 countries together in four months. Bach has said repeatedly it's too early to announce a final decision.

— Africa's cases of the coronavirus rose above 1,000 on Saturday. Angola announced its first cases, meaning at least 40 of Africa's 54 countries are now affected. Congo reported its first death and Burkina Faso reported two new ones — that country now has the most virus deaths of any country in sub-Saharan Africa. The West African nation also has one of the highest caseloads on the continent with 64. Somalia said it's lifting its ban on international flights for two days so stranded citizens can come home. Angola closed its air, land and sea borders this week. Botswana has suspended international travel by all government employees.

— In London, tourist sites were eerily empty a day after the government ordered the closure of all bars, restaurants, movie theaters and other places where people congregate. Pigeons outnumbered people in the usually bustling Trafalgar Square and Leicester Square. There were long lines outside some supermarkets. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is meeting with supermarket executives over the weekend about how to keep the shelves filled.

— In the U.S., at least 13 states have postponed voting and more delays are possible as health officials

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 54 of 72

warn that social distancing and other measures to contain the virus might be in place for weeks, if not months. Primaries scheduled for Georgia, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, Louisiana, Connecticut and Kentucky have all been postponed to May or June.

— Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, have tested negative for the coronavirus. The vice president's press secretary, Katie Miller, tweeted the results of the tests Saturday night. Pence had announced earlier Saturday that, out of an abundance of caution, he and his wife, Karen, would be tested for the virus. A member of the vice president's staff had tested positive for the virus.

— New York is desperately searching for medical supplies and scouting field hospital locations in New York City and its suburbs. Gov. Andrew Cuomo confirms that the state has more than 10,000 coronavirus cases. Flights to New York City-area airports and to Philadelphia were briefly suspended because of staffing issues.

— Outbreaks of the new coronavirus at nursing homes in Washington, Illinois, New Jersey and elsewhere in the U.S. are laying bare the industry's long-running problems. The deadliest single spot in the U.S. outbreak so far is the Life Care Center in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland. Federal investigators believe working conditions - including understaffing and low pay - have been a contributing factor in the 35 deaths to date.

— Spain now has the third-highest number of infections worldwide. On Saturday it reported almost 5,000 new cases in the past day, bringing the total to nearly 25,000. The death toll rose to 1,326, up from 1,002 Friday. Spanish health authorities have acknowledged that some intensive care units in the hardest-hit areas are close to their limit, and warned that they expect infections to continue to rise before measures to reverse the trend have an effect.

— The Palestinian Health Ministry has announced the first two cases of the coronavirus in the Gaza Strip. The ministry said early Sunday that the cases were for two people who returned recently from Pakistan. The discovery increases fears of a potential outbreak in the crowded enclave, amid an overstretched health care system that struggles under years of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade and Palestinian political division.

— The Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global pandemic was first detected, went a fourth consecutive day on Sunday without reporting any new or suspected cases of the virus. Elsewhere, the country reported 46 new cases over the previous 24 hours, 45 of them coming from overseas. Another six deaths were also reported, four in Wuhan, one in the surrounding province of Hubei and one elsewhere. China has recorded a total of 81,054 cases and 3,261 deaths.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Here are the symptoms of the virus compared with the common flu.

One of the best ways to prevent spread of the virus is washing your hands with soap and water. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends first washing with warm or cold water and then lathering soap for 20 seconds to get it on the backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails before rinsing off.

You should wash your phone, too. Here's how.

## ONE NUMBER:

**MORE THAN 220,000:** Acting U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf says this is the number of Americans who have been screened at airports while returning to the United States from coronavirus-affected countries. Americans returning from virus-affected regions have been routed to one of 13 major airports. Many of them have posted on social media of long waits and crowded conditions with hundreds of people crammed together for hours in packed lines. Some also noted that medical personnel didn't even check to see if they had a fever before letting them into the country. Wolf told "Fox and Friends" on Saturday that medical personnel are, in some cases, simply eyeballing individuals to weed out those who seem obviously ill.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

**CHINA SENDS AID:** China is supplying millions of masks and other desperately needed items to struggling governments, hoping to build political ties and defuse criticism that it allowed the disease to spread early on.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## **New Orleans' 'Let the good times roll' now 'Wash your hands'**

**By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A week ago, revelers jammed bars in the French Quarter and New Orleans' Irish Channel neighborhood ahead of St. Patrick's Day while hotels, taverns and restaurants looked ahead to what is usually a lucrative festival season.

Now, the party is suddenly and decisively over. Coronavirus dread has settled uncomfortably over this most social of cities, where public gatherings are banned and 15 of Louisiana's 20 COVID-19 deaths had been recorded as of Saturday.

While Gov. John Bel Edwards openly worries that the state's ability to deliver health care could be overwhelmed in another week, the metro area has become one of the nation's hot spots for the virus, home to the vast majority of the more than 760 infected statewide.

Two new testing centers for the disease closed within hours of opening Friday, having run through the day's first allocations of tests.

"Laissez les bon temps rouler" ("Let the good times roll") has given way to a new municipal maxim: "Wash your hands." The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival is postponed until fall. Other events are canceled. Bars are closed.

Restaurants — the ones that stay open — struggle with takeout- or delivery-only operations.

"It really came to a screeching halt," Philip Moseley said of business at Blue Oak BBQ, which he co-owns with Ronnie Evans. They have added phone lines to handle takeout business, but have laid off about half of their roughly 50 staffers.

Celebrated hometown chef and restaurateur Frank Brigsten told his Facebook followers Friday that, for now, he was shutting down the restaurant that bears his name in New Orleans' Carrollton neighborhood.

Tourists are still around, said Evangeline Turner, who went to pick up a last paycheck this week on Bourbon Street.

"A tourist asked me where they should go," she said. "I told them everything's closed."

Turner has now lost both her jobs — bartending at a restaurant in New Orleans' Mid City neighborhood, and acting as a "master of ceremonies" at a Bourbon Street bar.

"I worked two jobs because I had to," said Turner, who is wondering how she'll pay the rent and buy the insulin she needs to deal with her diabetes.

Turner noted a certain irony. She said Bourbon Street hospitality workers think a source of the city's infections might be one of the vital tourism industry's biggest draws, the citywide pre-Lenten Carnival celebrations that culminated on Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, which fell on Feb. 25. Tourists from around the country and the world filled the streets. "There's no way that can't be a reason," she said.

Whether Mardi Gras crowds were a factor in the disease's spread in Louisiana cannot be proven, but the celebration would be a likely breeding ground for a highly contagious virus like the one that causes COVID-19, said Dr. Richard Oberhelman. He is the chairman of the Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

"People are really packed close together, especially for some of the big parades in the downtown section

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 56 of 72

and really all along the route. There are a lot of opportunities for close contact and transmission," Oberhelman said.

"During Mardi Gras, people were not thinking about social distancing or hand washing," Oberhelman added.

The vast majority of people recover within weeks after catching the virus, and for most people, it causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause severe illness requiring hospitalization. Five of those who have died in New Orleans lived at an upscale retirement home.

Restaurateurs aren't giving up. Six restaurants have joined to promote a "curbside fish fry" at their locations across the city, offering seafood-focused meals curbside and to go every Friday during Lent. Some of the money raised in the project, organized by local seafood supplier Craig Borges, will go to the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation, which helps people who work in the industry.

And the Louisiana Restaurant Association, working with local marketing and public relations companies, has launched a website connecting restaurants with customers seeking takeout or delivered food.

Moseley's restaurant planned to do its part Saturday with a drive-thru service where hospitality workers can get a pork sandwich, beer and chips for free.

"It's pretty stressful," Moseley said of losing his staff. "You feel for everyone on your team and you spend so much time with these people. I talk to these people more than I talk to my wife

"We're all in it together, all trying to figure out the puzzle: How can we succeed in this?"

---

Associated Press reporter Rebecca Santana in New Orleans contributed to this report.

---

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

---

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

## US tourists stranded abroad desperate to secure return

By MITCH WEISS and HOLBROOK MOHR Associated Press

After being confined to a hotel room in Peru and watching "heavily armed guards" patrolling the streets, Linda Scruggs was awash with emotions Saturday when she glimpsed out the airplane window at the Florida Everglades below.

Scruggs and her traveling companion, Mike Rustici, were among dozens of American citizens who caught a LATAM Airlines flight to Miami after being trapped for days in the Peruvian capital of Lima. Like thousands of U.S. tourists and Americans living abroad, the couple was caught in limbo as nations closed their borders to try to stop the spread of the deadly new coronavirus. For days, the couple didn't know how or when they would make it home – especially after the State Department essentially told them they were on their own.

"I never had this feeling before even after 9/11," she said after the plane landed. "I was filled with gratitude, relief, concern and sadness that our country isn't doing more."

Scruggs and Rustici, both in their 40s and from Nashville, Tennessee, had flown to Peru with plans to hike Machu Picchu's complex of Inca ruins, but within days after they landed, Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra declared an emergency, ordering the country's borders closed.

They said they were only given about 24 hours' notice to leave Peru but couldn't find a flight. The virus has caused more than 12,000 deaths around the world, but the figure goes up every day as Americans in Morocco, Ecuador and other nations struggle to find a way home.

For most people, the new virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority recover.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that he is working to repatriate Americans. But Scruggs



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 57 of 72

and Rustici said they got little help or information from the State Department, a sentiment expressed by Americans trapped in other countries. The State Department did not respond to messages seeking comment.

"I think we're still processing it," Rustici said. "A big mixture of relief and guilt, it's almost like survivor's guilt. We know that there are so many people still over there and we've been doing so much the last four or five days to get ourselves and everybody else out and we managed to do so because we're savvy travelers. We had the resources to keep moving and try a lot of things, but in the end, we just got really lucky."

Scruggs and Rustici were in the hotel room Saturday morning when they received an email from a local tour operator saying there might be seats on a flight from Lima to Miami. They paid \$800 each and took a bus to the airport with other Americans trying to catch the same plane.

There were about 200 people waiting outside the airport when they arrived and a security guard took them inside, where they faced what Scruggs described as a "tense and chaotic" scene with long lines. Some Americans were accompanied by babies and children.

"When we arrived at the airport it was a bit of a chaotic scene, we were at a locked gate and it was still dark and there were some people, stranded travelers there sleeping with their luggage outside of the gate with desperate hopes, alongside some local homeless people all over there. It was a hard and little scary scene," Rustici said.

Shortly before noon, the couple boarded the plane.

Scruggs, a nurse, said some tourists in Peru are running low on life-sustaining medications like insulin and that some foreign college students trapped in the country were running out of money for food.

Desperate to get home, Scruggs and Rustici used social media to connect with hundreds of other tourists who were trapped in the country, trying to draw attention to their plight by reaching out to elected officials and reporters.

"I think everyone has been shocked at the lack of communication from the U.S.," Scruggs said.

Dora Figueiredo, 37, an American from Newark, New Jersey, was trying Friday to determine whether her flight from Argentina to the U.S. would leave as scheduled on Sunday.

She had traveled to Buenos Aires to marry her now-new Argentine husband who cannot yet move to the U.S. because he doesn't have U.S. residency, a process she said could take more than a year.

"I'm feeling a bit stressed out about how to get home now that the Argentinian president announced a lockdown as of midnight last night," she said. "I have been tweeting at my airline, my embassy at travel.gov about how to get back home."

As of Friday, her flight had not been canceled but she wasn't sure if that would still be the case Sunday and did not know how she would get to the airport.

"I really need to get home to check on my parents, who are elderly," she said.

Scruggs also needs to check on her mother, who's in a nursing home. And she's bracing herself for what's ahead. She knows America has changed so much in just the short period since she's been away. President Trump has declared a national emergency because of COVID-19. Schools have been canceled in many states. Other communities across the country are in lockdown. Still, when she got off the plane, she didn't sense the same urgency she did in Peru.

"There are more people in Peru wearing masks than here. Hotel workers, taxicab drivers, police, all airport staff. But hardly anybody in Miami had masks. There were no health checks," she said.

---

Associated Press photographer Wilfredo Lee in Miami and writers Anita Snow in Phoenix and Julie Watson in San Diego contributed to this report.

## **AP Exclusive: 1st fed inmate tests positive for coronavirus**

**By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — An inmate at a federal jail in New York City has tested positive for coronavirus, marking the first confirmed case in the federal prison system.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 58 of 72

The inmate, who is housed at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, complained of chest pains on Thursday, a few days after he arrived at the facility, the federal Bureau of Prisons told The Associated Press. He was taken to a local hospital and was tested for COVID-19, officials said.

The inmate was discharged from the hospital on Friday and returned to the jail, where he was immediately placed in isolation, the agency said. The Bureau of Prisons learned Saturday that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

The inmate remained isolated away from other prisoners on Saturday, but medical and psychiatric staff were visiting him routinely, officials said.

The confirmation of the first coronavirus case in the system by the BOP comes as jails and prisons across the country are taking precautions to slow the spread of coronavirus. Health officials have been warning for more than a decade about the dangers of outbreaks in jails and prisons, which are ideal environments for viruses: Inmates share small cells with total strangers, use toilets just a few feet from their beds, and are herded into day rooms where they spend hours at a time together.

There have been two positive cases among BOP staff members: an employee who works at an administrative office in Grand Prairie, Texas, and another employee who works in Leavenworth, Kansas, but who officials said did not have contact with inmates since becoming symptomatic.

The Bureau of Prisons has temporarily halted visitation at all 122 federal correction facilities across the U.S., including both social and legal visitation, though officials have said some exceptions could be made for legal visits.

Officials said staffers at the Metropolitan Detention Center would continue to monitor the inmate and they were working to trace who he had contact with, as well as sanitizing "affected areas." Other inmates who were housed with the man are also being quarantined, along with staff members who may have had contact with him.

Every staff member and contractor entering the Metropolitan Detention Center is subject to an enhanced medical screening, including having their temperature taken with an infrared thermometer and are asked a series of questions to screen for coronavirus risk factors, a Bureau of Prisons official wrote in a letter to the chief judge in the Southern District of New York earlier this week.

The agency said inmates at the lockup are free to walk about their housing units and use common areas but may also choose to "remain in their cells to self-seclude." But officials said they were not going to isolate inmates who may be considered to be "at risk" because there were too many of them to isolate them on one or two units, according to the letter.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and even death.

The vast majority of people recover from the virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe cases may take three to six weeks to recover.

---

Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak and Jim Mustian in New York contributed to this report.

---

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Henley, Tucker, Cyrus and others mourn the death of Rogers

By The Associated Press undefined

Some reactions from the world of music and beyond to the passing of Kenny Rogers, who died Friday night at age 81.

"In addition to his tremendous talent, Kenny was a generous and caring man, a wise mentor to so many of us. He loved his friends, his family, his fellow musicians and his fans, and they loved him, right back. Fifty

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 59 of 72

years ago, The Gambler took a gamble on me and my first band from small-town Texas, and his big-hearted support launched many careers, including mine. He also gave me some of the best career advice I ever got: 'You'd better be nice to the people you meet on the way up, because you're going to meet those same people on the way back down.' — Don Henley

"What a career, what a talent, what a legacy. Now this world is left with a big shadow, center stage where Kenny Rogers stood. No one else can take his place. Now he's taken his place amongst the Heavenly stars. It's a very sad day for all of us. But God is smiling. Rest easy my friend. —Tanya Tucker

"No one bridged the gap between country and pop more often and better than K.R. He will be missed but his music and diverse style of story-telling will live on forever." — Billy Ray Cyrus

"I loved Kenny with all my heart and my heart is broken and a big ole chunk of it is gone with him today." — Dolly Parton

"The world has lost a great artist and interpreter of songs. I had the honor of announcing his election to the Country Music Hall of Fame, and was thrilled when I realized how much it meant to him. Even after all the other honors he had won, he was truly excited about this one. His accomplishments will live forever." — Bill Anderson

"I'm so sad to see Kenny Rogers go. He did so much for me as a young songwriter and we stayed friends for over 30 years. I'll really miss him. May he rest easy." — Richard Marx.

"Going back to the late 70s and early 80s, we played a lot of dates together. He was one of the first artists to have a stage in the round, in the middle of the arena. He was also an accomplished photographer, and he shot some portraits of Howard and me. We really got to know Kenny through the years and are thankful for the memories. Love and prayers to his family." — David Bellamy, Bellamy Brothers

"Not just my hero, but my friend. Thank you for your guidance my brother. The world has lost the greatest storyteller." — Phil Vassar

"Hearing Kenny Rogers' magnificent voice singing MY lyrics, my music, to 'I'm Missing You,' that was definitely a highlight! When KR sang that song, he OWNED it. What a talent and what a sweet man. Kenny, you certainly made this world a better place. Rest In Peace my friend." — Steve Wariner

"Kenny was one of those legendary smoky tenors. I was fortunate to have him be a mentor on 'American Idol.' He had such wise words for another aspiring whiskey tenor. Thanks Kenny for 'Believing in me.' My condolences to his family, Ken Jr and also the Butlers for helping him create such great music." — Taylor Hicks

"The world and country music just lost a true treasure. Though I never met Kenny Rogers I was a big fan and one of my favorite recent songs of his was 'You Can't Make Old Friends' — another classic duet he did with Dolly. I think that's what we all feel like in the country music community... like we all lost an old friend." — Jenee Fleenor

"An icon that will be missed by so many. He was an inspiration to me, I loved the way he delivered a song and crossed over so many genres. 'The Gambler' was my favorite song and feel blessed to have whiteness him being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He will live on in our hearts and with his music." — Lucas Hoge

"As one of the first artists to successfully master the country/pop crossover, Rogers touched the lives of millions worldwide and led the way for many notable artists who followed. This is a great loss for the music industry, but his influence and legacy will continue." — Harvey Mason Jr., chair and interim president/CEO of the Recording Academy.

"The world and country music just lost a true treasure. Though I never met Kenny Rogers I was a big fan and one of my favorite recent songs of his was 'You Can't Make Old Friends' — another classic duet he did with Dolly. I think that's what we all feel like in the country music community... like we all lost an old friend." — Jenee Fleenor

"An icon that will be missed by so many. He was an inspiration to me, I loved the way he delivered a song and crossed over so many genres. 'The Gambler' was my favorite song and feel blessed to have whiteness him being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He will live on in our hearts and with his music." — Lucas Hoge

"As one of the first artists to successfully master the country/pop crossover, Rogers touched the lives of millions worldwide and led the way for many notable artists who followed. This is a great loss for the music industry, but his influence and legacy will continue." — Harvey Mason Jr., chair and interim president/CEO of the Recording Academy.

"An icon that will be missed by so many. He was an inspiration to me, I loved the way he delivered a song and crossed over so many genres. 'The Gambler' was my favorite song and feel blessed to have whiteness him being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He will live on in our hearts and with his music." — Lucas Hoge

"As one of the first artists to successfully master the country/pop crossover, Rogers touched the lives of millions worldwide and led the way for many notable artists who followed. This is a great loss for the music industry, but his influence and legacy will continue." — Harvey Mason Jr., chair and interim president/CEO of the Recording Academy.

"As one of the first artists to successfully master the country/pop crossover, Rogers touched the lives of millions worldwide and led the way for many notable artists who followed. This is a great loss for the music industry, but his influence and legacy will continue." — Harvey Mason Jr., chair and interim president/CEO of the Recording Academy.

## Olympic pushback: US track joins swimming, urges Tokyo delay

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — U.S. Olympic leaders are facing a growing rebellion inside their ranks about holding the Tokyo Games.

A board member of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee countered leadership by criticizing the IOC, and the USA Track and Field chief added to the call for a postponement because of the mushrooming coronavirus crisis.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 60 of 72

USATF CEO Max Siegel sent a two-page note to his counterpart at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, Sarah Hirshland, asking the federation to advocate for a delay. It came late Friday, only a few hours after USA Swimming's CEO sent a similar letter.

Now, the sports that accounted for 65 of America's 121 medals and 175 of its 554 athletes at the last Summer Games are on record in urging, in Siegel's words, "the USOPC, as a leader within the Olympic Movement, to use its voice and speak up for the athletes."

Also focused on leadership was Steve Mesler, a USOPC board member and Olympic champion bobsledder. In a blog post Friday, Mesler leveled much much more criticism toward the IOC than Hirshland or the board chair, Susanne Lyons, did in earlier statements and interviews.

"The (IOC) ... has not shown the leadership we Olympians desire out of those who are in charge," Mesler wrote, while careful to emphasize that these were his thoughts "as an Olympian and not those of the USOPC, its Board of Directors, or its leaders."

Other national committees are also calling on the IOC to act. The federations in Norway and Brazil went public with requests to postpone.

"Our clear recommendation is that the Olympic Games in Tokyo shall not take place before the COVID-19 situation is under firm control on a global scale," Norway's federation wrote in a letter to IOC President Thomas Bach.

It's the U.S., though, that brings the largest contingent to every Summer Games and wins the most medals — both factors that lead have led NBC to pay billions to televise the games through 2032. It would seem to give the USOPC leverage in talks about almost any subject with the IOC, but the federation has been reluctant to use its power. It spent years, in fact, trying to smooth over tense relations with its international partners.

And since Hirshland took over as CEO in 2018, the focus has been inward, as the sex-abuse scandals that have consumed American sports have shifted the focus to athlete welfare and safety.

Hirshland and Lyons were insistent that the USOPC won't sacrifice athlete safety in the current crisis. But they stopped well short of pushing the IOC toward a postponement.

"The decision about the games does not lie directly with us," Lyons said in a conference call with reporters Friday. "It lies with (the World Health Organization), the Japanese government and the IOC. Under no circumstance would the USOPC send athletes into harm's way if didn't think it was safe."

Leaders of the track and swimming teams don't appear willing to take that risk, either, though whether they'll act on their own — without the sign-off from the USOPC — remains in question. The leader of the third sport that makes up the backbone of the Olympics — gymnastics — has sent a survey to athletes, asking for their thoughts on what the USA Gymnastics stance should be.

USA Track and Field already had its answer, thanks in part to online conversations led by their athlete representatives.

"If you go there and spread the virus and you go back home and kill one child, one grandmother, father, or even an athlete, is it worth it? The answer to us was no," said Wallace Spearmon, the vice president of the USATF athletes council.

AP Sports Writer Pat Graham contributed to this report.

## Moderates may decide Trump's political fate in wake of virus

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO** and **TAMARA LUSH** Associated Press

LARGO, Fla. (AP) — As restaurants across the country stacked chairs on tables and shut their doors to try to contain the deadly coronavirus, what would be the final visitors streamed into the Conservative Grounds coffee shop in Largo, Florida.

Fox News played on the televisions. Patrons posed for photos in a replica of the Oval Office. An 80-year-old man, defying officials' advice to stay home, beamed near a life-sized cutout of a grinning President Donald Trump.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 61 of 72

This Trump-themed coffee shop embodies the right edge of the country's political divide. Outside its walls, state officials put in place an unprecedented shutdown of public life and Trump scrambled to fight a virus that he had accused political opponents and the media of pushing as a "new hoax." Criticism of the president's preparedness was rampant.

Inside, customers gave Trump an A-plus on his response to the spreading pandemic. "He's doing great things," the owner said Wednesday.

America has a history of unifying in trying times and rallying around the president. But after years of deep division, in the earliest, head-spinning days of the pandemic, a fractured electorate largely viewed Trump's performance through the lens they chose long ago. But the stakes are higher than they've ever been. The body count will rise; the economy will almost certainly crater. Trump's political fate may be left up to the sliver of moderates in the middle, who will choose whether to blame him for the crisis spiraling on his watch.

"This could be the coup de grace of his presidency. The way he handles this, history will judge, as well as the American people," said Brandon Brice, host of a radio show called "Straight Talk" in Detroit, who supported Trump in 2016 and is looking to how he handles this crisis before deciding if he will again. "This is the president's moment, right now."

Trump for weeks denied the seriousness of the outbreak when it first emerged in China. In January, he assured the nation that "we have it very well under control" and he compared the virus to the seasonal flu.

His supporters followed his lead: Surveys from early and mid-March found distinct differences in how Democrats and Republicans reacted. A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 36% of Democrats said they were very worried that they or family members would contract the virus, compared with 21% of Republicans.

Views on Trump's handling of the crisis are also shaded heavily by partisanship. A Gallup poll found 82% of Republicans expressed some confidence in Trump. Among Democrats, that number was just 12%.

Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster, noted throughout Trump's presidency, his approval rating has hovered between 42% and 46%, with little change despite the endless cycle of controversy and chaos. Recent polling shows that has remained steady.

"Attitudes about the president, both pro and con, are deeply ingrained and almost impervious to the effect of news," he said. "Now, we've never had an event quite like this one."

For most people, the new virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority recover.

Globally, there have been more than 11,000 deaths from over 275,000 confirmed cases, according to a running tally by Johns Hopkins University. More than 200 deaths have been recorded in the U.S.

At another time, a president might have expected to see his popularity rise. Past presidents have seen their approval ratings jump in times of crisis, disaster or war. President Jimmy Carter's approval rating skyrocketed in the weeks after Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran. President George W. Bush was hailed for his unifying voice after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Trump this week abruptly turned to talking about the virus as a significant threat, and himself as a steady "wartime" leader. He shifted the blame to China and tried to rebrand Covid-19 as the "China virus."

But presidential historian Douglas Brinkley said the shift from skeptic to wartime president may be difficult for Trump. He compared the president's response with that of Republican President Herbert Hoover, who oversaw the Great Depression and dismissed the collapse of the stock market as exaggerated. When it proved disastrous, shantytowns came to be known as Hoovervilles. He was trounced in the next election by the Democratic governor of New York, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who then steered the nation through the depression and World War II.

"He started off a Herbert Hoover and he done a 180 trying to be FDR," Brinkley said. Voters in November will judge which one he is closer to being, he said, and some of that will be based on things now largely out of his control: how many die, how painful the economic fallout proves to be.

If the virus lingers through the summer, "he's going to be left holding the bad soundbites and being seen

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 62 of 72

as the leader who failed us when the bell rang — he was missing in round one for a 10-round fight,” Brinkley said.

“If it’s contained, people will say he was slow out of the gate, but once he got on the job, he understood the magnitude of what was happening and did the right things, and he might skate by on a better-late-than-never approach.”

David Ropeik, a retired Harvard instructor on risk communication, is even more skeptical of Trump’s ability to reshape himself as a leader able to unify a profoundly polarized nation.

“There are just a whole bunch of people who aren’t going to buy that,” Ropeik said. “He can’t change out of a MAGA hat into a general’s helmet.”

Ropeik said the most important thing for a leader in crisis is to be viewed as trustworthy — and the trust gap may be a crucial divide come November.

“This race is going to be determined by a bunch of swing voters in a handful of states. Those who are not the most devoted fans, who have any kind of slight ambivalence, this could well add to their mistrust,” he said.

Donald Scoggins, a retired real estate broker in Virginia who describes himself as a moderate Republican, was leaning against voting for Trump before the virus hit. He said he’s seen nothing so far to change his mind. Trump was too slow to react, Scoggins said.

“He’s just too divisive. We need a person at the helm that people can rally around, we need a sort of cheerleader who makes people feel confident, that can bring people together,” he said.

Brian Johnson, a Democrat and semi-retired corporate executive in Boulder, Colorado, is much hotter. He’s watched Trump’s reaction since January, worrying about his dismissal of the disease. Now he’s infuriated with the president.

“Trump’s never been double-digit approval rating for me, and now it’s like, can you go lower than zero?” he said.

But across the country, in states critical to the outcome of the election, Trump’s ardent supporters defended his actions and followed his lead to blame China.

In Luzerne County, a historically Democratic area in eastern Pennsylvania that flipped in 2016 to vote for Trump, Lynette Villano said she thinks the economy is resilient. It started from an extraordinarily high point, she said, and Trump deserves credit for giving the country the economic strength to be able to take the punch.

Villano, a billing clerk who wears a rhinestone Trump pin, has chronic lung disease and survived cancer twice. She recognizes she’s among those at highest risk. She says she’s not worried, she deeply trusts the president to look out for her, and she doesn’t think it’s time for political posturing and finger-pointing.

“If anything, this is going to show him as a strong leader who stepped forward and took every action possible to make things better,” she said from her home, where she’s waiting out the pandemic.

In Florida, the owner of the Trump-themed cafe posted a message on its Facebook page: “Those on the LEFT have fought for our downfall since day 1 and now the Corona ‘CHINESE’ VIRUS is impacting our business.”

Owner Cliff Gephart said he fully supports Trump’s handling of the crisis and trusts him to steer the country to calmer waters.

“Every decision the president makes, whether it’s about coronavirus or about the economy or taxation. It seems like coronavirus is just another partisan, down party lines,” he said.

One of his customers, 80-year-old George Latzo, said he wasn’t concerned enough about the virus to abide the public warnings to avoid gatherings.

“I’ve lived a long healthy life and I don’t know if this is going to be worse than the flu,” said Latzo, who wore a Trump 2020 hat and a black t-shirt that said, “Donald Pump,” depicting a muscular President Trump doing a bicep curl. “I guess we’ll have to wait and see.”

---

Associated Press writer Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Phone call between Kanye West, Taylor Swift again roils net

By **MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift may have ended her feud with Katy Perry but the one with Kanye West seems simply not to want to die.

New leaked video clip of the entire four-year-old phone call between the rapper and pop superstar about his controversial song "Famous" have been posted online and further complicate the picture of what happened.

In "Famous," West raps: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex, Why? I made that bitch famous." Upon its release in 2016, West was condemned by many for the line. He insisted Swift had given her blessing to the lyric. But she denied ever hearing the lyric "I made that bitch famous."

The new clips seem to corroborate Swift's claims that West didn't tell her the full lyrics of the song. But they also show West repeatedly asking Taylor for her approval of the sex lyric and she does tell him she thinks it's funny, just as the rapper said when it the song first was released.

"I never would have expected you to tell me about a line in one of your songs," Swift tells him. "That's really nice that you did."

This new footage was posted online from an unknown source late Friday night and rapidly spread across social media. Unlike other videos previously posted of the call, it shows all 25 minutes, albeit chopped up.

Representative for either artists did not immediately reply to a request for comment Saturday.

The release of the new footage has added a new twist to the drama: While West was heavily criticized when it was initially released and Swift made it clear she was unhappy with it, West's wife, Kim Kardashian, seemed to vindicate her husband months later by releasing snippets of the call where Swift appeared to approve the lyrics.

That led to a major backlash for Swift, who has described that time as low point in her life and career.

In the newly released video clips, West tells Swift he's working on a song and wants to use the lyric: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex." But he hasn't ever been captured telling her the line, "I made that bitch famous."

In response, Swift is heard saying: "I'm glad it's not mean though. It doesn't feel mean, but like, oh my God, the build-up you gave it. I thought it was gonna be like that stupid dumb bitch, like, but it's not."

The two have had a contentious past. West famously interrupted Swift's speech during the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards when she won for best female video. But the two apparently put differences aside and she introduced him when he won the video vanguard award at the 2015 VMAs. Then came the infamous phone call about "Famous."

## Election limbo as coronavirus outbreak upends US primaries

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. elections have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic. At least 13 states have postponed voting and more delays are possible as health officials warn that social distancing and other measures to contain the virus might be in place for weeks, if not months.

The states that have yet to hold their primaries find themselves in a seemingly impossible situation as they look to balance public health concerns with the need to hold elections. While election officials routinely prepare for natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires, the virus outbreak poses a unique challenge.

"Usually when we are dealing with a crisis in elections, it's something that happens and then it's done," said Chris Harvey, Georgia's director of elections. "The difference now is that it's a spreading threat, a fast-growing threat. We don't know where, when or how it is going to end."

Primaries scheduled for Georgia, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, Louisiana, Connecticut and Kentucky have all

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 64 of 72

been postponed to May or June. The Rhode Island Board of Elections has recommended the primary be delayed to June, while officials in Wisconsin are debating what to do.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has insisted the April 7 primary be held as scheduled, but a state elections commissioner said this past week that doing so would put people at risk. The state's chief elections official cited a host of problems Wisconsin could face if it moved forward with the election: a poll worker shortage, lack of polling places and potential disruption of absentee voting if mail service in the U.S. were to shut down.

All this comes at the worst possible time for election officials, in the middle of a major election year. The virus outbreak erupted halfway through the presidential primary season. Voters in 23 states have yet to cast their ballots.

While Arizona, Florida and Illinois held their elections as scheduled last Tuesday, Ohio halted voting over public health concerns after federal officials encouraged people over age 65 to stay home.

"We cannot tell people to stay inside, but also tell them to go out and vote," Gov. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, said on Twitter, in announcing plans to delay.

The states that have opted to press ahead have found themselves dealing with what one Chicago elections official called a "tsunami" of cancellations by poll workers, who tend to be older, and a last-minute scramble to relocate polling places away from nursing homes and senior living communities. Severe illness and death associated with coronavirus has been most common in people 65 and older, especially those who have heart disease or other chronic conditions.

In addition to the presidential race, dozens of congressional and local primaries are in limbo. Primaries play an important role in deciding which party candidates will appear on the ballot for the November general election.

Runoff elections in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi were also delayed, as were local elections in Oklahoma, Missouri and New Jersey.

There's no indication May or June will be any better to hold elections, but officials say postponing voting even for a few weeks gives them an opportunity to put in place plans to keep the public safe while voting. This includes moving polling places, recruiting backup poll workers and acquiring enough cleaning supplies for voting sites.

"At some point, we have to execute an election," Harvey said, adding Georgia planned a major push to expand absentee voting for the May primary.

There have been calls, including from Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez, for elections to be held mostly by mail. But making this switch will be difficult for some and impossible for others.

In several states, it would take legislation or even a constitutional amendment to allow. Even then, election experts say there would be costs and logistical hurdles.

For instance, states would have to decide whether taxpayers or individual voters would be responsible for return postage. It would require new machines and software in many places to track ballots in the mail and process and count them when they're returned. All of that could cost billions of dollars, at a time when state revenues are likely to drop amid increased unemployment and decreased tax collections.

Further, advocates say not all voters can fill out ballots by hand and that sending ballots could miss some voters, such as Native Americans who live on reservations where mail isn't delivered to every home.

Meanwhile, steps taken — or not taken — to change aspects of the voting process are being met with lawsuits from political parties and voting rights advocates.

In Ohio, voting rights groups are suing the state for refusing to reopen the voter registration window for the state primary, now scheduled for June 2. Under Ohio law, voters can register up to 30 days before an election. Advocates say the other states with postponed primaries are allowing voter registration ahead of rescheduled elections.

In Wisconsin, the Democratic Party has sued to force the state to make it easier to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. They also have asked for mailed ballots to count if they are postmarked by Election Day and received within 10 days after voting.

Any increase in absentee voting will surely add to the workload for election offices already stretched thin



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 65 of 72

and navigating recommendations that people work from home.

The elections office in Cobb County, Georgia, has sent home most of its temporary and seasonal employees brought on to help prep for elections. That means more work for the full-time employees who remain, as they are already seeing an increase in applications for absentee ballots.

"As we prepare for May, there is still so much to do," said Janine Eveler, elections director for the metro Atlanta county. "Many of us are here when we would like to be home with our families because it's scary right now."

Looming over the scramble over the primaries are worries about the general election in November, a date that is set by federal law. Federal legislation has been proposed that would have all voters receive a mail-in ballot for the November election and provide federal funds to help states cover the costs.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU's School of Law is calling for task forces in every state to implement plans for executing an election amid a pandemic and urging Congress to provide money to help states. They estimate their proposals, including universal mail-in voting, could cost up to \$2 billion.

"Things will need to change," said Wendy Weiser, head of the center's democracy program.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three weeks to six weeks to recover.

---

Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

---

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Factories pivot to fight coronavirus, but challenges abound

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Factories that crank out cars and trucks looking into making much-needed ventilators. Distilleries intended for whiskey and rum to instead turn out hand sanitizers and disinfectants. And an electronics maker that builds display screens repurposed for surgical masks.

All are answering the call of duty amid a pandemic that has so far claimed more than 11,000 lives and sickened 260,000 people globally.

But redirecting plants to make completely different products will take a long time and a huge effort — possibly too long for some companies to help with medical gear shortages that are becoming more acute every day.

"When you are repurposing a factory, it really depends on how similar the new product is to the existing products in your product line," said Kaitlin Wowak, a professor at the University of Notre Dame who focuses on industrial supply chains. "It's going to be a substantial pivot to start producing an entirely different item."

On Friday, President Donald Trump said he invoked the Korean War-era Defense Production Act, which allows the government to marshal the private sector to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. But he did not give examples as to how he was using it.

At a news conference Saturday, Trump singled out GM and Ford as among the many businesses that have asked to start making medical gear like ventilators, the need for which he said has grown into the hundreds of thousands.

"Nobody's ever heard of a thing like that. With that being said, General Motors, Ford, so many companies — I had three calls yesterday directly, without having to institute like 'You will do this' — these companies are making them right now," Trump said.

Neither automaker, however, is building ventilators at present. GM announced on Friday that it is working with ventilator maker Ventec Life Systems to ramp up production. The automaker said it would help with

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 66 of 72

logistics, purchasing and manufacturing, but stopped short of saying it would make ventilators in its own factories, which have been idled for two weeks after workers who'd been fearful of contagion put pressure on the company.

Crosstown rival Ford, which also suspended factory production along with other automakers with operations in North America, confirmed that it too was in discussions with the Trump administration about helping.

"We're looking at feasibility," Ford spokesman T.R. Reid said. "It may be possible, but it's not you go from Rangers (small pickups) one day to ventilators the next. We're figuring out what is possible now."

Ford and Rolls-Royce PLC also are working with the British government to see if they can switch over their factories.

"We are keen to do whatever we can to help the government and the country at this time and will look to provide any practical help we can," Rolls-Royce said in a statement.

Although the government can steer factories to overcome shortages, makers of heavy goods such as cars and trucks can't just flip a switch and produce something else.

It would be difficult to get ventilator or even surgical mask designs, line up parts supplies and train workers to make them in a short period, said Jorge Alvarado, a professor in the Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution Department at Texas A&M University. And auto plants generally aren't clean enough to make medical equipment.

Companies also would have to find mask or ventilator manufacturers willing to share knowledge, expertise and even factory workers to transfer production elsewhere, Alvarado said.

During World War II, automakers were more easily able to shift to making tanks and planes because they are close relatives to cars and trucks, Alvarado said. Auto factory equipment such as robots and assembly lines aren't really compatible with smaller items such as ventilators, he said.

Other industries may be better equipped to help with the virus. Rum producer Bacardi, for example, said its distillery in Puerto Rico has shifted to making ethanol needed to produce hand sanitizer. Small U.S. distilleries such as Eight Oaks Farm in Pennsylvania are converting operations to make alcohol-based disinfectant. It will charge whatever people want to donate.

Germany-based Beiersdorf, known for skin care products such as the Nivea and Coppertone brands, and Luxury giant LVMH are preparing to make medical disinfectants in Europe for hospitals, police and firefighters. French cosmetics giant L'Oreal says it is making sanitizer gel.

Electronics maker Sharp Corp. said it will start making surgical masks using a plant in central Japan that usually makes displays. And Michigan-based office furniture company Steelcase is exploring ways to use its factories to make health care items, studying whether it can make masks and protective equipment or partitions for hospitals.

"This is an extraordinary crisis that necessitates extraordinary measures and actions from both the public and private sectors," the company said in a statement.

Even though it may take time and a monumental effort to switch factories to medical products, that may have to be done if the virus outbreak lasts for several months or longer, said Notre Dame's Wowak.

"I think given the circumstance and how critical it is for these surgical masks, ventilators and gloves, I think there is going to be a lot of organizations, government, private, trying to increase (factory) capacity," she said. "Maybe the government recognizes how critical of an issue this is."

## Nursing home outbreaks lay bare chronic industry problems

By BERNARD CONDON and CANDICE CHOI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Burgeoning coronavirus outbreaks at nursing homes in Washington, Illinois, New Jersey and elsewhere are laying bare the industry's long-running problems, including a struggle to control infections and a staffing crisis that relies on poorly paid aides who can't afford to stay home sick.

That came into clear focus at the deadliest single spot in the nation's coronavirus crisis, the Life Care Center in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland, where federal investigators believe a contributing factor in 35 deaths so far was low-pay workers who came to work with the illness and potentially even spread it to other nearby

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 67 of 72

facilities where they took shifts.

Beyond that outbreak, at least 15 more have died and dozens have been infected at long-term care facilities across the nation, with major outbreaks of 46 infected in the Chicago suburb of Willowbrook, four deaths in at least two facilities in New Jersey, 13 infected in Little Rock, Arkansas, and 11 infected in Troy, Ohio, with 30 more showing symptoms.

"Nursing homes would always have been ground zero, but given we already have huge staffing shortages, this will be magnified," said David Grabowski, a Harvard Medical School professor who has studied staffing problems at homes. "It could be worse for today's nursing homes than ever."

Most troubling, he said, is that 75 percent of the nation's nursing homes don't meet federal suggested minimum levels for staffing and many workers are inexperienced. Four out of five nursing home employees are hourly workers, and given the low wages often leave for retail and restaurant jobs just as they become familiar with proper care procedures.

And staffing problems at the nation's 15,000 long-term care facilities could only be exacerbated by the coronavirus crisis, experts said, because lockdowns and school closures have left many such workers with no choice but to stay home and take care of their children.

"We have the most vulnerable people in a situation where ... nursing homes don't do what they have to do because they are understaffed, not sufficiently trained and there is high turnover," said Steven Levin, a Chicago lawyer who has sued nursing homes over their practices. "I am extremely frightened."

Sherry Perry, a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home in Lebanon, Tennessee, has been working through the coronavirus crisis and believes her employer has been taking extra precautions to prevent infections, such as cleaning hand rails multiple times a day.

But she knows the effect worker shortages have on her life — she's often responsible for the care, washing and feeding of 13 patients on a given shift.

"It's challenging. We don't get to spend as much as time as we'd like with the patients," said Perry, who after 34 years on the job makes \$17 an hour. Those just starting out make \$10 or \$11. "The work is hard, they're underpaid and they're underappreciated."

At the same time, nursing homes have been struggling to control infections. Nearly 10,000 homes in the U.S. — almost two thirds of the total — fell short on at least one infection control measure over the past four years, according to an analysis of inspection reports by Kaiser Health News. Some "deficiencies" cited seem relatively minor, such as incomplete record keeping. Others are more serious, such as staff not washing hands before helping residents put on a diaper or leaving open sores on a foot exposed to a dirty floor.

Lapses are common even at homes with high government ratings for overall quality. Four of 10 of the highest ranked homes have been cited for infection problems. Among the lowest rated facilities — those with a single star — 8 in 10 have been cited.

The Chateau Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Willowbrook, Illinois, which had a two-star overall federal rating at the time of this week's outbreak, was found in a 2018 inspection to have big gaps in basic care.

In the space of a few hours, three staffers cleaning the buttocks of residents not only failed to wash their hands afterwards, they didn't even remove their dirty gloves before walking into the hall, changing bed linens or helping residents put on diapers and clothes. Nearby a resident was lying in bed sheets that were stained from a spill from a rectal tube — a recurring problem, two relatives told investigators, because staffers don't check in enough.

One reason for all the sloppiness, according to Toby Edelman, a senior policy attorney at the Center for Medicare Advocacy: The vast majority of care deficiencies don't come with a fine.

"One thing this coronavirus has shown is that the enforcement system is way too tolerant of facilities not meeting the standards of care," she said.

Just months before the outbreak, the Trump administration proposed easing up more in a key area: stopping infections. The administration said it planned to change the rule requiring homes to have an infection control specialist on staff "at least part-time" to having one working a "sufficient" amount of time, drawing protests from industry critics and watchdogs that the change left too much wiggle room.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 68 of 72

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees long-term care facilities, said the change was intended to make clear the specialist does not have to be limited to a part-time position, but that it is reviewing public feedback to determine its next steps.

Despite its five-star rating, state inspectors at Life Care in Kirkland last April found infection-control deficiencies following two flu outbreaks that affected 17 residents and staff. A follow-up inspection found that it had corrected the problems.

Several family members and friends who visited residents at Life Care in the days before the outbreak told The Associated Press that they didn't notice any unusual precautions, and none said they were asked about their health or if they had visited China or any other countries struck by the virus. They said visitors came in as they always did, sometimes without signing in. Staffers had only recently begun wearing face masks. And organized events went on as planned, including a Mardi Gras party Feb. 26 attended by dozens of residents, visitors and staffers.

Although federal and state health authorities haven't tied the Kirkland outbreak and infections at 23 other area nursing homes to any one staffer, they found homes in the area were vulnerable because staff members worked with symptoms, worked in more than one facility, and sometimes didn't know about or follow recommendations about protecting their eyes or being careful while in close contact with ill patients.

"They need the money. They don't have sick leave. They don't recognize their symptoms. They deny their symptoms," Dr. Jeff Duchin, public health officer for Seattle and King County, told reporters this week.

Dr. David Gifford, chief medical officer for the American Health Care Association, an industry group, said that such problems can't suddenly be fixed, and that the outbreaks at nursing homes reflect the nature of the virus, which can be spread by asymptomatic patients, rather than underlying staffing issues.

"Any sort of crisis unmasks systematic problems that have been around for awhile."

---

AP reporters Carla K. Johnson and Gene Johnson in Seattle, Meghan Hoyer in Washington, Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, Matt Sedensky in New York and Kathleen Foody in Chicago contributed to this report.

---

The Associated Press receives support for health and science coverage from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Taking stock of strange days: The week that America changed

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

Change came to the United States of America during the third week of March in 2020.

It did not come all at once, though it came quite rapidly. As had happened in other lands, there was no explosion, no invasion other than a microscopic one that nobody could see. There was no fire, no flood, no famine. There were no barbarians at the gates.

Change came quietly in most towns and cities, because the change was one of withdrawal, a shutting of municipal and regional and national doors.

The weather was the same weather. The streets were the same streets. The emptiness fell bit by bit, piece by piece, until the most crowded of places became some of the most ghostly.

Some stopped going out in the evening. Then in the afternoon. Then all day. Some stopped getting haircuts, and some stopped cutting hair. Some stopped going out to eat, and some restaurants shut their doors except for takeout and delivery.

Some, many, most stopped going to school. Home became the primary landscape. Those who worked outside the home became those who work in the home, or became those who did not work at all.

It was like 52 pickup, that sort-of-kind-of card game where someone throws up the deck and it lands all over the place, and when the cards are retrieved from the floor they are the same cards but in an entirely different order. Some are upside down. Some are facing backwards. Some are bent at the edges.

Delivering a pizza became an act of bravery. Supermarket shopping became an activity of anxiety, both because of what people might not be able to get and because of what people might accidentally touch.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 69 of 72

Toilet paper became a source of stress and a recurring joke. Some people came to fear that anger was coming and others grew deeply angry that fear was coming.

Those who could work at home sat by the glow of their computer screens, which became a collage of pixelated portals into other people's living spaces. Tiny images of people's colleagues were stacked, row by row, as home offices came into shambolic being. Overnight, the verb "to Zoom" roared out of corporate settings and into basements and kitchens and living rooms where it had never been used before.

When change came to the United States of America last week, as it had to China and Italy and many other places already, it swatted some much harder than it did others, depending on where you lived, how much you earned, who you were. When change came, it came in many measurable ways that people who measure things are still just beginning to measure. Medical numbers and economic numbers will tell the biggest share of that story.

But change came in unmeasurable ways too, and those are harder to capture. Yet they are just as real, and their stories are contained in the people who stayed home and didn't do what they usually do.

Change came in drunken drivers who didn't crash. In shots that weren't fired and bullets that didn't pierce flesh and organs. In first kisses that didn't happen. In skies that weren't as polluted. In trips of a lifetime that weren't taken. In inspirations that didn't strike, conversations that didn't take place, photographs that weren't snapped, videos that weren't made. Maybe most of all, in dollars that weren't able to be earned and lives that weren't able to be saved.

Holdouts remained, as you would expect in a culture built on individualism. Young people, confident in invincibility, grinned and played on spring break beaches. In states where governors restricted movements and commerce, people bristled and said it went too far, did too much, damaged the livelihoods of too many. Jobs started disappearing, deleted from the landscape in batches as if it was a tactical move in a city-building video game.

The people in their homes, on the inside looking tentatively out, struggled with the change. Groceries were bought and sometimes hoarded. Images of empty shelves, shared online by the tens of thousands, produced even more distress. Family relationships were suddenly placed under stress by proximity and unease. Wi-Fi clogged, struggled, slowed. Hands wrung over income-tax deadlines until, to great relief, they were pushed back.

Time, or at least the notion of it, changed too. Thursday seemed like Friday, or maybe Friday seemed like Tuesday. Weekday melted into weekend. Lunchtime sometimes decided to arrive in the late afternoon. For some, happy hour, if you could still call it that, came hours before the afternoon rush hour, which was OK, because by Wednesday in many places that was gone, too.

The television and the internet, already many people's hearths and constant companions, burrowed even deeper into lives. Heads talked. Experts laid out numbers. Flatten the curve became an incantation. Officials promised and parried and thrust.

In this particular week of change, the fiercest debate centered around two key notions. One was how to react in the strongest way possible. The other was whether reacting in the strongest way possible was actually most of the problem.

Some tried to tell the story of this change as one of obviousness and common sense. Some seemed sure that the country they had loved and known and, for some, fought for was disappearing before their eyes.

In the United States of America last week, the events themselves came fast and loud and fierce, unfolding as invisible organisms marched their invisible and perilous march. But change came gradually and, sometimes, inaudibly.

The thing about change is that sometimes it requires an inventory to measure it. In many cases, the people who are changed are the ones to do that inventory.

That may not happen here, at least not immediately. The changed, those who would undertake that inventory, may be too busy for a while. Because the fourth week of March in 2020 is now here, and more change is coming.

---

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has written about American culture since 1990. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

Follow AP coverage of the virus outbreak at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Virus grows, as do questions: Will the Tokyo Olympics open?

By **STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — The Olympic flame has arrived in Japan from Greece. Next comes the torch relay around the country, which is scheduled to start Thursday in northern Japan.

Organizers have asked crowds to be restrained, but have been imprecise about what that means. Greek officials last week stopped a relay on the second day and it did not resume because of crowd size.

In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, Japanese organizers and IOC President Thomas Bach say that the games will open July 24 at the \$1.43 billion national stadium in central Tokyo.

Bach has insisted it's too early to announce a final decision, saying he's taking advice from a task force that includes the World Health Organization. But now there's pushback, mostly from athletes and former Olympians who are complaining: They can't train, qualifying events have been canceled and the chaos is sure to favor some over others. Then there's the question of bringing 11,000 athletes and staff together in the Olympic Village, and 4,400 Paralympians a month later.

Getting the flame to Japan represents a minor victory for both organizers and the IOC. Its symbolic presence could give the IOC space to postpone the Tokyo Olympics, leaving the symbol behind as a reminder of what's still to come.

Q: What is the deadline for making a final decision?

A: Bach surely knows, but he is not saying. In an interview with The New York Times Bach said "cancellation is not on the agenda." That leaves only going ahead, or postponement, as the options. Empty venues seem to have been ruled out.

Q: Who will make the final decision?

A: It will be made jointly with the IOC, the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee. They are the three that signed the 81-page Host City Agreement, which spells out in enormous details all games contingencies. The IOC has all the leverage, though it will have to honor WHO suggestions and the interests of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The IOC has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion and insurance to cover losses. The contract says termination can occur "... if the IOC has reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games is seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason, whatsoever."

Tokyo is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, but a national audit says it's at least twice that much.

Q: Who is pushing back?

A: The most recent pushback has come from USA Swimming and USA Track and Field, each having called on the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to push for a postponement. As swimming executive Tim Hinchey put it: "Everyone has experienced unimaginable disruptions, mere months before the Olympic Games, which calls into question the authenticity of a level playing field for all. Our athletes are under tremendous pressure, stress and anxiety, and their mental health and wellness should be among the highest priorities."

Another voice earlier in the week was from IOC member Hayley Wickenheiser, the four-time gold medalist from Canada.

"I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity," she said. "This crisis is bigger than even the Olympics."

On the Japan side, Japanese Olympic Committee member Kaori Yamaguchi told the newspaper Nikkei that the IOC "is putting athletes at risk." Yamaguchi is a former Olympic bronze medalist in judo.

"Even if there is a reason that prevents the IOC from making a decision right now, (the IOC) should indicate

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 71 of 72

a deadline." She was critical last year when Bach abruptly moved the marathon out of Tokyo to Sapporo. She said such a sudden move was "not acceptable."

Olympic committees in Norway and Brazil are also asking for delays.

Q: How important is the torch relay to the IOC and local organizers?

A: It's important symbolism for the Japanese government and Prime Minister Abe. Abe is Japan's longest-serving premier and hopes to use the Olympics to argue that the Fukushima area has recovered from the disaster nine years ago. The government has dubbed these "The Recovery Olympics." However, many residents are still living in temporary quarters after the earthquake, tsunami and meltdown of three nuclear reactors in 2011.

Getting the relay started from Fukushima also helps major IOC sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota, who pay millions to give their brands exposure during the relay. Crowds are being asked to be restrained. This will not keep the images of the relay from being transmitted daily around the globe on television. Bach is expected to watch the relay when it reaches Hiroshima on May 18-19.

Q: Any bookmaker taking odds?

A: Irish bookmaker says 1-7 that the Olympics will not open as scheduled on July 24. A poll by Japanese news agency Kyodo this week showed nearly 70% of Japanese questioned do not believe the games will begin on time.

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 22, the 82nd day of 2020. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 22, 1894, hockey's first Stanley Cup championship game was played; home team Montreal defeated Ottawa, 3-1.

On this date:

In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act to raise money from the American colonies, which fiercely resisted the tax. (The Stamp Act was repealed a year later.)

In 1820, U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore James Barron near Washington, D.C.

In 1934, the first Masters Tournament opened under the title "Augusta National Invitation Tournament," which was won three days later by Horton Smith.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state officially went into operation.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the commander of American forces in Vietnam, would leave that post to become the U.S. Army's new chief of staff. Students at the University of Nanterre in suburban Paris occupied the school's administration building in a prelude to massive protests in France that began the following May. The first Red Lobster restaurant opened in Lakeland, Florida.

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotel towers in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1987, a garbage barge, carrying 3,200 tons of refuse, left Islip, New York, on a six-month journey in search of a place to unload. (The barge was turned away by several states and three other countries until space was found back in Islip.)

In 1988, both houses of Congress overrode President Ronald Reagan's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

In 1990, a jury in Anchorage, Alaska, found former tanker captain Joseph Hazelwood not guilty of three major charges in connection with the Exxon Valdez oil spill, but convicted him of a minor charge of negligent

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 264 ~ 72 of 72

discharge of oil.

In 1991, high school instructor Pamela Smart, accused of recruiting her teenage lover and his friends to kill her husband, Gregory, was convicted in Exeter, New Hampshire, of murder-conspiracy and being an accomplice to murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 1997, Tara Lipinski, at age 14 years and 10 months, became the youngest ladies' world figure skating champion in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 2004, Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin (shayk AKH'-mehd yah-SEEN') was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, enraging Palestinians. Terry Nichols went on trial for his life in the Oklahoma City bombing. (Nichols, already serving a life sentence for his conviction on federal charges, was found guilty of 161 state murder charges, but was again spared the death penalty when the jury couldn't agree on his sentence.)

Ten years ago: Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton toured the quake-devastated capital of Haiti, a visit intended to remind donors of the immense needs facing the recovery effort. Google Inc. stopped censoring the internet for China by shifting its search engine off the mainland to Hong Kong.

Five years ago: CIA Director John Brennan, in an interview on Fox News Sunday, said the leader of Iran's elite Quds Force was contributing to instability in Iraq and complicating the U.S. mission against terrorism. The U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, warned an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council in a video briefing from Qatar that events were pushing the Arab country "to the edge of civil war."

One year ago: Special counsel Robert Mueller closed his Russia investigation with no new charges, delivering his final report to Justice Department officials. Former President Jimmy Carter became the longest-living chief executive in American history; at 94 years and 172 days, he exceeded the lifespan of the late former President George H.W. Bush. People across New Zealand listened to the Muslim call to prayer on live broadcasts, one week after 51 worshippers were shot and killed at two mosques in Christchurch.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 90. Evangelist broadcaster Pat Robertson is 90. Actor William Shatner is 89. Former Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is 86. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 85. Actor-singer Jeremy Clyde is 79. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 77. Writer James Patterson is 73. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 72. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 72. Actress Fanny Ardant is 71. Sports caster Bob Costas is 68. Country singer James House is 65. Actress Lena Olin is 65. Singer-actress Stephanie Mills is 63. Actor Matthew Modine is 61. Country musician Tim Beeler is 52. Actor-comedian Keegan-Michael Key is 49. Actor Will Yun Lee is 49. Olympic silver medal figure skater Elvis Stojko is 48. Actor Guillermo Diaz is 45. Actress Anne Dudek is 45. Actor Cole Hauser is 45. Actress Kellie Williams is 44. Actress Reese Witherspoon is 44. Rock musician John Otto (Limp Bizkit) is 43. Actress Tiffany Dupont is 39. Rapper Mims is 39. Actress Constance Wu is 38. Actor James Wolk is 35. Rock musician Lincoln Parish (Cage the Elephant) is 30.

Thought for Today: "Happiness does not lie in happiness, but in the achievement of it." — Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian author (1821-1881).