

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 1 of 68

- [1- Holiday Lights](#)
- [2- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [3-Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [8- COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA](#)
- [9- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [13- Daily Devotional](#)
- [14- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [15- News from the Associated Press](#)



The Kosel family yard at 110 N. Washington St. in Groton has revived the holiday lights to bring in some brightness!



**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

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 2 of 68

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We have entered into the second phase of NFL free agency, a phase in which General Manager Rick Spielman usually earns his keep. The first phase is where the big money is spent on the best free agents, but with limited cap space available to them, the Vikings knew they wouldn't be making any headlines with big time signings. Instead, the team has been looking at the second phase, where bargains can be found – whether it's aging veterans or young players with upside who haven't reached their potential yet.

If you missed last week's article, we looked at the moves the Vikings had made up to that point, including:

Releasing CB Xavier Rhodes, DT Linval Joseph, and G Josh Kline

Trading WR Stefon Diggs

DE Everson Griffen voiding his contract

Extending QB Kirk Cousins, and FB C.J. Ham

Re-signing QB Sean Mannion, K Dan Bailey, and P Britton Colquitt

And finally, signing free agent DT Michael Pierce

Since then, the Vikings have made a few more moves to their roster. One of the biggest moves the Vikings made was signing wide receiver Tajae Sharpe. After being drafted in the fifth round of the 2016 NFL draft by the Tennessee Titans, Sharpe has started 29 games en route to 92 catches, 1,167 yards and eight touchdowns. The 25-year-old WR is 6'2" and ran a 4.55 sec 40-yard dash at the combine a few years ago. He can play both outside and in the slot, and can run just about every route imaginable. He signed a one-year deal with a cap hit of \$1M.

The Vikings also signed veteran defensive end Anthony Zettel, who was a sixth-round pick of the Detroit Lions in 2016. In his second year as a pro, Zettel started all 16 games for the Lions but was then cut and found himself bouncing around, from Cleveland to Cincinnati to San Francisco. He can play anywhere along the defensive line, and while his measurables don't jump off the page, his relentless motor helps make up for that.

Another player the Vikings brought on was De'Marquis Gates, a linebacker who last played with the Houston Roughnecks in the XFL. He was an undrafted rookie in 2018 who signed with the Cleveland Browns. He also played briefly in the AAF. The Vikings brought him in for depth at linebacker, and it's a coin flip if he'll make the roster in August.

Aside from the players listed above, the Vikings agreed to terms with three of their own free agents. Running back/kick returner Ameer Abdulah, center/guard Brett Jones, and guard Dakota Dozier. All three of those players were brought back for depth purposes.

We'll continue to monitor the Vikings to let you know of any other free agent signings, so make sure to check back next week! And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 3 of 68

## Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller

Here we are, at the beginning of a new week with what might be a glimmer of light on the horizon. It's faint, and it might just be a reflection of the fires, so don't go celebrating yet; but we have what we have. And here it is.

We're up to 141,096 reported cases in 50 states plus DC and 4 territories. While this is a horrifying number, it represents just a 15% increase over yesterday. Now it's a couple of hours short of 24 since I last collected figures, so maybe that has an effect; but late Sunday has not typically been a time when a lot of reports pour in. So maybe, just maybe, there's a break here. Too soon to tell, but there it is. One reason I am cautious in interpreting these numbers (besides the obvious fact that I am not an epidemiologist, so I shouldn't really be interpreting anyhow) is that NY has such a large proportion (42%) of the total cases that it is driving much of whatever we're seeing. If NY were starting to get things under control, but a bunch of other states were blowing up around us, this would not immediately be evident in the daily numbers. I'm hoping that is not what we're seeing, but it could be. I don't have the computational firepower to work all of that out at this point, so I'll be on the lookout for whatever the actual experts have to say over the next few days.

NY still leads the way with 59,568 reported, followed by NJ with 13,386, CA with 6197, MI with 5472, MA with 4955, FL with 4942, IL with 4600, WA with 4393, LA with 3540, and PA with 3408. These top 10 states still account for 78% of all the cases reported in the US at the moment. Another 10 states are over 1000, another 10 are over 500, another 17 + DC and PR are over 100, and just 3 + GU, VI, and MP are under 100. Still nothing in AS, MH, FM, and PW.

Newly developing hot spots are still centering on Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, which just reported the first infant death I've heard of worldwide, St. Louis, Kansas City, and New Orleans. Reports of illness in police ranks around the country are a new cause for concern, as are reports from prisons, jails, and immigrant detention centers. Once again, all of those people on both sides of the law are stuck in circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable and particularly unable to alter their circumstances to protect themselves. No one deserves that. This is a real humanitarian concern.

There have been 2469 deaths in 48 states + DC, PR, and GU. Reporting its first death was WV. NY leads here too with 965, followed by WA - 197, NJ - 161, LA - 152, MI - 132, and CA - 129. Another 3 states are over 50 deaths, another 7 over 25, another 11 in double digits, and 21 + DC, PR, and GU are in single digits. There are still no deaths reported from HI and WY, as well as VI and MP.

Dr. Anthony Fauci today said in an interview that he projects US deaths could be as high as 200,000. The numbers of deaths in Italy are finally falling after a long, difficult siege. Meanwhile, medical professionals in New Orleans project they'll be out of available ventilators within a week; the numbers of cases in LA are exploding.

So things are still bleak, but there's an outside chance it might be getting less awful sometime in the foreseeable future. I'll watch for reports about expert interpretations of what we're seeing and pass them along when I have something.

Now, let's talk rumors, that is, the digital world's version, the viral FB post, you know, those long descriptions, purporting to originate with a "group of doctors in China" or "my friend who works at the hospital," or someone dispensing "secret information 'they' don't want you to know," and chockfull of recommendations for preventing or curing our modern-day plague. I've been presented with several of these by folks asking whether there's any truth to them. My general purpose answer is, "Not much."

Many of them contain grains of good advice like drink plenty of water (always a good idea, even when there's no pandemic on) and eat nutritious food (ditto), but then also some not so good or just silly advice as well. Most of that advice is such that following it won't hurt you, but it also won't really help you either. In an attempt to sort some of this out, I'm offering some general information about the kinds of things you're likely to encounter. So here goes.

(1) I've seen many admonitions to drink water, sometimes on a very specific schedule like every twenty minutes or immediately upon awakening or after every meal. It's a good idea to drink plenty of fluids--all

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 4 of 68

the time, not just when there's a pandemic. Being properly hydrated is overall good for your health. Water's fine for the job; while Gatorade or another sports-type drink won't hurt, it isn't generally necessary. And if you're eating relatively normally, you're meeting your need for calories; there's no benefit to loading up on sugar. But sipping water every 20 minutes or on any particular schedule will not prevent this infection. There's a claim circulating that the virus stays in your throat for some period of days and that you can wash it away if you sip water frequently. This is silly.

(2) Lots of recommendations to gargle with various substances, so far none of them scary or dangerous, although I'm sure sooner or later, something will turn up like that. To be clear, there is nothing you can gargle with that will protect you from this infection. Not mouthwash. Not vinegar or salt water or lemon juice. Posts refer to these as antiseptics. They're not, and even if they were, they're not going to protect you from Covid-19. (Bonus answer: "Disinfecting" your household or groceries with vinegar is equally a waste of time during this pandemic. Vinegar has no effect on this virus; it's not particularly susceptible to dilute acid solutions--and that's what vinegar is.)

(3) People are suggesting cold food and drink help the virus set up housekeeping inside your body. The virus doesn't care whether you're drinking and eating warm food and drink or cold food and drink. You want ice in that Coke, knock yourself out. Ice cream? Why not?

(4) Strict recommendations to immediately strip and shower the moment you get home from somewhere. The virus probably does survive for some time in clothing and hair, although these are likely not significant means for transmission. Porous things like fabric are, in general, very inefficient for transmission. I guess if you're out and about, especially around sick people, it makes sense to grab a shower and change when you get home; but there's no real evidence this is a big deal. I will note, however, it is recommended that, if you handle laundry from someone with the infection, you wash your hands thoroughly afterward.

(5) Warnings about how long this virus will survive on hard surfaces around the house, especially metal ones. The virus does seem to survive on hard surfaces for a few days, although there doesn't seem to be anything special about metals. It absolutely makes sense, though, to go over those with a household cleaner on a fairly regular basis. No need for fancy disinfectant; soap and water kills this virus very efficiently. We've been making this recommendation for some time now, even though we do not believe this sort of transmission is a common thing. Just playing it safe here.

(6) Lots of talk about zinc supplements. The jury's still out on zinc. No good evidence it helps. Important to note that high doses of zinc can be toxic. I saw one recommendation to eat zinc lozenges at a rate that would certainly have resulted in overdose, so be careful with that. If you decide to take zinc, read the package so you know how much is in the dosage you're using, and keep your total intake under 40 mg/day for adults. I wouldn't dose a kid without talking to a physician first; the maximum safe dose will be smaller for a child, but I don't know what that is.

(7) Also lots of talk about nutrition. Good nutrition helps you to fight off any infection, so by all means, eat nutritious foods. Good nutrition will help all of your body systems to function optimally, including your immune system. Most of us have sufficient reserves to take us through a short spell of illness when our appetites are off a bit, so no need to force-feed yourself when you're not up to it; but, overall good nutrition is a plus. And be careful you don't comfort-eat yourself into a new, larger-size wardrobe while you're sitting around the house instead of going to work.

(8) I've seen advice to let your fever run, that fever kills viruses and so you shouldn't treat it with antipyretics (fever-lowering medications). There's a lot of disagreement whether uncontrolled fever really helps. It is true that fever is an adaptive response, but there is mixed evidence regarding whether letting yours run really makes a huge difference in outcomes. On the other hand, it won't generally hurt you to let it run as long as it stays below 103 in an adult. (Consult your physician for guidance on fevers in infants and children. I won't touch that topic.) If taking an antipyretic (ibuprofen, naproxen, acetaminophen or paracetamol) makes you feel better, I wouldn't hesitate to take one unless your physician has advised you that one or another of these drugs is a problem for you, for example, if you have decreased kidney or liver function. If you want to let it run, be sure to contact your doctor if your fever stays at or above 103, doesn't respond to antipyretic medication, or lasts more than 3 days.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 5 of 68

(9) Bunch of suggestions for preparing your lungs to fight the infection. I'll say that beyond stopping smoking, there isn't much you can do in the short term with this. There are suggestions that you need to "moisten" your lungs with hot showers, steam, inhaling deeply while brushing your teeth with minty toothpaste (because apparently mint is a bronchodilator, which opens up the breathing passages). Also something about covering your mouth tightly when coughing to create back-pressure on your lungs, thus opening them up (or something like that). The way to keep your lungs moist is to keep your entire body hydrated; you can't really moisten them by breathing wet air. Moist air--like in a hot, steamy shower--can feel good, especially if your throat is irritated or your nasal passages are uncomfortable, and it can help to loosen mucus in your sinuses; but it really isn't going to do much in your lungs. I can find no evidence the mint from toothpaste has a bronchodilating effect or any guidance that says coughing into a cloth to create back-pressure on the lungs has any benefit at all--not saying it doesn't exist, but I can't find it. I will also add that it seems to me you might be risking damage to your eardrums with the back-pressure on the lungs thing; your inner ears are directly connected to your throat, and putting a ton of pressure on that whole system sounds to me like a very bad idea.

(10) And as long as we're on the subject of lungs, there are suggestions to do regular deep breathing to clear the bad viruses out and make the pneumonia go away. Now this does strengthen respiratory muscles, and having these strong is definitely a plus when you have a respiratory infection. Additionally, deep breathing can help to keep the lungs clear, so I'm a fan, but it's not a cure-all for this pneumonia or other respiratory infection. It will help your lungs to have sufficient oxygen to perform their function of oxygenating blood efficiently too, although it will not make damaged lungs work great when there's a disease process underway. And you can't eliminate this virus by blowing it out of your lungs with deep breathing. So yes, that's a good practice, but it will not immunize you against Covid-19 or any other form of pneumonia.

(11) Then, there's the suggestion that treating yourself with over-the-counter remedies for pain relief, fever reduction, and decongestion will inhibit your body's ability to fight the infection and are sort of a cop-out on just toughing things out; after all, you're only treating the symptoms, not curing the infection. It is true that there is no medication known to "make you well" when you're suffering from this virus infection; we talked about that a while back in one of my updates. But there's no shame in treating your symptoms. If you're miserable from aches or from fever or from general malaise, by all means, take no more than the recommended dose of an analgesic/antipyretic like ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or naproxen. It's not wimping out to do so, and there is almost no likelihood it will in any way prolong the course or worsen the severity of your condition. From my reading, it seems the reviews are mixed on whether it is dangerous or damaging to let a high fever persist, but because there is no clear evidence it can help and some smart people think it can hurt, I would not recommend letting a fever go beyond my general suggestion in (8) above.

(12) General advice to go to the emergency room if you feel symptoms of Covid-19. This probably isn't great advice during this surge of patients hitting the emergency departments of hospitals all over the place. If you do not have symptoms indicating you have severe Covid-19 (or some other unrelated condition warranting this level of care), they may be simply too busy to see you. From my reading, what should trigger a Covid-19-related trip to the ER is shortness of breath or chest pain. For any other symptoms, whether or not you've received a Covid-19 diagnosis, it is recommended you get in touch with your physician or go to an urgent care center first, calling ahead so proper precautions can be taken when you arrive to prevent spread to others. And honestly, if you do not have Covid-19, you really want to stay away from the ER if you can; that would be a great place to pick up an infection these days.

My general rule of thumb for these posts and videos that go around claiming to have the inside scoop on home remedies or how you can save yourselves is to treat them skeptically. This is especially true when the one proffering the information claims to have received it from a friend who works in a hospital or from a report by "Chinese doctors" who've been studying the disease. (Don't get me wrong; there is some good work being done in China with benefit of some time to study their cases; but most of that research isn't being published in YouTube videos and Facebook posts. That's not really how scientists work.) And,

# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 6 of 68**

as soon as I see one bullshit claim in one of these, I call the whole thing off.

Now to be clear, even though when I'm working there's a Dr. in front of my name, I'm the wrong kind of doctor to be giving health care advice. I am not a physician. These responses are based on the best information available to me as a non-physician. Know that this is a new virus and we're continually learning more about it, so information that is sound today may be outdated in a few days. If someone has specific questions about their own health, it is advisable to call a doctor and discuss. There are a couple of actual physicians who've been reading some of these posts; it is my hope that, if I've gotten something wrong here, one of them will get in touch and kindly correct me. And if that happens, I'll edit as soon as I receive that information.

So with that, I'll sign off and send you all forth into a new week, one which I most sincerely hope looks better than the last one did. Please keep on doing your bit for the cause. Take precautions, stay the hell home, keep away from crowds, consider whether an errand is actually essential. And look around you: People are suffering, some of them much more than you are, for all kinds of reasons that are not their fault (although, even if they are somehow at fault, suffering is suffering). Pick one person and brighten their day. It takes so little, and we all need to make small steps toward healing our collective societal ill health that was exposed, but not caused, by this virus. Part of your patriotic duty as an American is to make America work better for all of us. Go find a tiny way to make that happen in your neighborhood.

And stay well.



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 8 of 68

## COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

22 more positive cases in South Dakota, now making our total at 90. Beadle - 4, Brookings - 1, Clark - 1st one, Clay - 2 (first ones), Codington - 2, Lawrence - 1, Lincoln - 1, Minnehaha - 4, Pennington - 1, Roberts - 1st one, Turner - 1st one, Yankton - 3. Three more individuals have fully recovered.

| SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Test Results             | # of Cases |
| Positive*                | 90         |
| Negative**               | 3127       |
| Pending***               | 1          |

| COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Number of Cases          | 90 |
| Deaths                   | 1  |
| Recovered                | 29 |

| SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Sex                                | # of Cases |
| Male                               | 45         |
| Female                             | 45         |

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Aurora      | 1  |
| Beadle      | 20 |
| Bon Homme   | 1  |
| Brookings   | 1  |
| Brown       | 2  |
| Charles Mix | 1  |
| Clark       | 1  |
| Clay        | 2  |
| Codington   | 4  |
| Davison     | 2  |
| Deuel       | 1  |
| Fall River  | 1  |
| Faulk       | 1  |
| Hamlin      | 1  |
| Hughes      | 1  |
| Hutchinson  | 2  |
| Lawrence    | 3  |
| Lincoln     | 4  |
| Lyman       | 1  |
| McCook      | 2  |
| Meade       | 1  |
| Minnehaha   | 25 |
| Pennington  | 4  |
| Roberts     | 1  |
| Todd        | 1  |
| Turner      | 1  |
| Union       | 1  |
| Yankton     | 4  |

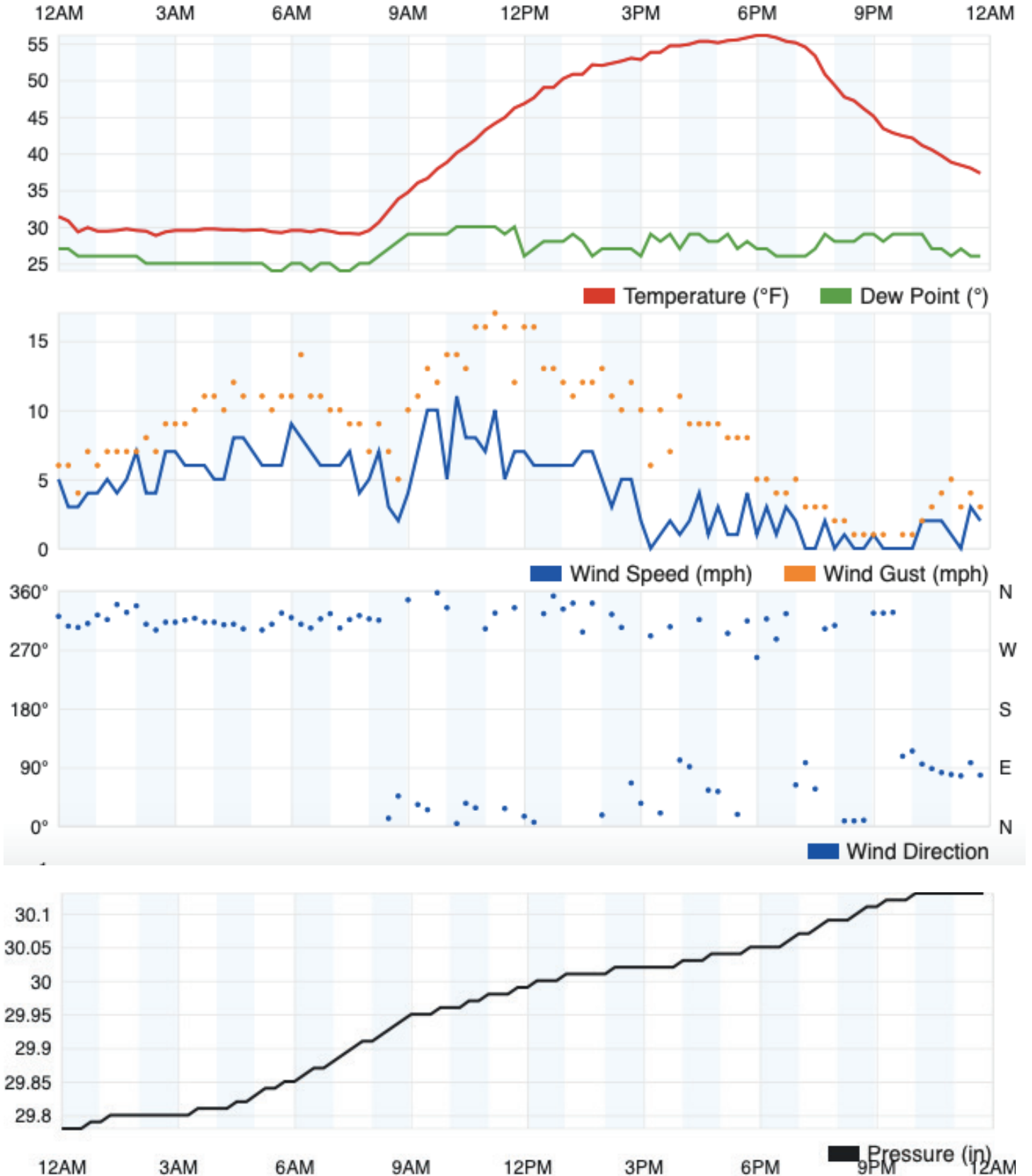
| Age Range      | # of Cases |
|----------------|------------|
| 0 to 19 years  | 4          |
| 20 to 29 years | 16         |
| 30 to 39 years | 9          |
| 40 to 49 years | 18         |
| 50 to 59 years | 20         |
| 60 to 69 years | 16         |
| 70 to 79 years | 6          |
| 80+ years      | 1          |



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 9 of 68

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 10 of 68

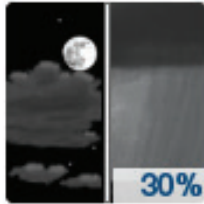
Today



Sunny

High: 62 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy  
then  
Scattered  
Showers

Low: 41 °F

Tuesday



Slight Chance  
Rain

High: 57 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Rain Likely

Low: 42 °F



Wednesday



Chance Rain

High: 56 °F

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
www.weather.gov/abr  
Created:  
3/30/2020 2:38 AM

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Today</b><br/>58 to 65°</p>  <p><b>Today:</b> Mostly sunny<br/>with clouds working their<br/>way into the area this<br/>afternoon</p> | <p><b>Tonight</b><br/>36 to 44°</p>  <p><b>Tonight:</b> Light rain<br/>possible from central to<br/>northeast South Dakota</p> |
|--|--|

Today should be mostly sunny with above average temperatures and dry, albeit a bit breezy, before clouds and light rain begin to work their way into central South Dakota this afternoon. Light rain will progress into northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota tonight.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 11 of 68

## Today in Weather History

March 30, 1967: Prolonged strong southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts to 55 mph, caused areas of blowing dust in eastern South Dakota, reducing visibilities to near zero. A metal roof on lumber shed in Vermillion was blown off. The strong winds also piled ice along the shore of Lake Poinsett to heights of 20ft, causing damage to some cabins along the lakeshore.

March 30, 2009: A major winter storm moved across the Northern Rockies and into the Northern Plains producing from 2 to 22 inches of snowfall along with widespread blizzard conditions. Most area schools and events were canceled. Travel was challenging and not advised. Interstate 29 from Watertown to the North Dakota line and Interstate 90 across Jones and Lyman counties were both closed during the storm. There were several vehicle accidents with no serious injuries reported. However, this storm took a toll on area ranchers as the calving season was underway. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 6 inches in Blunt, Timber Lake, Gettysburg, and Wilmot; 7 inches in Doland and Pierre; 8 inches in Clark, Clear Lake, Leola, Hosmer, Gettysburg, southeast of McIntosh, and Kennebec; 9 inches south of Bristol, Waubay, and near Chelsea; 10 inches in Eagle Butte and Mobridge; 11 inches in Pollock and Turton. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included; 12 inches in Aberdeen, Britton, Andover, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 13 inches at Lake Sharpe, Roy Lake, and eight miles southwest of Keldron; 14 inches in Miller, Redfield, and Webster; 15 inches near Highmore and near Columbia; 16 inches southwest of Stratford; 17 inches 14 miles northeast of Isabel; 20 inches in McLaughlin, Ree Heights, and 4 miles northeast of Victor with almost 22 inches northwest of Stephan.

March 30, 2010: Scattered light rain showers falling into a very dry air mass were responsible for several heat bursts that occurred across central South Dakota from Pierre to Onida during the evening hours of March 30th. Between 853 pm and 1053 pm CDT, observations from the Pierre airport (KPIR) showed a marked increase in temperature (+10F), a decrease in dew point temperature (-4F), the pressure falls, and gusty surface winds (a peak wind gust of 48 mph). On a farm outside of Pierre, winds were estimated up to 70 mph as some shingles were blown off the roof along with damage to several outbuildings. The Onida airport recorded a peak wind gust of 66 mph in the early evening.

1805: New York's City's Battery Park was strewn with 24-inch snow rollers, from a ferocious storm between the March 26th and March 28th. Snow rollers are natural snowballs that are formed when winds blow over a snow-covered surface.

1848: On six reported occasions, the water flow over the American Falls has been entirely blocked by ice and ceased to fall. But only once has this happened on the much larger Horseshoe Falls.

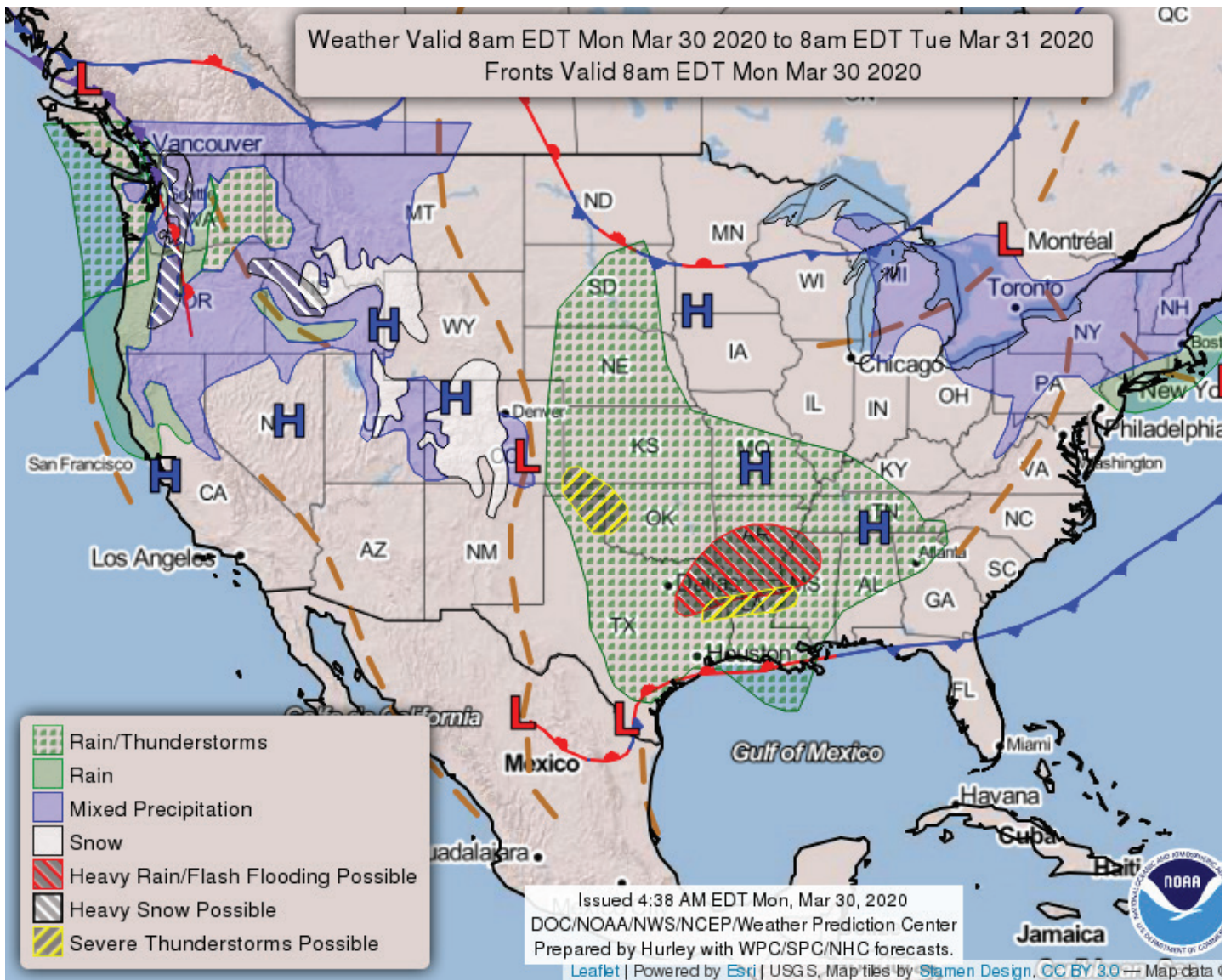
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 12 of 68

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 57 °F at 6:03 PM**  
**Low Temp: 29 °F at 2:32 AM**  
**Wind: 18 mph at 10:49 AM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 81° in 19443**  
**Record Low: -14° in 1969**  
**Average High: 48°F**  
**Average Low: 25°F**  
**Average Precip in March.: 1.06**  
**Precip to date in March.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 2.08**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.35**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:15 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 13 of 68



## "YOU BE JESUS"

It was a Saturday morning and many activities were scheduled for the day. To make it special, the mother of Albert and George was preparing pancakes for them. Suddenly, they began to argue over which of them would get the first one.

Dismayed over their arguing, the mother said, "If Jesus were sitting here, He'd say 'Let my brother have the first pancake.'"

"Great idea, Mom! George, you be Jesus and I'll take the first pancake," said Albert.

Paul, writing about how to "live love," said that "love does not demand its own way." In other words, the love that we as Christians are to demonstrate in our lives is not a self-centered love. It is a love that focuses on the needs of others - the way God loves us.

God loves us relentlessly, completely, unreservedly, and uncompromisingly with no limitations or conditions. In spite of our shortcomings or failures, He is there in us, for us, with us - loving us.

And, what does He ask of us? First, that we love Him in return for His love. Then, He asks us to love others as He loves us. When we love others as He loves us, we show others what Christian love is all about - something this world desperately needs. Live God's love!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to love as You loved, to give as You gave, to care as You cared, and to do as You did. May others see Jesus in us! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 14 of 68

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - 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
  - Jun 2020 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 15 of 68

## News from the Associated Press

### Teen hurt in fall near Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A teenage boy was badly hurt when he fell near Falling Rock in western South Dakota, authorities said.

The 16-year-old from Rapid City was hiking with friends when he lost his footing on loose rocks Saturday afternoon, the Rapid City Journal reported. He rolled and hit rocks as he fell about 150 feet.

The boy was taken by ambulance to Monument Health in Rapid City. The Pennington County sheriff's office says his condition is not known.

### Legislatures meet remotely, limit public as virus spreads

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Members of the Arkansas House met in a college basketball arena, spaced out among 5,600 seats, as they voted on ways to cover a budget shortfall caused by the coronavirus punch to the economy.

When South Dakota lawmakers convene Monday to consider 10 emergency bills, it won't be inside their familiar chambers. Instead, they will be speaking and voting via a video call system.

This is not government as usual.

In state capitols across the U.S., lawmakers have ditched decorum and sidestepped traditional public meeting requirements in a rush to pass legislation funding the fight against the coronavirus and aiding residents affected by the widespread shutdown of commerce.

"Social distancing" mandates intended to slow the spread of the virus have upended life for millions of Americans and also have led lawmakers to scrap centuries-old rules about the way they conduct work.

"It is an enormous shift, probably the biggest change to Vermont's democracy since we were founded as a state," Democratic House Speaker Mitzi Johnson told reporters as the chamber adopted new rules for remote voting.

Vermont lawmakers have voted with a verbal yes or no from assigned seats in a closely packed chamber. That changed this past week, when they adopted an emergency rule allowing members to spread out through the visitors' galleries to keep a germ-safe distance from each other.

The next time they are in full session, Vermont lawmakers will be spread out through the entire state, testing a still-to-be-designed remote voting system.

The state experiments are meant to slow the spread of the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease so hospitals won't become overwhelmed with a sudden surge of patients. The ill include several members of Congress and lawmakers in numerous states. At least six state lawmakers have tested positive in Georgia, one of nearly two dozen states that have halted or ended their sessions because of coronavirus concerns.

As of Sunday, the virus has infected more than 700,000 people and killed at least 33,000 worldwide, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. has about 136,000 cases, more than any other country. Health officials say that for most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. But for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and become fatal. Younger adults also are susceptible to the disease, and some become seriously ill.

As legislatures have adapted their rules to the new public health precautions, the public has at times been left out.

Legislative members, staff and media had to pass a body temperature test and an oral quiz about whether they had any COVID-19 symptoms to enter the House session held at the basketball arena of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. But the general public wasn't allowed inside, instead settling for an online broadcast. The Senate, meeting in the Capitol, followed similar procedures.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 16 of 68

Minnesota's legislative proceedings typically are both open to the public and live-streamed. But House members used a series of private conference calls, instead of public committee hearings, to develop a \$330 million coronavirus response bill that was swiftly approved Thursday. Legislative leaders said the unusual procedures were intended to safeguard public health.

Such actions also can damage the public's trust in government, said Jane Kirtley, a professor of media ethics and law at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"If you do things in secret, there's a perception that something nefarious is going on, and this is not a time when our governments need to be creating that possibility in people's minds," Kirtley said.

Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman said she gets "a little crispy around the edges" at suggestions that Minnesota's process wasn't open. Even though there were no public hearings, she said people deluged lawmakers with messages that were "incredibly helpful" in shaping the legislation.

The U.S. House of Representatives looked into the possibility of remote voting so representatives wouldn't have to fly to Washington on Friday to pass a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package. But a House Rules Committee staff report concluded there were too many concerns about its legality, practicality and security from cyber attacks. The House instead passed the legislation by voice vote, avoiding an in-person roll call.

In Pennsylvania this week, most House members took advantage of new rules to stay away from the chamber as they passed legislation delaying the state's primary elections because of coronavirus concerns. Remote lawmakers messaged or emailed their intended votes to designated colleagues at the Capitol, who told them to a clerk, who entered them into the chamber's voting system.

Ohio lawmakers altered both their attire and location this past week as they approved emergency coronavirus legislation extending absentee voting and tax deadlines, allowing distance learning for schools and letting recent nursing graduates immediately starting working.

House members were assigned to eight separate rooms during deliberations to comply with social distancing, then walked briefly onto the House floor to cast a voice vote. Many of the senators who came to the Capitol dressed informally after Republican Senate President Larry Obhof discouraged business attire, "which is cleaned less frequently than casual clothing."

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, the South Dakota Legislature already had rules allowing lawmakers to dial into meetings by phone, but those were designed for committees that meet outside the regular legislative session.

The full House and Senate will meet Monday by video conference, live-streamed for the public, with only a few members gathered in two Capitol rooms to try to comply with the rules. The state constitution isn't clear if that's allowed, but "we're just out of options," said Republican Senate Majority Leader Kris Langer.

Some legislatures have decided it's better to remain shut down than to try to sidestep state constitutional requirements to vote in person amid coronavirus concerns.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson had suggested lawmakers could meet "on a football field" or "out here on the parking lot" of the Capitol, if necessary, to abide by social distancing while passing a bill authorizing coronavirus spending. But Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden, a Republican, said legislators will convene in April and vote in their chambers.

Colorado lawmakers are delaying Monday's scheduled return to session and have ruled out remote meetings as an impractical move that would deny the public a chance to testify in committee hearings

"The important work being done at the Capitol depends on both legislators and the public," said Democratic Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg. "We feel that it is in the best interest of all Coloradans to recess the session until citizens can safely participate in their democracy,"

---

Associated Press reporters James Anderson in Denver; Andrew DeMillo in Little Rock, Arkansas; Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

South Dakota cases of COVID-19 hit 90



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 17 of 68

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials reported Sunday the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state has risen to 90.

The South Dakota Department of Health reports 22 new, confirmed cases of the new coronavirus. On Saturday, the total of confirmed cases in South Dakota was 68.

Minnehaha County, the state's most populous county, has 25 cases, an increase of four from Saturday. Beadle County has 20 confirmed cases, up from four the day before.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. Older adults and people with existing health problems are among those particularly susceptible to more severe illness, including pneumonia.

One death has been reported in South Dakota from the disease. The number of people who have recovered from the disease in South Dakota has risen to 29. A total of 3,127 people have tested negative for the disease at the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory or at private health labs, and results of one test are pending at the South Dakota Public Health Lab.

## Lawmakers considering emergency bills for COVID-19 fight

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem has asked South Dakota lawmakers to act Monday on 10 pieces of emergency legislation aimed at a months-long COVID-19 fight.

The emergency legislation covers a range of issues, including pushing local elections back until at least June, allowing the secretary of health to put restrictions on group gatherings and creating a fund of about \$11 million for loans to small businesses affected by the pandemic.

All the bills have an emergency clause that would put them into effect immediately, which means they need a two-thirds majority to pass. They all have a sunset clause to expire later in the year. Lawmakers will also consider action on bills the governor has vetoed.

Most lawmakers won't be in the Capitol building Monday. They'll be hundreds of miles away, speaking and voting via a video call system. In the last week, legislative staff have scrambled to put together a teleconference system that will allow legislators to virtually signal when they want to speak and to cast their votes.

Here is what Noem is asking from lawmakers:

### ELECTIONS

Legislators will consider a proposal to allow the secretary of state to move local elections, some which are scheduled in April, back to at least June. The bill allows the elections to take place as late as July 28.

### GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS

Noem has said that her emergency powers in this situation are murky. Now she wants legislatures to clarify some of her emergency powers. The bill she is pushing adds "pandemic" to the list of reasons she can declare an emergency. It also allows her to suspend regulatory statutes during the emergency.

### EDUCATION

As the governor has ordered schools to close their buildings until at least May, she is pushing two bills that will waive the requirement for schools to provide a certain number of hours of in-person teaching and to cancel state assessments this year.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The governor is also pushing to allow the secretary of health to close restaurants, stores and other gathering places during a public health emergency. She also wants lawmakers to add the coronavirus to the list of diseases for which the Department of Health can petition courts to enforce the closure of businesses.

### LABOR

The Department of Labor and Regulation has seen a surge of unemployment filings. Noem wants lawmakers to specify that people who lose their jobs because of the coronavirus are covered under the state's unemployment laws.

### DRIVER'S LICENSES

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 18 of 68

Lawmakers will consider allowing Noem to extend the expiration date of driver's licenses during the emergency.

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Noem is pushing lawmakers to create a fund of about \$11 million for loans to small businesses affected by the crisis. Her staff also hopes federal dollars from a relief package could be filtered through that fund, which would be administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

## COUNTIES

The governor's strategy for the outbreak of COVID-19 has so far pushed the decision to close bars, restaurants, retail stores and other non-essential businesses to municipal governments. But it is not clear in state law if counties have the authority to mandate businesses to close. This bill makes it clear that they do.

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

## City at center of China's virus outbreak gradually revives

By NG HAN GUAN and JOE McDONALD Associated Press

WUHAN, China (AP) — Shopkeepers in the city at the center of China's virus outbreak were reopening Monday but customers were scarce after authorities lifted more of the anti-virus controls that kept tens of millions of people at home for two months.

"I'm so excited, I want to cry," said a woman on one of Wuhan's major shopping streets, the Chuhe Hanjie pedestrian mall, who would give only the English name Kat.

Kat said she was a teacher in the eastern city of Nanjing and was visiting her family when most access to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people and the manufacturing hub of central China, was suspended Jan. 23 to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

"After two months trapped at home, I want to jump," said Kat, jumping up and down excitedly. "I want to revenge shop."

While other governments tighten travel and other controls, the ruling Communist Party has rolled back curbs on Wuhan and other areas as it tries to revive the world's second-largest economy after declaring victory over the outbreak.

Wuhan in Hubei province is the last city still under travel controls. Residents are allowed to go to other parts of Hubei but cannot leave the province. Restrictions on other Hubei residents were lifted March 23. The final curbs on Wuhan end April 8.

Wuhan became the center of the most intensive anti-disease controls ever imposed after the virus emerged in December. Some researchers suggest it may have jumped to humans from a bat at one of the city's wildlife markets.

The ruling party suppressed information about the outbreak and reprimanded doctors in Wuhan who tried to warn the public. As late as Jan. 19, city leaders went ahead with a dinner for 40,000 households to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Local leaders held one more event, a Jan. 22 holiday gala at which musicians and actors were sniffing and sneezing, before the government acknowledged the severity of the problem. The next morning, residents awoke to news that their sprawling city that straddles the Yangtze River was cut off from the outside world.

Police set up roadblocks at expressway entrances. Only truckers leaving the city to collect food and a handful of other drivers with official passes were allowed through. Bus and subway service inside Wuhan shut down.

Restaurants, shops, cinemas and other businesses were ordered to close, leaving streets empty and silent in a foreshadowing of controls that would spread to other countries. Families were ordered to stay home.

Restrictions spread to cities around Wuhan and eventually expanded to cover some 800 million people, or more than half of China's population. Restaurants, shopping malls, factories and other businesses were closed nationwide and families were told to stay home.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 19 of 68

Wuhan became the center of a massive effort to treat the sick, understand the virus and stop its spread. Two temporary hospitals with more than 1,000 beds each were built and a third one was set up in an exhibition center. Hundreds of military doctors and nurses were dispatched to the city, along with tons of medical supplies.

President Xi Jinping visited Wuhan for the first time March 10 in a show of official confidence that the virus was under control. The next day, the government began to ease controls on Hubei, allowing some factories and other businesses deemed essential to the economy or to producing daily necessities to reopen.

On Monday, 70% to 80% of shops on the Chuhe Hanjie mall in the city center were open but many imposed limits on how many people could enter. Shopkeepers set up dispensers for hand sanitizer and checked customers for signs of fever.

Buses and subways started to run again Saturday and the train station reopened, bringing thousands of people to the city.

At the same time, the ruling party has rolled out a massive propaganda effort to portray its leaders as the heroes of the outbreak and deflect accusations they allowed the virus to spread due to politically motivated foot-dragging.

Government spokespeople have suggested the coronavirus's origin is unknown, contradicting earlier official statements that it came from Wuhan. A foreign ministry spokesman said the virus might have been brought to Wuhan by visiting American military officials, a claim that prompted an angry response from Washington.

Wuhan suffered 2,547 coronavirus deaths, accounting for about 80% of China's total fatality toll of 3,186 as of midnight Sunday, according to the National Health Commission. The country had a total of 81,470 confirmed cases.

Officials are under orders to revive manufacturing, retailing and other industries while also preventing a spike in infections as people return to work.

This week, visitors to Wuhan were required to report how they arrived and their reason for coming. Hotel guests were checked twice a day for fever. They were required to show a code on a smartphone app that tracks the user's health status and travel.

Authorities set aside five hotels to quarantine visitors including foreigners who lack Chinese identity cards. Hotel staff and volunteers in protective coveralls sprayed guests and their luggage with disinfectant.

Passengers who wanted to board a public bus had to show a smartphone health code to volunteers in red vests.

Some of Wuhan's major shopping malls reopened Monday. Others planned to reopen later in the week.

Customers at the upscale Wuhan International Mall were greeted by employees who wore masks and carried signs that said, "Please wear masks all the way. Please don't gather. Please keep a safe distance."

Cinemas, teahouses and some restaurants still were closed.

Automakers and other manufacturers in Wuhan have reopened but say they need to restore the flow of components from suppliers before production returns to normal levels.

Some are waiting for employees who went to their hometowns for the Lunar New Year holiday and were stranded when plane, train and bus services in areas deemed at high risk of the disease were suspended.

On Monday, some parents were on the streets with children, but traffic was light on streets that normally are jammed with cars.

The owner of a candy shop on the Chuhe Hanjie mall said two of her four employees are back at work but she wasn't sure whether the others were willing to come back.

"We've only prepared a little stock," said the owner, Li Zhen. "Most people are still afraid of the virus."

A poster at the entrance to the pedestrian mall asked customers to wear masks, cooperate with fever checks and show a smartphone health code.

A banner nearby said, "Wuhan We Are Coming Back. Thank You."

Two women who wore protective clothing that identified them as medical workers were surrounded by pedestrians who waved Chinese flags at them in a gesture of gratitude. Li gave them bags of candy.

"We may have to wait for a while to see when things can return to normal," said Li.

McDonald reported from Beijing. Associated Press producer Olivia Zhang contributed to this report.

## Fearing Gaza virus spread, Hamas preps for mass quarantines

By FARES AKRAM Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — When Nima Amraa returned to the Gaza Strip from neighboring Egypt earlier this month, she was surprised to learn she was being placed in a makeshift quarantine center set up by the ruling Hamas group.

But her initial jitters turned to fear when two fellow travelers in another facility tested positive for the coronavirus — the first cases to be confirmed in Gaza.

"Once there were cases of the virus spreading, we started to feel afraid and disappointed," Amraa, a 30-year-old journalist, said by phone from quarantine, where she has spent a week and a half sleeping in a room with five other women and sharing a bathroom.

The virus found a way into Gaza, even though the Mediterranean enclave has been largely cut off from the world by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since Hamas militants seized it 13 years ago.

Yet the terrifying possibility of an outbreak in one of the world's most crowded territories — 2 million people squeezed into an area twice the size of Washington, D.C. — does not seem to have registered fully. Many in Gaza seem to accept Hamas assurances that the threat is contained.

In the meantime, Hamas is racing to build two massive quarantine facilities — hoping to prevent the disease from spreading and overwhelming Gaza's already shattered health system.

The construction was ordered after photos surfaced from makeshift centers — mostly schools — showing people celebrating birthday parties with visiting relatives, food being delivered by volunteers and groups of people smoking water pipes together.

Amraa said it was immediately clear that the school where she was placed was not prepared to house so many people.

"I was worried after seeing that we will sleep on mattresses on the floor and we will be six in one room," she explained. "We eat together and there is no isolation."

She said she and her roommates take precautions, such as avoiding direct contact and keeping their beds two meters apart from each other. But that might not be enough to keep the virus from spreading. Last week, seven Hamas security guards who were in the facility housing the first two cases became infected themselves.

"We have been very clear on how the quarantine facilities should look like and offer in terms of facilities and services and support," said Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub, the World Health Organization's director in the Palestinian territories. "But this is obviously easier said than done in Gaza, where there is substantial shortage in almost everything."

Although movement in and out of Gaza has been heavily restricted since 2007, it is not cut off altogether. The first two virus cases were men who had returned from a religious conference in Pakistan, part of a wave of hundreds of returnees who were placed into quarantine.

No one knows how much farther the virus has spread. Only 20% of the roughly 1,700 people in quarantine have been tested.

Gaza's people live mainly in densely populated cities and refugee camps. The health care system is in shambles — a result of the blockade, three wars between Hamas and Israel and chronic under-funding due to infighting between Hamas and the rival Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Gaza has only 60 breathing machines — and all but 15 are already in use, according to the WHO. The agency has been assisting local health officials and has been working with Israeli authorities, who have no direct contact with Hamas, to import desperately needed equipment and supplies from international donors.

Most people infected by the virus experience only mild symptoms, such as fever and cough, and recover within a few weeks. But the virus can cause severe illness and death, particularly in older patients or those

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 21 of 68

with underlying health problems. High rates of obesity, smoking and stress-related disorders appear to make Gaza's population especially vulnerable.

Hamas has sought to beef up its quarantine efforts in recent days, opening 18 additional facilities in clinics and hotels and declaring them off-limits. It also has banned weekly street markets and shut down wedding halls, cafes and mosques and extended quarantine periods by a week.

After seeing images of the makeshift facilities, Hamas' leader in Gaza, Yehiyeh Sinwar, ordered the group's military wing to build two new quarantine centers.

Situated on the territory's northern and southern borders, they will be able to hold 1,000 people. The group expects them to be ready within a week.

The public seems to have been calmed by Health Ministry claims that all virus patients are held in quarantine centers. Despite the shutdown orders, people still walk the streets and congregate around small coffee kiosks and noodle shops.

That could change if cases begin to spread.

Last Friday, the crew for a Turkish TV station caused a panic after entering the field hospital where the nine infected people are being treated. The crew subsequently left the facility and broadcast a report the next day. Hamas quickly put the crew members into quarantine and suspended the head of its media office for allowing them access to the facility.

Elsewhere, people still held wedding parties in their homes after wedding halls closed.

Dr. Yahia Abed, an epidemiologist, said the public's apparent lack of commitment to safety precautions is worrisome and that anyone who might have been exposed to the virus must go into full and enforceable isolation.

"If, God forbid, people hid the fact that they had contact with the infected, this will be very dangerous for an area like Gaza. The epidemic will spread," said Abed, a public health professor at Al-Quds university near Jerusalem.

One factor in the small number of cases so far could be the lack of testing.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian issues, said it has coordinated the delivery of hundreds of coronavirus testing kits by the World Health Organization, as well as protective equipment, medicine and disinfectant.

Israel, along with most Western nations, considers Hamas a terrorist group. But it likely fears the fallout from a catastrophic outbreak would spill over the frontier.

Qatar, which provides extensive humanitarian aid to Gaza, has also stepped in, pledging \$150 million in aid and providing furniture, clothes and electrical appliances for the quarantine centers.

The Gaza Health Ministry says it urgently needs more than \$20 million to stave off the collapse of the health system if there is a major outbreak.

Rockenschaub said there's still time to improve quarantine procedures in Gaza. "The issue is to move quickly and mobilize support to get them on the way to meet the right international standards," he said.

## The Latest: Japan pressured to declare state of emergency

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the coronavirus pandemic. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Spain surpasses China in coronavirus infections tally.
- Japan's main medical association suggests declaring a state of emergency.
- British prime minister's chief adviser shows signs of coronavirus.

TOKYO — An executive member of Japan's main medical association urged government officials to consider issuing a state of emergency, saying it will be too late once the coronavirus infection reaches an

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 22 of 68

explosive state.

Satoshi Kamayachi, an executive director of Japan Medical Association and a member of the government-commissioned panel of experts, told a news conference Monday that the situation warrants a declaration of a state of emergency.

He said most experts at a meeting earlier in the day suggested a state of emergency be issued.

Japan until now was seen as keeping the outbreak under control, but the number of new cases in Tokyo and other cities have spiked since last week. Nationwide, Japan has about 2,600 cases, including 712 from a cruise ship, with 64 deaths. About 1,000 of them have recovered.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike last Wednesday warned its residents that the city is on the verge infection explosion and asked its 14 million residents to stay at home over the weekend and suggested a possibility of a hard lockdown in the capital city.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Monday that Japan is on the edge but has not reached a stage that requires a state of emergency.

**ATHENS, Greece** — Greece's prime minister is calling on all his cabinet ministers and the lawmakers of his center-right New Democracy party to donate 50% of their salaries over the next two months to the fight against the spread of the new coronavirus.

In a Facebook post Monday, Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the country's politicians "must stand in the front line of solidarity." He said the money generated from the "symbolic gesture" would be deposited in a special account set up to tackle COVID-19.

"We are all equal in the face of the health threat. But in the fight against it, each one of us must contribute according to their means," Mitsotakis wrote in his post. "I am sure that the other (political) parties will also follow this choice."

**BRUSSELS** — The European Council says that EU member states have suspended airport slot requirements until Oct. 24 in a move aimed at easing the impact of the novel coronavirus crisis on aviation and helping airlines adjust to the falling demand caused by the epidemics.

Under EU regulations, airlines are subject to a "use it or lose it rule" and are required to operate 80 percent of their allocated slots, the right of an aircraft to take off or land at a congested airport at a certain time of the day. If they don't abide by this rule, they face losing their right to the slot.

"It seems clear now that this crisis will not be over very soon. Waiving the 'use it or lose it' rule until October will help mitigate the heavy economic impact on airlines and give them certainty over the whole summer season," said Oleg Butković, the Croatian minister for the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said earlier this month that abandoning the rule temporarily will not only help the aviation industry, but also have a positive impact on the environment. "It will also decrease emissions by avoiding the so-called ghost flights, when airlines fly almost empty planes simply to keep their slots," she said.

**MADRID** — Spain's main spokesman in the coronavirus crisis has tested positive for the COVID-19 disease but the results need to be confirmed, authorities have announced as the country of 47 million became the third to surpass China in number of infections.

Dr. Fernando Simón, who had become the Spanish government's face and voice during the crisis, was replaced on Monday's daily press conference by his deputy, Dr. María José Sierra.

Simón had been initially praised for relaying calm and clarity in the early days of the crisis, but as infections and deaths for the virus mounted he was heavily criticized for having played down the severity of the outbreak.

Sierra said that the increase of daily cases had dropped from an average of 20% before March 25, to 12% in the past five days. She said the drop was due to social distancing and confinement measures in place for the past two weeks.

The official said that the main worry for the government now was the pressure on the country's intensive

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 23 of 68

care units because it could arrive 2 or 3 weeks after the infection.

"Reducing the pressure on the ICUs will be important for considering de-escalation measures," she said.

LONDON -- One of the scientists advising the British government on the coronavirus pandemic says there are signs that the effective lockdown of much of the country is working.

Professor Neil Ferguson thinks the epidemic is "just about slowing" as a result of the social distancing measures the government has imposed over the past couple of weeks.

That's evidenced by the number of new hospital admissions, he told BBC radio.

"It's not yet plateaued so the numbers can be increasing every day but the rate of that increase has slowed," he said.

Ferguson, who had to self-isolate himself a couple of weeks ago after showing signs of the COVID-19 illness, said the number of deaths will continue to rise on a daily basis as it is a lagging indicator. Latest figures show that 1,228 people in the U.K. who have tested positive for the virus have died.

The epidemiologist thinks that between 3% to 5% of people in London may have been infected, with between 2% and 3% in the country as a whole.

BANGKOK— The Southeast Asian nation of Laos, which detected its first COVID-19 cases last week, has instituted a nationwide lockdown to fight the disease's spread.

The state news agency KPL reports that Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith issued an order effective Monday through April 19 prohibiting all citizens and foreigners from leaving their accommodations except for essential activity such as buying food or medical care. Those engaged in agricultural production are allowed out according to rules from their local authorities.

All international checkpoints are closed except for transport of goods and to allow foreigners to return to their countries.

Laos has nine confirmed cases of the coronavirus with no deaths reported. The country of about 7.4 million people is one of the poorest in Asia.

Myanmar, which also reported its first COVID-19 cases last week, is closing its airports to all commercial passenger flights at midnight Monday through April 13. Exceptions are allowed with official permission for relief flights, all cargo flights and medical evacuations.

Myanmar, with a population of more than 56 million, is also one of the region's poorer countries. It has 10 confirmed COVID-19 cases with no deaths.

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's chief adviser, Dominic Cummings, is the latest senior government figure to show symptoms of the new coronavirus.

Johnson's office says Cummings developed symptoms over the weekend and is self-isolating at home.

Johnson announced Friday that he has tested positive for COVID-19 and has mild symptoms. Health Secretary Matt Hancock has also tested positive, while the chief medical officer of England, Chris Whitty, says he is self-isolating after showing symptoms.

Senior U.K. officials have been criticized for continuing to hold face-to-face meetings until recently, even while urging the rest of the country to stay home and avoid all but essential contact with others.

Cummings is a controversial figure — a self-styled political disruptor who helped lead Britain's pro-Brexit referendum campaign in 2016. He has been blamed for briefing journalists that the U.K. was seeking "herd immunity" against the coronavirus by letting most of the population get it. The government and its scientific advisers deny that was ever their strategy.

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's funeral home association says that burial agencies across the country have decided that coffins with a deceased COVID-19 victim should be marked with a special symbol so that caskets are not opened because of fears the deceased could still be contagious.

Ulf Lerneus, the association's manager, tells Swedish daily Aftonbladet that there has been a confusion

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 24 of 68

among his members after Sweden's Public Health Authority earlier this month decided that deceased victims should no longer be in body bags.

"Nobody can say there is no risk of infection," Lerneus was quoted by the daily as saying. Caskets with the symbol showing three droplets "should not be opened" when transported from the mortuary, said Lerneus.

The association gathers some 400 authorized, private funeral homes across the Scandinavian country.

Sweden has reported some 3,700 cases where people have been tested positive, of which 255 of them are in intensive care. According to official figures, 110 people have died.

**LONDON** — Britain's health service is asking airline cabin crew who have been laid off during the coronavirus pandemic to go to work in temporary new hospitals being built to treat COVID-19 patients.

The National Health Service says easyJet and Virgin Atlantic are writing to thousands of staff — especially those with first aid training — asking them to work at hospitals being built inside convention centers in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

It said those who sign up will perform support roles under the supervision of doctors and nurses.

EasyJet announced Monday it was grounding all of its 344 planes amid a collapse in demand due to the COVID-19 crisis. It said there was "no certainty of the date for restarting commercial flights."

Virgin Atlantic has cancelled most of its flights and has urged the British government to help keep struggling airlines aloft.

**SOFIA, Bulgaria** — Bulgaria is postponing its bid to adopt the euro in the wake of a global economic downturn due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Bulgaria's central bank governor said Monday that his country will delay its accession process until next year.

Dimitar Radev told private Nova TV channel that "the timeline for joining the banking union and participation in the exchange rate mechanism are not realistic anymore".

The government had said earlier that Bulgaria wants to enter the two-year process that leads to joining the euro, called ERM II, this July. Its hope is that a swift entry into the eurozone would guarantee Bulgaria's deeper integration in the EU.

Radev said that a delay until 2021 would not be "fatal". He warned, however, that the country should not wait for a new entry cycle as it did during the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.

Bulgaria is one of the poorest EU members but has since 1997 kept a stable exchange rate between its currency, the lev, and the euro.

**PARIS** — Students at France's most prestigious engineering school are engaging in remote tutoring to help high school pupils get their "Baccalaureat," the state diploma awarded to pupils in their final lycée year.

The world-renowned Ecole Polytechnique said Monday that 325 of its students will give one hour of their time every day to youngsters in need of support during the isolation period imposed by French authorities to limit the spread of the deadly novel coronavirus.

"During this enduring quarantine period in France, many high school students feel they are lacking in family support when it comes to learning lessons on their own at home," the school said in a statement. "This is either because their parents are directly implicated in the current pandemic, or because their parents may not have the academic level necessary to help."

Polytechnique said priority will be given to students whose parents are directly involved in the fight against the disease, including medical professionals, military personnel, police officers or firefighters.

In addition, 25 English-speaking students from the school's Bachelor of Science program have offered to help with English tutoring lessons.

The French government has ordered the closure of schools across the country but students will still be required to pass their baccalaureat tests in June unless it is postponed to a later date.



Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Trump uses wartime act but GM says it's already moving fast

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Twelve days ago, General Motors put hundreds of workers on an urgent project to build breathing machines as hospitals and governors pleaded for more in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

But President Donald Trump, claiming the company wasn't moving fast enough, on Friday invoked the Defense Production Act, which gives the government broad authority to direct companies to meet national defense needs.

Experts on managing factory production say GM is already making an extraordinary effort for a company that normally isn't in the business of producing ventilators.

"That is lightning-fast speed to secure suppliers, learn how the products work, and make space in their manufacturing plant. You can't get much faster than that," said Kaitlin Wowak, a professor at the University of Notre Dame who focuses on industrial supply chains.

GM expects to produce ventilators at a rate of 10,000 per month starting in mid-April. The company is working with Ventec Life Systems, a small Seattle-area ventilator maker, and both say the Defense Production Act of 1950 doesn't change what they're doing because they're already moving as fast as they can, fronting millions in capital with an uncertain return.

"I don't think anybody could have done it faster," said Gerald Johnson, GM's global manufacturing chief.

Peter Navarro, Trump's assistant for manufacturing policy, said Saturday that invoking the act was needed because GM "dragged its heels for days" in committing to the investments to start making ventilators at an automotive electronics plant in Kokomo, Indiana.

It was only a few days earlier that Trump had been holding up GM and Ford as examples of companies voluntarily responding to the outbreak without the need for him to invoke the act. Then on Friday, he slammed GM on Twitter and during his daily briefing for foot-dragging. On Sunday, he was back to praising the company during another briefing: "General Motors is doing a fantastic job. I don't think we have to worry about them anymore."

But GM says it had been proceeding on the same course all along.

The company got into the ventilator business on March 18 after being approached by stopthespread.org, a coalition of CEOs trying to organize companies to respond to the COVID-19 disease that has already claimed more than 30,000 lives globally. The organization introduced GM to Ventec, which makes small portable ventilators in Bothell, Washington.

The automaker pulled together manufacturing experts, engineers and purchasing specialists, and the next day had people at Ventec's facility, a short distance from a nursing home where the virus killed at least 35 people.

They worked on speeding up Ventec's manufacturing. A few days later, GM assigned more engineers and purchasing experts to figure out how it could make Ventec's machines. Some Ventec parts makers couldn't produce enough widgets fast enough, so GM went to its own parts bin to find suppliers to do the job, Johnson said.

Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan law and business professor, said he thought Trump would commend GM and use it as an example for other manufacturers in the coronavirus fight.

"What came out was a smack on the head," he said.

Gordon, who teaches a class in commercialization of biomedical goods, said Trump likely will claim credit when GM starts making the machines. "This is an election year, and on all sides you're going to see political theater," he said.

Critics have urged Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act broadly to control the production, supply and distribution of ventilators and protective gear for hospital workers who are running short. That's what the act was meant to do, and it was not for use against a single company, Gordon said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 26 of 68

Even with increased production from all ventilator makers, however, the U.S. might not have enough of the life-saving machines. U.S. hospitals have about 65,000 of the ventilators that are sophisticated enough to treat critical coronavirus patients. It could probably cobble together a total of 170,000, including simpler devices, to help with the crisis, one expert says.

A doctor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center estimates that 960,000 people in the U.S. will need to be on ventilators, which feed oxygen into the lungs of patients with severe respiratory problems through a tube inserted down the throat. Doctors hope social distancing will stop a huge number of people from getting sick simultaneously, flattening the curve of the illness so they can use one ventilator to treat multiple patients.

Trump, in several appearances Friday, accused GM of promising 40,000 ventilators, then reducing the number to 6,000. He also said the company wanted higher prices than previously discussed.

Ventec, which is negotiating with the government to provide more ventilators, said it only changed numbers and prices at the request of government agencies, which asked for a range of quantities and prices. The company said it's selling the ventilators, which can treat severe virus patients, at distributor cost, and it has offered scaled down versions for a lower price.

Up until late Sunday, Ventec and GM hadn't known how many ventilators the government would buy but those details are now being worked out.

Ventec isn't sure if it will make any money on the devices, which generally sell for \$18,000 — far less than ventilators used in hospital intensive care units that can cost \$50,000. Johnson says GM has no intention of making a profit.

Ventec will need government money to help pay parts suppliers and ramp up its own production from 200 per month to 1,000 or more, said CEO Chris Kiple.

Invoking the Defense Production Act "shined a light" on the need for ventilators, he said, but Ventec can't move any quicker.

"We're still moving full speed ahead," Kiple said. "We know there's a shortage of ventilators."

## Spain passes China in infections; Trump extends US lockdown

By ARITZ PARRA, VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and DAVID RISING Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — In an abrupt turnaround, President Donald Trump extended lockdown measures across the United States as deaths in New York from the new coronavirus passed 1,000. Spain on Monday became the third country to surpass China in infections after the United States and Italy.

With a population of only 47 million to China's 1.4 billion, Spain's tally of infections reached 85,195, an 8% rise from the previous day. Spain also reported 812 new deaths, raising its overall virus death toll to 7,300.

The health systems in Italy and Spain have been crumbling under the weight of caring for so many desperately ill patients at once. The two nations have more than half the world's 34,600 deaths from the virus that has upended the lives of billions of people and devastated world economies.

At least six of Spain's 17 regions were at their limit of ICU beds and three more were close to it, authorities said, while crews of workers are frantically building more field hospitals. In hard-hit Madrid, flags were hoisted at half staff for an official mourning period.

Even as the rate of new infections slows in Spain, Dr. Maria José Sierra said there's no end to the restrictions in sight yet.

"Reducing the pressure on the ICUs will be important for considering de-escalation measures," said Sierra, who took over Monday as the health emergency center's spokesperson after its director, Fernando Simón, tested positive.

In a situation unimaginable only a month ago, Italian officials were cheered when they reported only 756 deaths in one day.

"We are saving lives by staying at home, by maintaining social distance, by traveling less and by closing schools," Dr. Luca Richeldi, a lung specialist, told reporters.

In a stark reversal of his previous stance, Trump extended federal guidelines recommending that Ameri-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 27 of 68

cans stay home for another 30 days until the end of April to slow the spread of the virus. The turnabout came after Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said up to 200,000 Americans could die and millions become infected if lockdowns and social distancing did not continue.

"We want to make sure that we don't prematurely think we're doing so great," Fauci said.

The U.S. now has more than 143,000 infections and 2,500 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University, while around the world 732,000 people are infected. The true number of cases is thought to be considerably higher because of testing shortages and mild illnesses that have gone unreported.

Moscow went on its own lockdown Monday as all of Russia braced for sweeping nationwide restrictions. The Russian capital of 13 million accounts for more than 1,000 of the country's 1,836 coronavirus cases.

"The extremely negative turn of events we are seeing in the largest European and U.S. cities causes extreme concern about the life and health of our citizens," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

An electronic monitoring system will be used to control residents' compliance with the lockdown, he said.

In Italy, which has by far the most deaths from the virus worldwide, officials expressed cautious optimism that the drastic measures they have taken to keep people apart are having an impact.

Italy has reported 97,689 infections and 10,779 deaths, but said the number of positive cases in the last day increased just 5.4%, and the number of deaths have dropped about 10% a day since Friday.

Experts say the critical situations seen in hospitals in Italy and Spain will be soon heading toward the United States.

Coronavirus patient Andrea Napoli, 33, told The Associated Press he didn't remotely expect that he would be hospitalized, struggling for his life, since he was young and fit. But what he saw at a Rome hospital shocked him.

While he was being treated, three patients died in his ward. He saw doctors stressed and exhausted from the long hours, out of breath from pushing equipment around, dressed in protective masks, suits and gloves.

"What I saw was a lot, a lot of pain. It was very hard," Napoli said. "I heard screams from the other rooms, constant coughing from the other rooms."

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the virus can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia and can be fatal. More than 155,000 people have recovered, according to Johns Hopkins.

China's National Health Commission on Monday reported 31 new COVID-19 cases, among them just one domestic infection. At the peak of China's restrictions, some 700 million people were ordered to stay home, but those rules are easing.

New York state remained the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, with the vast majority of the deaths in New York City. But infections were spiking not only in cities but in Midwestern towns and Rocky Mountain ski havens. West Virginia reported its first death, leaving only two states — Hawaii and Wyoming — with none linked to COVID-19.

The virus is moving fast through nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other places for vulnerable people, spreading "like fire through dry grass," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Britain's National Health Service said EasyJet and Virgin Atlantic were writing to cabin crew who have been laid off — especially those with first aid training — to ask if they would work in makeshift hospitals under the supervision of doctors and nurses.

Britain's political elite have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with the country's prime minister, health minister, chief English medical director and Brexit negotiator all testing positive and in isolation, as well as the heir to the throne, Prince Charles.

Cases across Africa rose close to 5,000 in 46 countries. Zimbabwe began a three-week lockdown Monday and more cities across the continent were shut down.

The pandemic is also taking its toll economically around the world.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 28 of 68

A lockdown in India covering the country's 1.3 billion people has put day laborers out of work and left families struggling to eat. With no jobs, those living in the country's crowded cities are walking back to their native villages.

In Europe, budget airline EasyJet grounded its entire fleet of aircraft — parking all 344 planes — amid a collapse in demand due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Japanese automaker Toyota Motor Corp. announced that its auto plants in Europe will halt production at least until April 20. Toyota has facilities in France, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Turkey and Portugal. All its plants in China resumed normal production Monday.

Asian markets started the week with fresh losses. Japan's benchmark fell nearly 3% and other regional markets were mostly lower. Shares in Australia, however, surged 7% after the government promised 130 billion Australian dollars (\$80 billion) to pay up to 6 million workers the minimum wage for the next six months.

"We want to keep the engine of our economy running through this crisis," said Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Rising reported from Berlin; Isachenkov reported from Moscow. Associated Press writers around the world contributed to this report.

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Coronavirus response highlights deepening partisan divide

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti has instituted a shutdown on a city of nearly 4 million people and threatened uncooperative business owners with power shutoffs and arrest.

In Mississippi, home to nearly 3 million people, Gov. Tate Reeves has allowed most businesses to stay open — even restaurants, so long as they serve no more than 10 people at a time.

The divergent approaches are evidence that not even a global pandemic can bridge the gaping political divisions of the Trump era. The fierce tribalism that has characterized debates over immigration, taxes and health care is now coloring policy-making during a coronavirus outbreak that threatens countless lives and local economies across nation.

There are exceptions, but Republican leaders have been far more likely to resist the most aggressive social distancing measures, emboldened by President Donald Trump's initial rosy outlook and a smaller early caseload in their more rural communities across middle America. But in the more crowded population centers on the East and West coasts where the disease first appeared, the Democrats in charge have been more willing to embrace strict steps such as curfews, sweeping business closures and law enforcement assistance.

"This epidemic has been a window into our politics," said Larry Levitt, who leads health policy for the Kaiser Family Foundation, which has been tracking responses. "Particularly over the past couple of weeks, a political divide has emerged."

It is an election year divide that could have deadly consequences.

As his campaign struggles for attention, leading Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden has called for a nationwide lockdown to replace the patchwork of local responses, which have varied even among neighboring communities in the same states. Trump, meanwhile, is largely allowing local officials to choose their own course and has encouraged them to compete for scant federal resources. On Sunday, the president extended social distancing guidelines through April as public health officials warned the death toll could exceed 100,000.

Politically, the strategy may be working for the first-term Republican president. With the election just seven months away, Trump's favorable ratings are ticking up, even if his numbers have fallen short of past

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 29 of 68

presidents during times of crisis. Yet the GOP's loyalty will almost certainly be tested in the weeks ahead as the virus spreads from the blue-state coastal communities deeper into red-state middle America.

Democrats like Garcetti fear the politics that are shaping conflicting pandemic responses will have real-world consequences far more important than the next election.

"I do worry that making this a partisan issue will kill more people in redder states," the Los Angeles mayor said in an interview. "There is no way to keep this out of your city."

In Mississippi, Reeves has adopted many social distancing measures such as limiting groups to 10 people, even if he's resisted some of the most aggressive steps. In an interview late last week, the Republican governor reiterated his opposition to a stay-at-home order, adding that he's heeding the guidance of state health officials and Vice President Mike Pence himself, who told him directly during a recent conversation that the Trump administration is not recommending a blanket shutdown.

Reeves dismissed those who think he's not doing enough as enemies of Trump who "don't like the fact that I'm a conservative and I'm willing to pray."

He warned that extended social distancing orders could cause a more dangerous fallout than the pandemic by destroying the nation's economy.

"I don't think there's any doubt that if the United States found themselves in a severe depression with 20% to 30% unemployment that the abject poverty that could create could lead to more health problems than this particular virus is causing," Reeves said.

He added: "One size doesn't fit all in this country."

No nation has more documented cases of the deadly virus than the United States, which surpassed 125,000 total infections and 2,200 related deaths over the weekend.

The partisan divide in infections and responses is difficult to ignore.

All 50 states have reported cases, but the seven with the most infections are led by Democrats. New York may offer a cautionary tale for other states: The state reported its first case on March 1 and surpassed 52,000 infections and 730 deaths in less than a month.

The bottom six states in total cases are rural states led by Republicans. Numbers have been escalating virtually everywhere, however, particularly in more populous red states like Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas, which reported more than 7,200 cases and 175 deaths combined as of Sunday.

Fifteen of the 21 states that have issued statewide stay-at-home orders so far are led by Democratic governors, according to Kaiser. The Republican-led holdouts include Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis has so far agreed with Trump's preference for a more incremental approach in the premier swing state, suggesting that restrictive measures be put in place only in the hardest-hit counties.

The GOP's resistance was perhaps best explained in recent days by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who told a Fox News audience that he would be willing to die if necessary to avoid severe social distancing measures that have essentially shut down local economies.

There are exceptions, of course.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, has split with Trump over when normal life might resume. And Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, has been one of the most aggressive leaders in either party, banning spectators from sporting events the first week of March. He was among the first governors in the nation to close public schools.

Aggressive steps by DeWine and others, however, have been complicated by Trump's inconsistent rhetoric. After repeatedly downplaying the threat at first, the Republican president adopted a more serious tone before suddenly suggesting last week that the worst could be over by Easter, which is April 12. He has now reversed that view, calling it an "aspiration," with the extension of the social distancing guidelines.

Trump has also engaged in a war of words with Democratic governors in key states, where elected officials have openly complained about the lack of federal assistance to stem a dangerous shortage of coronavirus tests and medical equipment.

Late last week, Trump told Pence, "don't call the woman in Michigan" — referring to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is considered a potential vice presidential pick for the ultimate Democratic nominee.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 30 of 68

Trump dubbed her as "Gretchen 'Half' Whitmer" on Twitter, claiming that she's "way in over her head."

At the same time, the Trump administration began to contemplate a plan to encourage increased economic activity in areas where infections are low, which is largely in Republican-led states at the moment. That, too, appeared to be sidelined by the president's new view that fatalities could reach 100,000 or more.

Many conservatives welcome the president's preference to loosen restrictions.

"They have no right to tell me I need to stay in my house. They cannot impose a travel ban on me. They can't. it's unconstitutional," said Texas-based activist Mark Meckler, a co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots who now leads the Convention of States Project.

Meckler began conversations in recent days with other grassroots conservatives leaders to explore the possibility of filing lawsuits to block some of the more aggressive social distancing measures. In the meantime, he's encouraging like-minded conservatives to embrace "peaceful resistance."

"I'm not going along with it," Meckler said. "It doesn't mean we won't be smart, but we don't want to be sheep."

Meanwhile, the numbers are shooting up in California, which has reported more than 5,000 infections and 100 deaths.

Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti has assigned teams of city workers to ensure non-essential local businesses are complying with shut down orders. He is empowered to shut off their water and power if necessary, and the California Democrat has authorized the police to arrest those who continue to resist.

Garcetti said there have been no shutoffs or arrests so far and predicts that "99 out of 100 will comply."

He also offered a dire message to Republicans who have resisted similar steps: "In the projections, you could see this taking tens of thousands of lives in America or millions. You chose. But I don't think anybody wants the second to be on their hands."

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. TRUMP EXTENDS SOCIAL DISTANCING AS ITALY, SPAIN HOPE FOR RELIEF

Bracing the U.S. for a coronavirus death toll that could exceed 100,000 people, the president bows to public health experts who presented him with even more dire projections for the expanding pandemic, while Italy and Spain, which have seen more than half the world's deaths from the virus, hoped that relief was coming as infection rates drop each day.

### 2. DESPITE BLOCKADE, VIRUS FINDS ITS WAY INTO GAZA

Fearing a widespread outbreak after nine confirmed cases, Gaza's Hamas leaders are racing to build two massive quarantine complexes and prepare the overcrowded territory that is not equipped to deal with a new health crisis.

### 3. AFTER OLYMPICS POSTPONED, TOKYO INFECTIONS SPIKE

The sudden rise in the number of virus cases in Tokyo have raised questions in parliament and among citizens about whether Japan understated the extent of the outbreak in hopes of keeping the Summer Games on the original schedule.

### 4. WHAT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK MEANS FOR U.S. POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN AN ELECTION YEAR

State and local leaders are struggling to navigate inconsistent federal guidance and fierce political tribalism that is complicating their responses to the coronavirus outbreak.

### 5. VIRUS TOLL RISES ABOVE 1,000 IN NEW YORK

New York state, a virus hot spot in the U.S., reports at least 1,026 coronavirus-related deaths, with about three-quarters of those in New York City.

6. "LOOKING AT THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW AND NOT BEING ABLE TO HUG THEM, IT'S JUST A DANG KILLER"

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 31 of 68

For grandparents all over the world, being protected from the coronavirus pandemic has meant a piercing distance from their loved ones.

## 7. WHERE NEWS OF THE PANDEMIC MAY HAVE NOT YET SPREAD

The crews of nuclear-armed submarines may be among the last pockets of people anywhere who are still unaware of how the pandemic is turning life upside down.

## 8. VICTIM OF HANUKKAH STABBINGS DIES FROM INJURIES

Three months after a stabbing attack during an Orthodox Jewish community's Hanukkah celebration that came amid a rash of violence targeting Jews in the New York area, one of the five victims has died from his injuries.

## 9. WHAT HELPED A WARDEN FIND A MISSING TEEN

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Warden Austin Schumacher is being hailed for using old-school backwoods skills to rescue a boy lost in a freezing swamp.

## 10. "MUSIC TO FEED AND FUEL YOUR SOUL"

Elton John, Alicia Keys, Billie Eilish, Mariah Carey and many other artists perform in a concert from their homes to raise money for first responders and the families of virus victims.

## **In Zimbabwe, 'you win coronavirus or you win starvation'**

**By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press**

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — "We are already ruined. What more harm can coronavirus do?" Irene Kampira asked as she sorted secondhand clothes at a bustling market in a poor suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

People in one of the world's most devastated nations are choosing daily survival over measures to protect themselves from a virus that "might not even kill us," Kampira said.

Even as the country enters a "total lockdown" over the virus on Monday, social distancing is pushed aside in the struggle to obtain food, cash, cheap public transport, even clean water. The World Health Organization's recommended virus precautions seem far-fetched for many of Zimbabwe's 15 million people.

"It's better to get coronavirus while looking for money than to sit at home and die from hunger," Kampira said, to loud approval from other vendors.

The southern African nation has few cases but its health system is in tatters, and the virus could quickly overwhelm it. Hundreds of public hospital doctors and nurses have gone on strike over the lack of protective equipment. Many Zimbabweans are already vulnerable from hunger or underlying health issues like HIV, which is present in 12% of the population.

Last year a United Nations expert called the number of hungry people in Zimbabwe "shocking" for a country not in conflict. The World Food Program has said more than 7 million people, or half the country, needs aid.

Harare, like most cities and towns across Zimbabwe, has an acute water shortage and residents at times go for months, even years, without a working tap. Many must crowd communal wells, fearing the close contact will speed the coronavirus' spread.

"If the taps were working we wouldn't be here, swarming the well like bees on a beehive or flies on sewage. We are busy exchanging coronavirus here coughing and spitting saliva at each other," said 18-year old Anastancia Jack while waiting her turn.

The government has closed borders and banned gatherings of more than 50 people while encouraging people to stay at home.

But the majority of Zimbabweans need to go out daily to put food on the table. With inflation over 500% most industries have closed, leaving many people to become street vendors. Zimbabwe has the world's second-largest informal economy after Bolivia, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Police in recent days have tried to clear vendors from the streets, in vain. As in other African countries where many people rely on informal markets, a lockdown could mean immediate food shortages.

Once-prosperous Zimbabwe was full of renewed promise with the forced resignation in late 2017 of

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 32 of 68

longtime leader Robert Mugabe. But President Emmerson Mnangagwa has struggled to fulfil promises of prosperity since taking power. He blames the country's crisis in part on sanctions imposed on certain individuals, including himself, by the U.S. over rights abuses.

Daily necessities in Zimbabwe make social distancing an elusive ideal. In downtown Harare, hordes of people congregate at banks for cash, which is in short supply. Others pack public transport.

"We are the only ones practicing social distancing, we sit in our cars all day," said Blessing Hwiribisha, a motorist in a fuel line snaking for more than a kilometer in the poor suburb of Kuwadzana.

"Look at them," he said. He pointed at a supermarket across the road where hundreds of people shoved to buy maize meal, which has become scarce due to a devastating drought and lack of foreign currency to import more.

"What is happening in Zimbabwe is very scary. It's like we are playing cards. Its either you win corona-virus or you win starvation," said Tinashe Moyo at the supermarket. "I am very scared."

Few health workers are available as doctors and nurses strike.

"There is a difference between being heroic and being suicidal," said Tawanda Zvakada, president of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association.

Health workers described a lack of disinfectants, sanitizers and even water at hospitals.

And yet Health Minister Obadiah Moyo repeatedly says Zimbabwe is "well prepared" to deal with COVID-19 cases.

But frightened health workers cited the death of a prominent broadcaster at an ill-equipped isolation center specifically reserved for COVID-19 cases.

"They didn't have a ventilator to help him," Zvakada said. "The inability of our system to manage one patient is worrying. What about when there are 50 patients?"

Zimbabwe has less than 20 ventilators to help people in severe respiratory distress, he said. He said the country needs hundreds to adequately deal with the virus.

"We see a situation where Zimbabwe can become a graveyard if we are not careful," said Itai Rusike, director of the Harare-based Community Working Group on Health.

## Blissful ignorance? Submariners likely unaware of pandemic

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

LE PECQ, France (AP) — Of a world in coronavirus turmoil, they may know little or nothing.

Submariners stealthily cruising the ocean deeps, purposefully shielded from worldly worries to encourage undivided focus on their top-secret missions of nuclear deterrence, may be among the last pockets of people anywhere who are still blissfully unaware of how the pandemic is turning life upside down.

Mariners aboard ballistic submarines are habitually spared bad news while underwater to avoid undermining their morale, say current and former officers who served aboard France's nuclear-armed subs. So any crews that left port before the virus spread around the globe are likely being kept in the dark about the extent of the rapidly unfurling crisis by their commanders until their return, they say.

"They won't know," said retired Adm. Dominique Salles, who commanded the French ballistic submarine squadron from 2003-2006. "The boys need to be completely available for their mission."

Speaking exclusively to The Associated Press, Salles said he believes submariners will likely only be told of the pandemic as they head back to port, in the final two days of their mission.

"Those who are at sea don't need this information," said Salles, who also commanded the nuclear-armed French submarine "L'Inflexible."

"The commander, I think, is doubtless informed about what is happening. I don't think he'll have all the details," he said.

The French navy won't divulge what has or hasn't been said to submarine crews. Nor will it say whether any of the four French ballistic submarines, laden with 16 missiles that each can carry six nuclear warheads, left harbor before France instituted a nationwide lockdown on March 17.

"Because the deterrent is wrapped in a bubble of protection and confidentiality, it is impossible to know



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 33 of 68

whether the crews are informed or not of this situation," French navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Olivier Ribard said.

French submarine missions last 60 to 70 days, with about 110 crew members aboard. So a crew that left at the end of February wouldn't be expected back before the end of April. In that case, they will return to a world changed by the pandemic. On March 1, France had just 130 confirmed COVID-19 cases and two deaths. In under a month, those numbers have surged past 2,600 dead and over 40,000 sickened.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. But for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

For submariners, the return to land could be a shock.

"They won't have experienced the crisis as we did, with a bit of fear, the lockdown. So for them it will be quite a surprise. They will learn the history, but it will be a history that is related to them," said a serving officer who was the doctor on the ballistic submarine "Le Triomphant" for four years. He spoke to the AP on condition that he be identified only by his first name and rank, in accordance with the rules of his branch of the French military.

"All events that could affect or change the morale of the crew members are kept from them," said the officer, Chief Doctor Gabriel. "Since there is no internet, no radio and no television on board, the only news you get comes from messages received by the commander, and the commander filters the messages to not give all of the information to everyone."

The doctor was underwater in 2012 when an Islamic extremist killed three French paratroopers and later killed a rabbi, his two young sons and grabbed an 8-year-old girl and shot her in the head. Only later did the officer learn of the attacks, "so when people talk to me about it, I find it impossible to imagine," he said.

"The only place where you are really cut off from all information is underwater, because even on a vessel in space there is still the radio, television, the internet," he said.

When bombings hit Madrid in 2004, Salles didn't inform submariners who were at sea for the ballistic flotilla that was then under his command.

Salles said the situation now will be toughest for any crews that leave harbor in the weeks ahead, because they'll know they are leaving loved ones in the midst of the pandemic and, possibly, still living in lockdown. The French government has already extended its stay-home orders once, to April 15, and said it could do so again.

Salles said he believes those crews will get regular coronavirus updates, but won't be told of any family deaths until they are returning to the l'Ile Longue submarine base near Brest in Brittany.

Salles was at sea in a sub when his father died. The news was kept from him until he had finished his 60-day mission.

"No matter how serious an event is, there is nothing a submariner can do about it. And since he cannot do anything, better that he know nothing," Salles said. "They know that they won't know and accept it. It's part of our deal."

---

Follow John Leicester on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/johnleicester>

---

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

## Tokyo's infection spike after Olympic delay sparks questions

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Before the Olympics were postponed, Japan looked like it had coronavirus infections contained, even as they spread in neighboring countries. Now that the games have been pushed to next year, Tokyo's cases are spiking, and the city's governor is requesting that people stay home, even hinting at a possible lockdown.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 34 of 68

The sudden rise in the number of virus cases in Tokyo and the government's strong actions immediately after the Olympic postponement have raised questions in parliament and among citizens about whether Japan understated the extent of the outbreak and delayed enforcement of social distancing measures while clinging to hopes that the games would start on July 24 as scheduled.

With the Olympics now off, many are voicing suspicion that the numbers are rising because Japan suddenly has no reason to hide them.

"In order to make an impression that the city was taking control of the coronavirus, Tokyo avoided making strict requests and made the number of patients look smaller," former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said in a tweet. "The coronavirus has spread while they waited. (For Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike) it was Olympics first, not Tokyo's residents."

Experts have found a rise of untraceable cases mushrooming in Tokyo, Osaka and other urban areas — signs of an explosive increase in infections.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday that Japan is now on the brink of a huge jump in cases as it becomes increasingly difficult to trace and keep clusters under control.

"Once infections overshoot, our strategy ... will instantly fall apart," Abe warned. "Under the current situation, we are just barely holding up." He said a state of emergency is not needed just yet, but that Japan could at any time face a situation as bad as in the United States or Europe.

There was less of a sense of urgency displayed recently when many people visited parks for cherry blossom viewing, and Abe was only hinting at an Olympic postponement. But in a phone call with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach last Tuesday, Abe agreed to postpone the games until around the summer of 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A day later, Koike asked Tokyo residents to stay home weekends until mid-April, saying confirmed cases of the coronavirus had shot up to 41 in a day from 16 earlier in the week. On Saturday, Tokyo reported 63 new cases, another single-day record. Koike said that infections in Tokyo were on the brink of an explosive increase, and that stronger measures, including a lockdown, could be needed if the spread of the virus doesn't slow.

"Is this just a coincidence?" Maiko Tajima, an opposition lawmaker from the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said during a parliamentary session last Wednesday, citing Tokyo's sudden spike.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said there is "absolutely no relationship" between the Olympic postponement and the number of confirmed cases. Abe cited experts as saying a big reason for the recent rise is the growing number of cases that can't be linked and a jump in infections from abroad. The prime minister told people to "be prepared for a long battle."

A day after Koike's warning, Abe convened a new task force under a recently enacted special law that would allow him to declare a state of emergency in specific areas, including Tokyo.

Japan's strategy has been to focus on clusters and trace infection routes rather than testing everyone. A guideline issued Saturday still says that tests will be conducted per clinical doctors' advice. Experts set a high bar for testing eligibility, allowing them only for those linked to clusters or those with symptoms, because they fear massive testing will fill up beds that are needed for patients in severe need, and cause a collapse of medical systems.

From Feb. 18 to March 27, Japan tested about 50,000 people, a daily average of 1,270 — fewer than the national daily capacity of several thousand. There was only a slight increase in the number of tests in the past week. In Tokyo, fewer than 2% of those who sought advice on a government hotline had been tested, according to health ministry figures. South Korea, by contrast, had tested about 250,000 people by mid-March.

Abe denied allegations that Japan had manipulated the numbers by limiting tests, or combined COVID-19 deaths with other pneumonia fatalities. "I'm aware that some people suspect Japan is hiding the numbers, but I believe that's not true," he said. "If there is a cover-up, it will show up in the number of deaths." He said doctors told him that pneumonia patients with COVID-19 can be detected by CAT-scan or X-rays.

Many Japanese experts say testing is not for everyone and should be conducted selectively in an attempt

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 35 of 68

to save hospital beds for those who really need them. "Tests are primarily for people who are suspected of having the virus, and should be based on clinical judgment by doctors," said Shigeru Omi, a former World Health Organization public health expert who is on the government-commissioned panel.

Aki-Hiro Sato, a professor of information sciences at Yokohama City University, said in a recent report that Japan is now likely facing a second or third wave of the virus coming from Europe and the United States. Tokyo has about 430 cases, but Sato estimated an additional 1,000 might have been infected in Tokyo by late March if infections are accelerating at a pace similar to what's happening in other countries. Including asymptomatic or light infections, about 10,000 people might be infected, he said.

As of Sunday, Japan had 2,578 confirmed cases, including 712 from a cruise ship, with 64 deaths, according to the health ministry. About 1,000 have recovered.

Under the current law, COVID-19 is designated as an infectious disease and whoever tests positive is routinely hospitalized, but a new government guideline would allow a triage of patients, which would include self-quarantine at home.

Right now, Japan has 2,600 hospital beds designated for infectious disease treatment, including 118 in Tokyo, but about one-third of them are already occupied by COVID-19 patients, according to Satoshi Kutsuna of the Disease Control and Prevention Center. Citing the recent spike, Kutsuna said that an "overshooting of infections is just about to begin, unfortunately."

Abe has said the government would secure 12,000 beds and 3,000 ventilators to prepare for a worst case scenario.

"We fear a situation where severe patients start dying when the medical system collapses, and we must prevent that situation," Kato, the health minister, said Sunday on a talk show on public broadcaster NHK.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

## The Latest: Phuket closes land and sea entry and exit points

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the coronavirus pandemic. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Trump extends stay-at-home guidelines for another 30 days.
- New York state surpasses 1,000 coronavirus deaths
- Two cruise ships begin passage through Panama Canal

BANGKOK — Thailand's popular seaside resort island of Phuket has closed all land and sea entry and exit points until April 30 to try to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana says a ban on air travel will start on April 10. Phuket attracts many foreign tourists whose travel plans have been disrupted by the widespread cancellation of international flights.

Thailand registered 39 million international arrivals last year. Phuket is a top destination for tourists, hosting more than 10 million visitors annually, including Thais.

Phuket's land travel ban, which became effective Monday, makes exceptions for transport of food and essential items, emergency vehicles and vehicles carrying publications.

Ships are banned from entering and leaving Phuket's international port, with exceptions for cargo ships, which can unload their cargoes but not allow crews to disembark before leaving as soon as possible.

CANBERRA, Australia -- Australia has announced a 130 billion Australian dollar (\$80 billion) plan to subsidize businesses damaged by the new coronavirus to pay to up to six million staff a minimum wage to keep them in the work force for the next six months.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 36 of 68

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday that businesses that have lost 30% of revenue because of the COVID-19 outbreak would be eligible for the subsidy, which is part of what he describes as a hibernation strategy for the economy.

The government would pay AU\$750 a week of employees' wages, which is equivalent to the minimum wage and 70% of Australia's median wage. The government expects half of Australia's employees will be subsidized.

The government will have to recall Parliament to approve the spending.

The measure brings total government economic support to response to the virus to AU\$320 billion, which is 16.4% of GDP.

Australia's banks announced on Monday that 98% of businesses with bank loans are eligible for a six-month deferral of repayments on loans worth AU\$250 billion.

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp. said Monday its auto plants in Europe will halt production, at least until April 20, because of the new coronavirus outbreak.

Its European plants are in France, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Turkey and Portugal.

All its plants in China resumed normal production Monday, spokeswoman Kayo Doi said. Japan's top automaker also stopped production in Russia, through Friday. It earlier halted assembly lines in North America and has partially shut down production in Japan, South America and parts of Asia.

BEIJING — China's National Health Commission on Monday reported 31 new COVID-19 cases, among them just one domestic infection while the others were individuals recently arrived from abroad.

As outbreaks have surged in the United States and the rest of the world, China's reported cases have dwindled four months after the then-unidentified illness first emerged in the central province of Hubei.

The country is now easing the last of the controls that confined tens of millions of people to their homes while they sought to contain the spread of the virus. At the peak of China's restrictions, some 700 million people were in areas covered by orders or official requests to stay home and limit activity.

The focus of China's prevention measures has shifted to overseas arrivals, who have made up the bulk of new infections for more than two weeks. Virtually all foreigners were barred from entering the country starting Saturday.

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nepal's government has extended the nationwide lockdown by a week in an attempt to stop the coronavirus spread.

A government notice said the lockdown imposed since last week would now last until April 7, shutting down businesses and major markets, and stopping transport. Flights are also halted until April 15.

A flight has been arranged to take stranded Americans back home on Tuesday. Another flight is planned for Wednesday to repatriate Australians to Sydney.

The government also banned import of alcohol, luxury vehicles and gold while ordering rent and school fees to be waived for a month.

Nepal has reported five confirmed cases, including one person who has recovered from it.

PORTLAND, Ore. -- President Donald Trump has approved a major disaster declaration for Oregon due to the coronavirus outbreak, the White House announced Sunday.

The declaration orders federal assistance to aid state, tribal and local recovery efforts. The order is back-dated to Jan. 20 and brings to 18 the number of states with disaster declarations due to the coronavirus.

Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency on March 8. On March 23, she issued an executive order directing residents to stay home to the maximum extent possible and ordered the closure of retail businesses where close personal contact is difficult to avoid, such as hair salons, gyms and theaters.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An outbreak of the new coronavirus at a Tennessee nursing home has spread to dozens more of its residents and staff members, the governor's office said. A hospital said without elabo-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 37 of 68

rating that a total of two of the residents have died.

Tests results released Sunday show 59 additional residents of the Gallatin Center for Rehabilitation and Healing northeast of Nashville tested positive, while 33 staff members with confirmed cases were isolated at their homes, the governor's office statement said.

Sumner Regional Medical Center said 42 patients from the nursing home have been admitted in isolation after some tested positive for the virus, while the 59 additional residents were to be transported there by Monday. A hospital statement did not disclose whether the two nursing home patients who died had tested positive for coronavirus.

The nursing home is being closed for a deep cleaning, with dozens of noncritical patients being transported to three other hospitals.

**WASHINGTON** — Officials in the nation's capital announced four new deaths and 59 new positive infections from the coronavirus Sunday. That brings the totals to eight deaths and 401 infections.

Among the dead last week was a senior member of Mayor Muriel Bowser's staff. Bowser has declared a state of emergency, shuttered all schools and ordered all non-essential businesses to close. White House and Capitol tours have been canceled and the National Zoo, Smithsonian museum network and Kennedy Center have closed.

Police have blocked off dozens of streets, bridges and traffic circles to prevent crowds coming to see Washington's signature blooming cherry blossom trees.

**PANAMA CITY** — The Panama Canal Authority says two cruise ships carrying more than 1,800 passengers and crew, including some infected with COVID-19, had begun transiting the canal.

The announcement came after the passengers on the Zaandam and its sister ship the Rotterdam received mixed signals about their fate. While Panamanian officials said they would let the ships through the canal, Holland America Lines said it had not been given official permission and the mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said he didn't want it to dock near his city as planned, at least without extensive precautions.

On Sunday evening, the canal authority released a statement saying the ships had started transiting the canal.

Holland America Lines said Friday that four people aboard the Zaandam had died — though the cause was not reported — and at least two had tested positive for COVID-19. It has been at sea since leaving Argentina on March 7.

**SYDNEY** — Paramedics evacuated three crew members from a cruise ship that has become Australia's largest source of the new coronavirus.

New South Wales state Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant said on Monday the three patients are not Australian citizens and were taken from the Ruby Princess to a Sydney hospital with the help of water police.

Authorities have been criticized for allowing 2,700 passengers and crew to disembark when the ship docked in Sydney on March 19 despite COVID-19 test results remaining unknown.

Many of the passengers traveled interstate and overseas before the health risk was known.

More than 300 people have contracted the virus from the ship, including two women, aged 77 and 75, who died.

More than 1,100 crew remain on board in quarantine.

Ruby Princess' owner Carnival Corp. said in a statement the three crew members were suffering acute respiratory symptoms.

**SEOUL**, South Korea -- South Korea has reported 78 new cases of the coronavirus and six more deaths, bringing its totals to 9,661 infections and 158 fatalities.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday at least 476 infections so far have been linked to recent arrivals from abroad with most of them being detected over the past two weeks.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 38 of 68

South Korea from Wednesday will enforce two-week quarantines for all passengers arriving from overseas as authorities scramble to prevent the virus from re-entering amid broadening outbreaks in Europe, North America and beyond.

The country had already enforced two-week quarantines on South Korean nationals and foreigners with long-term stay visas arriving from Europe and the United States.

**SALT LAKE** -- Former Utah House speaker and auto executive Robert Garff died Sunday of complications of COVID-19, his daughter said.

Rep. Melissa Garff Ballard, R-North Salt Lake, posted on Facebook: "My loving dad passed away peacefully today from COVID-19. He has lived a long and happy life, full of vigor and love for our state and our families."

Garff, 77, was the third Utah resident to die of the virus.

Garff was a prominent Utah businessman and chairman of the Ken Garff Automotive Group. He served as speaker of the Utah House from 1985 to 1987 and chaired the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Games.

**NEW YORK** — New York state surpassed a grim milestone Sunday as its death toll from the coronavirus outbreak climbed above 1,000, less than a month after the first case was detected in the state.

New York City reported in the evening that its toll had risen to 776. The total number of statewide deaths isn't expected to be released until Monday, but with at least 250 additional deaths recorded outside the city as of Sunday morning, the state's total fatalities was at least 1,026.

The virus has torn through New York with frightening speed.

The first known infection in the state was discovered on March 1. A second case was confirmed two days later.

The first fatality in the state was March 10.

Two days later, the state banned all gatherings of more than 500 people, darkening Broadway theaters and sports arenas. New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio closed New York City's schools March 15.

More severe restrictions came March 20, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all nonessential workers to stay home, barred gatherings of any size and instructed anyone out in public to stay at least 6 feet from other people. At the time, only 35 New Yorkers had been killed by the virus.

That was only nine days ago.

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — West Virginia has reported the state's first death linked to the new coronavirus pandemic.

The fatality involved an 88-year-old woman from Marion County, the Department of Health and Human Resources said in a news release. The statement said no further details would be released.

"We extend our sincere condolences to this family," DHHR Secretary Bill J. Crouch said in the statement.

West Virginia was the last U.S. state to report a confirmed case on March 17.

Hawaii and Wyoming are the only remaining states with no reported coronavirus deaths.

**NEW ORLEANS** — Orders closing many Louisiana businesses and keeping people home to slow the spread of COVID-19 "may well" have to be extended past April 13, Gov. John Bel Edwards says.

Edwards and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell spoke to reporters at a briefing that was livestreamed from outside the city's convention center, which is being transformed into a 1,000-bed hospital.

That hospital, for recovering patients who no longer need ventilators or intensive care, will open by April 5, as will a nearby 250-bed center for some people awaiting test results, Edwards said.

**WASHINGTON** — President Donald Trump says Congress should re-convene if some Americans don't get their coronavirus stimulus money because of antiquated state computer systems that aren't equipped to quickly handle the volume of federal money being sent to workers.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 39 of 68

He says he wanted the money to be distributed by the federal government, but his opponents wanted it distributed through existing state unemployment systems.

Trump told reporters at Sunday's White House briefing on the virus that if Americans don't get their money quickly, he's going to call for Congress to reconvene or find other ways to distribute the money.

He says the federal government is equipped to quickly distribute money from the mammoth, \$2.2 trillion stimulus package to shore up the U.S. economy.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is extending federal guidelines recommending people stay home and away from one another for another 30 days as the coronavirus continues to spread across the country.

Trump made the announcement during a Rose Garden briefing. The guidelines, originally tagged as "15 days to slow the spread" had been set to expire Monday.

Trump had said last week he hoped to have the country "re-opened" by Easter. But public health experts sounded the alarm, saying a rollback would speed transmission, making the situation worse.

The federal guidelines recommend that older people and those with preexisting conditions stay home and away from other people, and also recommend that all Americans avoid social gatherings, work from home and steer clear of bars and restaurants.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says two health insurers are waiving patient payments for coronavirus treatment.

Both Cigna and Humana won't require many of their customers to make copayments or other forms of cost sharing for COVID-19 care. Health care providers would be reimbursed at the insurers' in-network rates or Medicare rates.

Cigna said the waived payments would begin Monday and continue through May 31.

The moves could save those patients thousands of dollars, depending on their coverage and how much health care they've used so far this year, for treatment for the coronavirus. They come after Aetna last week announced payment waivers for patients for hospital stays tied to the coronavirus.

WILMINGTON, Del. — Delaware's governor has issued an order telling out-of-state visitors to self-quarantine for two weeks.

The order by Gov. John Carney takes effect Monday morning and requires anyone entering the state from elsewhere to self-quarantine for 14 days. It does not apply to people who are only passing through the state.

"Now's not the time to visit Delaware. We're facing a serious situation here that is getting worse," Carney said in a statement.

Those who disobey the order, which has some exceptions for health care workers and other essential tasks, could face criminal charges.

Statewide, health officials say there are more than 200 coronavirus cases and 31 hospitalizations as of Sunday morning.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump gets a reality check on coronavirus

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For weeks, President Donald Trump carved out a trail of groundless assurances about the coronavirus pandemic as health officials, governors and local officials sounded alarm about what was coming — and already here. That sunlit trail now has hit a wall.

On Sunday, Trump appeared to be bracing the country for a grim death toll as he accepted the advice of public-health experts and gave up on letting federal social-distance guidelines lapse Monday as initially intended. In doing so, he acknowledged what his officials had told him — that 100,000 people or many more could die from COVID-19 in the U.S. before it's over. And he recognized it won't be over for some time.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 40 of 68

A look at some of his statements over the past week as a reality check caught up with him:

## NATIONAL SHUTDOWN

TRUMP: "I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter." — Fox News virtual town hall Tuesday.

TRUMP: "We have to open up our country, I'm sorry." — conference call with governors Tuesday, audio of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

THE FACTS: The public-health community, governors and many others knew when they heard Trump say this that a revival by Easter, April 12, was not going to happen. On Sunday, Trump extended the federal government's restrictive distancing recommendations until April 30. That may not be enough, either.

To be clear, the federal government did not close down the country and won't be reopening it. Restrictions on public gatherings, workplaces, mobility, store operations, schools and more were ordered by states and communities, not Washington. The federal government has imposed border controls; otherwise its social-distancing actions are mostly recommendations, not mandates.

On Sunday, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health cautioned that the virus outbreak could ultimately kill 100,000 to 200,000 Americans with possibly millions infected as it continues to surge across the nation. Trump shifted his tone and backed off trying to rush the country back to work and to normalcy in a matter of a few weeks.

TRUMP: "I mean, we have never closed the country before, and we have had some pretty bad flus, and we have had some pretty bad viruses." — Fox News virtual town hall Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's making a bad comparison.

The new coronavirus is not the same as the annual flu because it's a disease that hadn't been seen before in humans. For that reason, human populations lack immunity to the virus. It can spread unchecked, except by measures such as social distancing.

## VIRUS TESTING

TRUMP: "Over an eight day span, the United States now does more testing than what South Korea (which has been a very successful tester) does over an eight week span. Great job!" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The comparison with South Korea isn't very illuminating. The U.S. has more than six times the population of South Korea, about 330 million compared with about 50 million. Yet South Korea is testing about four times more people as a percentage of its population.

The two countries are also at different stages in their outbreaks. Daily case counts are rapidly rising in the U.S., where the coronavirus took hold later on. In South Korea, the curve has been leveling off.

The U.S. count is going up fast in part because the virus is spreading and in part because of a test shortage that lasted weeks, as well as a backlog in laboratories reporting results. In that time, Trump falsely asserted that anyone who wanted or needed to get the test could.

South Korea's coronavirus response has been marked by an emphasis on widespread testing that earned global praise. But even in that country the government is stressing social distancing measures because of worries the outbreak could pick up again.

## HOW DEADLY?

TRUMP on the death rate from COVID-19: "I think it's substantially below 1%, because the people don't report." — Fox News interview Thursday.

THE FACTS: No one knows the death rate. Fauci says it may end up being roughly 1%. If that turns out right, it would mean that the disease is 10 times deadlier than the average seasonal flu, with its death rate of about 0.1%. Fauci's estimate includes people whose cases are not reported.

## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "In Canada we do have troops along the border." — news briefing Thursday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 41 of 68

THE FACTS: No, the U.S. has not sent troops to police the mutual closing of the Canada-U.S. border to nonessential, noncommercial traffic. The border is controlled on both sides by nonmilitary entry stations. "Canada and the United States have the longest unmilitarized border in the world and it is very much in both of our interests for it to remain that way," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday.

TRUMP: "We're the ones that gave the great response, and we're the ones that kept China out of here. ... If I didn't do that early call on China — and nobody wanted that to happen. Everybody thought it was just unnecessary to do it." — news briefing Wednesday.

TRUMP: "Everybody was against it. Almost everybody, I would say, was just absolutely against it. ... I made a decision to close off to China that was weeks early. ... And I must say, doctors — nobody wanted to make that decision at the time." — Fox News virtual town hall Tuesday.

TRUMP: "I'll tell you how prepared I was, I called for a ban." — news briefing on March 19.

THE FACTS: His decision was far from solo, nor was it made over opposition from health experts, as the White House coronavirus task force makes clear. His decision followed a consensus by his public health advisers that the restrictions should take place.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who was coordinator of the task force at the time and announced the travel restrictions, said Trump made the decision in late January after accepting the "uniform recommendation of the career public health officials here at HHS."

While the World Health Organization did advise against the overuse of travel restrictions, Azar told reporters in February that his department's career health officials had made a "considered recommendation, which I and the president adopted" in a bid to slow spread of the virus.

Most major airlines had already suspended flights to China prior to the announcement on Jan. 31, following the lead of several major international carriers that had stopped due to the coronavirus outbreak. Delta, American and United cited a sharp drop in demand for the flights, and an earlier State Department advisory told Americans not to travel to China because of the outbreak.

TRUMP, on the early China travel restrictions: "And if we didn't do that, thousands and thousands of people would have died." — news briefing Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The impact hasn't been quantified. While Fauci has praised the travel restrictions on China for slowing the virus, it's not known how big an impact they had or if "thousands and thousands" of lives were saved.

There were plenty of gaps in containment.

Trump's order did not fully "close" the U.S. off to China, as he asserts. It temporarily barred entry by foreign nationals who had traveled in China within the previous 14 days, with exceptions for the immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Americans returning from China were allowed back after enhanced screening at select ports of entry and for 14 days afterward. But U.S. scientists say screenings can miss people who don't yet show symptoms of COVID-19; while symptoms often appear within five days or six days of exposure, the incubation period is 14 days.

A recent study from the journal Science found China's internal crackdown modestly delayed the spread of the virus. It cast doubt that travel restrictions elsewhere will do much compared with other preventive measures, citing in part the likelihood that a large number of people exposed to the virus had already been traveling internationally without being detected.

For weeks after the first U.S. case of the coronavirus was confirmed in January, government missteps caused a shortage of reliable laboratory tests for the coronavirus, leading to delays in diagnoses.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP on the economic hit: "I don't think its going to end up being such a rough patch." — briefing Wednesday.

THE FACTS: His optimism is a stretch.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 42 of 68

Even in a best case — the pandemic subsides relatively quickly and economic growth and jobs come back without a long lag — some damage is done. The \$2.2 trillion federal rescue package, equal to half the size of the entire federal budget, means record debt on top of the record debt that existed before the crisis.

Why is too much debt bad? A report this month by the Congressional Budget Office says that over time, the growth in the government's debt can dampen economic output and progressively reduce the income of U.S. households, among other "significant risks to the nation's fiscal and economic outlook."

That said, the global markets consider this a good time for the U.S. government to borrow. With interest on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note at 0.75%, investors are offering to loan money to the federal government at a loss after accounting for inflation.

Meantime the longest economic expansion in U.S. history is surely over. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell says: "We may well be in a recession."

## DRUG TREATMENTS

TRUMP, on the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine: "I want to thank the FDA because they approved it immediately, based on the fact that it was already out for a different purpose. They approved it immediately." — news briefing Friday.

TRUMP: "Clinical trials in New York will begin ... for existing drugs that may prove effective against the virus. ... The hydroxychloroquine and the Z-Pak, I think as a combination, probably, is looking very, very good. And it's going to be distributed. ... And I think a lot of people are going to be — hopefully — they're going to be very happy with the results." — news briefing on March 23.

THE FACTS: For days Trump inflated the prospects for a quick treatment or cure for COVID-19. This is one example. No drugs have been approved as a treatment, cure, preventive medicine or vaccine for the disease, and public health officials say not to expect anything imminently.

Technically, doctors can already prescribe the malaria drug to patients with COVID-19, a practice known as off-label prescribing. But Trump falsely suggested to reporters that the FDA had just cleared the drug specifically for the viral pandemic spreading in communities across the U.S. That would mean that the drug had met the FDA's standards for safety and effectiveness.

Although research studies are beginning on using hydroxychloroquine specifically to treat the coronavirus, scientists urge caution about whether the drugs will live up to Trump's promises.

Dr. Michelle Gong, a critical care chief at New York's Montefiore Medical Center, told the Journal of the American Medical Association that it is imperative for doctors to do careful studies of drugs such as chloroquine to make sure they actually work, rather than just administering them to patients because they have nothing else to offer. Without that proof, "it is very easy for us to do more harm," she said.

So far there is very little data to go on, mostly anecdotal reports from some other countries. But test tube studies in laboratories suggest the drugs may interfere with the coronavirus being able to enter cells. U.S. cardiologists have been warned by colleagues in China to be alert for side effects in heart patients.

In Arizona, an older couple experienced disastrous results when they took an additive used to clean fish tanks, chloroquine phosphate. The husband died and his wife was in critical condition. That prompted a major Phoenix health system to warn the public against self-medicating.

Trump's mention of a Z-Pak is a reference to azithromycin, an antibiotic. Antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses, but people severely ill with viral pneumonia sometimes develop secondary bacterial infections. When there are signs of that, hospitals already are using antibiotics. It's part of standard supportive care for severe pneumonia.

Associated Press writers Luran Neergaard, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Josh Boak and Matthew Perrone in Washington and Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 43 of 68

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## What to know about the coronavirus numbers in New York

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The official statistics reported by health authorities would seem to show that the United States has more coronavirus infections than any other country and that the New York caseloads exceed any other state.

But the true statistics are far from clear.

Reporting and testing vary so much from country to country and state to state that it's hard to know the exact size of the outbreaks, and that is especially the case in New York.

Here are some facts about the numbers:

### THE MOST TESTS

In the U.S., New York has about 45% of the nation's more than 125,000 cases, according to statistics posted Sunday by Johns Hopkins University researchers tracking global coronavirus trends.

But New York has been doing more testing than anywhere else in the country, causing its coronavirus numbers to skew higher.

### IT'S STILL BAD

The widespread testing doesn't change the fact that the outbreak is worse in New York than anywhere else in the U.S.

The state has recorded more than 1,000 deaths, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Sunday. No other state comes close to that.

Health experts pointed to the size and density of the nation's biggest city as a likely factor, as well as its status as an international business center and travel hub.

It may have hit New York earlier too. The state probably saw infections before any other part of the country simply because the city draws more travelers from countries that had bad outbreaks earlier.

### TESTING SICK PEOPLE

Another reason why confirmed cases don't tell the full story is the fact that testing standards differ by location.

In New York City, for example, authorities have ordered doctors only to test people who are seriously ill and might require hospitalization. Other places do more widespread testing.

Deborah Birx, who coordinates the White House outbreak response, said last week that hat 28% of tests in the New York metro have come back positive, compared with 8% in the rest of the country.

That means the toll of the New York outbreak could be significantly worse than the confirmed cases suggest.

---

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

## Grandma is gone: Coronavirus keeps kids from older family

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A few weeks ago, Debbie Cameron saw her grandsons most days, playing the piano, making after-school snacks or singing nursery rhymes with the baby in her Chandler, Arizona, home.

Then the coronavirus crisis hit and the boys were suddenly gone. Cameron is 68 and has asthma, making her one of the people most at risk of getting seriously ill or dying. Now she sees her grandchildren from behind the glass of a window or a phone screen.

"Looking at them through the window and not being able hug them, it's just a dang killer," she said.

For grandparents all over the world, being protected from the pandemic has meant a piercing distance

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 44 of 68

from their loved ones. While children don't seem to be getting seriously ill as often, they can be infected and spread the virus. It's been a jolting change for many.

Cameron and her husband, both retired teachers, usually watch their older grandchildren, aged 8 and 11, after school and their 7-month-old baby grandson four times a week. One of their three daughters is due to have another child in July.

But as the effects of coronavirus spread, the family decided that caring for the boys was too risky. While most people who catch the disease suffer from symptoms like fever and cough and recover in a few weeks, some get severely ill with things like pneumonia. COVID-19 can be fatal, and older people who have underlying conditions like Cameron are the most vulnerable.

So instead of chasing after little boys, she's doing puzzles, listening to old radio shows or watching the Hallmark channel, trying to fill the hours in her much-quieter house. "I just go day by day, and when the dark thoughts come in I try and do something to take them away," she said. "I cry. Sometimes I cry."

Still, she feels lucky doesn't have to leave the house to work, and that she has close family ties. Sometimes she re-reads a letter her mother wrote her father while he was deployed to the Philippines during World War II, laying out her raw emotions about how much she missed him as she cared for their first child without him. "My mother is a really strong woman, and in this one she was struggling," she said. "If my mom did that, I can do this."

The sudden change has been challenging for kids' parents too, many of whom are trying to work from home and balance childcare. Cameron's daughter Julie Bufkin is at home with her 7-month old son Calvin, working from home as a project coordinator at Arizona State University while her husband goes into the office as an analytical chemist for Intel.

She's been taking webcam calls and answering emails while breastfeeding the baby and trying to keep him entertained, even after coming down with a fever and headache, symptoms similar to the new coronavirus. In line with the advice of public-health officials, she stayed at home to recover and wasn't tested for the virus, since she's young and healthy and didn't become seriously ill. She's now on the mend, but it only deepened her mother's feelings of helplessness.

"Imagine if your child is sick you can't go help them," Cameron said. "That's the hardest part."

But for her daughter, it further confirmed that staying physically separate for now is the right decision.

"We want my mom to survive this," Bufkin said.

And the grandparents can still step in remotely — Bufkin sets up a phone or a tablet in Calvin's playpen, where they can sing songs, show him around the yard, look at the cat or play piano over FaceTime.

"Anything we can, even five to 10 minutes to give her a little rest. That makes my day," Cameron said.

They're only 5 miles (eight kilometers) away in suburban Phoenix, and for a time Bufkin was dropping off food weekly, then touching hands or exchanging kisses through the window. More often, they're sharing their lives through a phone or tablet screen.

The baby watches his grandparents on the screen, looking up from his own games to smile and laugh at his grandpa or focus on his grandmother playing the saxophone.

Other grandparents are also looking for moments of brightness. They're replacing chats on the porch with friends with Facebook conversations, or connecting with church congregations through video-messaging apps like Marco Polo.

Others are turning the technological clock back. Margret Boes-Ingraham, 72, used to drive her 14-year-old granddaughter to choir practice a few times a week near Salt Lake City, then stay to listen to her sing. Without those rides spent listening to show tunes, she's encouraging her granddaughter to keep a journal.

"I asked her if I could read, and she said no!" Boes-Ingraham said with a laugh.

For grandparents who live alone, hunkering down during the crisis can increase their isolation. Terry Catucci is a 69-year-old retired social worker and recovering alcoholic of 30 years in Maryland. She has seven grandchildren nearby in the Washington, D.C., area including a 5-year-old and a 1-year-old who she helps care for sometimes. She tries not to think about the little changes she's missing during the years when children seem to grow every day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 45 of 68

"When you're in a time of crisis, you want to be with people you love, and we can't," she said. "I've run the whole gamut of the five stages of grief at any given day."

But she's getting by, talking with her family and checking in daily with her Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor. Every night, neighbors in her retirement community set up lawn chairs at the end of driveways to chat with friends walking by at a safe distance.

"We're all learning how to survive in this time," she said, "to live a little bit the best we can."

## Trump extends virus guidelines, braces US for big death toll

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bracing the nation for a death toll that could exceed 100,000 people, President Donald Trump on Sunday extended restrictive social distancing guidelines through April, bowing to public-health experts who presented him with even more dire projections for the expanding coronavirus pandemic.

It was a stark shift in tone by the president, who only days ago mused about the country reopening in a few weeks. From the Rose Garden, he said his Easter revival hopes had only been "aspirational."

The initial 15-day period of social distancing urged by the federal government expires Monday and Trump had expressed interest in relaxing the national guidelines at least in parts of the country less afflicted by the pandemic. He instead decided to extend them through April 30, a tacit acknowledgment he'd been too optimistic. Many states and local governments have stiffer controls in place on mobility and gatherings.

Trump's impulse to reopen the country met a sober reality check Sunday from Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, who said the U.S. could experience more than 100,000 deaths and millions of infections from the pandemic. That warning hardened a recognition in Washington that the struggle against the coronavirus will not be resolved quickly even as Trump expressed a longing for normalcy.

"I want our life back again," the president told reporters.

Trump, who has largely avoided talk of potential death and infection rates, cited projection models that said potentially 2.2 million people or more could have died had social distancing measures not been put in place. And he said the country would be doing well if it "can hold" the number of deaths "down to 100,000." He said the best case for the country would be for the death rate to peak in about two weeks.

"It's a horrible number," Trump said, but added, "We all together have done a very good job."

Brought forward by Trump at the outdoor briefing, Fauci said his projection of a potential 100,000 to 200,000 deaths is "entirely conceivable" if not enough is done to mitigate the crisis. He said that helped shape the extension of the guidelines, which he called "a wise and prudent decision."

Americans are now being called on to prepare for another 30 days of severe economic and social disruption, as schools and businesses are closed and public life is upended. One in 3 Americans remain under state or local government orders to stay at home to slow the spread of the virus.

Trump acknowledged that he may be forced to extend the guidelines again at the end of April, but expressed hope that by June 1, "we should be well on our way to recovery."

The federal guidelines recommend against group gatherings larger than 10 and urge older people and anyone with existing health problems to stay home. People are urged to work at home when possible and avoid restaurants, bars, non-essential travel and shopping trips.

For more than a week, Trump had been bombarded by calls from outside business leaders who urged him to begin re-opening the nation's economy and warned of catastrophic consequences that could damage his re-election chances if it remained shuttered for much longer.

"The president is right. The cure can't be worse than the disease, and we're going to have to make some difficult trade-offs," Trump's top economic adviser Larry Kudlow had said last Monday, reflecting the thinking of his economic team.

That talk alarmed health experts, who urged Trump to keep encouraging people to stay home. The virus was still spreading, with the peak still weeks away, the experts warned.

In the end, Trump, in the face of dire projections and increasingly alarming images out of New York,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 46 of 68

sided with his health experts and backed off the idea of loosening recommended restrictions on less impacted parts of the country.

"They're the best in the profession and they didn't like that idea," he said of Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, head of the White House coronavirus task force.

Trump was clearly moved by the scenes from New York, particularly hard-hit Elmhurst Hospital in his native Queens.

"I've been watching that for the last week on television," he said. "Body bags all over, in hallways. I've been watching them bring in trailer trucks — freezer trucks, they're freezer trucks, because they can't handle the bodies, there are so many of them. This is essentially in my community, in Queens, Queens, New York," he continued. "I've seen things that I've never seen before."

Phasing out the recommendations would have been a symbolic nod to business and an affront to public health experts, but may have had little practical impact. States across the country already have their own restrictions in place that, in many cases, are far stricter than the administration's, and those would have remained in place.

Birx and Fauci said even those areas yet to face a significant outbreak must prepare for the eventuality that they will.

"This can happen anywhere," Fauci said. "And that's really one of the issues that we're concerned about and why we were so reluctant to pull back at a time when we need to put our foot on the gas as opposed to on the brake."

The U.S. had more than 139,000 COVID-19 cases reported by Sunday evening, with more than 2,400 deaths. During the course of the Rose Garden briefing, reported deaths grew by several dozen and the number of cases by several thousand.

Most people who contract COVID-19 have mild or moderate symptoms, which can include fever and cough but also milder cases of pneumonia, sometimes requiring hospitalization. The risk of death is greater for older adults and people with other health problems. Hospitals in the most afflicted areas are straining to handle patients and some are short of critical supplies.

Fauci's prediction would take the death toll well past that of the average seasonal flu. Trump repeatedly cited the flu's comparatively much higher cost in lives in playing down the severity of this pandemic.

Trump's change in tone was previewed Saturday, when the president suggested then backed away from instituting an "enforceable" quarantine of hard-hit New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. Instead, the White House task force recommended a travel advisory for residents of those states to limit non-essential travel to slow the spread of the virus to other parts of the U.S.

The quarantine notion was strongly opposed by the governors of those states, who argued it would cause panic.

Even as he opted against the quarantine, Trump on Sunday suggested without evidence that hospitals and hospital systems were "hoarding" ventilators and other medical supplies that were needed in other areas of the state. He also encouraged the Food and Drug Administration to streamline approvals for companies seeking to sanitize badly needed respirators so they can be reused.

For weeks, Trump minimized the gravity of the pandemic, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday accused Trump of "denial" in the crisis and called it "deadly."

Asked whether she believes that attitude cost American lives, Pelosi told CNN: "Yes, I am. I'm saying that."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, said he wouldn't go so far as to lay the blame for deaths on the president. "I think that's a little too harsh," he told NBC.

## Sesame Workshop enlists Elmo, Cookie Monster on hand washing

By The Associated Press *undefined*

NEW YORK (AP) — Elmo, Rooster and Cookie Monster are doing their part to help keep kids safe as the coronavirus pandemic grinds on.

The beloved Sesame Street Muppets are featured in some of four new animated public service spots

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 47 of 68

reminding young fans to take care while doing such things as washing hands and sneezing.

One of Elmo's signature songs, the toothbrush classic "Brushy Brush," has been updated to "Washy Wash." Rooster pops up in another of the 30-second spots to remind kids to "wash hands now" before eating, playing sports or using the bathroom.

The new content on [SesameStreet.org/caring](https://www.sesamestreet.org/caring) builds on last week's launch of Sesame Workshop's Caring for Each Other initiative to help families stay physically and mentally healthy during the health crisis. The overall project ranges from messages of comfort to learning activities in reading, math and science.

The new spots will be distributed globally in 19 languages through partners that include HBO, PBS Kids, YouTube and the Ad Council.

"As families around the world adjust to their new realities, parents and caregivers are looking for help in creating new routines, staying healthy and fostering learning at home while little ones are out of school," Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, senior vice president of curriculum and content at Sesame Workshop, said in a statement.

The workshop will continue to roll out new resources for parents and caregivers on creating new routines, fostering playful learning at home and managing anxiety. Families can also watch Sesame Street episodes on HBO, PBS stations and the PBS KIDS 24/7 live stream. Free on-demand episodes of "Sesame Street" are offered on PBS KIDS digital platforms, along with more than 110 free "Sesame Street" e-books on all major e-book platforms.

Online: <https://www.sesamestreet.org/caring>

## As virus makes goodbyes hard, fears of many more rise in US

By **MATT SEDENSKY, MICHAEL R. SISK and STEFANIE DAZIO** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The coronavirus outbreak could kill 100,000 to 200,000 Americans, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert warned on Sunday as family members described wrenching farewells through hospital windows with dying loved ones.

Faced with that grim projection and the possibility even more could die in the U.S. without measures to keep people away from one another, President Donald Trump extended federal guidelines recommending people stay home for another 30 days until the end of April to prevent the spread of the virus.

Trump's extension of the original 15-day guidelines was a stark reversal just days after he said he hoped the economy could restart in about two weeks and came after Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made the dire prediction of fatalities, adding that millions in the U.S. could become infected.

"We want to make sure that we don't prematurely think we're doing so great," Fauci said of the extension of the federal guidelines.

By Sunday night, the U.S. had over 140,000 infections and 2,400 deaths, according to the running tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the true number of cases is thought to be considerably higher because of testing shortages and mild illnesses that have gone unreported.

Worldwide, more than 720,000 people have been infected and nearly 34,000 have died, almost half of them in Italy and Spain, where the health system is at the breaking point.

New York state — where the death toll passed 1,000 — remained the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, with the vast majority of the deaths in New York City. But infections were spiking not only in cities but in Midwestern towns and Rocky Mountain ski havens. West Virginia reported its first death, leaving only two states — Hawaii and Wyoming — with none linked to COVID-19.

The virus is moving fast through nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other places that house elderly or otherwise vulnerable people, spreading "like fire through dry grass," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Since the first major outbreak in the U.S. — at a nursing home in Kirkland, Washington — similar facilities around the country have battled infections among residents and staff.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 48 of 68

A week ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 147 nursing homes in 27 states had patients with COVID-19. The problem has only worsened since.

In Woodbridge, New Jersey, a nursing home relocated all of its residents after two dozen were confirmed infected and the rest were presumed to be. In Louisiana, at least 11 nursing homes, largely in the New Orleans area, have reported cases. In Mount Airy, Maryland, a death linked to the virus was recorded in a home where 66 people were confirmed infected. The Tennessee governor's office said a nursing home there had about 60 residents and 33 workers confirmed positive.

Residents' loved ones are being kept away to try to slow the spread.

Willa Robinson, whose husband, Vernon, died Thursday, said she last saw him healthy on March 13 — the day before his nursing home in Burbank, California, prohibited visitors. She brought him his favorite meal of baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes and carrots and left with their customary farewell.

"I love you," she told him. "I love you more," he replied.

She sat outside his hospital room days ago and watched through a glass window as he struggled to breathe. Now she must mourn her husband of 55 years in isolation.

"Nobody can come to me," she said.

Others feared they may get no goodbye.

"I have a feeling that I very likely may never see my mother again," said James Preller, whose 94-year-old mother, Ann Preller, is a resident at Peconic Landing, a retirement community on New York's Long Island where seven have died recently.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, the virus can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia and can be fatal.

In New York, the virus is overwhelming some of the city's poorest neighborhoods, with data showing high rates of infection in densely packed areas with big non-English-speaking populations.

Dr. Craig Smith, who heads the surgery department at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, said the hospital will probably be forced into "apocalyptic scenarios" in the coming weeks in which ventilators and intensive care unit beds will need to be rationed.

Trump spoke of the haunting images he had seen on television this week of bodies being removed from Elmhurst Hospital in his native Queens and put in large refrigerated trucks.

"Body bags all over, in hallways," Trump said. "I've seen things that I've never seen before."

New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio asked the federal government to deliver 400 more ventilators and warned that the city will run out of masks, gowns and other supplies in a week if they don't get reinforcements.

Worry for the poorest was being echoed around the world.

In India, a lockdown covering the country's 1.3 billion people has put day laborers out of work and families struggling to eat. With no jobs, those living in the country's crowded cities are walking back to their native villages. Women in saris held babies on their hips. Others toted their belongings in bags normally used for cement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologized for the hardships but said, "These tough measures were needed to win this battle."

Though the U.S. has the most reported cases, five countries have higher death tolls: Italy, Spain, China, Iran and France.

Italy reported more than 750 new fatalities Sunday, raising its total to nearly 10,800. But the number of new infections showed signs of easing, with officials expressing cautious optimism that the most severe shutdown in the industrialized West is showing results.

Italy's civil protection agency said more than 5,200 new cases were recorded in the last 24 hours, the lowest number in four days, for a total of almost 98,000 infections.

Spain moved to tighten its lockdown and ban all nonessential work as it hit another daily record of almost 840 dead. The country's overall official toll was more than 6,500.

Egypt shut its beaches as cases in the Mideast surpassed 50,000. Police in the Philippines stepped up



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 49 of 68

arrests of quarantine violators, and more tourists were evacuated from Mount Everest and the Indonesian island of Bali.

Russia ordered borders to close on Monday, Moscow all but confined its 12 million residents to their homes, and the head of the Russian Orthodox called on believers to stay away from churches and pray at home instead.

A prominent French politician with the virus died, the country's first death of a senior official.

Restrictions that would have been unthinkable weeks ago have been imposed in Europe and elsewhere. Parisians are fined if they try to leave the city, South Africans can't buy liquor, and Serbians are upset over a ban on walking their dogs. In Italy, burials are being held with only one family member.

As others tightened controls, China continued to ease its restrictions: Flights from Hubei province at the epicenter of the country's outbreak resumed Sunday. The focus of China's prevention measures has shifted to overseas arrivals, who have made up the bulk of new infections for more than two weeks. Virtually all foreigners are now barred from entering the country.

Sedensky reported from Philadelphia. Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Joseph Wilson in Madrid; Colleen Barry in Milan; Angela Charlton in Paris; Joe McDonald in Beijing; Geir Moulson in Berlin; Vanessa Gera in Warsaw; Jacquelyn Martin in Mount Airy, Maryland; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina; and Marina Villeneuve in Albany, New York.

This story has been updated to correct that Hawaii and Wyoming are the only remaining states with no reported deaths linked to the coronavirus, not Hawaii and Montana.

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Asian shares extend losses as toll from pandemic surges

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian shares started the week with fresh losses as countries reported surging numbers of infections from the coronavirus that has prompted shutdowns of travel and business in many parts of the world.

Japan's benchmark dropped almost 4% and other regional markets were mostly lower. Shares in Australia rose after the government promised more recession-fighting stimulus.

U.S. futures fell slightly more than 1% and oil prices also were lower.

Monday's drop followed a decline of more than 3% on Wall Street on Friday despite hopes that a \$2 trillion relief bill would ease the economic havoc brought by the pandemic. The S&P 500 still gained 10.3% last week, its biggest weekly win since 2009. The Dow Jones Industrial Average's 12.8% weekly gain was its biggest since 1938. But the market is still down 25% from the peak it reached a month ago.

The U.S. pandemic relief bill approved by the Congress and signed Friday by President Donald Trump includes direct payments to households, aid to hard-hit industries like airlines and support for small businesses. Despite the help, analysts expect markets to remain turbulent until the outbreak begins to wane.

"Sentiment once again took a turn for the worse going into a week of reckoning by means of economic fundamentals," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary. "The rally seen for Wall Street last week may amount to little more but a relief rally with sentiment turning sour once again going into a fresh week."

Early Monday, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 dropped 3.7% to 18,680.72 and the Kospi in South Korea lost 2.3% to 1,678.51. The Shanghai Composite shed 1.6% to 2,728.65, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 1.8% to 23,070.19.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 2.3% to 4,955.70 as the government prepared to announce fresh economic support measures for businesses.

The push to deliver financial relief has gained urgency as the outbreak widens. The number of cases in

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 50 of 68

the U.S. has now surpassed those in China and Italy, climbing to more than 142,000 known cases, according to Johns Hopkins University. The worldwide total has topped 721,000, and the death toll has climbed to nearly 34,000, while more than 151,000 have recovered.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, or death.

The damage to corporate profits, the ultimate driver of stock prices, remains uncertain. Very few companies have dared to issue forecasts capturing the damage, though traders are girding for discouraging results in the next few weeks as earnings reporting season begins. Many companies have simply withdrawn their profit forecasts altogether.

At the start of this year, analysts expected S&P 500 companies' earnings would grow 4.4% in the January-March quarter. They now expect earnings will be down 4.1%, according to FactSet.

Earnings for airlines, which have been hit by lost bookings as businesses and individuals canceled travel plans to minimize their risk of contracting the virus, are expected to be catastrophic. Delta went from an expected 2.2% decline to a 108% plunge.

The S&P 500 lost 3.4% on Friday to 2,541.47. The Dow slid 4.1%, to 21,636.78. The Nasdaq lost 3.8% to 7,502.38. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks fell 4.1%, to 1,131.99.

The price of crude oil also declined on Monday. U.S. benchmark crude dropped 5.1% or \$1.11 to \$20.40 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It slid 4.8% to close at \$21.51 a barrel on Friday. Goldman Sachs has forecast that it will fall well below \$20 a barrel in the next two months because storage will be filled to the brim and wells will have to be shut in.

Brent crude, the international standard, gave up 4.6% or \$1.28 to \$26.67 per barrel.

Lower oil prices spell trouble for energy companies, which are lagging far behind the rest of the market. The price of oil has plunged recently, in part due to a price war that broke out early this month between Saudi Arabia and Russia. The energy sector of the S&P 500 has lost half its value this year.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 0.65% from 0.68% late Friday. Lower yields reflect dimmer expectations for economic growth and greater demand for low-risk assets.

In currency trading, the dollar was at 107.23 Japanese yen, down from 107.94 late Friday. The euro weakened to \$1.1091 from \$1.1142.

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

By The Associated Press undefined

President Donald Trump on Sunday extended the country's voluntary national shutdown for a month, significantly changing his tone on the coronavirus pandemic only days after musing about the country reopening in a few weeks. He heeded public-health experts who told him the virus could claim over 100,000 lives in the U.S., perhaps more, if not enough is done to fight it.

COVID-19 continues its relentless spread, as the daily number of infections worldwide continues to jump sharply. World Health Organization figures show the increase in new infections is now about 70,000 per day - up from about 50,000 just days ago. More than 32,000 people have died worldwide. The U.S. had over 139,000 infections and 2,400 deaths, a running tally by a prominent university showed Sunday evening.

Italy reported more than 750 new deaths Sunday, bringing the country's total to nearly 10,800 - vastly more than any other country. But the number of new infections showed signs of narrowing again. Officials said more than 5,200 new cases were recorded in the last 24 hours, the lowest number in four days, for a total of almost 98,000 infections.

Here are some of AP's top stories Saturday on the world's coronavirus pandemic. Follow APNews.com/VirusOutbreak for updates through the day and APNews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak for stories explaining some of its complexities.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— The mammoth, \$2.2 trillion stimulus package to shore up the U.S. economy during the coronavirus

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 51 of 68

pandemic doesn't provide what doctors, nurses and other health care providers need most: protective equipment.

— New York state's death toll from the outbreak climbed above 1,000 on Sunday, less than a month after the disease was first detected in the state. New York state accounts for more than 40% of U.S. deaths from COVID-19.

— Risk factors other than age are becoming more apparent. As much as 10% to 15% of people under 50 have moderate to severe symptoms, according to the World Health Organization.

— German Chancellor Angela Merkel's handling of the coronavirus crisis meets with strong approval in her country.

— Coronavirus pandemic causes tensions in the hard-hit European Union.

— Impoverished Somalia has little in the way of health care to battle the coronavirus should the limited number of cases there rise.

— The family of John Prine says the American singer-songwriter is critically ill and has been placed on a ventilator while being treated for COVID-19-type symptoms.

— Parents who have to report to work are scrambling to find adequate child care.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. 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.

Misinformation overload: How to separate fact from fiction and rumor from deliberate efforts to mislead.

TRACKING THE VIRUS: Drill down and zoom in at the individual county level, and you can access numbers that will show you the situation where you are, and where loved ones or people you're worried about live.

## ONE NUMBER:

33: That's Andrea Napoli's age. The Rome lawyer was in top physical shape, thanks to regular workouts, including water polo training, when he tested positive for the coronavirus. He spent two days in intensive care and nine days breathing with an oxygen mask.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

SONG FOR AFRICA: Bobi Wine, a Ugandan pop singer and opposition leader, releases song to urge the continent of 1.3 billion people to wash their hands.

PIZZERIA HAILED: New Jersey pizzeria takes out a loan to pay workers' salaries, then finds more people eager to help.

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

## Instacart workers seek strike as jobs get busier, riskier

By ALEXANDRA OLSON AND CURT ANDERSON Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — A possible strike by Instacart workers highlights the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the grocery delivery business, where workers are worried about their safety as they try to meet a surge in demand for online groceries.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 52 of 68

A group called the Gig Workers Collective is calling for a nationwide walk-out Monday. They've been asking Instacart to provide workers with hazard pay and protective gear, among other demands. Instacart said Sunday it would soon provide workers with a new hand sanitizer upon request and outlined changes to its tip system. The group said the measures were too little too late.

While some workers say they intend to join the strike for at least a day — or have stopped filling orders already for fear of getting the virus — other, newer workers are content to have a paying job at a time of mass layoffs in other industries.

The San Francisco-based delivery app is trying to hire 300,000 more workers — more than doubling its workforce — to fulfill orders it says have surged by 150% year-over-year in the past weeks. The company said 50,000 new shoppers joined its platform in just the past week. Some customers are waiting days to receive orders.

Instacart currently has a workforce of more than 200,000 contracted workers who make multiple trips a day to various grocery stores to fulfill and deliver orders that customers make through the app. It also directly employs about 20,000 part-time workers who are assigned to a single store, collecting groceries that are subsequently delivered to clients by a contracted Instacart worker.

Chloe Grozdina, a part-time Instacart in-store shopper assigned to a Mariano's grocery store in the Chicago area, says workers are seeing "a lot of apocalypse orders" from customers hunkered down in their homes. Panic shopping has cleared out the shelves, meaning she often has to replace a customer's orders with a lesser item or notify them that it's not available.

Grozdina, who makes \$13 an hour and doesn't get tips, said the crowds of fellow Instacart shoppers have made it tough to keep a safe distance while racing to fulfill orders. Grozdina said she wears a mask to work that she bought herself and immediately showers when she gets home.

Among their demands, the strike organizers want hazard pay of \$5 an order and supplies of hand sanitizer, wipes and cleaning supplies free of charge. On Sunday, the company said it had contracted with a third-party manufacturer to make a hand sanitizer spray that workers can request at no cost via a website starting Monday, with shipments starting in a few days.

Data show online grocery orders jumping even before some cities and states imposed "stay at home" orders. During the week of March 2, Instacart, Amazon, and Walmart grocery delivery services each saw at least a 65 percent sales increase compared to the same time last year, according to estimates from Earnest Research.

Instacart has started offering bonuses of between \$25 and \$200 for its hourly employees dependent on hours worked until April 15.

Instacart also announced a month-long extension of a temporary policy giving 14 days of paid leave to workers who are diagnosed with coronavirus, or have been ordered to isolate themselves. The strike organizers that policy extended to workers with a doctor's note verifying a pre-existing condition that could make them more vulnerable to the virus.

They also demanded that Instacart raise the tip default in its app to 10% from the current 5%. Instead, Instacart announced Sunday it would change the default to the amount the customer last tipped, saying tips have increased considerably during the virus crisis.

Instacart said previously that it has added more "promotions" — or extra pay for contracted full-service shoppers to accept certain orders.

That was not enough to lure back Shanna Foster, a single mother who stopped working her Instacart gig two weeks ago out of fear of contracting the virus.

"They need to give us hazard pay right now and it should be guaranteed," said Foster, of Simi Valley, California.

Other companies such as Amazon and Walmart have also announced hiring sprees to meet a surge for both deliveries and in-store essentials. Amazon has increased pay for its workers, including those at its Whole Foods Grocery stores.

While such low-wage jobs put people on the front lines of the pandemic, many people are applying as

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 53 of 68

layoffs surge in retail, restaurant, hospitality and other industries.

Summer Cooper, 39, started working as an Instacart shopper in the Tampa Bay area recently after losing her position as a server at a hotel restaurant. She was unaware of the possible strike.

"I'm grateful to have some way to make money," Cooper said.

Darrin Burdette, an Instacart shopper in Colorado Springs, said joining a strike would "not help me in any way."

An Uber driver, Burdette said he relies entirely on his Instacart gig since demand for ride-hailing services plunged. He said he is earning about \$30 an hour as Instacart orders rise. On his app, he can see that many orders have come from people using the service for the first time.

Michelle Ellwood, 43, began using the app shortly after her family returned from a trip abroad and decided to self-isolate for two weeks. She said Instacart shoppers have gone out of their way to fulfill orders. One, she said, returned with a chicken after previously being unable to find meat at local stores.

"It's amazing that they are doing this. I'm grateful. I'm hopeful they are able to take care of their families through this," said Ellwood of Canandaigua, New York.

---

Anderson reported from St. Petersburg, Florida.

John Prine in critical condition with COVID-19 symptoms

NEW YORK (AP) — The family of John Prine says the singer-songwriter is critically ill and has been placed on a ventilator while being treated for COVID-19-type symptoms.

A message posted on Prine's Twitter page Sunday said the "Angel from Montgomery" singer has been hospitalized since Thursday and his condition worsened on Saturday.

"This is hard news for us to share," Prine's family added. "But so many of you have loved and supported John over the years, we wanted to let you know, and give you the chance to send on more of that love and support now. And know that we love you, and that John loves you."

Prine's wife and manager Fiona Whelan Prine earlier this month said that she had tested positive for the coronavirus. She said the couple were quarantined and isolated from each other.

The 73-year-old Prine, one of the most influential in folk and country music, has twice fought cancer. Most recently, he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2013 and had part of a lung removed. The surgeries affected his voice but Prine continued to make music and to tour. Before the onset of the virus, Prine had shows scheduled in May and a summer tour planned.

COVID-19 is the disease caused by the new coronavirus. As of Sunday, it has killed more than 32,000 people worldwide.

## In virus times, have Americans found a shared experience?

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

As an uneasy March unspooled, as coronavirus dread descended upon the United States, it became commonplace — and, for public figures, quite practical — to point out how, unlike most major events in the 21st century, this was an unusually communal moment.

There is power and authority in invoking shared experience, whether it comes from the president ("We are all in this together"), the governor of New York ("Nobody's alone. We are all in the same situation") or a random Pittsburgh disc jockey ("Everybody's in the same boat").

Even while at odds, Americans crave shared experiences — an understandable yearning for a nation quilted together from an unlikely patchwork of backgrounds, traditions and beliefs. And shared adversity can unite people.

But as it unfolds before us, is this period actually that increasingly rare of things — a genuinely shared American experience, a touchpoint that touches all? In an age of fragmentation, what might that mean?

It's hardly news that many facets of American life have splintered in recent years — not only politically, but in an on-demand culture swimming in social-media echo chambers, endless news sources and con-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 54 of 68

firmation biases around every corner.

Now, tens of millions of Americans are facing the same thing, yet in entirely different ways, and deliberately avoiding each other in the process. The unity that comes in the togetherness part of shared experience — as when so many people congregated in their own communities after 9/11 to mourn — is, for many, entirely absent. It's a contradiction: We, if a "we" is even possible in such a diverse republic, are experiencing this together — separately.

"What we've got is a situation where we're supposed to physically isolate, but we're socially, electronically connected in dramatically new ways," says Daniel F. Chambliss, a sociologist at Hamilton College in upstate New York. "The trick is, are they actually thinking of things in the same way?"

Almost certainly not, at least not yet. There is evidence so far — both philosophical and practical — that these disruptive times are not a mass uniter.

As of this weekend, cars with New York plates were being stopped in Rhode Island and their occupants directed into quarantine — hardly a we're-all-just-Americans moment. Some Midwesterners are upset that the coasts aren't isolating enough. In Pennsylvania, the less-affected west looks at the turnpike that crosses the state and wonders what's headed its way.

And that's only geography. Economic stress, too, dictates whether an experience is shared: Those isolating on a one-acre suburban property are facing different days than their fellow Americans in low-income housing or 40-story apartment buildings. For the homeless, living out a "quarantine" on the street is hardly a unifying moment.

The shared experience is not on a shared timeline, either. The saga is unfolding in very different stages in New York City than in Middlesboro, Kentucky or Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and that fact interrupts any shared experience even if self-isolation connects it.

At its heart, all this is supposed to be a feature of the United States, not a bug. There has always been a push-pull between regional and national. The notion of local and state identity coexisting with overall Americanness was explicitly baked into the country's founding documents.

But big events, at least in the era of mass media, have injected national experience everywhere. During World War II, stories delivered to Americans in newsreels, movies, network radio updates and news agency dispatches in local papers shaped an "American" view that saturated local ones.

That endured for decades as TV carried the nation through the Kennedy assassination, the Vietnam War and the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979-81. Dominant voices like Walter Cronkite's gave Americans a "that's the way it is" sensibility even as many were having vastly different experiences.

Today, though, a media illusion of togetherness — while comforting and useful in many instances — tends to group Americans more by specific experiences and political outlooks than by geography or an overall sense of national purpose.

"You're seeing local experiences where this is affecting 'my community,' but nationally my impression is that this is not something that is bringing us together as Americans living through this. Maybe in two weeks," says Jennifer Talarico, a psychology professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., who studies personal experiences of watershed public events.

"To identify a shared experience, there needs to be a community that shares that experience," she says. "Is it happening to 'us'? Is it happening to 'my' social group, 'my' people? If it's happening to 'my' people, I will talk about it in a certain way."

The "my people" part of that is dicey. Americans have always been drawn to single narratives; in some ways, this nation exists only because it told the story of its existence in its founding documents. In reality, though, there are just about as many storylines as there are Americans.

Italian novelist Francesca Melandri, in isolation in Rome after her nation's outbreak, published a letter in *The Guardian* on Friday aimed at fellow Europeans "from your future." It might as well have been written to Americans, too.

"We are now where you will be in a few days," she wrote. "That boat in which you'll be sailing in order to defeat the epidemic will not look the same to everyone, nor is it actually the same for everyone: It never was."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 55 of 68

Perhaps, then, it is a paradox. For Americans, maybe the shared experience is realizing as this washes over us that while it may feel we're in similar straits, in fact this is a moment that is experienced differently depending on the eyes that see it.

The question, though, is whether that's useful in a moment that — just like everything about this 21st-century world — is a strange and surreal collection of fragments that resist real understanding.

Consider the words of Edna Register Boone of Mobile, Ala., who was 11 when the influenza pandemic hit as World War I was ending. She remembered those days in an oral history given to Alabama Public Health before she died in 2011.

"It brought families closer together. It brought our little town closer together because we all suffered losses, one way or the other," she said. "We were like a great big family, you might say."

That was 1918, when an American mass culture was just beginning to emerge. Today, just substitute the word "nation" for "our little town" and you'll see one place where the United States could end up by the time the first frost of autumn arrives.

"You look at communities that have experienced disasters. And they change. They change the ways that they have of communicating with each other," says Kate Yurgil, an expert on disaster and trauma at Loyola University New Orleans.

"It builds the community in ways that future disasters don't necessarily have the same catastrophic effect on them," she says. "This is an opportunity for us to connect with each other."

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has been writing about American culture since 1990. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/anthonyted>

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Fit, healthy 33-year-old recounts falling ill to coronavirus

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Andrea Napoli didn't fit the usual profile of a coronavirus patient.

At 33, he was in perfect health, with no history of respiratory disease. And he was in top physical shape, thanks to regular workouts, including water polo training.

Still, Napoli, a lawyer in Rome, developed a cough and fever less than a week after Italy's premier locked down the entire nation, including the capital which had continued life as usual while the virus raged in the north. Until that day, Napoli was following his routine of work, jogging and swimming.

He received a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 three days later.

Initially, Napoli was told to quarantine at home with the warning that his condition could deteriorate suddenly, and it did. By the next day, he was hospitalized in intensive care, with X-rays confirming he had developed pneumonia.

"Unfortunately, you have to live these things to really understand them totally," Napoli said in a Skype interview. "I am 33 years old, in great health, and I found myself suddenly in less than a day and a half in intensive care."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The vast majority of people recover.

Napoli spent the next nine days breathing with an oxygen mask. During two days in intensive care, three patients in his ward died. He recalled that doctors were out of breath from pushing equipment around, dressed in protective masks, suits and gloves, and exhausted from the long hours and strain.

"What I saw was a lot, a lot of pain. It was very hard," Napoli said. "I heard screams from the other rooms. The constant coughing from the other rooms."

After another week on a COVID-19 ward, he was moved Friday to a hotel being used for patients re-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 56 of 68

covering from the virus, where he is checked twice a day by a doctor. He still can't breathe properly and oxygen levels in his blood haven't yet returned to normal.

"I get tired very easily," he said. "If I simply go from the toilet to the bed, I get out of breath. My muscles hurt because I was actually in bed for nine days, without the possibility of moving. So it wasn't very simple."

Napoli's first concern when the virus struck Italy was for his parents, in their mid-60s, never himself. With two weeks of quarantine still ahead, he is looking forward to the day he can go out for a simple walk with them — something that is still not allowed under Italy's strict containment measures.

Authorities on Sunday expressed cautious optimism that the measures were having an impact two weeks on. The number of positive cases in the previous 24 hours increased by just 5.4%, to a total of 97,689. Significantly, the number of patients in intensive care nationwide rose by just 50, less than half of recent days, to 3,906, and the number of deaths are on a downward trend of about 10% a day since Friday, to 756 reported Sunday. Italy still has the most deaths of any country, now at 10,779.

"These are big changes, that reflect the fact the health system is responding and of the impact of the measures that have been put in place," said Dr. Luca Richeldi, a lung specialist, told the daily civil protection agency briefing. "We are saving lives by staying at home, by maintaining social distance, by traveling less and by closing schools."

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Serial killer dubbed Grim Sleeper dies in California prison

Associated Press undefined

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP) — Lonnie Franklin, the convicted serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper" who preyed on the women of South Los Angeles for more than two decades, has died in prison. He was 67.

California corrections officials said Franklin was found unresponsive in his cell at San Quentin State Prison on Saturday evening. An autopsy will determine the cause of death; however, there were no signs of trauma, corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton said in a statement.

The stepmother of a victim named Barbara Ware told People magazine she was shocked by the news. "I won't say I'm pleased he died but at the end there was justice for all the bad things he did in his life," Diana Ware said. "We can now be at peace."

Franklin had been on death row since August 2016 for the deaths of nine women and a teenage girl. Franklin was linked at trial to 14 slayings, including four women he wasn't charged with killing. Police have said he may have had as many as 25 victims.

Most of the victims were fatally shot at close range, though two were strangled. Their bodies were dumped and left to rot in alleys and trash bins.

The killer earned his moniker because of the apparent hiatus from the late 1980s to 2002. The murders went unsolved for years and Franklin avoided suspicion by working as a city trash collector and onetime garage attendant for Los Angeles police.

Community members complained that police didn't seriously investigate the killings because the victims were black and poor and many were drug users and prostitutes during the crack cocaine epidemic.

Franklin was connected to the crimes after a task force that re-examined the old cases discovered that DNA from Franklin's son, which was in a database because of an arrest, showed similarities to genetic evidence found on some of the "Grim Sleeper" victims.

A detective posing as a busboy at a pizza parlor collected utensils and crusts while Franklin was attending a birthday party. Lab results connected him to some of the bodies and led to his arrest.

Investigators found a gun used in one of the killings and photos of victims in Franklin's house after his arrest.

Last year, Franklin was granted a reprieve when Gov. Gavin Newsom halted the execution of more than 700 condemned inmates on the nation's largest death row for at least as long as he's governor.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 57 of 68

California hasn't executed anyone since 2006, under then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and inmates are far more likely to die of old age.

## Legislatures meet remotely, limit public as virus spreads

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Members of the Arkansas House met in a college basketball arena, spaced out among 5,600 seats, as they voted on ways to cover a budget shortfall caused by the coronavirus punch to the economy.

When South Dakota lawmakers convene Monday to consider 10 emergency bills, it won't be inside their familiar chambers. Instead, they will be speaking and voting via a video call system.

This is not government as usual.

In state capitols across the U.S., lawmakers have ditched decorum and sidestepped traditional public meeting requirements in a rush to pass legislation funding the fight against the coronavirus and aiding residents affected by the widespread shutdown of commerce.

"Social distancing" mandates intended to slow the spread of the virus have upended life for millions of Americans and also have led lawmakers to scrap centuries-old rules about the way they conduct work.

"It is an enormous shift, probably the biggest change to Vermont's democracy since we were founded as a state," Democratic House Speaker Mitzi Johnson told reporters as the chamber adopted new rules for remote voting.

Vermont lawmakers have voted with a verbal yes or no from assigned seats in a closely packed chamber. That changed this past week, when they adopted an emergency rule allowing members to spread out through the visitors' galleries to keep a germ-safe distance from each other.

The next time they are in full session, Vermont lawmakers will be spread out through the entire state, testing a still-to-be-designed remote voting system.

The state experiments are meant to slow the spread of the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease so hospitals won't become overwhelmed with a sudden surge of patients. The ill include several members of Congress and lawmakers in numerous states. At least six state lawmakers have tested positive in Georgia, one of nearly two dozen states that have halted or ended their sessions because of coronavirus concerns.

As of Sunday, the virus has infected more than 700,000 people and killed at least 33,000 worldwide, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. has about 136,000 cases, more than any other country. Health officials say that for most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. But for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and become fatal. Younger adults also are susceptible to the disease, and some become seriously ill.

As legislatures have adapted their rules to the new public health precautions, the public has at times been left out.

Legislative members, staff and media had to pass a body temperature test and an oral quiz about whether they had any COVID-19 symptoms to enter the House session held at the basketball arena of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. But the general public wasn't allowed inside, instead settling for an online broadcast. The Senate, meeting in the Capitol, followed similar procedures.

Minnesota's legislative proceedings typically are both open to the public and live-streamed. But House members used a series of private conference calls, instead of public committee hearings, to develop a \$330 million coronavirus response bill that was swiftly approved Thursday. Legislative leaders said the unusual procedures were intended to safeguard public health.

Such actions also can damage the public's trust in government, said Jane Kirtley, a professor of media ethics and law at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"If you do things in secret, there's a perception that something nefarious is going on, and this is not a time when our governments need to be creating that possibility in people's minds," Kirtley said.

Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman said she gets "a little crispy around the edges" at sugges-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 58 of 68

tions that Minnesota's process wasn't open. Even though there were no public hearings, she said people deluged lawmakers with messages that were "incredibly helpful" in shaping the legislation.

The U.S. House of Representatives looked into the possibility of remote voting so representatives wouldn't have to fly to Washington on Friday to pass a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package. But a House Rules Committee staff report concluded there were too many concerns about its legality, practicality and security from cyber attacks. The House instead passed the legislation by voice vote, avoiding an in-person roll call.

In Pennsylvania this week, most House members took advantage of new rules to stay away from the chamber as they passed legislation delaying the state's primary elections because of coronavirus concerns. Remote lawmakers messaged or emailed their intended votes to designated colleagues at the Capitol, who told them to a clerk, who entered them into the chamber's voting system.

Ohio lawmakers altered both their attire and location this past week as they approved emergency coronavirus legislation extending absentee voting and tax deadlines, allowing distance learning for schools and letting recent nursing graduates immediately starting working.

House members were assigned to eight separate rooms during deliberations to comply with social distancing, then walked briefly onto the House floor to cast a voice vote. Many of the senators who came to the Capitol dressed informally after Republican Senate President Larry Obhof discouraged business attire, "which is cleaned less frequently than casual clothing."

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, the South Dakota Legislature already had rules allowing lawmakers to dial into meetings by phone, but those were designed for committees that meet outside the regular legislative session.

The full House and Senate will meet Monday by video conference, live-streamed for the public, with only a few members gathered in two Capitol rooms to try to comply with the rules. The state constitution isn't clear if that's allowed, but "we're just out of options," said Republican Senate Majority Leader Kris Langer.

Some legislatures have decided it's better to remain shut down than to try to sidestep state constitutional requirements to vote in person amid coronavirus concerns.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson had suggested lawmakers could meet "on a football field" or "out here on the parking lot" of the Capitol, if necessary, to abide by social distancing while passing a bill authorizing coronavirus spending. But Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden, a Republican, said legislators will convene in April and vote in their chambers.

Colorado lawmakers are delaying Monday's scheduled return to session and have ruled out remote meetings as an impractical move that would deny the public a chance to testify in committee hearings.

"The important work being done at the Capitol depends on both legislators and the public," said Democratic Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg. "We feel that it is in the best interest of all Coloradans to recess the session until citizens can safely participate in their democracy,"

---

Associated Press reporters James Anderson in Denver; Andrew DeMillo in Little Rock, Arkansas; Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

## College seniors hurried to squeeze in last school memories

By JIMMY GOLEN Associated Press

It was during Act 1 of the final dress rehearsal for Puccini's "La Rondine" at the Peabody Conservatory that the school president sent out an email canceling all nonessential gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cast members quickly messaged friends, who streamed into the theater to catch the remainder of the only performance in the scheduled four-day run.

After all, the show must go on. And the graduation. And the senior sunrise, the pub crawl, the lake plunge and dozens of other ceremonies, productions and traditions that college students scrambled to

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 59 of 68

salvage — a last, lasting memory before they were kicked off campus to ride out the outbreak from home.

"I've been following the news, and it doesn't look like (graduation) is going to happen any time soon," said Endicott College senior Nick Grace, who took a last lap around the silent campus on Boston's North Shore before leaving. "If we don't have our celebrations, we're kind of robbed of our end-of-year ceremonies. Even if graduation itself is salvaged, it's all of those moments."

At Peabody, Hannah Alexandra Noyes broke into tears performing the role of Lisette the maid — not because the opera's love story was doomed, but because her final year at the Johns Hopkins University music school was. In the conservatory's dining hall, the orchestra hastily arranged chairs for a performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony that had originally been planned for the 1,000-seat, acoustically precise Shriver Hall.

"I emailed the conductor and said, 'If I set up the concert, will you come and conduct?' And he said, 'Sure,'" French hornist Layan Atieh said. "From there, it all went and snowballed."

Hundreds filled the cafeteria to listen. One of the online videos had more than half a million views.

"Just having that many people show up, come together and forget about the stress of this pandemic for this little bit of time, this is what it's about," Atieh said. "If I had the choice, I wouldn't go back to the concert hall. I would choose that."

More than 130,000 Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19, leading to at least 2,300 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins. As millions of people worldwide sheltered in place to slow the pandemic, most U.S. colleges this month canceled sporting events and artistic performances and sent students home to finish the semester online.

For seniors poised to graduate, it was an abrupt end to what wasn't quite four years of late-night bonding and all-night studying.

And with widespread bans on larger gatherings soon to come, many rushed to forge one more memory from their college days.

"At that point it was we either do it this night or never. Tomorrow we shouldn't be doing anything in bigger groups," said Colgate University senior Caroline Barrett, who joined her classmates in the traditional all-night vigil followed by a dip in Taylor Lake.

Other Colgate seniors scurried to hand out their Torch Medals, which honor a member of the school or Hamilton, New York, community who had an impact on their time there. Dorm reunions and sorority brunches — usually held during the senior week between exams and graduation — were hastily arranged.

"People tried to squeeze in seeing as many people from different parts of their Colgate life," Barrett said. "Everyone just wanted to spend time with each other."

Before the slew of cancellations, more than 500 members of the Boston College Class of 2020 stayed up all night to watch day break over the Chestnut Hill reservoir. Fake weddings were held — a tradition of unknown origin or purpose — and nightly trips to the dive bar Mary Ann's became the norm.

"I had a pretty tough three years at BC. I was hoping this would be a positive year," said senior Louisa MacEwan, who has since developed symptoms of COVID-19 and remained in her off-campus apartment after the campus was cleared.

"So for me, it was tough," she said. "It's going to be different receiving a diploma in the mail versus walking across the stage, and sharing those experiences with my friends."

At Elon University, seniors took time to jump in the four fountains on campus before scattering back to their hometowns. The woodsy North Carolina school — named after the Hebrew word for oak — gives each incoming freshman an acorn; before leaving four years later, they receive saplings to plant at their next home.

"I wasn't super upset about it, but it's kind of sad that we're the only class that's not going to be able to do it, in however long that's been going on," Elon senior Ari Denberg said. "All those things I was planning to do over senior week, it's hard not getting that closure."

At Rice University in Houston, students traditionally walk through the main archway, known as the Sallyport, only twice — once during the freshman matriculation ceremony, and again at commencement.

After being told they would likely finish the semester online from their homes, about one-fourth of the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 60 of 68

1,000-member class of '20 paraded through the archway behind the heraldic flags from their residential colleges; the Marching Owl Band — or MOB — played the processional "Pomp and Circumstance."

"People were crying when they saw how many people were there," senior Christina Tan said. "Honestly, everyone was rushing so hard to cancel their plans. People weren't thinking about graduation. Everyone was so stressed about leaving. I think it was really nice to take an hour out of that stressful time to have that."

Back at their dorm, residents of Rice's Wiess College were called to a stage that had been set up for a canceled production of "Hello, Hamlet." Junior Lauren Biegel presented them with a note from their advisers, rolled into a scroll like a diploma, and shook their hands; she wore a rubber glove.

Tan, who set up the mock graduation on Facebook, said students were worried the school would shut it down because of an impending limit on large gatherings. Instead, some faculty members showed up in full academic regalia; when Rice President David Leebron heard what was happening, he came out from his office to take pictures.

"They took it into their own hands in a creative, positive way, and did something for themselves — and most importantly, they did it for their classmates," Leebron said in a telephone interview.

"I was just so moved by the whole thing," he said. "(There was) that sense of sadness, but taking that difficult situation and finding something to do that made everybody who is there feel a little bit better."

Golen reported from Boston.

## Relief package billions can't buy hospitals out of shortages

By MARTHA MENDOZA and JULIET LINDERMAN Associated Press

The billions of tax dollars headed for hospitals and states as part of the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus response bill won't fix the problem facing doctors and nurses: a critical shortage of protective gowns, gloves and masks.

The problem isn't a lack of money, experts say. It's that there's not enough of those supplies available to buy. What's more, the crisis has revealed a fragmented procurement system now descending into chaos just as demand soars, The Associated Press has found.

Hospitals, state governments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are left bidding against each other and driving up prices.

For more than a week, governors have pushed back against administration assurances that supplies are available now, bitterly complaining to President Donald Trump that there's no coordination.

"It's pretty much every state for itself," said Virginia's secretary of finance, Aubrey Layne, who is deeply involved with his state's effort to buy medical supplies.

Masks that were priced at \$2.50 a week ago are now being quoted as high as \$9, he said, and suppliers make clear that there are "plenty of people out here" looking to buy, even at the high prices.

"There is a lot of opportunism going on," Layne said.

Even if someone took some of this money and built the equipment to make masks, gowns and gloves, it would not solve the problem because none of the materials are made in the United States. That includes latex and rubber, largely from Southeast Asia, as well as textiles used in surgical gowns that can repel fluids but are easily disposable.

"The suppliers that provide the raw materials needed to make such items have to increase their capacity in order to deliver more materials to manufacturers, which could take time and may not be feasible if the suppliers are located in other parts of the world that are currently crippled by the coronavirus," said Kaitlin Wowak, an assistant professor at University of Notre Dame business school who specializes in analytics and operations.

"The coronavirus is spreading at an unbelievable rate so you can only expect the demand for personal protective equipment and other medical supplies to follow the same trajectory, which is scary given that there is already a massive shortage of such items at hospitals," said Wowak.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 61 of 68

Doctors and nurses in hot spots like New York and New Orleans are caring for feverish, wheezing COVID-19 patients without adequate masks, gloves or gowns.

Can the \$100 billion carved out for hospitals in the stimulus package solve that?

"It is not about throwing money at this problem," said Lisa Ellram, a professor of supply chain management at Miami University of Ohio.

Just like consumers who today wander past empty shelves in the toilet paper aisle, state governments and hospitals are finding their suppliers' warehouses are bare.

The AP reported last week that imports of critical medical supplies were plummeting due to factory closures in China, where manufacturers had been required to sell all or part of their goods internally rather than export to other countries.

Now that bottleneck has tightened as the pandemic sweeps through the world, shuttering potential backup factories from one country to the next. Many manufacturers have been ordered to shut down or limit production throughout Southeast Asia and Latin America, including in India and Mexico. In Malaysia, where 75 percent of the world's medical gloves are made, AP found factories were shut down and only allowed to reopen with half staff, who are now locked in hostels at their workplaces.

Shipments of medical gloves are down 23% so far this month compared with 2019, and medical gown imports are down 64% for the same period, according to trade data compiled by Panjiva and ImportGenius, services that track imports and exports.

No medical-grade N95 masks, made almost entirely in China, have arrived at U.S. ports so far this month.

An Oregon Nurses Association member who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for her job said she's allowed one N95 mask a day to protect against tiny particulates.

"Wearing the same mask from patient to patient to patient, what are you doing? Are we taking care of them or putting them at greater risk?" she said.

A colleague has already tested positive for COVID-19, she said. Her own test was lost so she's being retested. But she continues to work treating patients even though she has minor symptoms.

Doctors and nurses working in hospitals have also told AP about shortages of saline flushes to clean intravenous catheters, disposable CaviWipe towelettes to clean hospital surfaces, defibrillator electrodes to shock hearts back into beating and oxygen concentrators, which help respiratory patients breathe.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

Six weeks ago, the Center for Global Development warned that the U.S. should get ready to rapidly scale-up medical supply manufacturing. Minnesota's 3M Co. was already ramping up, but only in the past week have many others followed.

A frenzied push to increase domestic production is too little and too late, said Prashant Yadav, a visiting fellow at the center.

Trump on Friday announced that he was using his power under the Defense Production Act to order General Motors to begin manufacturing ventilators — work that had already been underway, AP reported.

Yadav said that in addition to more supplies, states and hospitals need a better way to allocate medical supplies to the places they're needed most.

"The real challenge is not having a clear dashboard-like function that can help match demand and supply. Just infusing more cash doesn't create that," he said Friday.

Before the crisis, hospitals typically bought masks, gloves and other equipment through independent purchasers that bargain with suppliers to keep costs down. But those groups haven't been able to fill orders.

Soumi Saha, director of advocacy at Premier, which purchases equipment for roughly 4,000 hospitals, said 56% of hospitals didn't receive their orders for N95 masks in February. She said traditional wholesale markets are depleted and hospitals are turning to the gray market, rife with scams and counterfeit products. In a 72-hour period last week, Premier fielded more than 130 requests from hospitals to evaluate unregulated suppliers, none of which were legitimate, Saha said.

"The short-term solutions are patchwork. We need to start implementing longer term solutions now or

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 62 of 68

I don't know how much longer the Band Aid can hold on," she said.

The new nonprofit Project N95, launched by tech entrepreneurs, former government officials and supply chain experts, is one of many new impromptu clearinghouses for medical equipment trying to solve the crisis.

Its website says it has requests from more than 2,000 institutions needing more than 100 million items of personal protection equipment in the next 30 days.

The \$100 billion earmarked for hospitals in the stimulus package will help quickly repurpose operating rooms into intensive care units, subsidize hospitals losing revenue due to canceled procedures, and hire additional staff to replace infected workers, said Ashley Thompson, the American Hospital Association's senior vice president for policy.

Hospitals will also receive an additional 20 percent Medicare reimbursement for COVID-19 patients, whose providers can use up to two weeks of personal protection equipment in a single day.

Leaders of both parties promise the money will give doctors and nurses the resources they need.

Lawmakers are "proud to have secured truly historic investment of hundreds of billions of dollars in hospitals, health systems, state and local governments, ensuring that they have the tools they need to combat the virus," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Friday.

But even some in Congress are dubious.

"If the administration has a list of critical supplies it is providing, what's on that list?" said Rep. Norma Torres, D-Calif. "If they've conducted a nationwide needs assessment, what did they find? If they've met with industry to encourage new manufacturing, who did they meet with?"

---

Associated Press writers Sarah Rankin and Alan Suderman in Richmond, Virginia, and Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland., contributed to this report.

---

Contact AP's global investigative team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org).

## A missing boy and a freezing swamp test tracker's instincts

By **TODD RICHMOND** Associated Press

EDGERTON, Wis. (AP) — Austin Schumacher parked his unmarked squad truck and watched pheasant hunters work their way into the woods under the overcast, late-fall sky. The rookie Department of Natural Resources warden had just popped the lid of his salad container when the radio squawked: a 13-year-old boy, missing.

The boy had run away from Edgerton Middle School after a dispute with his teachers — he swore at them before he ducked out of the school and headed into the swamp across the street. Principal Clark Bretthausen tried to follow, but lost him in the mucky underbrush.

The boy was clad only in a T-shirt and sweatpants. The temperature was 39 degrees Fahrenheit (3.89 degrees Celsius) and falling as the sun dipped toward the horizon; forecasts called for a snowstorm at nightfall.

Schumacher put down his salad, flipped on his lights and sirens and headed for Edgerton.

---

Schumacher is 25. Growing up in southern Wisconsin, he fly fished and hunted "pretty much everything" — including deer with a musket. Inspired by an uncle who worked as a police officer, he majored in criminal justice at Madison's Edgewood College. A post-graduation ride-along with a DNR warden showed him the way to a job that would combine police work with his love for the outdoors.

He spent two months training in the backwoods of northern Wisconsin, learning to track people in the wilderness without the aid of technology.

The most important lesson: Humans are lazy creatures. Animals will crawl under or go around obstacles. People will push them aside or plow through them. Everything in nature is vertical as it tries to reach the sun; if you see something horizontal, like a branch on the ground, chances are humans were there.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 63 of 68

It was a lesson much on Schumacher's mind a little after 3 p.m. on Nov. 1, as he rolled into Edgerton, a city of about 5,000 people 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Madison, the state capitol. A search team had set off through the swamps to the northwest, the last direction the boy was seen heading.

But Schumacher's instincts told him to go another way. He wanted to start where the boy had started in hopes of understanding his thinking. Alone, he circled the school grounds looking for signs and discovered a path leading into the marsh directly across the street.

He put on his hip waders, followed the path into the swamp and came to Saunders Creek, a roiling 20-foot-wide (6-meter-wide) stream clogged with deadfalls. He moved north up the streambank, searching for a spot where the boy might have crossed. Eventually he discovered shoeprints in the mud and marks on the far bank. This was where the boy had crossed.

Holding his equipment vest as high as he could, the young warden crossed the stream. The waist-deep water filled his waders, soaking his shoes, his pants, his pistol.

He climbed up the other side, dripping. He started looking for broken brush and branches, backtracking, moving forward, backtracking again, sometimes crawling to get under tree branches.

The temperature had dropped to 37 degrees (2.78 Celsius). The snow was closing in.

At last Schumacher, now caked with mud, picked up a trail of tracks left by a barefoot person, small prints with five little toes. Further on he discovered one of the boy's shoes, then his socks. Schumacher figured they'd gotten so wet the boy had thrown them away.

He followed the footprints for about 2 miles (3 kilometers), testing the ground in front of him with a stick to assess its stability. Schumacher had barely eaten or drunk anything all day; as the sun began to set he felt himself growing weaker.

He came to a series of retention ponds and his heart sank. He poked along their edges, praying he wouldn't find the boy's body. None of the other searchers were faring any better; radio traffic noted that a search boat had run into some trees.

The boy had been in the swamp for more than an hour. Doubts began to creep into Schumacher's mind.

Overhead, a sheriff's drone broadcast the voices of the boy's parents.

Come out, they said. Don't be scared. It will be all right.

Galvanized, Schumacher pushed on. He reached the edge of swamp and stood looking out at a tree line bordering a bean field. He caught a flash of maroon. He pulled out his binoculars and saw the boy curled up under a tree, T-shirt and pants soaked, his hands, feet and legs bloody.

He crept up to him, not wanting to scare him off. The frigid boy was shaking so much he could barely talk.

Schumacher stripped down to his T-shirt and dressed the boy in his coat and stocking cap. The boy asked him if people would be mad at him for running away. His body numb, he could not walk.

Schumacher checked maps on his phone, looking for a way out, and found a road about a mile (1.6 kilometers) south. He lifted the boy onto his back. The boy wrapped his legs around Schumacher's waist, his arms around his shoulders. Schumacher began to walk.

Schumacher had been a basketball player in high school and is still trim and fit, a wiry 6-feet (1.83 meters) tall. But nothing had prepared him for this. The 90-pound (41-kilogram) boy and his 20 pounds (9 kilograms) of equipment weighed him down like an anvil. Again and again, he fell in the uneven terrain.

He radioed in his position, heard the search teams dispatch an ATV only to have it get stuck in the mud. The sheriff's drone watched silently from above.

Darkness was closing in. He kept trying to talk to the boy, asking him about his favorite superheroes and video games. He was sweating now, the moisture evaporating and chilling him even more.

Then he came to the fence.

It was waist-high barbwire, running as far as he could see. There was no way he could carry the boy over it, no way to fit through it.

He set the boy down.

"I'm going to have to throw you over this fence," he said to him.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 64 of 68

He stepped back and swung the boy over. The boy landed on his feet and fell to the ground. Weighed down by his equipment vest, his gun belt and boots, Schumacher knew there was no way he could jump it. Instead he barrel-rolled over it, like a high-jumper doing a Fosbury flop. He landed hard on his back, but somehow avoided slashing himself to ribbons on the barbwire.

"We're almost there," he told the boy.

He swung him up onto his back again and resumed the hike as the first snowflakes came down.

Finally, he could make out cars on the road and houses. He staggered into a driveway and saw a squad car waiting for him. A deputy took the boy and hurried him into an ambulance as Schumacher collapsed to his knees.

Schumacher finished the last hour of his shift, went home and hugged his wife. He took a hot shower; when he got out, he was still cold.

He has not seen the boy since. He spoke with the boy's mother by phone a day or two after the rescue; she told him that he was doing all right. That news, Schumacher said, was "huge."

The boy's mother declined to comment beyond praising Schumacher for his efforts. Officials with the Edgerton School District and middle school declined to comment as well, citing student privacy.

This month, Schumacher received the DNR's Lifesaving Award. His training officer, Warden Tim Werner, said he wasn't surprised at Schumacher's valor. Nor was he surprised that Schumacher's woodland expertise had had been put to use.

"There's a lot to be said," Werner said, "about just old-school woodsman's skills."

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

## Largest US dam removal stirs debate over coveted West water

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

KLAMATH, Calif. (AP) — The second-largest river in California has sustained Native American tribes with plentiful salmon for millennia, provided upstream farmers with irrigation water for generations and served as a haven for retirees who built dream homes along its banks.

With so many competing demands, the Klamath River has come to symbolize a larger struggle over the increasingly precious water resources of the U.S. West, and who has the biggest claim to them.

Now, plans to demolish four hydroelectric dams on the river's lower reaches to save salmon — the largest such demolition project in U.S. history — have placed those competing interests in stark relief. Each group with a stake — tribes, farmers, ranchers, homeowners and conservationists — sees its identity in the Klamath and ties its future to the dams in deeply personal terms.

"We are saving salmon country, and we're doing it through reclaiming the West," said Amy Cordalis, a Yurok tribal attorney fighting for dam removal. "We are bringing the salmon home."

The project, estimated at nearly \$450 million, would reshape the Klamath River and empty giant reservoirs. It could also revive plummeting salmon populations by reopening hundreds of miles of potential habitat that has been blocked for more than a century, bringing relief to a half-dozen tribes spread across hundreds of miles in southern Oregon and northern California.

The proposal fits into a trend toward dam demolition in the U.S. that's been accelerating as these infrastructure projects age and become less economically viable. The removals are also popular with environmentalists who are fighting for the return of native fish species to rivers long blocked by concrete.

More than 1,700 dams have been dismantled around the U.S. since 2012, according to American Rivers, and the Klamath River project would be the largest by far if it proceeds.

Backers of the dam removal say the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could vote this spring on whether to transfer the dams' hydroelectric licenses from the current operator, PacifiCorp, to a nonprofit formed to oversee the demolition. Drawdown of the reservoirs behind the dams could begin as early as 2022, according to the nonprofit, the Klamath River Renewal Corp.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 65 of 68

Opponents, including a group of residents who live around a meandering lake formed by the oldest dam, have vowed to fight the project. Without the dam to create the reservoir, they say, their bucolic waterfront properties will become mudflats. Many say their homes have already lost half their value.

"If we get halfway through and they blow a hole in the dam just to let the water out — to say, 'Yeah, we done this' — they can walk away from it. And we have no recourse whatsoever," said Herman Spannus, whose great-grandfather first ran a ranch in the area in 1856.

The structures at the center of the debate are the four southernmost dams in a string of six constructed in southern Oregon and far northern California beginning in 1918.

They were built solely for power generation. They are not used for irrigation, they are not managed for flood control, and none has "fish ladders," concrete chutes fish can pass through.

Two dams to the north are not targeted for demolition. Those dams have fish passage and are part of a massive irrigation system that straddles the Oregon-California border and provides water to more than 300 square miles (777 square kilometers) of alfalfa, potatoes, barley and other crops.

Those farmers won't be directly affected by the demolition but worry it will set a precedent that could eventually endanger the dams they rely on. An earlier, more comprehensive agreement would have given farmers a guaranteed annual minimum of water in exchange for the lower dams' removal, but it fell apart in Congress. That leaves irrigators on the sidelines now during the most critical water-management decision for the larger Klamath River system in generations.

Farmer Ben DuVal said he's optimistic the demolition will help restore salmon but also has "some real concerns."

"Dam removal on this scale is kind of unprecedented," said DuVal, who inherited his 300-acre (121-hectare) farm from his grandfather, a World War II veteran who won the land in a lottery in 1949. "I don't want to be the one who ends up giving up my livelihood in order to fix a problem down there that was caused by a big experiment."

The demolition plan is good business for PacifiCorp, which holds the dams' hydroelectric license. The dams make up less than 2% of its overall power portfolio and are no longer an important part of the regional power picture due to new energy sources such as wind and solar and other factors, it says. In addition, the hydroelectric licenses have expired, and renewing them would require more than \$400 million in federally mandated modifications.

Under the plan awaiting federal officials' approval, \$200 million for the demolition and river restoration will come from California and Oregon ratepayers, and \$250 million will come from a voter-approved California water bond, with no liability for PacifiCorp and a guaranteed cap on its costs.

For the region's tribes, however, the push to remove the dams is much more than financial calculus.

Salmon were once plentiful in the Klamath River, and the people who have lived alongside it for thousands of years have a powerful connection to the fish. Even now, with numbers of coho salmon and spring and fall chinook in free fall, tribal members name their children after the river and its fish, tattoo their bodies with elaborate images of fish hawks clutching salmon, and return to fishing holes that have been passed down through generations.

"I actually credit a lot of our men and women's depression to the fact that they fish for days and days and days and days and don't catch anything," said Georgiana Gensaw, who is Yurok and lives on the reservation.

"We want to bring salmon home. We want to show off in front of our kids," she said. "We want to show them how to do it and how to pass that on. And you can't do that if there's nothing in your net."

Coho salmon from the Klamath River are listed as threatened under federal and California law, and their population in the river has fallen anywhere from 52% to 95%. Spring chinook, once the Klamath Basin's largest run, has dwindled by 98%.

Fall chinook, the last to persist in any significant numbers, have been so meager in the past few years that the Yurok canceled fishing for the first time in the tribe's memory. In 2017, they bought fish at a grocery store for their annual salmon festival.

Tribal members see a rejection of their entire way of life in the opposition to dam removal.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 66 of 68

"It ain't about how much they love those dams. It ain't about that. It's about Indians having any say or having any power or having anything kind of go our way (that) is a danger to American ideals. We're supposed to be gone. We're not supposed to be here," said Chook-Chook Hillman, a Karuk Indian whose 10-year-old son wrote a rap song about damage to tribal traditions titled "Dry Your Eyes."

But homeowners around the biggest reservoir, Copco Lake, say it's not so simple — and they, too, feel a strong sense of place in the homes they built decades ago, with no idea the dams could ever come down and drain the man-made lake. Their property values have plunged.

"The real estate people are not anxious to take listings here because it's the rumors there all the time," said Tom Rickard, who had to take the retirement home he and his wife built 20 years ago off the market last summer when it didn't sell.

"You hear people from Los Angeles, the Bay Area, all over the place, and they keep asking, 'Well, what's going to happen to the dams?'"

Other residents say removing the dams will mean losing an easily accessible water source for fighting wildfires. Voters in three counties who would be affected by dam removal voted against it in a non-binding question that demolition advocates say was an "opinion poll."

"Does it really fix the fish equation just by removing the dams? I haven't seen anything that tells me this is foolproof and we're not going to have any problems," said Siskiyou County Supervisor Michael Kobseff.

Even demolition advocates say dam removal, while critical, won't be enough on its own to restore the salmon.

Salmon face deteriorating ocean conditions due to climate change, and the many tributaries that feed into the Klamath River — critical spawning habitat for returning salmon — are degraded. Some ranchers who graze cattle along those tributaries are working with environmentalists, but were stung when the earlier agreement among farmers, ranchers and tribes fell apart.

Dam removal "is such a small piece of the restoration of the entire basin," said Becky Hyde, who runs a cattle ranch near Beatty, Oregon, with her husband.

"The pieces of what would bring stability to the entire basin and the agricultural community are gone — and we're supposed to be cheerleading for dam removal," she said. "This is not good enough."

## Pizzeria borrows to keep workers on job, spurs donations

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

BELMAR, N.J. (AP) — This is a story about bosses and their workers, in the dark days of COVID-19. It's also a story about how one good turn deserves another and yet another.

And this being New Jersey, it's also a story about pizza.

Bryan Morin and his brother Michael operate Federico's Pizza in this Jersey Shore town. In the summer, they deliver cheese steak pizzas and 12-inch subs and garlic knots directly to the beach, a few blocks away. In winter, customers flock to the cozy, black-and-white tiled restaurant on Main Street.

But across the ocean, trouble brewed. Bryan Morin tossed and turned all night after watching news reports of how a virus spread rapidly in Italy, eventually bringing life to a virtual standstill and leading to massive layoffs as businesses closed down.

He could not let this happen at Federico's.

Many of his employees have been with the business for a decade or more; the head cook has been there for 22 years, since the business was owned by Bryan and Michael's father.

"I'm the provider for my employees; I supply their salary, and if they don't have a salary, they won't be able to afford their rent, their credit card bills, their insurance, their gas," he said.

He decided to "do the right thing and take the hit, and I'll make it up somewhere down the line."

So about two weeks ago, he secured a \$50,000 line of credit from his bank. He promised his workers they'd have a job for at least the next two months, come what may. He'd reassess conditions after that, but he'd do everything possible to keep the paychecks flowing.

As word of the brothers' pledge got around, the community rallied round. Customers began helping out:

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 67 of 68

an extra \$10 on top of the usual 20% tip, a few bucks earmarked for the kitchen staff.

But then, something unexpected happened -- a surge of pay-it-forward donations.

People -- some who were ordering food, some who just wanted to help -- called and asked the pizzeria to charge their credit cards for food to be sent to those on the front lines of the virus response: Doctors, nurses and other staff at a nearby hospital, police, firefighters and EMS squads.

In just two days last week, Federico's took in nearly \$4,000 to make and deliver pizzas to first responders. Moments before Bryan Morin was interviewed last week, the pizzeria sent 30 free pizzas to Jersey Shore Medical Center, a vital battleground in the fight against COVID-19 in a state that has the second-most cases in the nation.

All because the boss cared.

"This is such a scary time, and so many people are getting laid off," said Kirsten Phillips, who works the counter. "It was so unexpected what he did, but maybe it shouldn't have been, because he always took care of us. This is really the best job I've ever had."

While nonstop global news about the effects of the coronavirus have become commonplace, so, too, are the stories about the kindness of strangers and individuals who have sacrificed for others. "One Good Thing" is an AP continuing series reflecting these acts of kindness.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Follow Wayne Parry at <http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 30, the 90th day of 2020. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C. hotel by John W. Hinckley, Jr.; also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and a District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty.

On this date:

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a deal ridiculed by critics as "Seward's Folly."

In 1909, the Queensboro Bridge, linking the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Queens, opened.

In 1923, the Cunard liner RMS Laconia became the first passenger ship to circle the globe as it arrived in New York.

In 1964, John Glenn withdrew from the Ohio race for the U.S. Senate because of injuries suffered in a fall. The original version of the TV game show "Jeopardy!," hosted by Art Fleming, premiered on NBC.

In 1975, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang.

In 1986, actor James Cagney died at his farm in Stanfordville, New York, at age 86.

In 1991, Patricia Bowman of Jupiter, Florida, told authorities she'd been raped hours earlier by William Kennedy Smith, the nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy, at the family's Palm Beach estate. (Smith was acquitted at trial.)

In 1999, Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic (sloh-BOH'-dahn mee-LOH'-shuh-vich) insisted that NATO attacks stop before he moved toward peace, declaring his forces ready to fight "to the very end." NATO answered with new resolve to wreck his military with a relentless air assault.

In 2004, in a reversal, President George W. Bush agreed to let National Security Adviser Condoleezza

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, March 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 261 ~ 68 of 68

Rice testify publicly and under oath before an independent panel investigating the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In 2006, American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelancer for The Christian Science Monitor, was released after 82 days as a hostage in Iraq.

In 2009, President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry, rejecting turnaround plans from General Motors and Chrysler and raising the prospect of controlled bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a single measure sealing his health care overhaul and making the government the primary lender to students by cutting banks out of the process. The world's largest atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, threw together minuscule particles racing at unheard of speeds in conditions simulating those just after the Big Bang. Math teacher Jaime Escalante, who inspired the movie "Stand and Deliver," died in Roseville, California, at age 79. Morris Jeppson, a weapons test officer aboard the Enola Gay who helped arm the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima, died in a Las Vegas hospital at age 87.

Five years ago: German officials confirmed that Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was once diagnosed with suicidal tendencies and received lengthy psychotherapy before receiving his pilot's license; they believed Lubitz deliberately smashed his Airbus A320 into the French Alps, killing 150 people. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was convicted of unlawfully accepting money from a U.S. supporter in his retrial on corruption charges. Two men dressed as women and driving a stolen SUV ignored officers' orders at the gate to the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland; police fired on the SUV, which then rammed into a police vehicle. One man was killed. Comedy Central announced that Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian from South Africa, would succeed Jon Stewart as host of "The Daily Show."

One year ago: The Rolling Stones announced that they would be postponing their latest tour so that Mick Jagger could receive medical treatment. Texas Tech reached the Final Four of the NCAA college basketball tournament for the first time in the school's history, defeating Gonzaga 75-69 in the West Regional final; Virginia advanced to the Final Four for the first time since 1984 by beating Purdue 80-75 in overtime.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 94. Actor John Astin is 90. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 83. Rock musician Graeme Edge (The Moody Blues) is 79. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 75. Actor Justin Deas is 72. Actor Paul Reiser is 64. Rap artist MC Hammer is 58. Singer Tracy Chapman is 56. Actor Ian Ziering (EYE'-an ZEER'-ing) is 56. TV personality Piers Morgan is 55. Rock musician Joey Castillo is 54. Actress Donna D'Errico is 52. Singer Celine Dion is 52. TV personality/producer Richard Rawlings is 51. Actor Mark Consuelos is 49. Actress Bahar Soomekh is 45. Actress Jessica Cauffiel is 44. Singer Norah Jones is 41. Actress Fiona Gubelmann is 40. Actress Katy Mixon is 39. Actor Jason Dohring is 38. Country singer Justin Moore is 36. Actress Tessa Ferrer is 34. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 30. Rapper NF is 29.

Thought for Today: "We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves." — Eric Hoffer, American philosopher (1898-1983).