

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 1 of 83

- [2- Park playground equipment taped off](#)
- [2- Sombke helps with meals photo](#)
- [3- Hale Product Ad](#)
- [4- Labor Department Issuing Additional \\$600 Weekly Unemployment Benefit](#)
- [4- Groton City Election Date is Changed](#)
- [5- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Easter Sunday service at Buffalo Lake](#)
- [8- AREA COVID-19 CASES](#)
- [9- Dakotas COVID-19 Update](#)
- [10- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [11- Weather Pages](#)
- [14- Daily Devotional](#)
- [15- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [16- News from the Associated Press](#)



"I COULD NOT  
HAVE MADE IT  
THIS FAR HAD  
THERE NOT  
BEEN ANGELS  
ALONG THE  
WAY."

-DELLA REESE

*Chicken Soup*  
for the Soul



**Cheer someone up!  
Send a balloon!  
These are \$6**  
(includes delivery in Groton & Tax)  
**Groton Daily  
Independent**  
21 N Main  
605-397-NEWS (6397)



## **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

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 2 of 83



**The Groton, SD, playground and picnic tables are now off limits at the park, per city council and CDC recommendations.**



**Groton Area Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke, assisted with the hand-out of food at the high school building. She is wearing a mask that was made by Karin Bartells. "We have some wonderfully talented people here at Groton Area," Sombke said. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 3 of 83

**Special Offer FREE Shipping!**  
**Spring Basket Box**



**WOW!** Handpicked fresh from the grove!  
Perfect for Mother's Day! Mention Promo Code SPG20.

**Call 1-605-824-7535 to order item 836  
or Visit [HaleGroves.com/MB00133](http://HaleGroves.com/MB00133)**

Order Item #836, mention Promo Code SPG20 for **FREE Shipping**.  
**Only \$29.99\***, plus FREE Shipping. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.

Order by April 30th, 2020 for GUARANTEED Mother's Day delivery.



Since 1947.  
Hale Groves, Vero  
Beach, FL 32966

IC: HMVS-A271

**Call now to receive  
FREE Shipping!**

Limited time offer, good while supplies last.  
Not valid with any other offer or previous purchases.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 4 of 83

## Labor Department Issuing Additional \$600 Weekly Unemployment Benefit

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation is now issuing the additional \$600 weekly extended unemployment benefit available to all eligible claimants as a provision of the CARES Act. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits went into effect beginning the week of March 29, 2020.

Claimants do not need to separately request the FPUC payment but should continue to file a regular weekly request for payment. The additional \$600 weekly payment will be paid with the regular weekly payment via the method selected by the claimant.

“Payments were issued today for this new weekly benefit, and claimants should receive their payment by the end of the week,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “The last week this payment will be compensated is the week ending July 25, 2020.”

Individuals cannot quit their job and continue to draw these benefits. Individuals refusing to return to work without a documented medical note consistent with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will be disqualified from ALL benefits, including the additional \$600 weekly payment.

“The additional \$600 weekly benefit payment is 100% federally funded,” said Secretary Hultman. “An employer’s experience rating account will not be charged or impacted by this additional payment.”

If employers receive a loan under the Paycheck Protection Act and place workers back on the payroll full time, the workers are no longer eligible for unemployment or FPUC benefits.

## Groton City Election Date is Changed

### NOTICE OF ELECTION DATE CHANGE

The Ward 2 election for the City of Groton has been postponed to Tuesday, June 2, 2020. This is the corresponding date of the 2020 presidential primary election. Two candidates are running for the open position: Troy Lindberg and Damian Bahr. In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of Ward 2 in the City of Groton. If you are in doubt about your registration status, contact your local county auditor. Voter registration ends May 18, 2020.

On election day, the City will operate polling sites from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Groton Community Center. With respect to COVID-19 issues, please make good health related decisions when voting on election day.

In-person absentee voting is available at City Hall by appointment only by calling 605-397-8422. Voters may vote in-person up until 5:00 PM on the day before the election.

To receive a South Dakota Absentee Ballot Application Form call City Hall, at 605-397-8422 or email [city.hope@nvc.net](mailto:city.hope@nvc.net). Forms are also available on-line at [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).

Hope Block  
Finance Officer  
City of Groton

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 5 of 83

## Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller

This will be brief because there isn't much in the way of big news today on the virus front. And because I'm tired of thinking about it. I'm working on something longer, but it's kicking my rear at the moment, so when(ever) I get that ready, I'll drop it in an update.

For the moment, the numbers continue to trend in the correct direction, although I have concerns about smaller-population areas that seem to have bad trends underway, but don't influence the overall numbers much because the heavyweights (NY and NJ) skew things so much. If I ever find the time, I'll try to do some analysis there. Haven't found it so far, so we'll see what turns up as time goes on. They are worries, so I will try.

We now have 427,966 reported cases. Over a third, 149,401 of them, are in NY. Along with NJ's 47,347 cases, the two states account for 46% of those reported in the country. Rounding out the top 10 are MI - 20,220, CA - 18,922, LA - 17,030, MA - 16,790, PA - 16,239, FL - 15,690, IL - 15,079, and GA - 10,204. I haven't done the research to confirm my impression these are, indeed, far down the list in terms of total population, but I am seeing states I'm pretty sure are far less populous (like LA and GA) showing up consistently in the top 10. This is a concern.

Rates of increase continue to drop, which is very, very good. The overall increase in cases overall was just 8.3%. NY is at 6.7% and NJ is at 6.8%. That does mean some other states are picking up some of the slack, which isn't quite so good.

We have another 7 states with over 5000 reported cases, another 21 + DC with over 1000, another 5 + PR over 500, and another 7 + GU over 100. Only VI and MP remain below 100 reported cases.

There have been 14,747 deaths reported as due to Covid-19 so far, although we're not clear that's not all of them in real life, maybe not even close. Still, we work with what we have. NY has 6268, NJ has 1504, MI has 959, LA has 652, CA has 498, IL has 464, WA has 454, and MA has 433. There are another 10 states over 100 deaths, another 11 over 50, another 14 + DC and PR over 10. Just 6 states + GU, VI, and MP remain below 10 reported deaths.

A couple of notes on the day, both concerning. Both have emerged as concerns as data come in. First, we're seeing real danger for our most vulnerable people. The developmentally disabled frequently live in group homes, and just as with nursing homes, it is difficult or impossible to isolate cases in that setting. A report from New York City where there are 140,000 people in such group homes shows that 0.8% of these people have been diagnosed. Consider that, in terms of diagnosed and reported cases, only 0.13% of the population has been infected, and you can see things are grim. People in group homes are both more likely to acquire this infection, they are also more likely to die from it. We are also seeing scary rates of infection and death among staff members in these facilities. I haven't seen aggregated numbers from nursing homes or homeless populations, but I expect those are going to be pretty rough too when we get them. If you're more vulnerable to all the other vicissitudes of life, then you're going to be more vulnerable to this disease too. Bad luck is a magnet for bad luck.

The other concerning trend is that, as more cities with majority or plurality black populations are showing up with sizeable numbers of cases, we are seeing huge disparities between those black populations and white populations. For example, in the cities of New Orleans, Chicago, and Milwaukee, between 70% and 80% of Covid-19 deaths are in black people; yet the populations of these cities are 60%, 33%, and 40% black, respectively. And while Michigan is not reporting figures by racial or ethnic group, we can see Wayne

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 6 of 83

County (where Detroit is), which has the largest black population in the state, has 47% of the reported cases with only 18% of the state's population. It is clear that black people are getting hammered with this. Proposed explanations for this wide disparity include that a high proportion of essential workers is black, that black people tend to have more co-morbidities (health conditions which might make them do worse if infected), that more black people live in poverty, or that more black people do not have cars and use public transportation where they have a greater chance of exposure. Probably some combination of those, if I had to guess. Poverty creates ripple effects far from the origin.

You get a break tonight: I am nowhere near as long-winded as usual.

Know that these steps we're taking to slow this thing down are working. If we were doing more of them better, they'd be working better, so if you can find ways to do them better, you can be a hero. If you can prevail on your friends and neighbors to do them better, you're a bigger hero.

Look around you. Do you know someone who was recently widowed or otherwise left living alone and might be lonely? Do you know someone older or sicker who really shouldn't leave the house? Do you see someone who's lost their job and is scared? Do you see someone who's terrified of getting sick and leaving their children/spouse/parents/coworkers alone? Do you see someone who's worried about a sick relative or friend or neighbor? You don't have to be rich or give them money to help (although if you are and do, that would be grand). You could offer to pick up the things they need when you go to the store. You could just call, text, e-mail, go over to their house and stand on the lawn having a conversation, drop off a cool new dish you tried or a piece of cake. Let them know someone gives a damn. Someone noticed their need. Someone wants to help. Easy. And invaluable.

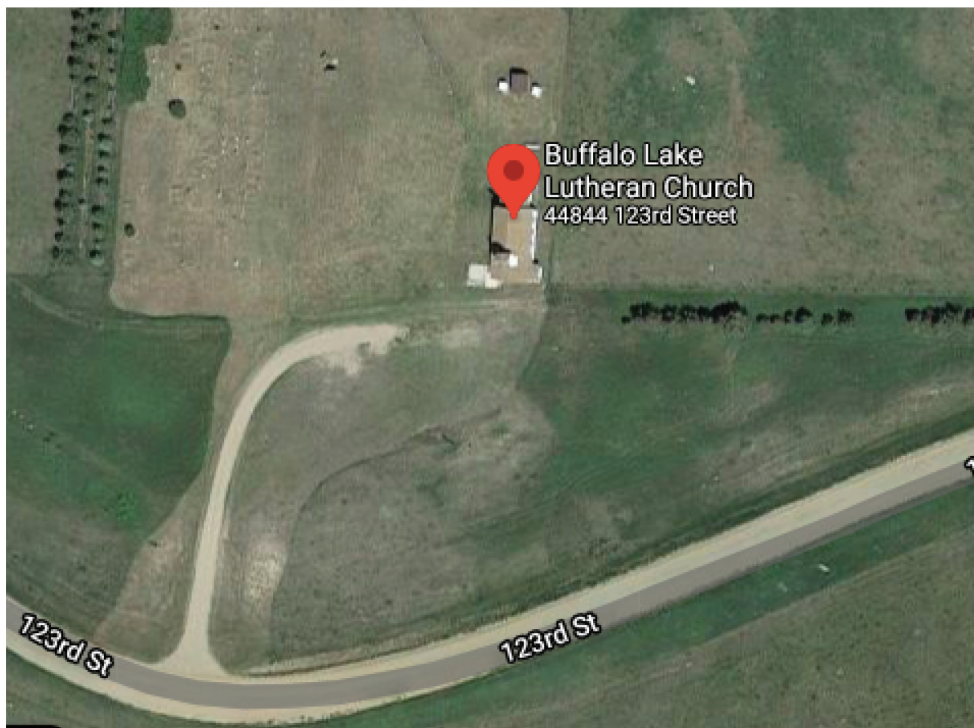
Stay well. We'll talk again.

## *It's Easter Sunday Service at Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church*

Message by Pastor Paul Irvin Kosel

10:30 a.m.

44844 123rd St., Rural Eden



### **Here are the Rules!**

- 1) Stay in your vehicle. Make sure your vehicle has an FM receiver or bring an FM receiver.
- 2) Be ready to sing-Sheila Oreskovich is playing.
- 3) Plenty of parking.
- 4) Put your tithing in a zip lock or similar clear plastic bag.
- 5) Be ready to honk your horn at the end of the service for the wonderful resurrection of Jesus!
- 6) Call/Text Paul with any questions. 605/397-7460.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 8 of 83

## AREA COVID-19 CASES

	Mar. 29	Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 1	Apr. 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 4	Apr. 5	Apr. 6	Apr. 7
Minnesota	503	576	629	689	742	789	865	935	986	1,069
Nebraska	120	153	177	214	255	285	323	367	412	478
Montana	161	177	198	217	241	263	281	298	319	319
Colorado	2,307	2,627	2,966	3,342	3,728	4,173	4,565	4,950	5,172	5,429
Wyoming	87	95	120	137	150	166	187	200	212	221
North Dakota	98	109	126	147	159	173	186	207	225	237
South Dakota	90	101	108	129	165	187	212	240	288	320
United States	143,055	164,610	189,633	216,722	245,573	278,458	312,245	337,933	368,079	399,929
US Deaths	2,513	3,170	4,081	5,137	6,058	7,159	8,503	9,653	10,923	12,911

Minnesota	+62	+73	+53	+60	+53	+47	+76	+70	+51	+83
Nebraska	+12	+33	+24	+37	+41	+30	+38	+44	+45	+66
Montana	+14	+16	+20	+19	+25	+22	+18	+17	+21	0
Colorado	+246	+320	+339	+376	+386	+445	+392	+385	+222	+257
Wyoming	+3	+8	+25	+17	+13	+16	+21	+13	+12	+9
North Dakota	+4	+11	+17	+21	+12	+14	+13	+21	+18	+12
South Dakota	+22	+11	+7	+21	+36	+12	+25	+28	+48	+32
United States	+18,369	+21,555	+25,023	+27,089	+28,851	+32,885	+33,787	+25,688	+30,146	+31,850
US Deaths	+322	+657	+911	+1,056	+921	+1,101	1,344	+1,150	+1,270	+1,988

	Apr. 8
Minnesota	1,154
Nebraska	523
Montana	332
Colorado	5,655
Wyoming	230
North Dakota	251
South Dakota	393
United States	431,838
US Deaths	14,768

Minnesota	+85
Nebraska	+45
Montana	+13
Colorado	+226
Wyoming	+9
North Dakota	+14
South Dakota	+73
United States	+31,909
US Deaths	+1,857



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 9 of 83

## Dakotas COVID-19 Update

South Dakota:

According to by Kim Malsam-Rysdon, S.D. Secretary of Health, South Dakota ranks 47th in the nation of per capita positive cases.

Governor Noem reported this morning that she had talked with Dr. Fauci. She said, "It was a VERY productive call about South Dakota's response to #COVID19.

Thankfully, he AGREES that a one-size-fits-all approach isn't the answer in our state." Governor Noem will hold her briefing at 1:30 today.

Postive Cases: +73 ~ Negative: +407

Ever Hospitalized: +3 ~ Deaths: 6 (no change)

Recovered: +48

Beadle: +1 recovered (19 of 21 recovered)

Bon Homme: +1 (2 total)

Brookings: +2 recovered (5 of 6 recovered)

Brown: +3 recovered (9 of 13 recovered)

Clay: +1 recovered (3 of 6 recovered)

Codington: +2 recovered (6 of 12 recovered)

Deuel: +1 recovered (1 of 1 recovered)

Hughes: +1 recovered (3 of 3 recovered)

Lake: +1 positive (2 total)

Lawrence: +2 recovered (8 of 9 recovered)

Lincoln: +4 positive (31 total), +7 recovered (11 of 31 recovered)

Minnehaha: +63 (228 total), +15 recovered (41 total)

Oglala Lakota (1st new positive case)

Pennington: +2 recovered (5 of 6 recovered)

Roberts: +2 recovered (5 of 6 recovered)

Spink: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)

Todd: +1 recovered (1 of 1 recovered)

Turner: +1 positive (5 total)

Yankton: +2 positive (17 total), +7 recovered (12 of 17 recovered)

The N.D. DoH & private labs are reporting 904 total completed tests today for COVID-19, with 14 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 251.

State & private labs have conducted 8,607 total tests with 8,356 negative results.

98 ND patients are considered recovered.

County	Total Positive Cases	# Recovered
Aurora	1	1
Beadle	21	19
Bon Homme	3	1
Brookings	6	5
Brown	13	9
Charles Mix	2	1
Clark	1	1
Clay	6	3
Codington	12	6
Davison	3	3
Deuel	1	1
Fall River	1	1
Faulk	1	1
Hamlin	1	0
Hughes	3	3
Hutchinson	2	2
Lake	2	0
Lawrence	9	8
Lincoln	31	11
Lyman	2	1
Marshall	1	1
McCook	2	1
Meade	1	1
Minnehaha	228	41
Oglala Lakota	1	0
Pennington	6	5
Roberts	4	3
Spink	3	2
Todd	1	1
Turner	5	1
Union	3	1
Yankton	17	12

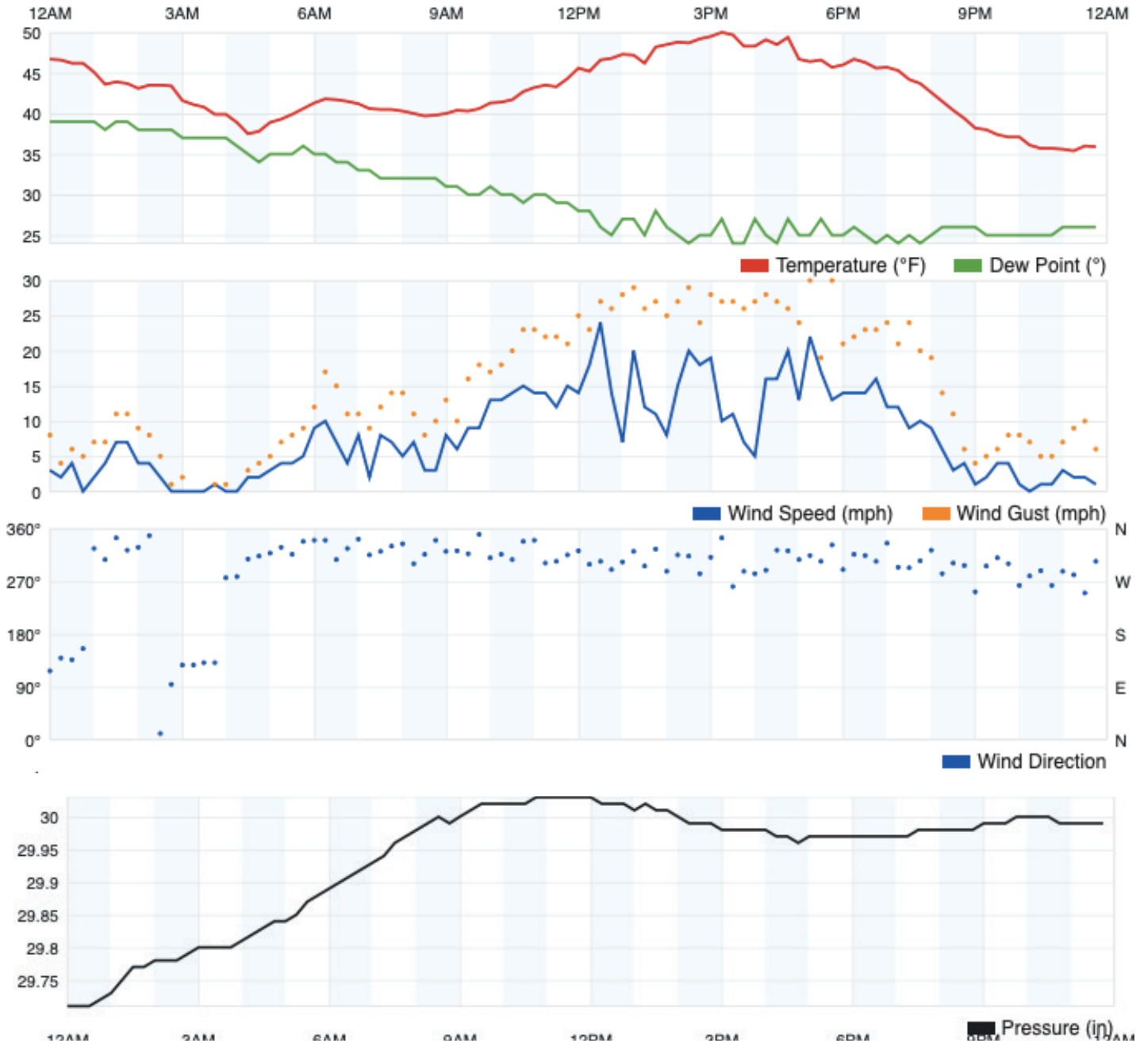
SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS	
Test Results	# of Cases
Positive*	393
Negative**	6355
Ever Hospitalized*	26
Deaths**	6
Recovered	146

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0 to 19 years	14	0
20 to 29 years	72	0
30 to 39 years	92	0
40 to 49 years	64	0
50 to 59 years	80	2
60 to 69 years	53	1
70 to 79 years	10	1
80+ years	8	2

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 10 of 83

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 11 of 83

Today



Breezy.  
Slight Chance  
Snow then  
Sunny

High: 42 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 25 °F

Friday



Increasing  
Clouds

High: 54 °F

Friday  
Night



Gradual  
Clearing



Low: 33 °F

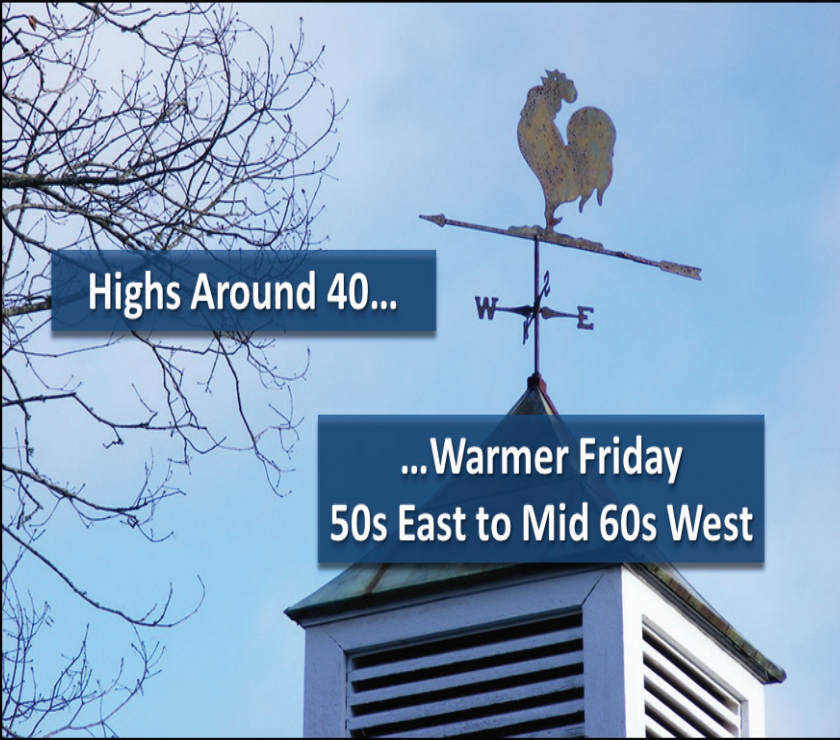
Saturday



Partly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance Rain



High: 48 °F

 **Breezy/Windy Again Today**   
*Isolated Showers – Eastern SD/Western MN*



Highs Around 40...

...Warmer Friday  
50s East to Mid 60s West

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Breezy to windy conditions will continue again today with cool air in place. As high pressure moves south, we will see a little bit warmer temperatures for Friday before the next cool down.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 12 of 83

## Today in Weather History

March 9, 1993: High winds gusting more than 50 mph moved east across South Dakota behind a strong cold front. Peak wind gusts reported included 62 mph at Pierre and 49 mph at Aberdeen. High winds flipped over a mobile home on top of a car and a utility shed near The Oahe Reservoir. A semi-tractor trailer was overturned while crossing Ft. Randall Dam. An office trailer was also tipped over at the same location.

1891: From March 9th through the 13th, a blizzard struck southern England and Wales with gale-force winds. An estimated 220 people were killed; 65 ships foundered in the English Channel, and 6,000 sheep perished. Countless trees were uprooted, and trains buried. Up to a foot of snow and snowdrifts of 11.5 feet were reported in Dulwich, London, Torquay, Sidmouth, and Dartmouth.

1956: A whopping 367 inches of snow was measured on the ground at the Rainier Paradise Ranger Station in Washington. The snow depth was a state record and the second-highest total on record for the continental U.S.

1957: An earthquake measuring a magnitude 8.6 struck the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. A Pacific-wide tsunami was generated that caused damage in Hawaii, but fortunately, no lives were lost. Hardest hit was the island of Kauai, where houses were destroyed and roads washed away. Waves reached 34.1 feet high at Haena, HI.

1877 - Oregon Inlet, NC, was widened three quarters of a mile by a nor'easter. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1947 - A tornado struck Woodward, OK, during the late evening killing 95 persons and causing six million dollars damage. The tornado, one to two miles in width, and traveling at a speed of 68 mph, killed a total of 167 persons along its 221 mile path from Texas into Kansas, injured 980 others, and caused nearly ten million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) A man looking out his front door was swept by a tornado from his home near Higgins TX and carried two hundred feet over trees. The bodies of two people, thought to be together at Glazier TX, were found three miles apart. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A storm brought 15.5 inches of rain to Jolo, WV, in thirty hours. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - International Falls, MN, reported their sixth straight record high for the date, with a reading of 77 degrees. A cold front ushering sharply colder weather into the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Glasgow MT. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Residents of Sioux City, IA, awoke to find two inches of snow on the ground following a record high temperature of 88 degrees the previous afternoon. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Eighteen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Eureka CA established a record for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to Arkansas and northern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail and damaging winds. A tornado injured four persons at Ardmore OK, and thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Kellyville OK, and hail three inches in diameter at Halmstead KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - An EF-3 tornado hits Mapleton, IA. Officials estimate more than half the town is damaged or destroyed but none of the 1200 residents were killed. 31 tornadoes were confirmed across Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina on this day.

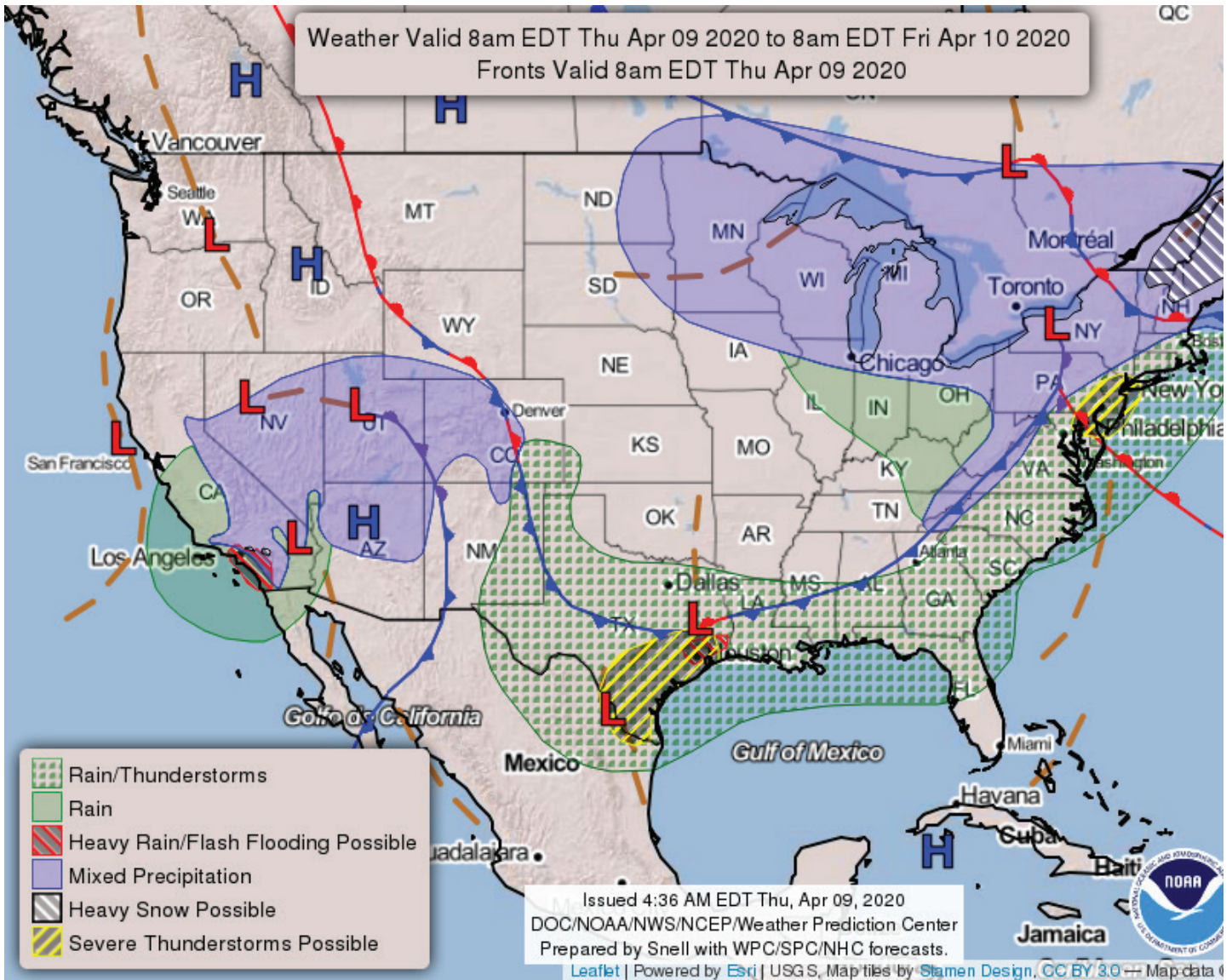
# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 13 of 83

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 50 °F at 3:35 PM**  
**Low Temp: 35 °F at 11:10 PM**  
**Wind: 33 mph at 4:47 PM**  
**Snow**

**Record High: 91° in 1977**  
**Record Low: 8° in 1997**  
**Average High: 54°F**  
**Average Low: 29°F**  
**Average Precip in April.: 0.37**  
**Precip to date in April.: 0.94**  
**Average Precip to date: 2.55**  
**Precip Year to Date: 1.29**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:13 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:56 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 14 of 83



## CAREFUL: GOD AT WORK

One morning, a man seeking direction in his life was going through his mail. He had prayed earnestly for direction from God but it never seemed to come. On this day, however, things changed.

Tucked away in the pile of mail he was sorting through was a magazine that was addressed to his neighbor. He looked at the cover and saw an article entitled, "The Needs of the Congo." His curiosity got the best of him so he opened the magazine and read the article. It touched his heart deeply.

For days he prayed about its contents and the opportunities and challenges it represented. Finally, one day he declared, "My search is over." He went to the Congo, lost himself in his work, and became a great medical missionary and author. Ultimately he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

Albert Schweitzer was a theologian, philosopher, organist, and physician. But one day, he set it all aside and became a medical missionary where he lost himself in God's will doing God's work among the lost and dying in God's world. Wherever we are is where God wants us to be!

Was it an accident that the mailman put the magazine in the wrong mailbox? Of course not. He too was doing God's work even though he did not know it. Although some may consider it an "accident" it was actually "an act of God" to get Schweitzer's attention.

Prayer: How marvelous are the different ways, Lord You use to get our attention to do Your will. May we be alert to see and hear what You have for us to do TODAY! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 15 of 83

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
  - **CANCELLED** 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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

01-19-24-29-31

(one, nineteen, twenty-four, twenty-nine, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$21,000

Lotto America

02-07-18-26-40, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(two, seven, eighteen, twenty-six, forty; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.05 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$136 million

Powerball

02-37-39-48-54, Powerball: 5, Power Play: 3

(two, thirty-seven, thirty-nine, forty-eight, fifty-four; Powerball: five; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$190 million

### South Dakota pork plant sees rash of COVID-19 cases

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The union representing employees at a Smithfield pork processing plant in South Dakota said workers were induced to report to work through company bonuses as a rash of coronavirus infections broke out at the facility, resulting in over 80 cases being confirmed on Wednesday.

Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said over 80 employees have tested positive, according to data released Tuesday. United Food and Commercial Workers, the union representing employees at the plant, reported the number of people with confirmed cases is higher — more than 120. The Sioux Falls plant, which employs about 2,800 people in the state's largest city, has emerged as a hotspot of infections, accounting for at least 1 in 5 confirmed cases in South Dakota.

Smithfield employs over 54,000 people worldwide, distributing packaged meat to 5,700 customers in 43 countries, according to the company's website. There has been no evidence that the coronavirus is being transmitted through food or its packaging, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Kooper Caraway, the president of the Sioux Falls AFL-CIO, which organizes local unions, said that in the last two weeks workers were given incentives to work even when they felt sick. The company offered a \$500 bonus to employees who don't call in sick during April, he said.

"That sounds like an incentive to show up to work sick," he said.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, the company also operated a point system that penalized workers for calling in sick, according to Tina Gonzalez, a spokeswoman for United Food and Commercial Workers.

Keira Lombardo, a spokeswoman for Smithfield Foods, said the company is giving the bonus to all hourly employees, including those who are quarantined for COVID-19.

She said the message to stay home from work if employees feel ill "has been repeated over and over and over again to employees."

Smithfield said it is taking precautions to protect its workers, including taking their temperatures before they enter the facilities, setting up hand sanitizing stations and administering "boosted personal protective equipment." The company said it would not confirm coronavirus cases in its facilities out of concerns for employees' privacy.



Gonzalez said Smithfield began screening employees earlier this week, but that an employee at the plant had tested positive almost two weeks ago. She described the action as "too little too late."

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.

The company has recently ordered masks, Gonzalez said, but employees have not been given masks approved for medical protection. Some reported using hair nets as masks.

South Dakota health officials reported the largest day-to-day jump in confirmed coronavirus cases on Wednesday as 73 more people tested positive. The state has tallied 393 confirmed cases. Six people have died from COVID-19.

## Flood risk remains a concern along eastern Missouri River

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Flooding remains a concern in several states along the Missouri River, even though the weather has been kind so far this spring, according to the National Weather Service.

The agency said Wednesday that the flood risk is high in eastern South Dakota, eastern North Dakota, eastern Nebraska, western Iowa, eastern Kansas and Missouri because the soil remains wet. However, a lack of rain and the warm temperatures this spring has allowed snow to melt gradually across the Plains without increasing the risk.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has trimmed its forecast for how much water will flow down the Missouri River in 2020, but it is still expected to be a wet year.

"We still are looking at above-average risk, but things are improving," said Kevin Low, a National Weather Service hydrologist at the Missouri River Basin River Forecast Center. "The soil moisture conditions are slowly improving. It's getting drier, and the fact that we haven't had any rain is a godsend."

It helped that the ground didn't remain frozen deep into March across the region, and there were few problems related to ice jams along the Missouri River and its tributaries, Low said.

"We are in a lot better shape than I thought we would be two months ago," Low said.

Even if the weather remains mild, some places could still see flooding. Many levees are still in need of repairs after last year's massive flooding, particularly in Kansas and Missouri. If there is significant rainfall in the coming months, the Corps could increase releases from upstream dams on the river to prevent the reservoirs from overflowing.

Much of the land in low-lying areas near the Missouri River is cropland, so that often floods first, limiting damage to homes and businesses.

The Corps now estimates 2020 runoff will be 35.5 million acre feet (43.8 cubic kilometers), which would rank in the top 10% of the wettest years in the past 122 years. That is down slightly from last month's forecast of 36.9 million acre-feet (45.5 cubic kilometers). The highest runoff year was 2011 with 61 million acre-feet (75.2 cubic kilometers), followed by 2019, with 60.9 million acre-feet (75.1 cubic kilometers).

Several of the rivers that flow into the Missouri River remain high, such as the James and Big Sioux rivers in South Dakota.

Mountain snowpack has yet to melt and flow into the river. The mountain snowpack is slightly above average so far this year. Low said at this stage it doesn't appear the snowpack will create problems along the Missouri River.

Separately, fears of significant flooding along the Red River in North Dakota that were stoked by record rain fall and early winter precipitation have fallen by the wayside thanks, in part, to a slow spring thaw.

Moderate flooding, particularly in Grand Forks and other northern areas, has closed some bridges and roads and "an extended period" of moderate to major flooding is expected along the Red's tributaries, the weather service said. Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, suffered millions of dollars worth of damage in the record 2009 Red River flood, but has not suffered any serious losses since.

\_\_\_Associated Press writer Dave Kolpack contributed to this report from Fargo, North Dakota.

## Deputy who shot neighbor's dog cleared of wrongdoing

WHITEWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Lawrence County sheriff's deputy has been cleared of wrongdoing after shooting a neighbor's dog.

The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation conducted a review and forwarded its findings to the Lawrence County State's Attorney's Office which concluded the unnamed deputy did not violate sheriff's office policy in firing his gun.

The deputy shot and wounded the dog after arriving at his home near Whitewood March 5.

The Rapid City Journal reports that when the deputy got out of his vehicle the dog ran toward him while barking.

The owner was able to call the dog off, but officials say it turned and ran at the deputy again while barking before it was shot in the jaw at close range.

## The Latest: Bangkok to ban alcohol sales to curb virus

The Associated Press

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

- Warnings multiply against Easter holiday travel, gatherings.
- Bangkok to ban sales of alcohol in an effort to curb virus spread.
- Indonesia bans some from returning home to their hometowns to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

BANGKOK — Sales of alcoholic beverages will be banned in Thailand's capital Bangkok for a 10-day period starting Friday as part of the effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections. Bars and restaurants were ordered to stop onsite services last month.

Officials said the alcohol ban was necessary because people were flouting social distancing rules by holding drinking parties even as the number of coronavirus cases keeps rising.

Thailand's annual Songkran Lunar New Year festival falls within the no-sales period. The holiday is usually celebrated by raucous merrymaking and much drinking, which contributes to a spike in traffic deaths.

The official April 13-15 holiday has already been postponed and organized celebrations canceled because of the crowds they would attract.

At least 11 other provinces have already ordered temporary bans on alcohol sales, including the major tourist destination of Chiang Mai in the north.

Health officials on Thursday confirmed 54 new cases of the disease, bringing the nation's total to 2,423, with Bangkok accounting for about half of them. Nationwide, the death toll increased by two to 32, and the number of recovered patients totaled 940.

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has officially banned all civil servants, police officers, military personnel and employees of state-owned companies from returning to their hometowns to celebrate the end of Ramadan with families in an attempt to curb the new coronavirus spread.

Widodo said in a video conference Thursday that his administration is still evaluating whether a similar prohibition to be imposed to the rest of people in the world's most populous Muslim nation. He said the decision will be announced within days.

Indonesia, with a population of nearly 270 million, has more Muslims than any other country in the world.

The annual mass exodus usually involves tens of millions of Indonesians crisscrossing the vast archipelago for Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Islamic holy month. The holiday is expected to fall on May 24.

Those travelers, mostly crammed into trains, ferries, buses and in greater numbers of cars and motorcycles, could play a role in disease transmission from urban density to rural areas, but Widodo said there are some groups of travelers who may be allowed to return to their villages for economic reasons.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 19 of 83

"We cannot ban those who lost their jobs and income in this pandemic crisis from returning to their villages," he said.

Indonesia on Thursday recorded new 337 COVID-19 cases on Thursday, its biggest daily jump since the start of the pandemic, bringing the country's total to 3,293.

Indonesia has the highest death toll in Asia after China, with 280 deaths.

LONDON — Oxfam is warning that half a billion people in the developing world could be pushed into poverty as a result of the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

In the run-up to three key international economic meetings next week, the anti-poverty campaigning group has urged richer countries to step up their relief efforts.

In a report based on research at King's College London and the Australian National University, Oxfam is calling on world leaders to agree an 'Economic Rescue Package for All' to keep poor countries and poor communities afloat. Among the measures it is recommending is the immediate cancellation of \$1 trillion worth of developing country debt payments in 2020.

Jose Maria Vera, Oxfam International Interim Executive Director said "for poor people in poor countries who are already struggling to survive there are almost no safety nets to stop them falling into poverty."

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia has started reopening open air markets, in the first sign of easing of strict rules against the spread of the new coronavirus in the country.

Wearing protective masks, residents of Zagreb on Thursday lined up at one of the markets on a sunny day, keeping distance from one another as they waited to buy home-grown fruit, vegetables or other products.

Open-air markets are highly popular in Croatia, offering a chance for producers from small farms to sell their products. Those markets were closed for weeks as part of the anti-virus lockdown.

Buyers in Zagreb said they are happy that the markets were reopening, but contended it will be a while before life returns to normal. One woman says: "We must be patient."

Inside the small wooden houses, sellers offered their products through open windows. Authorities have said markets can open only if strict hygienic and distancing rules are respected.

Croatia has confirmed 1,343 cases of infections with the new coronavirus, while 19 people have died.

LISBON, Portugal — Authorities in Portugal have halted commercial flights at the country's five international airports as part of the battle against the coronavirus.

Officials are concerned that over the Easter weekend people may be reluctant to stay at home, as they have been instructed to do for weeks under a national state of emergency.

Additional restrictions came into force Thursday for a four-day period, including a ban on people leaving their council area or more than five people gathering in one place, as well as a flight prohibition.

Police set up checkpoints on major roads and junctions.

The land border with Spain, which traditionally sends many tourists for the Easter break, has been closed for weeks.

Portugal has officially recorded 380 cases of coronavirus deaths, compared with Spain's more than 15,000 deaths.

MADRID — Spanish health authorities say that reported coronavirus infections and deaths have gone down again after a two-day uptick, hopefully signaling a return to the overall slowdown in the pandemic growth under a national lockdown.

The Health Ministry said Thursday that authorities reported 5,756 new cases and 683 new deaths over the previous 24-hour period. That is compared to new 6,180 cases and 757 new deaths on Wednesday.

Overall, Spain has 152,446 infections and 15,238 fatalities since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, situating it as one of the world's hardest-hit countries along with the United States and Italy.

Over 52,000 patients have also recovered in Spain, as pressure has eased slightly on its hospitals.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 20 of 83

Like many countries, Spain is struggling to gauge the true extent of the virus outbreak due to a lag in testing of the general population. Authorities have recognized that several thousand of elderly people have died in nursing homes without being tested. Only deaths of people who had tested positive are being included in the official statistics.

The latest figures were released as Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez appeared before the national Parliament to ask for its endorsement of a second two-week extension of Spain's state of emergency that permits the lockdown against the virus. Support is expected after the main opposition party said it would back the Socialist-led coalition government.

Correction Note: Spanish health authorities have corrected the new deaths for today. The corrected version is above, and only changes death toll for the last 24 hours. The number is 683, not 728.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovakia's authorities have ordered a lockdown of five poor settlements where the Roma live separated from the majority population after 31 people there tested positive for the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic announced the lockdown, the first in Slovakia, on Thursday, saying "I'll be glad if you understand the necessity of the decision."

The military health personnel started the testing on Friday in 33 such settlements where the poorest of the poor Roma live, often without access to running water and without sewage systems. Authorities fear such conditions would result in a rapid spreading of the infection.

The testing in the settlements was requested by Roma activists.

Initially, authorities were focusing on over a thousand of those Roma who recently returned from abroad from countries seriously hit by the epidemic, including Britain. A total of 816 had been tested as of Wednesday. Slovakia has 682 infections, and two people have died.

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader is suggesting that mass gatherings in the Islamic Republic may be barred through the holy Muslim fasting month Ramadan amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the comment Thursday as Iran is trying to restart its economic activity after suffering one of the world's worst outbreaks. Ramadan is set to begin in late April and last through most of May.

Khamenei urged Shiite faithful to pray in their homes during Ramadan. Shiite typically pray communally, especially during Ramadan.

Iran has reported over 67,000 confirmed cases of the new virus, with nearly 4,000 deaths. However, experts have repeatedly questioned those numbers, especially as Iran initially downplayed the outbreak in February amid the 41st anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution and a crucial parliamentary vote.

BRUSSELS — Authorities in the French-speaking Walloon region have requested the support of Belgian armed forces to tackle the worrying situation at nursing homes, where several hundred residents have died because of COVID-19.

According to official figures released this month, a third of the deaths linked to the deadly virus in the region of southern Belgium have been registered in resting homes.

Christie Morreale, the Walloon health minister, said Thursday that her request for help has been granted by Belgian federal authorities. A total of 116 nursing homes in the region have been hit by a COVID-19 cluster, a situation where at least 10 cases of the new coronavirus have been confirmed.

Morreale said the military personal could help cater to residents or decontaminate premises infected with the deadly virus. She also asked doctors to volunteer to attend to patients in resting homes.

The situation is concerning too in the neighboring Flanders region, where more than 600 nursing home residents are suspected to have died as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 2,000 virus-related deaths have been recorded in the country with a population of approximately 11.5 million people.

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

## HHS: Federal stocks of protective equipment nearly depleted

By MICHAEL BIESECKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Strategic National Stockpile is nearly out of the N95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, gowns and other medical supplies desperately needed to protect front-line medical workers treating coronavirus patients.

The Department of Health and Human Services told The Associated Press Wednesday that the federal stockpile was in the process of deploying all remaining personal protective equipment in its inventory.

The HHS statement confirms federal documents released Wednesday by the House Oversight and Reform Committee showing that about 90% of the personal protective equipment in the stockpile has been distributed to state and local governments.

HHS spokeswoman Katie McKeogh said the remaining 10% will be kept in reserve to support federal response efforts.

House Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y., said in a statement that the Trump administration is leaving states to scour the open market for scarce supplies, often competing with each other and federal agencies in a chaotic bidding war that drives up prices.

"The President failed to bring in FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) early on, failed to name a national commander for this crisis, and failed to fully utilize the authorities Congress gave him under the Defense Production Act to procure and manage the distribution of critical supplies," Maloney said. "He must take action now to address these deficiencies."

For the last month, health care workers across the nation have taken to social media to illustrate the shortages by taking selfies wearing home-sewn masks on their faces and trash bags over their scrubs.

President Donald Trump has faulted the states for not better preparing for the pandemic and has said they should only be relying on the federal stockpile as a last resort.

The AP reported Sunday that the Trump administration squandered nearly two months after the early January warnings that COVID-19 might ignite a global pandemic, waiting until mid-March to place bulk orders of N95 masks and other medical supplies needed to build up the stockpile. By then, hospitals in several states were treating thousands of infected patients without adequate equipment and were pleading for help.

Trump spent the first two months of the outbreak playing down the threat from the new virus. He denied warnings of a pandemic as a hoax perpetrated by Democrats and the media, predicting as late as Feb. 26 that the number of U.S. cases would soon drop to zero.

The stockpile was created in 1999 to prevent supply-chain disruptions for the predicted Y2K computer problems. It expanded after 9/11 to prepare for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks. Congress provided money in 2006 to prepare for a potential influenza pandemic, though much of that stock was used during the H1N1 flu outbreak three years later.

At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the federal stockpile had about 13 million N95 respirators, masks which filter out about 95% of all liquid or airborne particles and are critical to prevent health care workers from becoming infected. That's just a small fraction of what hospitals need to protect their workers, who normally would wear a new mask for each patient, but who now are often issued only one to last for days.

Federal contracting records show HHS made an initial bulk order of N95 masks on March 12, followed by larger orders on March 21. But those contracts won't yield big deliveries to the national stockpile until the end of April, after the White House has projected the pandemic will reach its peak.

For nearly a month, Trump rebuffed calls to use his authority under the Defense Production Act to order companies to increase production of respirators and ventilators, before he relented last week.

Asked about the AP report, the president suggested Sunday the states should be thankful for the ship-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 22 of 83

ments of supplies they have gotten.

"FEMA, the military, what they've done is a miracle," Trump said. "What they've done is a miracle in getting all of this stuff. What they have done for states is incredible."

Follow AP Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Contact AP's global investigative team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org)

## Jobless claims report Thursday could hit 7 million or higher

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is set to report another shocking level of unemployment claims Thursday even after nearly 10 million people applied for benefits in the previous two weeks because of business shutdowns from the coronavirus. The number will likely keep increasing, in part because many states are still clearing out backlogs of applications for unemployment aid. And with more companies running through their cash cushions as the virus-related shutdowns persist, they are resorting to layoffs to save money.

As job cuts mount, here are five aspects of the bleakest U.S. job market in memory.

### APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AID KEEP RISING

Some analysts project that another record will be set by the number of claims filed for the week that ended April 4, which will be reported Thursday at 8:30 am. Jesse Edgerton, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, forecasts that 7 million people sought benefits that week. That would top the previous week's stunning record of 6.6 million.

Up to 50 million jobs are vulnerable to coronavirus-related layoffs, economists say — about one-third of all the jobs in the United States. That figure is based on a calculation of positions that are deemed non-essential by state and federal governments and that cannot be done from home. It's unlikely all those workers will be laid off or file a jobless claim. But it suggests the extraordinary magnitude of unemployment that could result from the pandemic.

Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at S&P Global Ratings, said she thinks layoffs will send the unemployment rate to 15% next month, with at least 13 million jobs lost. Consider that during the Great Recession, which ended in 2009, unemployment never went above 10%.

"It's unbelievable that I am saying this," Bovino said. "It's mind-boggling."

### SELF-EMPLOYED ARE AMONG THOSE STRUGGLING TO FILE

Even with applications for unemployment aid surging, some of the newly jobless are running into trouble applying for benefits. The federal government's \$2.2 trillion economic relief package expands unemployment insurance to groups that previously weren't eligible, including the self-employed, gig workers, and independent contractors. Yet many states haven't updated their websites to reflect the new rules. This has caused bottlenecks, particularly in California, which includes a significant contingent of self-employed and gig workers.

### ECONOMY IS LIKELY IN A DEEP RECESSION

The data on the U.S. economy is also bleak. With the vast majority of the country enduring business shutdowns, economic activity has slowed to a near-halt. Janet Yellen, the former chair of the Federal Reserve, said Monday that the economy would likely shrink at a 30% annual rate in the April-June quarter — a contraction that would be unmatched in records dating to World War II.

"This is a huge, unprecedented, devastating hit," Yellen said.

### WHICH STATES ARE WORST HIT?

In last week's report, more states reported sharp increases in applications for unemployment benefits than in the previous week. A key reason was that more states and localities adopted stay-at-home orders against the virus. Forty-six out of the 50 states reported a rise in benefit applications, with only Rhode

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 23 of 83

Island, Minnesota, Nevada and New Hampshire reporting declines, which will likely prove temporary. The biggest states — California, Texas, and New York — still reported huge increases. In California, claims jumped 27% to more than 850,000.

WILL LAST WEEK'S FIGURE BE REVISED UP?

With most state unemployment offices swarmed by applications, state agencies may send more detailed counts to the U.S. Labor Department, which reports the national figures, a week after the initial report. That suggests that last week's report of 6.6 million jobless claims could be revised, likely higher. The figure that was reported two weeks ago of 3.3 million was revised slightly higher the following week.

## Warnings multiply against Easter holiday travel, gatherings

By **GEIR MOULSON, ELENA BECATOROS and NICK PERRY** Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — As the Easter holiday approaches, world leaders and health officials are fervently warning that the hard-won gains in the fight against the coronavirus must not be jeopardized by relaxing social distancing.

A spike in deaths in Britain and New York and surges of reported new infections in Japan and in India's congested cities make it clear that the battle is far from over.

"We are flattening the curve because we are rigorous about social distancing," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "But it's not a time to be complacent. It's not a time to do anything different than we've been doing."

The U.S. has by far the most confirmed cases, with over 430,000 people infected — three times the number of the next three countries combined. New York state on Wednesday recorded its highest one-day increase in deaths, 779, for an overall death toll of almost 6,300. New York has more than 40% of the U.S. death total of around 15,000.

In Germany, Health Minister Jens Spahn cautioned that the positive trend in reduced new infections "must be cemented."

"So it is right to remain consistent over Easter," he told the Handelsblatt newspaper Thursday. "Even if it is difficult in this weather, we should stay home and refrain from family visits so that the infection curve does not rise again."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also emphasized that people shouldn't travel as usual, saying "even short trips inside Germany, to the seaside or the mountains or relatives, can't happen over Easter this year."

In New Zealand, police warned people not to drive to their holiday homes over Easter or they would be risking arrest.

"It's simple - traveling to and from different towns and cities risks spreading COVID-19, and puts lives at risk," police said.

Lithuania is restricting public movement and imposing a lockdown on major cities during Easter to prevent the further spread of infection in the predominantly Catholic nation.

Greece also tightened restrictions ahead of next week's Orthodox Easter celebrations, increasing police roadblocks along highways and secondary roads, doubling fines for lockdown violations and banning travel between islands.

Swiss police were seeking to dissuade drivers from heading to the Italian-speaking Ticino region, the only part of Switzerland south of the Alps and one of the worst-hit by the pandemic. Roadblocks were being set up near the northern entrance of the Gotthard tunnel to separate out would-be visitors.

In the Middle East, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suggested mass gatherings may be barred through the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which runs this year from late April through most of May.

Khamenei urged Shiite faithful to pray at home during Ramadan. Shiites typically pray together and communities often share meals, especially during Ramadan. Iran has reported over 66,000 coronavirus cases and over 4,100 deaths, although experts suspect those numbers under-report the country's outbreak.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, a U.S. infectious diseases expert, said the Trump administration has been working on

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 24 of 83

plans to eventually reopen the country but added it's not time to scale back social distancing yet.

"Keep your foot on the accelerator because this is what is going to get us through this," he said.

Fauci said the coronavirus pandemic will demand permanent changes in people's behavior until a vaccine is developed. He said everyone should be constantly washing their hands and sick children and adults should not go to school or work.

"Don't anybody ever shake hands again," he said. "I mean, it sounds crazy, but that's the way it's really got to be until we get to a point where we know the population is protected."

In a potentially worrying development in South Korea, at least 74 people diagnosed as having recovered from the new coronavirus tested positive for a second time after being released from the hospital. Health authorities were testing their virus and serum samples to figure out whether they could again be infectious to others.

In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson spent a third night in intensive care due to COVID-19 infection. On Wednesday night, authorities said he was improving and sitting up in bed. The country posted its highest death toll in a single day Wednesday, with 938 virus-related deaths, and feared it could break that record again Thursday.

Japan reported more than 500 new cases for the first time Thursday, a worrisome rise since it has the world's oldest population and COVID-19 can be especially serious in the elderly.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has declared a state of emergency — but not a lockdown — in Tokyo and six other prefectures. Companies in the world's third-largest economy have been slow to embrace working from home and Abe appears to be concerned about keeping the economy going. Many commuters jammed Tokyo's streets as usual on Thursday.

But Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, who has outlined business closure plans that are tougher than the Abe's, said the city is in a dire situation and cannot delay non-essential business shutdowns for two more weeks.

"The spread of the infections is so fast in Tokyo that we cannot wait that long," she said.

India, whose 1.3 billion people are under a lockdown until next week, has sealed off dozens of hot spots in and around New Delhi, the capital. It will supply residents with food and medicine but not allow them to leave. The number of confirmed cases exceeds 5,000, with 166 deaths.

Worldwide, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has climbed to nearly 1.5 million, with nearly 90,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. The true numbers are much higher, because of limited testing, different rules for counting the dead and the efforts of some governments to conceal the extent of their outbreaks.

For most, the virus causes mild to moderate symptoms like fever and cough. But for some older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death. Almost 330,000 people have recovered.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said he would speak to African American leaders who are concerned about disproportionate impacts the virus is having on their communities. Fauci acknowledged that historic disparities in health care have put African Americans at risk for diseases that make them more vulnerable to the virus.

New virus infections, hospitalizations and deaths have been leveling off in hard-hit Italy and Spain, which together have more than 32,000 deaths, but the daily tolls are still shocking. Spain reported 683 more deaths on Thursday, bringing its total to 15,238.

The latest figures were released as Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez appeared before parliament to ask for a second two-week extension of Spain's state of emergency.

Perry reported from Wellington, New Zealand and Becatoros from Athens, Greece. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed.

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



## Taiwan protests WHO leader's accusations of racist campaign

By JOHNSON LAI Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's foreign ministry on Thursday strongly protested accusations from the head of the World Health Organization that the self-governing island was linked to and condoned racist personal attacks on him.

A ministry statement expressed "strong dissatisfaction and a high degree of regret" with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' remarks at a press briefing in Geneva on Wednesday. It requested he "immediately correct his unfounded allegations, immediately clarify, and apologize to our country."

At the press briefing, Tedros vocally defended himself and the U.N. health agency's response to the coronavirus pandemic. He accused Taiwan's foreign ministry of being linked to a months-long campaign against him and said that since the emergence of the new coronavirus, he has been personally attacked, including receiving at times, death threats and racist abuse.

"This attack came from Taiwan," said Tedros, a former Ethiopian health and foreign minister and the WHO's first African leader.

He said Taiwanese diplomats were aware of the attacks but did not dissociate themselves from them. "They even started criticizing me in the middle of all those insults and slurs," Tedros said. "I say it today because it's enough." The basis of his allegations was unclear.

President Tsai Ing-wen also weighed in, saying on Facebook that Taiwan does not condone the use of racist remarks to attack those with different opinions.

"If Director-General Tedros could withstand pressure from China and come to Taiwan to see Taiwan's efforts to fight COVID-19 for himself, he would be able to see that the Taiwanese people are the true victims of unfair treatment," she wrote, referring to Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO at China's insistence. "I believe that the WHO will only truly be complete if Taiwan is included."

Tedros was elected with the strong support of China, one of five permanent veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council and which claims Taiwan as its own territory. He has firmly backed Beijing's claims to have been open and transparent about the outbreak, despite strong evidence that it suppressed early reports on infections, while echoing its criticisms of the U.S.

Taiwan is barred from the U.N. and has been stripped of its observer status at the WHO's World Health Assembly. At the same time, it has one of the most robust public health systems in the world, and has won praise for its handling of the virus outbreak.

Despite its close proximity to China and the frequency of travel between the sides, Taiwan has reported just 379 cases and five deaths.

U.S. and Taiwanese officials met online last month to discuss ways of increasing the island's participation in the world health system, sparking fury from Beijing, which opposes all official contacts between Washington and Taipei.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian didn't give credence to Tedros' allegation, but said Thursday that "we hope the Taiwan authorities will not politicize the epidemic situation or engage in political manipulation."

Also at Wednesday's briefing, Tedros sought to rise above sharp criticism and threats of funding cuts from President Donald Trump over the WHO's response to the outbreak.

The vocal defense came a day after Trump blasted the agency for being "China-centric" and alleging that it had "criticized" his ban of travel from China as the COVID-19 outbreak was spreading from the city of Wuhan.

## 5 things to know today - that aren't about the virus

By The Associated Press

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

1. STAGE IS SET FOR NOVEMBER A general election campaign between Donald Trump and Joe Biden will almost certainly be the most expensive and among the nastiest in U.S. history.

2. 'HOUSTON, WE'VE HAD A PROBLEM HERE' On the golden anniversary of the harrowing moonshot, Apollo 13's astronauts recall NASA's most successful failure when the mission was aborted by an oxygen tank rupture.

3. CLINTON IMPEACHMENT FIGURE DIES Linda Tripp, whose secretly recorded conversations exposed President Bill Clinton's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky in 1998, dies at 70.

4. LEADERSHIP VACUUM PERSISTS IN IRAQ Iraq's second prime minister-designate in just over a month withdraws his candidacy following political infighting.

5. IT WAS 'JUST TIME' New Bucs quarterback Tom Brady says on SiriusXM's "The Howard Stern Show" that he has no hard feelings about coach Bill Belichick not making him a Patriot for life.

## As pandemic deepens, Trump cycles through targets to blame

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — First, it was the media that was at fault. Then, Democratic governors came under fire. China, President Barack Obama and federal watchdogs have all had a turn in the crosshairs. And now it's the World Health Organization that's to blame.

President Donald Trump is falling back on a familiar political strategy as he grapples with the coronavirus pandemic: deflect, deny and direct blame elsewhere.

As he tries to distance his White House from the mounting death toll, Trump has cycled through a long list of possible scapegoats in an attempt to distract from what critics say were his own administration's missteps in slowing the spread of the coronavirus on American shores.

The strategy relies on validation from supportive media personalities and Republicans, evoking White House tactics during other challenging times for Trump's presidency. The effort is taking on more urgency during a once-in-a-century health crisis playing out just seven months before voters go to the polls.

The list of those Trump has blamed is lengthy, and shifting:

Democratic governors for alleged mismanagement at the front lines of the crisis. The media, first for hyping the threat of the virus and then for not giving the administration credit for its response. Federal inspectors general, believed to be conspiring to make the White House look bad. The Obama administration, for not adequately preparing. China, initially absolved of responsibility, then accused of covering up worrisome health data. And now the WHO, from which Trump has threatened to withhold funding.

Trump himself owns up to no mistakes.

Last month, as the nation began to lock down, Trump declared "I don't take responsibility at all" for a lack of testing. And when asked this week if he would have responded to the crisis differently had he seen a January memo from a senior adviser warning about the potential severity of the virus outbreak in the U.S., the Republican president was blunt.

"I couldn't have done it any better," he said.

In the face of extraordinary electoral headwinds, finding fault elsewhere has become the directive for the president's allies, according to four White House officials and Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Trump's attacks on foils from Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to Chinese health officials have been amplified by Cabinet members, his campaign apparatus and congressional Republicans.

With one eye firmly on his November reelection prospects, Trump at times has bristled against tough public health recommendations and has urged a rapid restart to the nation's economy. He has tried to drown out Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, and has attempted to blame the former vice president for bureaucratic failures.

Trump has transformed the daily White House coronavirus task force briefing into a substitute for his canceled rallies, treating the James S. Brady briefing room like a stage in Ohio, Florida or Wisconsin. He has sparred with reporters, mangled facts and, at times, distanced himself from the advice of his own public health team.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 27 of 83

There is no "The buck stops here," like the sign once found on President Harry S. Truman's desk. "George H.W. Bush used to say that no one wants to hear the president of the United States say, 'Oh, woe is me.' And yet Trump is betting on the reverse," presidential historian Jon Meacham said. "Since ancient times, leadership has been about wearing a mask of command. Trump is the opposite — a bundle of insecurities, neediness and wants."

Trump allies point to the president's actions — such as suspending direct flights with China and, later, Europe — as measures that kept the nation safe and said that his brashness and sense of urgency have improved the response by both the government and the private sector.

"A big part of the reason why President Trump was elected was to be that bull in the china shop, to take those brash, declarative actions," said Jason Miller, Trump's 2016 campaign communications director. "He was elected because we are a 'right now' society, and he will be rewarded by voters for doing whatever it takes to keep people safe."

But from the pandemic's first days, Trump has tried to create some daylight between the White House and the front lines of the pandemic. His administration put the onus on states to battle the crisis, declaring that the federal government — and the national stockpile of emergency medical supplies — was simply a "backstop" to the states' efforts.

Trump was initially reluctant to invoke the Defense Production Act, which shifts more power to Washington to push the private sector to manufacture critically needed supplies.

Trump initially was loath to criticize China, a valued trading partner, but shifted gears with an eye toward firing up his nationalist supporters, using the inflammatory term "the Chinese virus" to describe the novel coronavirus while accusing Beijing of not being transparent with its health data. This week, he took aim at a new target, the World Health Organization, accusing it of "missing the call" on the virus.

And, as he often does, Trump has leveled many of his broadsides at the media, attacking news organizations and individual reporters alike in an effort to boost his base supporters and cast doubt on the integrity of the reporting as bad headlines pile up.

Trump has used this playbook before.

Trump most notably dug in after he was accused of pressuring a foreign leader to investigate a political foe, a matter that led to his impeachment. Throughout the impeachment drama, Trump insisted his July 2019 conversation with Ukraine's president that was at the heart of the matter was "perfect."

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/@JonLemire>.

## **Biden vs. Trump: General election battle is now set**

**By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer**

The stage is set for November.

Barring unforeseen disaster, Joe Biden will represent the Democratic Party against President Donald Trump this fall, the former vice president's place on the general election ballot cemented by Bernie Sanders' decision to end his campaign.

Biden likely won't secure the number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination until June. But without any Democratic rivals left, a general election campaign that will almost certainly be the most expensive and among the nastiest in U.S. history is underway.

"It won't be easy. Nobody's confused about that. But we are ready for the general election. We are ready for our standard-bearer," Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said. "I'm confident because Joe Biden's values reflect the values of the majority of the American people that we can win."

In Biden and Trump, voters will choose between two white septuagenarians with dramatically different prescriptions for health care, climate change, foreign policy and leadership in an era of extreme partisanship.

At 77, Biden becomes the oldest major party presidential nominee in modern history. And having spent most of his life as an elected official in Washington, no nominee has had more experience in government.

But in Trump, Biden is up against an adversary the likes of which he has never faced in his decadeslong

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 28 of 83

political career. The 73-year-old Republican president opens with a massive cash advantage and a well-established willingness to win at any cost.

Trump's campaign is moving forward with a multipronged attack that mixes legitimate criticism with baseless charges and, in some cases, outright conspiracy theories. It's similar to the unconventional playbook Trump used against Hillary Clinton four years ago with unexpectedly devastating success.

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said Biden will be portrayed as too liberal for most Americans, weighed down by questions about his son's overseas business dealings and about questionable mental acuity at his age. Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, predicted Trump would "destroy" Biden, whom the president and his allies have nicknamed "Sleepy Joe."

"President Trump is still disrupting Washington, D.C., while Biden represents the old, tired way and continuing to coddle the communist regime in China," Parscale said.

Trump's team also believes he can win over disaffected Sanders supporters who see Biden as a consummate insider. Shortly after Sanders' announcement Wednesday, the president charged without evidence that Democratic leaders were plotting against Sanders.

The Republican National Committee has already assembled an extensive research book on Biden. The GOP has devoted 10 researchers to Biden and sent hundreds of Biden-related freedom of information and public records requests to gather additional damaging material.

Before Biden can shift his entire focus to Trump, the former vice president is tasked with winning over Sanders' skeptical far-left supporters, who have trashed Biden's record on trade, criminal justice, corporate America and foreign policy. The party's most progressive wing also fears that Biden's policies on health care and the environment, among others, don't go far enough.

For example, Biden supports universal health care, but unlike Sanders, he would preserve the private insurance system and offer Americans a government-backed "public option" instead of Sanders' signature "Medicare for All."

Biden advisers note that he had already begun reaching out to Sanders' aligned progressive organizations, including those focused on young people like the Sunrise Movement and the March For Our Lives.

Sanders suggested that any full-throated endorsement of Biden would come with strings attached. "We are talking to Joe, and we are talking to his team about how we can work together," he told CBS "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert.

In a sign of what he hopes will come from those talks, Sanders said, "I hope to be able to work with Joe to move him in a more progressive direction."

Perhaps Biden's most powerful ally, former President Barack Obama, was quiet on Wednesday. Still, the former president and first lady Michelle Obama are ultimately expected to help rally the party behind Biden, who served for eight years as Obama's vice president.

Trump tried to raise suspicion about why Obama had yet to endorse Biden, saying: "When is it going to happen? Why isn't he? He knows something that you don't know." Former presidents typically don't interject themselves in the primary process, and Obama had long maintained he wouldn't get involved until a nominee had been selected.

Biden's status as the presumptive nominee affords him the freedom to move forward more openly with selecting a running mate. He's already started vetting potential vice presidents, but he had to tread gently with Sanders still in the race.

No more.

The campaign's general counsel, Dana Remus, and an outside adviser, Bob Bauer, are leading the early weeks of the search process. Bauer served as White House counsel to Obama and is married to Anita Dunn, Biden's top campaign strategist.

Biden acknowledged during a virtual fundraiser Wednesday that his team has discussed a faster timeline for announcing his running mate, which traditionally comes on the eve of the national convention. But, he added, "It's going to take a while to get through the usual vetting."

Meanwhile, both candidates are staring down the coronavirus pandemic, which has turned 2020 cam-

campaign logistics on their head. With peak infection rates still several weeks away for many parts of the country, the outbreak and related economic devastation will play a major role in shaping voter attitudes and campaign logistics.

For now, Biden and Trump are effectively stuck at home like much of America.

Biden's team suggest that his empathy and experience are right for the moment, yet he has struggled to be heard from the makeshift television studio in the basement of his Delaware home. The campaign has committed to at least one virtual event each day, while Trump has starred in widely viewed daily White House briefings about the coronavirus outbreak.

Despite the challenges, Biden will move into the fall with a broad coalition comprised of working-class white people, older African Americans and even disaffected Republicans who have been alienated by Trump's GOP. The Lincoln Project, a collection of former Republicans, formally endorsed Biden shortly after Sanders' announcement.

"As America contends with unprecedented loss, we need a leader who can steady our ship of state, bind up our common wounds, and lead us into our next national chapter," said group co-founder Reed Galen. "Joe Biden has the humanity, empathy and steadiness we need in a national leader."

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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

## Lockdowns mean millions of women can't reach birth control

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The callers were in tears. One by one, women in homes across rural Zimbabwe had a pleading question: When would family planning services return?

Lockdowns imposed to curb the coronavirus' spread have put millions of women in Africa, Asia and elsewhere out of reach of birth control and other sexual and reproductive health needs. Confined to their homes with their husbands and others, they face unwanted pregnancies and little idea of when they can reach the outside world again.

In these uncertain times, women "have to lock down their uterus," Abebe Shibru, Zimbabwe country director for Marie Stopes International, told The Associated Press. "But there is no way in a rural area."

Eighteen countries in Africa have imposed national lockdowns, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All but essential workers or those seeking food or health care must stay home for weeks, maybe longer. Rwanda, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to impose a lockdown, has extended it for two weeks, a possible sign of things to come.

Even where family planning remains available, providers say many women fear venturing out and being beaten by security forces and accused of defying the new restrictions. Meanwhile, outreach services, the key to reaching rural women, have largely stopped to avoid drawing crowds and the risk of workers spreading the virus from one community to another.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation, or IPPF, in a new report Thursday says more than one in five member clinics around the world have closed because of the pandemic and related restrictions. More than 5,000 mobile clinics across 64 countries have closed. Most are in South Asia and Africa, but Latin America and Europe have seen hundreds of closures as well.

From Pakistan to Germany to Colombia, IPPF members say they have scaled down HIV testing and gender-based violence response work and face shortages of contraceptives.

"They have needs that cannot wait," IPPF director-general Alvaro Bermejo said of women in a statement, pleading for help from national governments to help provide personal protective equipment to allow for intimate care.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild to moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. But for some, especially older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 30 of 83

In Europe, 100 non-governmental groups on Wednesday called on governments to ensure reproductive health services during the pandemic, saying many facilities have sharply reduced them or shut down.

The predicted baby boom in Africa alone, even as birth rates have dropped in many countries as more girls are educated, will add to the growth that already is projected to see the continent of 1.3 billion people double in population by 2050.

In Zimbabwe, Marie Stopes provided more than 400,000 women last year with family planning services, Shibu said, including averting nearly 50,000 unsafe abortions. But now the organization's outreach services, which reach more than 60% of clients, are suspended. Even at clinics that remain open, the number of clients has dropped by 70%.

That leaves a country of men, no longer free to work in the fields or elsewhere, and without the distraction of sports, confined with their wives for weeks on end.

"Husband and wife, what else can they be doing in that house?" asked Future Gwena, a Marie Stopes outreach worker. "I think we're going to have a lot of pregnancies and, unfortunately, unintended. And most will result in unsafe abortions, domestic violence. Our community is paternalistic. If something goes wrong in the home, it's the mother's fault, even if the man initiated it."

Even in normal times, the average woman seeking contraception must get consent from her husband, Shibu said.

Meanwhile, travel restrictions and manufacturing slowdowns in Asia as a result of the pandemic mean that some family planning providers are waiting for shipments of emergency contraceptives and other items as stocks run short at home.

"Today I expected a shipment from Asia, but it's suspended," Shibu said. "I don't know how to fill that gap. It was supposed to come today to serve us for the coming six months. So this is one of the tragedies. ... We're expecting a huge shortage of contraceptives in African countries. Absolutely, condoms also."

In Uganda, Marie Stopes country director Carole Sekimpi said they don't know when a shipment of emergency contraceptives will arrive because India, their source, has also locked down. They've been out of stock for a month and need oral contraceptive pills as well, she said.

"Yesterday when I heard (neighboring) Kenya talking about a lockdown in Nairobi and (the port of) Mombasa I thought, 'My god, what's going to happen to all of our shipments?'" she said. "Overall, there's definitely going to be a problem."

She worried about the girls and women confined in homes with potential assailants, even uncles or cousins. Her organization has suspended outreach, which provides about 40% of services, and clinics that remain open have seen a drop in client traffic of about 20%.

"We don't see you anymore," anxious callers say. "What's happening?"

Even the capital, Kampala, has been affected. Sekimpi said she visited a large government-run hospital there on Monday, "but when I got there my heart was broken because the one service suspended was family planning. With good reason, because it's usually crowded."

She expects not only a baby boom but a rise in unsafe abortions and post-abortion care, along with panicky women seeking to remove their IUD (intrauterine device) or birth control implant earlier than expected as they fear no family planning worker will be around to help them later.

Even the U.S. Embassy in Uganda has taken note of the challenges women face, tweeting that "Periods don't pause for pandemics" and sharing advice on how to make washable sanitary pads at home.

The range of issues is similar across Africa, Shibu in Zimbabwe said, citing a daily call with country directors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar and elsewhere.

"Look, everything has been diverted to COVID," he said of the disease caused by the coronavirus. "But after COVID, another catastrophe will be women's health, unless something is done right now."

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

## On our own: Forgotten household skills, revived for new use

By JULIA RUBIN Associated Press

Mending clothes. Cutting hair. Fixing a squeaky door or a dripping faucet. Baking bread.

A generation or two ago, household skills like these were common, learned at home and at school. Then it became easier to toss things out rather than fix them, quicker to call the professionals.

Now, in an unsettling era of staying at home and not knowing what will be available tomorrow, the old ways are being dusted off and relearned.

Since the coronavirus has shuttered many small businesses that do our work and supply our things, millions of people trying to stay home are driven by necessity — or boredom — to do more cooking, cleaning, fixing, grooming and other practical skills themselves.

"It's during uncertain times like these when we take stock of all the basic life skills we've forgotten, or never learned in the first place, because they sure could come in handy right about now," says Erin Bried, a magazine editor in Brooklyn and author of "How to Sew a Button: And Other Nifty Things Your Grandmother Knew" (Ballantine).

In a dark and difficult time, it can be an emotional lift to find that you're more capable around the house than you thought.

"I accomplished something real today!" Maria Kernahan, a real estate agent and children's book author, said after installing a new thermostat herself in her Castle Park, Michigan, house. She followed online advice to figure out the wiring in the old house. Her husband, meanwhile, has begun chopping wood.

"We're making this up as we go along," she said.

Bill Hughes, a business consultant in University Place, Washington, had to wash some shirts and didn't want to put them away wrinkled.

"When I was a graduate student, I would iron my own shirts to save some money. It was tedious and I looked forward to the day when I could afford to drop off my shirts to be cleaned," says Hughes, 59. "Since my dry cleaners is closed, I dusted off the iron and ironing board, turned on some Huey Lewis and the News, and went at it."

Janice Simonsen, who works in corporate communications in Philadelphia, helped sew masks for medical personnel, following instructions on a YouTube video. "I haven't pulled my sewing machine out for many years. I never really had the time," she says. "Those junior high sewing classes kicked back in."

She plans to keep the machine out and try some projects, like pillow covers, that she's put off for years. "It felt good to create something useful again," says Simonsen.

Yes, you can still order takeout in most places and call the plumber or electrician. But more people are trying to do that only when absolutely needed. Hardware stores have seen high demand for home-repair and lawn tools. Social media feeds everywhere are full of posts from newbies planting vegetable gardens, giving themselves haircuts and baking bread.

Especially sourdough. Lots of sourdough.

YouTube has seen a spike of more than 100% in average daily views of videos with "Cook with Me" in the title since March 15 compared to the rest of the year, said spokeswoman Veronica Navarrete. "We're seeing this trend across several verticals," including cleaning, she said.

For her book, Bried interviewed women who had lived through the Great Depression and imparted lessons on how to make do and get by.

"I feel a new, closer connection to all of their stories now," she says. "It was a difficult time, and it left its mark on all of them. I think this pandemic, too, will leave its mark on us much in the same way. It's caused us all to halt our lives and reevaluate, maybe for the first time, what is truly important and what we're equipped to handle."

Jeanne Huntley, who taught high school home economics for 35 years in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, thinks society lost something important when schools phased out home economics and shop classes in favor of computer science, robotics and STEM.

"A lot of younger people have been brought up in a consumer society — 'You don't fix things, you replace

things,” she says. “Parents are busy too, and there’s not a lot of time to pass on those skills. But knowing you can make things and fix things gives us a sense of confidence in ourselves.”

This is not new for everyone. There’s always been a countercurrent of people yearning to get back to basics.

The DIY movement has blossomed in recent years, and long before the coronavirus “urban homesteaders” experimented with backyard chickens, homemade dyes, wooden toys and organic food. Concerns over climate change have kickstarted a strong movement toward buying fewer things and leaving a lighter footprint on the environment: “Reduce, reuse, recycle.”

Now, in a time of feared shortages and limited mobility, this emphasis on self-sufficiency is going wider. Sharon Bowers, co-author with her husband, David, of a book about life skills called “The Useful Book” (Workman), embraces the trend. But she cautions people to be smart — and check out books and YouTube videos before plunging in.

“I’m urging you to boldly go and try something new, but not something that you know is way outside your ability. ... You could probably wire a lamp, but don’t mess around with the circuit board in your house,” she says. “If you make a mess — assuming you don’t break something you really need — you can always call the professionals when we’re out the other side.”

Even the Bowerses, fix-it pros who live outside Dublin, Ireland, with their two teenage sons, “have a plumbing problem that’s complicated” to deal with. “And,” she says, “we’re just going to have to wait.”

Julia Rubin is a lifestyles editor for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruliejubin>

## 103-year-old Italian says ‘courage, faith’ helped beat virus

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA Associated Press

ROME (AP) — To recover from the coronavirus, as she did, Ada Zanusso recommends courage and faith, the same qualities that have served her well in her nearly 104 years.

Italy, along with neighboring France, has Europe’s largest population of what has been dubbed the “super old” — people who are at least 100. As the nation with the world’s highest number of COVID-19 deaths, Italy is looking to its super-old survivors for inspiration.

“I’m well, I’m well,” Zanusso said Tuesday during a video call with The Associated Press from the Maria Grazia Residence for the elderly in Lessona, a town in the northern region of Piedmont. “I watch TV, read the newspapers.”

Zanusso wore a protective mask, as did her family doctor of 35 years beside her, Carla Furno Marchese, who also donned eyewear and a gown that covered her head.

Asked about her illness, Zanusso is modest: “I had some fever.”

Her doctor said Zanusso was in bed for a week.

“We hydrated her because she wasn’t eating, and then we thought she wasn’t going to make it because she was always drowsy and not reacting,” Furno Marchese said.

“One day she opened her eyes again and resumed doing what she used to before,” Furno Marchese said. The doctor recalled when Zanusso was able to sit up, then managed to get out of bed.

What helped her get through the illness? “Courage and strength, faith,” Zanusso said. It worked for her, so she advises others who fall ill to also “give yourself courage, have faith.”

COVID-19 can cause mild or moderate symptoms, and most of those who are infected recover. But the elderly and those with existing health problems can be at high risk for more serious illness.

The virus has killed nearly 18,000 people in Italy and over 88,000 worldwide. The World Health Organization says 95% of those who have died in Europe were over 60 years old.

Under Italy’s five-week-long lockdown, which is aimed at containing the spread of infections that have overwhelmed hospitals, visitors aren’t allowed at homes for the elderly.

Her doctor asked Zanusso what she would like to do when “they open the doors.”



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 33 of 83

"I'd like to take a lovely walk," she replied. And your three great-grandchildren? "Watch them play together." Deaths, hospitalizations and new infections are leveling off in Italy, and Premier Giuseppe Conte is expected to announce in the coming days how long the lockdown will remain in place, with expectations that some restrictions could be eased.

For now, Zanusso is isolated from other residents as she awaits a follow-up swab test to confirm she is negative for the virus.

She grew up in Treviso, in the northeastern Veneto region, where she worked for many years in the textile industry. Zanusso, who turns 104 on Aug. 16, had four children — three of whom are living — and has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"She's old, but healthy, with no chronic illness," her doctor said.

This week, Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera devoted an entire page to the stories of super-old survivors, called "healing at 100 years old." The inspirational portraits are a counterpoint to news of large numbers of deaths among elderly people living in Italian nursing homes and other assisted-living facilities.

Of the victims, most elderly weren't tested for COVID-19 if they died in nursing homes, so the numbers don't figure into Italy's overall coronavirus death toll, which is the highest in the world.

Medical staff "went through a very hard time," said Furno Marchese, the doctor. "It was a great emergency with so many residents ill, so to see a positive outcome was very rewarding, not only for me, but for all the people who worked hard here nonstop."

Outside the nonprofit, 61-bed Maria Grazia Residence, the Italian flag flies at half-staff in tribute to those who died of the virus.

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

## Dubai allows alcohol home delivery as virus shuts down bars

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Champagne corks no longer pop at Dubai's infamous alcohol-soaked brunches. The blaring flat-screen televisions stand silent in the sheikhdom's sports bars. And the city-state's pubs have shrink-wrapped their now-idle beer taps.

This skyscraper-studded desert metropolis on the Arabian Peninsula has long been one of the wettest places in the Mideast in terms of alcohol consumption, its bars and licensed restaurants serving tourists, travelers and its vast population of foreign workers.

Up until the global coronavirus pandemic, that is. With the virus now threatening a crucial source of tax and general revenue for its rulers, Dubai's two major alcohol distributors have partnered to offer home delivery of beer, spirits and wine, yet another loosening of social mores in this Islamic city-state.

"Luxury hotels and bars have been the worse impacted within the sector and this had a direct impact on the alcohol consumption ... in the United Arab Emirates," said Rabia Yasmeen, an analyst for market research firm Euromonitor International.

Maritime and Mercantile International, a subsidiary of the government-owned Emirates airline known as MMI, and African & Eastern partnered to create the website offering home delivery. Its products range from a \$530 bottle of Don Julio 1942 Tequila to a \$4.30 bottle of Indian blended whiskey, with beers and wines in between.

Their website [legalthomedelivery.com](http://legalthomedelivery.com), a nod toward the online bootleggers long operating in the gray margins of Dubai, describes the service as needed "in these unprecedented times."

Tourists, the few remaining here, can use their passports to buy the alcohol. Residents, however, need an alcohol license, a plastic red card issued by Dubai police that requires annual renewal. Only non-Muslims 21 and older can apply for a license — though bartenders across the city never check for them before pouring drinks.

Text-message alerts give imbibers a predicted delivery time within a few hours, though a crew showed

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 34 of 83

up some six hours early for one delivery Tuesday, wearing masks and disposable gloves.

Officials at African & Eastern, a private company believed to be at least partially held by the state or affiliated firms, and MMI both acknowledged that the pandemic will likely affect their revenues for the year. Most of their physical stores also remain open, though Dubai now is under a 24-hour lockdown that requires the public to have police permission to go to the grocery store.

"We are in the early days of the service and interest has been high already," Mike Glen, MMI's managing director for the UAE and Oman, told The Associated Press in an emailed statement.

Glen and Sean Hennessey, African & Eastern general manager for UAE and Oman, declined to offer any sales statistics to the AP. Hennessey also declined to say who owned African & Eastern.

A push to keep alcohol shops open during the pandemic may be surprising to some, especially as drinking is illegal in the neighboring emirate of Sharjah and the nations of Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. But alcohol sales long have been a canary in the coal mine — or in this case, the cocktail lounge — for the wider economy of Dubai, one of seven sheikhdoms in the United Arab Emirates.

There's a 50% import tax on a bottle of alcohol, as well as an additional 30% tax in Dubai on buying from liquor stores. Dubai Duty Free, which is also government owned, sold 9 million cans of beer, 3.1 million whiskey bottles and 1.5 million bottles of wine to those passing through airport terminals in 2019. Duty-free sales, while limited, never require an alcohol license.

Even before the pandemic, lower global energy prices, a 30% drop in the city's real estate market value and trade war fears have seen employers shed jobs. Dubai now is trying to postpone its Expo 2020, or world's fair, to next year, another major blow.

Overall sales of alcohol by volume fell sharply in 2019 to 128.79 million liters (34 million gallons), down some 3.5% from 133.42 million liters (35.2 million gallons) sold the year before, according to Euromonitor's latest statistics. The 2019 sales are down nearly 9% from 2017, which saw 141.51 million liters (37.3 million gallons) sold.

Those lower sales affect everyone from waitresses to Dubai's ruling Al Maktoum family, which has worked over decades to make the city a major tourist destination, home to the world's tallest building.

That weakened economy may prove to be a threat long after the pandemic. The Mideast's hotel sector took longer to recover from the Great Recession for instance, Yasmeen said. Most bars in Dubai are attached to hotels.

Hoping to boost alcohol sales, Dubai last year loosened its liquor laws to allow tourists to purchase alcohol in state-controlled stores. In 2016, it began allowing alcohol sales during daylight hours in the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a major decision ahead of the annual commemoration coming into Dubai's winter months crucial for tourism.

The home service also charges 50 dirhams (\$13.60) per delivery. That's additional revenue for the stores, even as bars and restaurants remain closed. While some aid groups have sprung up to offer help to out-of-work bartenders elsewhere, there's been no similar measure here in the UAE, whose waitstaff comes from all across the world.

"We do have a long and significant relationship with the on-trade, that we will be looking to support through what is a trying time for all parts of the industry," Hennessey of African & Eastern said in a statement.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](https://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

## 'Houston, we've had a problem': Remembering Apollo 13 at 50

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Apollo 13's astronauts never gave a thought to their mission number as they blasted off for the moon 50 years ago. Even when their oxygen tank ruptured two days later — on April 13.

Jim Lovell and Fred Haise insist they're not superstitious. They even use 13 in their email addresses. As mission commander Lovell sees it, he's incredibly lucky. Not only did he survive NASA's most harrow-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 35 of 83

ing moonshot, he's around to mark its golden anniversary.

"I'm still alive. As long as I can keep breathing, I'm good," Lovell, 92, said in an interview with The Associated Press from his Lake Forest, Illinois, home.

A half-century later, Apollo 13 is still considered Mission Control's finest hour.

Lovell calls it "a miraculous recovery."

Haise, like so many others, regards it as NASA's most successful failure.

"It was a great mission," Haise, 86, said. It showed "what can be done if people use their minds and a little ingenuity."

As the lunar module pilot, Haise would have become the sixth man to walk on the moon, following Lovell onto the dusty gray surface. The oxygen tank explosion robbed them of the moon landing, which would have been NASA's third, nine months after Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took humanity's first footsteps on the moon.

Now the coronavirus pandemic has robbed them of their anniversary celebrations. Festivities are on hold, including at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where the mission began on April 11, 1970, a Saturday just like this year.

That won't stop Haise, who still lives in Houston, from marking what he calls "boom day" next Monday, as he does every April 13.

Lovell, Haise and Jack Swigert, a last-minute fill-in who died in 1982, were almost to the moon when they heard a bang and felt a shudder. One of two oxygen tanks had burst in the spacecraft's service module.

The tense words that followed are the stuff of space — and movie — fame.

"OK, Houston, we've had a problem here," radioed Swigert, the command module pilot.

"This is Houston. Say again, please."

"Houston, we've had a problem," Lovell cut in.

Lovell reported a sudden voltage drop in one of the two main electrical circuits. Within seconds, Houston's Mission Control saw pressure readings for the damaged oxygen tank plunge to zero. The blast also knocked out two electrical power-generating fuel cells and damaged the third.

As Lovell peered out the window and saw oxygen escaping into the black void, he knew his moon landing was also slipping away. He shoved all emotions aside.

"Not landing on the moon or dying in space are two different things," Lovell explained, "and so we forgot about landing on the moon. This was one of survival. How do we get home?"

The astronauts were 200,000 miles (322,000 kilometers) from Earth. Getting back alive would require calm, skill and, yes, luck.

"The explosion could not have happened at a better time," Lovell said.

Much earlier, he said, and the astronauts wouldn't have had enough electrical power to make it around the moon and slingshot back to Earth for a splashdown. A blast in lunar orbit or, worse still, while Lovell and Haise were on the surface, "that would be the end of it."

"I think we had some divine help in this flight," Lovell said.

The aborted mission went from being so humdrum that none of the major TV networks broadcast the astronauts' show-and-tell minutes before the explosion, to a life-and-death drama gripping the entire world.

As flight director Gene Kranz and his team in Houston raced to come up with a rescue plan, the astronauts kept their cool. It was Lovell's fourth spaceflight - his second to the moon - and the first and only one for Haise and Swigert.

Dark thoughts "always raced through our minds, but silently. We didn't talk about that," Lovell said.

Added Haise: "We never hit the point where there was nothing left to do. So, no, we never got to a point where we said, 'Well, we're going to die.'"

The White House, less confident, demanded odds. Kranz refused, leaving it to others to put the crew's chances at 50-50. In his mind, there was no doubt, no room for failure — only success.

"Basically that was the name of the game: I'm going to get them home. My team's going to get them home. We will get them home," Kranz recalled.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 36 of 83

For the record, Kranz never uttered "failure is not an option." The line is pure Hollywood, created for the 1995 movie "Apollo 13" starring Ed Harris as Kranz and Tom Hanks as Lovell.

The flight controllers went into crisis mode. They immediately ordered the command module Odyssey shut down to conserve what little power remained, and the astronauts to move into the lunar module Aquarius, now a lifeboat.

One of the low points, Lovell said, was realizing they'd be cramped together in the lander.

"It was designed for two people for two days. We were three people for four days."

The carbon dioxide overload, from breathing, threatened to kill them.

Engineers scrambled to figure out how to convert the square air-purifying canisters in the dead capsule into round ones that would fit in their temporary home.

Their outside-the-box, seat-of-the-pants solution, using spacecraft scraps, worked. But it was so damp and cold that the astronauts couldn't sleep. Condensation covered the walls and windows, and the temperature was close to freezing.

Dehydrated and feverish, Haise had the roughest time during the six-day ordeal. Despite the sky-high stress, Haise recalls no cross words among the three test pilots. Even Swigert fit in, despite joining the crew a scant three days before liftoff. He replaced command module pilot Ken Mattingly, who with his crewmates had been exposed to German measles, but unlike them didn't have immunity.

Rumors swirled that the astronauts had poison pills tucked away in case of a hopeless situation. Lovell dispelled that notion on page one of his 1994 autobiography, "Lost Moon," the basis for the "Apollo 13" film.

Splashdown day finally arrived April 17, 1970 — with no guarantees.

The astronauts managed to power up their command module, avoiding short circuits but creating a rainfall inside as the spacecraft decelerated in the atmosphere.

The communication blackout lasted 1 1/2 minutes longer than normal. Controllers grew alarmed. Finally, three billowing parachutes appeared above the Pacific. It was only then, Lovell said, that "we knew that we had it made."

The astronauts had no idea how much their cosmic cliffhanger impacted the world until they reached Honolulu. President Richard Nixon was there to greet them.

"We never dreamed a billion people were following us on television and radio, and reading about us in banner headlines of every newspaper published," Lovell noted in a NASA history.

The tank explosion later was linked to damage caused by electrical overheating in ground tests.

Apollo 13 "showed teamwork, camaraderie and what NASA was really made of," said Columbia University's Mike Massimino, a former shuttle astronaut.

In the decades since, Lovell and his wife, Marilyn, of nearly 68 years have discussed the what-ifs and might-have-beens.

"The outcome of everything is, naturally, that he's alive," she said, "and that we've had all these years."

---

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.

## Trump quietly shuts down asylum at US borders to fight virus

By MARIA VERZA, ELLIOT SPAGAT and ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A U.S. Border Patrol agent wouldn't let Jackeline Reyes explain why she and her 15-year-old daughter needed asylum, pointing to the coronavirus. That confrontation in Texas came just days after the Trump administration quietly shut down the nation's asylum system for the first time in decades in the name of public health.

"The agent told us about the virus and that we couldn't go further, but she didn't let us speak or anything," said Reyes, 35, who was shuttled to a crossing March 24 in Reynosa, Mexico, a violent border city.

She tried to get home to crime-ridden Honduras despite learning her brother had been killed there and her mother and 7-year-old daughter had fled to the Nicaraguan border. But she was stuck in Mexico as

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 37 of 83

the virus closed borders in Central America.

The U.S. government used an obscure public health law to justify one of its most aggressive border crackdowns ever. People fleeing violence and poverty to seek refuge in the U.S. are whisked to the nearest border crossing and returned to Mexico without a chance to apply for asylum. It eclipses President Donald Trump's other policies to curtail immigration — which often rely on help from Mexico — by setting aside decades-old national and international laws.

Mexico is again providing critical support. It's accepting not only Mexicans, but people from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras who accounted for well over half of all U.S. border arrests last year.

The Trump administration has offered little detail on the rules that, unlike its other immigration policies, have yet to be challenged in court. The secrecy means the rules got little attention as they took effect March 20, the same day Trump announced the southern border was closed to nonessential travel.

"The administration is able to do what they always wanted to do," said Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy counsel for the American Immigration Council, which has criticized the administration. "I don't see this slowing down."

The administration tapped a law allowing the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ban foreigners if their entry would create "a serious danger" to the spread of communicable disease. The U.S. has the most cases in the world by far. CDC director Dr. Robert Redfield issued a 30-day order but said he may extend the rules.

Mexico won't take unaccompanied children and other "vulnerable people," including people over 65 and those who are pregnant or sick, said Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, Mexico's consul general in San Diego.

The U.S. also is returning Central American children who travel with grandparents, siblings and other relatives, said a congressional aide who was briefed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials and spoke on the condition of anonymity because the information was not intended for public release. Previously, children who weren't with parents or guardians were considered unaccompanied and automatically put into the asylum pipeline.

The health risks of holding migrants in crowded spaces like Border Patrol stations is "the touchstone of this order," Redfield wrote. He said exceptions to immediately expelling someone can be considered but didn't elaborate.

An internal Border Patrol memo obtained by ProPublica said an agent who determines that a migrant claims a "reasonably believable" fear of being tortured can be referred for additional screening under the U.N. Convention Against Torture, a lesser form of asylum that's harder to qualify for.

Under the rules, agents take migrants to the nearest border crossing in specially designated vehicles and avoid stations, minimizing the risk of exposure to the virus.

Matthew Dyman, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, the Border Patrol's parent agency, declined to comment on the internal memo or provide guidance about the new rules.

"Obtaining and posting leaked information is a great way to degrade trust and communication between CBP and the media," he said.

In less than two weeks, the U.S. has expelled more than 7,000 people, according to the congressional aide who was briefed last week. Those not sent to Mexico are flown to their home countries. CBP had about 300 people in custody last week, down from a peak of more than 19,000 during last year's surge of border crossers.

March's border enforcement numbers were expected to be released Thursday and may offer a closer look at the impact of the virus.

Ten Senate Democrats sent a letter to acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, who oversees border agencies, saying the Trump administration appeared to have "granted itself sweeping powers to summarily expel large, unknown numbers of individuals arriving at our border."

"A public health crisis does not give the Executive Branch a free pass to violate constitutional rights, nor does it give the Executive Branch permission to operate outside of the law," they wrote this week.

For Reyes and others sent to Mexico, they don't know what's next.

Reyes said she joined dozens who entered the Guatemalan mountains illegally in a bid to reach Honduras

but was stopped by soldiers and returned to Mexico, where she was quarantined in a migrant shelter. She said Mexican authorities questioned her about her health, but U.S. authorities didn't.

Four adults and seven children expelled from Texas also crossed into the mountains and are now hiding at a house in Guatemala because of a curfew tied to the virus.

"We want to leave already, but I don't know who can help us," said Fanny Jaqueline Ortiz of Honduras, who was with her 12- and 3-year-old daughters. "There is no transportation, no bus, nothing."

Many Mexican shelters have closed over virus concerns, leaving many stranded in violent cities or reliant on relatives in the U.S. to send money for rent.

Trump's previous policies have targeted asylum but stopped short of ending it, acknowledging the 1951 U.N. Refugee Convention to provide haven to displaced people and a 1980 U.S. law that established the asylum system.

Under his "Remain in Mexico" policy, more than 60,000 asylum-seekers have been forced to wait across the border for U.S. court hearings. Hearings are temporarily suspended because of the virus.

Verza reported from Mexico City and Galvan from Phoenix. Associated Press reporter Nomaan Merchant in Houston contributed to this report.

## The Latest: South Korea expects positive economic growth

The Associated Press

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

- South Korea's top central banker expects slow, but positive economic growth.
- Australia has lowest increase of coronavirus cases in three weeks.
- Japan says country had more than 500 new cases for first time.
- New Zealand records lowest number of new coronavirus cases in nearly three weeks.

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea's top central banker says he expects slow but positive economic growth for the trade-dependent country this year despite worldwide shocks wrought by the coronavirus.

Bank of Korea Governor Lee Ju-yeol's assessment Thursday came after the bank held its policy rate at 0.75% despite calls for lower borrowing costs. The bank's monetary policymakers cited a need to wait for the effect of financial tools that had already been employed to spur the economy.

Lee said his forecast for economic growth was based on expectations that the global pandemic will start to slow in the second quarter and stabilize in the latter half of the year.

"We forecast the South Korean economy to manage positive growth this year, but it would be difficult for the rate of growth to reach 1%," Lee said. "Ultimately, (economic) flows and aspects will depend on how the COVID-19 situation develops."

The Bank of Korea had lowered its annual growth forecast for the economy from 2.3% to 2.1% in February.

The bank last month executed an emergency rate cut of 0.5 to bring its policy rate to an all-time low of 0.75%. It also expanded short-term borrowings for banks and other financial institutions through repurchase agreements to calm markets rattled by the coronavirus crisis.

Some experts say it's unclear whether traditional financial tools to boost money supplies would be effective now when the global pandemic has damaged both supply and demand, decimating industrial hubs in China and Italy and forcing millions to stay at home under tightened quarantines.

SEATTLE — About 1,000 patients in Washington state hospitals have confirmed or suspected diagnoses of coronavirus, according to a new count that shows earlier surveys had undercounted such admissions.

The Seattle Times reports that Washington State Hospital Association statistics, current as of April 7,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 39 of 83

include 664 confirmed and another 331 suspected cases of the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Cassie Sauer, the association's executive director, said the updated count is from a new statewide reporting system that went into place on April 2. Authorities say the new hospitalization numbers, although sharply higher than earlier counts, still roughly track with models showing Washington is flattening the curve of the coronavirus.

Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday decided to return to the federal government the field hospital set up about a week ago in Seattle's CenturyLink Field Event Center to help the health care system cope with what was expected to be an influx of patients.

**SYDNEY** — Australia has recorded its lowest increase in coronavirus cases in more than three weeks.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said Thursday there were 96 new cases, the first time there have been fewer than 100 new cases since March 17. The peak was on March 28, when 457 new cases were recorded. There have been a total of just over 6,000 cases and 51 deaths in Australia from the virus.

Seeking to limit the impact on the economy, lawmakers passed a wage subsidy scheme late Wednesday worth 130 billion Australian dollars (\$81 billion).

**TOKYO** — Japan's health ministry said Thursday that the country had more than 500 new cases for the first time on Wednesday, bringing the national total to 4,768 — excluding hundreds from a cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo earlier this year.

The continuous climb comes two days after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and six other hard-hit prefectures, while asking people to reduce at least 70% of human interactions. The step allows Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike and six other prefectural leaders to issue stricter measures of social distancing, but without penalties to violators. So far, Koike only issued a stay-at-home request to the residents. Requests for closures of noon-essential businesses and services are still under way.

Many people were seen commuting to their offices Thursday morning in downtown Tokyo, as many Japanese companies are slow to allow remote-working for their employees, raising doubts over how effective measures can be under the state-of-emergency measures.

**WELLINGTON**, New Zealand — Halfway through a planned four-week lockdown, New Zealand has recorded its lowest number of new coronavirus cases in nearly three weeks.

Health officials said Thursday there were 29 new cases, the fourth successive daily drop since 89 new cases were recorded on Sunday.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also announced stricter border measures that require all returning nationals to go into a managed quarantine facility for two weeks. Previously, returning nationals with no symptoms of COVID-19 had been allowed to isolate themselves at home.

**SEOUL**, South Korea — South Korea says it has reported 39 more cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, in a continued slowdown of the virus outbreak in the Asian country.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement Thursday the additional cases increased the country's total to 10,423. It says 6,973 of them have been recovered and released from quarantine. The center says fatalities from the coronavirus rose by four to 204.

But, the 39 new cases are the smallest daily jump since Feb. 20. South Korea recorded 47 and 53 new cases on Tuesday and Wednesday.

There are still worries about a steady rise in infections linked to international arrivals, which has helped inflate the caseload in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area.

A total of 22 of the 39 new cases have been reported in Seoul and its surrounding Gyeonggi province.

**CARSON CITY**, Nev. — Nevada's governor on Wednesday ordered a closure of golf courses, real estate open houses, religious gatherings of 10 people or more and additional restrictions to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 40 of 83

Gov. Steve Sisolak said he was adding restrictions because some people have created an unnecessary risk by trying to circumvent the rules he has already put in place. Other restrictions were designed to cut down on the amount of time people spend next to others, he said.

The governor last month ordered a closure of non-essential businesses, including gambling and casinos, and issued a directive telling Nevadans to stay at home, though exceptions were granted for people going outside to exercise.

Sisolak said at a news conference Wednesday night he was ordering the closure of sports and recreational facilities where people congregate, such as golf courses, tennis courts, basketball courts and pools. He said that despite his decision last month to leave golf courses open, he had seen pictures that had been sent to him of people riding together in golf carts and standing together on the greens.

The governor said a new directive he signed bars grocery stores from having any self-service food such as salad bars or unpackaged bulk food, where customers would touch the same scoops and servers. It also restricts barbers and hair stylists from offering in-home services to anyone outside their immediate household.

BEIJING — China's National Health Commission on Thursday reported 63 new COVID-19 cases, including 61 which it says are imported infections in recent arrivals from abroad and two "native" cases in the southern province of Guangdong.

There were no new cases reported in Hubei, the central province hardest-hit by the coronavirus outbreak. Two new deaths however were reported, both in Hubei.

The provincial capital of Wuhan, where the virus first emerged, ended its 76-day lockdown Wednesday. Long lines formed at the airport and train and bus stations as thousands streamed out of the city to return to their homes and jobs elsewhere.

The National Health Commission also reported 56 new cases of people who tested positive for COVID-19, but did not show any symptoms. In total, 77,370 people in China have recovered from the disease and 3,335 people have died, according to the commission.

WASHINGTON — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has new guidance for essential workers as it takes a small step toward reopening the country.

The guidance applies to essential workers, such as those in the health care and food supply industry, who have been within 6 feet of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of the new coronavirus.

CDC Director Robert Redfield says the employee can return to work as long as they take their temperature before they go to work, wear a face mask at all times and practice social distancing while they are at work.

Redfield said the employees should continue to stay home if they are sick.

He also said employers in those critical industries should take the temperatures of a worker before allowing them to come back to work.

Redfield announced the new guidance during the daily White House briefing on the U.S. efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

The new guidelines will be posted on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence says Philadelphia is emerging as a potential hot spot for the coronavirus and urged its residents to heed social distancing guidelines.

Pence says he spoke to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, and he says Pittsburgh is also being monitored for a possible rise in cases.

WASHINGTON — U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement is reporting an increase in the number of detainees in its custody who have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

ICE says there are 32 confirmed cases. It reported 13 cases on Tuesday. The biggest concentration is at a detention center in San Diego, where five detainees have tested positive. The agency says not all of those who have tested positive remain in custody.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 41 of 83

The U.S. holds around 35,000 people in immigration custody. Immigration advocates have been calling for the release of immigration detainees because of the risk to the people in custody as well as detention staff and the health care system in nearby communities.

ICE says 11 of its employees working in detention operations have tested positive.

**WASHINGTON** — The general who heads the Army Corps of Engineers says communities are running out of time to build new medical facilities for any overflow of coronavirus patients that local hospitals can't handle.

Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite tells reporters he believes the Corps will be done starting new projects in about a week. He says government leaders "have to think through the worst case and get ahead of it while they have time."

If a city thinks they'll see a peak of virus patients around April 24, and they haven't made a decision yet to build more rooms, it may be too late, he says.

So far, 17 facilities, with about 15,000 beds, have been built, and another 17 have been planned by the Corps and developed by local communities and contractors. Another 23 facilities are pending, but it's not clear how many of those may actually be built.

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — Gov. Kate Brown says Oregon's K-12 schools will remain closed through the end of the academic year due to the coronavirus outbreak, placing the state's more than 550,000 students and their teachers in uncharted territory as districts with vastly different resources plan for weeks of remote learning.

Seniors who had passing grades and were on track to graduate when the state's stay-at-home order began in mid-March will be able to graduate, said Brown.

**PARIS** — French President Emmanuel Macron had a video conference call with the leader of the World Health Organization on Wednesday.

In a conversation with Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Macron reaffirmed "his belief that the WHO is key to respond" to the coronavirus crisis, following criticism by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Macron tweeted that they also discussed the evolution of the pandemic, strategy to face it in France and in the world, research on vaccination and the preparation of an initiative for the African continent.

At the White House on Tuesday, Trump first said the United States would "put a hold" on WHO funding, and then revised that to say, "We will look at ending funding."

**SEATTLE** — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee says a Department of Defense field hospital that had been set up by the football field where the Seattle Seahawks play will be returned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency so it can be deployed to another state facing more of a coronavirus crisis.

Late last month Inslee announced 300 soldiers from the 627th Army Hospital at Fort Carson, Colorado, had deployed to Seattle to staff the hospital, which was expected to create at up to 250 hospital beds for non-COVID-19 cases.

Inslee says the decision to send the field hospital elsewhere was made after consulting with local, state and federal leaders.

**BELGRADE, Serbia** — Serbia's president says his older son has been hospitalized following an infection with the new coronavirus.

President Aleksandar Vucic says on Instagram that his 22-year-old son Danilo has been admitted at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Belgrade.

Vucic says "my first son has been infected with the coronavirus and his clinical condition is such that he has been hospitalized" at the clinic. Vucic adds "son, you will win this." No other details were immediately available.

Danilo Vucic is the Serbian president's son from his first marriage. Vucic also has a daughter and another son.

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

## DC activists team up to feed the needy under lockdown

By ASHRAF KHALIL and JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A line begins forming as a van pulls into the parking lot of a senior living center in Southeast Washington. By the time the half-dozen masked volunteers set up the folding table and start pulling out plastic bags filled with fruits, vegetables and canned goods, about 15 people stretch down the block.

Organizer Charlie Gussom Jr. advises those waiting to maintain social distancing by standing on every other sidewalk square. And those in line quickly take up the same mantra to organize newcomers: "One square apart, everybody. One square apart!"

The group moves quickly and efficiently as each person is handed a bag. When there's no one left in line, the volunteers start going door-to-door inside the senior center, delivering food to elderly shut-ins. Then the whole operation packs up and moves to a street corner about six blocks away where the process is repeated.

"People can't get out to the stores, and kids are hungry," says community activist India Blocker-Ford. "People are just low on everything. They don't have anything."

These volunteers are the tip of the spear for a grassroots effort to keep Washington's poorest neighborhoods fed during an unprecedented crisis that has nearly shut down the American economy.

In Washington's Ward 8, the need is particularly dire. As the rest of the city has prospered in recent years, the term "across the river" became a common local racial code. It's D.C. shorthand for Wards 7 and 8, the overwhelmingly black southeastern part of the city that is being left behind as the rest of Washington rapidly gentrifies.

The area was already a notorious food desert, with one full-service grocery store for approximately 70,000 residents. And all manner of health issues strike disproportionately among its residents.

"From asthma to high blood pressure, diabetes, you name it, we have it," said Ward 8 Councilman Trayon White. "And we have some of the highest food insecurities in this community."

For those who were already poor and underserved, the impact of the coronavirus lockdown has been immediate and catastrophic. Low-wage hourly workers were some of the earliest victims of the economic shutdowns, and the closure of schools had an indirect effect on the basic nutrition of many students.

"There's a lot of kids here that only eat hot meals at school," said activist Jimmie Jenkins, who runs an organization called ManPower DC. "We were already behind with a need of food and resources. This right here just added another layer of struggle for us."

In March, as the infection numbers grew and the virus began to shut down American life, Jenkins and Blocker-Ford, who runs an organization called Indy B Mentoring, gathered community activists to plan a grassroots response. Local charity Martha's Table became the vehicle for the campaign.

"There's been a huge spike in need," said Gussom, a Martha's Table staffer. "Food, diapers, toiletries, all types of stuff."

Initially founded as a food pantry, Martha's Table prioritizes food insecurity and nutrition issues. The group distributes hot meals and groceries and has an in-house vegetable market that allows families in need to choose their own fresh produce. Over time, the organization expanded its programming to include after-school educational programs, fitness classes and a range of community activities. But now the vegetable market has closed, and the ancillary programs have ended.

Martha's Table, working with a team of local activists and community leaders, made it their full-time mission to respond to the skyrocketing need for food.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 43 of 83

Johanna Williams, who was in charge of after-school and summer educational programs, received a battlefield promotion and assumed what she called the "spontaneous position" of COVID-19 response coordinator.

The high-ceiling foyer and community kitchen at the Martha's Table headquarters building has been transformed into a warehouse and distribution center, packed with crates of apples and sweet potatoes, giant sacks of onions and bags of broccoli and cauliflower. Teams of volunteers work assembly-line style to fill hundreds of bags, moving them out to cars and vans in giant rolling hampers for distribution around the ward.

Williams estimates that the grocery distribution program was handing out about 200 to 250 bags per day at the beginning of March. Now that number is closer to 1,400 per day, with volunteers fanning out around the city for pop-up distributions and going door-to-door in places like senior centers. A local restaurant chain, Clyde's Restaurant Group, has pledged to provide around 700 hot meals per day, with Martha's Table handling the distribution.

"Right now is one of those times when everyone is coming together," Williams said. "At the moment, it's all about food. People need food, and they need it every day."

Andrea Phillips, an unemployed 31-year-old mother, had been a regular visitor to the in-house vegetable market at Martha's Table. Now she tracks where the food distribution tables will be set up around the ward each day and shows up early to receive her bag. "When you're on a budget like mine, you can usually find food. But the really hard part is eating healthy. Some other food charities try to give you cookies and soda," she said.

At the food stops, volunteers, all wearing masks, work to keep the mood light while making a point of demonstrating social distancing guidelines for the uninitiated. Elbow bumps have replaced handshakes, hugs and high-fives. At one stop, a female volunteer has to physically push away a man who is crowding too close to the van.

White, the Ward 8 councilman, arrives wearing a full-body white coverall used by painters. He's fresh from a set of community rounds that included personally dispersing a set of youths hanging out too close together on a street corner.

"Our greatest need right now is unity," White said. "God told us to feed his sheep. That's part of what we're doing here today."

## **Pandemic has set the number of air travelers back decades**

**By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer**

The number of Americans getting on airplanes has sunk to a level not seen in more than 60 years as people shelter in their homes to avoid catching or spreading the new coronavirus.

The Transportation Security Administration screened fewer than 100,000 people on Tuesday, a drop of 95% from a year ago.

The official tally of 97,130 people who passed through TSA checkpoints exaggerates the number of travelers – if that is possible – because it includes some airline crew members and people still working at shops inside airport security perimeters.

Historical daily numbers only go back so far, but the nation averaged 97,000 passengers a day in 1954, according to figures from trade group Airlines for America. It was the dawn of the jet age. The de Havilland Comet, the first commercial jetliner, was just a few years old, and Boeing was running test flights with the jet that would become the iconic 707.

As air travel became safer and more affordable, the passenger numbers grew nearly every year. There was no commercial air travel in the U.S. for several days after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and people were slow to get back on planes in following months.

It could be longer this time. Polling firm Public Opinion Strategies said that fewer than half the Americans it surveyed about 10 days ago say they will get on a plane within six months of the spread of the virus flattening.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 44 of 83

TSA, which was created after the 9/11 attacks, has been chronicling the plunge in air traffic, posting numbers on how many people its officers screen each day. On March 1, it was nearly 2.3 million — almost the same as a year earlier. The one-way roller coaster ride — a sheer downward scream — began in the second week of March and slowed only in the last several days, when there wasn't much more room to drop.

"The falloff is amazing to see," said Henry Harteveltdt, a travel industry analyst. "The good news is that it shows people are taking shelter-in-place orders seriously."

Some of the people still traveling are health care professionals on their way to pandemic hot spots such as New York, where they will help in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. A few are traveling to be with family.

The nation's largest flight attendant union, which is worried about the safety of its members who are still flying, is demanding that the government ban all leisure travel. Representatives at several airlines said they don't know how many leisure travelers are left, since they don't routinely ask people why they are flying.

Airlines have drastically cut the number of flights to match demand and save cash, but even with far fewer flights, most seats are empty.

United Airlines says it is losing \$100 million a day. Delta Air Lines says it is burning through \$60 million a day. All the leading U.S. carriers have applied for federal grants to cover payroll costs through September and some are likely to seek federal loans or loan guarantees.

Even if they get taxpayer help, the airlines warn, they will be smaller on the other side of the pandemic.

The recovery in air travel — whenever it occurs — could depend on many factors including social-distancing rules and the state of the economy, which is staggering with 10 million people filing new claims for unemployment benefits in the last two weeks.

Air travel is much more affordable and accessible to the masses than it was in the 1960s. Still, both leisure and business travelers have above-average incomes.

"Theoretically, these consumers should be better-positioned financially to be able to travel again," Harteveltdt said, "but we are seeing people at all income levels and all ages affected by job loss or reduction in hours or working for companies that have closed."

## Nicaragua inaction on virus raises fears of regional spread

By GABRIELA SELSER Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — International health officials are warning that the Nicaraguan government's perplexing weeklong refusal to take measures to control the spread of the new coronavirus is heightening the risk of an epidemic in Central America even as neighboring countries take tough action.

President Daniel Ortega's government urged Nicaraguans to party during Carnival celebrations, and it has said they should keep attending sports events and cultural festivals, and pack the country's beaches during Holy Week vacations this week.

Doctors have been told not to alarm patients by wearing masks or using sanitizing gel. Before schools closed for an extended vacation Friday, principals had threatened to expel students who missed class, and last month a third baseman was banned from professional baseball for three years after he asked to stop playing over virus fears.

Ortega's administration has offered no detailed explanation for its refusal to take widely accepted measures. But the health minister has spoken of the need to support the economy, badly damaged by two years of anti-government protests and harsh crackdowns on dissent. Some analysts say Ortega and his circle may fear that anti-virus measures would weaken their hold on power.

In the meantime, Nicaraguans are doing what they can to voluntarily stay away from one another. But the Pan American Health Organization's director, Dr. Carissa Etienne, warns that Nicaragua's lack of official measures is increasing the risk of an epidemic.

"We have concerns for the lack of social distancing, the convening of mass gatherings. We have concerns about the testing, contact tracing, about the reporting of cases," Etienne said Tuesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 45 of 83

The president of neighboring Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado, has warned that an out-of-control epidemic in Nicaragua would have consequences for all of Central America. In mid-March, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras closed their borders to foreigners and instituted social distancing measures.

There are also concerns about Ortega's own health. The 74-year-old has not appeared in public for three weeks. Although he has been absent for long periods in the past only to reappear, his disappearance during a global pandemic is fueling rumors he may be ill, or personally terrified of the coronavirus.

"The broader problem in Nicaragua is that you have a dictatorship that is unable to take the pandemic seriously. It's unable because they're distracted by the health itself of its president," said Manuel Orozco, a Nicaragua expert at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington.

The country's economic crisis — and resulting lack of revenue — also means the state's ability to act is very limited, he said.

As a guerrilla commander, Ortega helped overthrow dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 and was part of the Sandinista junta that took power and began to take Nicaragua down a path toward communism. He was first elected president in 1984, then lost re-election in 1990, but he has held the presidency since 2006 and implemented increasingly autocratic rule. His wife, Rosario Murillo, has served as the government's principal spokeswoman and, since 2016, as Nicaragua's vice president.

Ortega's violent crackdown on protests, which began in 2018, caused more than 328 deaths, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The political tension has had devastating effects on the country's economy, especially in what had been a burgeoning tourism sector.

The government insists the country has only three confirmed cases of the virus, all imported, even as its borders remain open and infections steadily increase in neighboring countries. Costa Rica has more than 400 confirmed infections, Honduras has over 300 and El Salvador reports around 100. Cuba's Health Ministry has said two people arrived sick from Nicaragua and a third person tested positive this week after returning from Nicaragua.

"Nothing indicates that the problem that Spain, Italy and the United States have won't repeat itself in Nicaragua, too," said an epidemiologist, Dr. Leonel Argüello.

While the virus initially emerged in China during the winter and there is some suggestion that it may not spread as easily when both the temperature and humidity increase, scientists have said there is no good evidence yet that such weather — common in Central America — will significantly help tamp down the outbreak on its own.

Murillo said Tuesday that the government is protecting the health of Nicaraguans, without providing details, and that South Korea had donated rapid-testing kits.

But Nicaraguans have turned to outside sources, and a group of doctors has even set up a parallel system to disseminate information online about the virus. Some epidemiologists have started a messaging chat with journalists to answer questions and counter the government's approach.

Many businesses have closed, and traffic in the capital is minimal. Supermarkets remain open, but more and more residents are having food delivered.

"All the government measures go against the protocols of the World Health Organization," said Carlos Quant, an infectious disease specialist. "The outlook is terrible."

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and lead to death.

Health experts in Nicaragua are concerned that the virus may be quietly spreading as the government actively thwarts measures to contain it.

Bishop Rolando Alvarez in Matagalpa announced April 5 that the Roman Catholic Church would help open medical centers and a call center to provide information about the virus. Hours later, he said the Health Ministry had ordered him to stop.

Robbin Zeledón, 21, one of the top hitters in Nicaraguan professional baseball's first division, was suspended March 26 for "lack of discipline" after saying he didn't want to keep playing because he was concerned about the virus.

Teams were playing to mostly empty stadiums before the league stopped for Holy Week, but games are scheduled to resume after the holiday.

AP video journalist Alexis Tribouard in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## Rural Indiana virus worry: 'What more could I have done?'

By TOM DAVIES and DARRON CUMMINGS Associated Press

GREENSBURG, Ind. (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic surged into Sean Durbin's farm-speckled Indiana county much faster than most other parts of rural America, contributing to at least 10 deaths and dozens of serious illnesses.

Decatur County and two other counties in southeast Indiana have among the highest per-capita infection rates in the country, topping the Seattle area and some counties near hard-hit Detroit.

As Decatur County's public health preparedness coordinator, Durbin is working to stem the spread of the virus, even as he grieves the loss of a close friend to COVID-19 and stays apart from his wife so she can help with their new grandchild.

"Every death makes me question if I did enough," said Durbin, who is 57. "We have been ahead of everything the state has done in this county, and I still go to bed every night and ask, 'What more could I have done to protect this population?'"

Last Thursday, county officials banned nonessential travel and ordered all restaurants closed, including for takeout orders, going beyond the requirements of the governor's stay-at-home order that took effect March 25.

Decatur, Franklin and Ripley counties have a combined population of nearly 78,000 people and more than 235 confirmed coronavirus cases through Tuesday, placing them among the top 100 counties for high infection rates across the nation, according to data tracked by Johns Hopkins University.

Health leaders can't pinpoint why the area has such a high infection rate. Some point to truckers stopping off from Interstate 74 — the main route between Indianapolis and Cincinnati — and locals who work in those cities. Or suggest it's linked to the young adults who have left their hometowns for jobs and schools in recent years.

"With this crisis in the big cities, we're seeing a lot of license plates from those other states showing up because they're coming back to mom and grandma and uncle Joe," said Dr. David Welsh, the Ripley County health officer.

There have been more than 20 COVID-19-related deaths in the three counties. At least two dozen patients are seriously ill, while others, including an infected 11-year-old child, have been recovering at home.

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

The three counties have older populations than Indiana as a whole, with more than 17% of residents older than 65, according to census information.

Decatur County officials imposed tougher travel and business restrictions after officials saw parents still taking their children grocery shopping and teenagers gathering in parking lots, Durbin said.

On the first day of the new rules, the streets in the county seat of Greensburg, population 12,000, were largely quiet, and few shoppers roamed the aisles of Walmart.

Greensburg resident Judith Corner said she believed people were taking the warnings seriously, and that she agrees with the precautions.

"I've had friends that are wearing their masks and gloves to the store," she said. "If we go for a walk, then we stay 6 feet apart."

Honda's 2,500-worker auto plant in Greensburg has been closed since March 23. A company spokesman said one contractor tested positive, and that person's colleagues have been notified.

The area's two hospitals, in Greensburg and Batesville, normally operate with 25 available beds each.

Both have plans to more than double that capacity and treat more seriously ill patients as cases surge.

Dr. Wayne Perry, chief of staff at Decatur County Memorial, said his hospital has the same concerns as larger ones about the availability of testing, protective gear and ventilators. And he worries about the number of drivers he sees during his 5-minute drive from home to the hospital.

"Until people see and really understand and appreciate the threat, then it's someone else's problem," Perry said. "These measures are so important. Our only fight against this right now is social distancing and following those guidelines."

The health department has been assisting with testing and tracking illnesses in rural areas, said Dr. Kristina Box, the state health commissioner. The agency is also trying to help rural hospitals obtain equipment.

Durbin has been staying away from his wife, including sleeping in a different room. They said their good-byes on Monday, when she headed to Cincinnati to help their daughter with their new grandson.

"Couldn't even give her a hug," Durbin said. "We'll just have to get used to that. That's the way of life these days."

Durbin said he's been healthy so far and will keep showing up at the four-employee health department as long as he can. But he despairs at the prospect of not meeting his grandson for months and for the losses in the community where he's lived since he was a teenager.

"I know several of the people who have died. And if I don't know them, I know somebody who knows them," Durbin said. "So you see the grief. You see how it hits home. That would be the biggest difference than a big city — is that we all know each other. It's like somebody from your family dying."

Davies reported from Indianapolis. Associated Press video journalist Noreen Nasir in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Outcry over racial data grows as virus slams black Americans

By KAT STAFFORD, MEGHAN HOYER and AARON MORRISON Associated Press

As the coronavirus tightens its grip across the country, it is cutting a particularly devastating swath through an already vulnerable population — black Americans.

Democratic lawmakers and community leaders in cities hard-hit by the pandemic have been sounding the alarm over what they see as a disturbing trend of the virus killing African Americans at a higher rate, along with a lack of overall information about the race of victims as the nation's death toll mounts.

Among the cities where black residents have been hard-hit: New York, Detroit, New Orleans, Chicago and Milwaukee.

"Everywhere we look, the coronavirus is devastating our communities," said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP.

Of the victims whose demographic data was publicly shared by officials — nearly 3,300 of the nation's 13,000 deaths thus far — about 42% were black, according to an Associated Press analysis. African Americans account for roughly 21% of the total population in the areas covered by the analysis.

The AP's analysis is one of the first attempts to examine the racial disparities of COVID-19 cases and deaths nationwide. It involved examining more than 4,450 deaths and 52,000 COVID-19 cases from across the country, relying on the handful of state and local governments that have released victims' race.

A history of systemic racism and inequity in access to health care and economic opportunity has made many African Americans far more vulnerable to the virus. Black adults suffer from higher rates of obesity, diabetes and asthma, which make them more susceptible, and also are more likely to be uninsured. They also often report that medical professionals take their ailments less seriously when they seek treatment.

"The rate at which black people are dying, compared to whites, is really just astounding," said Courtney Cogburn, an associate professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work. "There are patterns at this intersection of race and socioeconomic status that make it very clear this is just not a story about poverty."

President Donald Trump and the government's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, ac-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 48 of 83

knowledged the higher death rate among African Americans during Tuesday's White House briefing. The president called it a "tremendous challenge," and suggested that federal health officials could release national racial and ethnic COVID-19 data within days.

For its analysis, the AP made requests of COVID-19 racial breakdowns in states, cities and counties nationwide, ultimately gathering data from eight states, six major U.S. cities, including New York City and the District of Columbia, and six of Florida's largest counties.

The data collected ranges from New York to Illinois to Alabama to San Diego, and covers an area that represents 82 million Americans, nearly 43% of whom are nonwhite. Other minority groups' cases and deaths are fairly in line with their demographics, although those among Hispanic individuals in some hot spots are still high.

The data came mostly from large, racially diverse cities and states, but even in states where nonwhite populations are large, the impact of COVID-19 was outsized, particularly on the black community. The effect was so large that even if the 1,200 death cases that the AP excluded from its analysis because they were recorded as "race unknown" turned out to be white patients, blacks still would be overrepresented in the share of cases — and even more so in the share of deaths.

For instance, Louisiana tracked demographic data in 512 deaths and found 70% of victims were black, despite African Americans comprising just 32% of the state's population. In Michigan, more than half of the deaths where race data was collected were black residents; the state's population is 14% black.

Illinois' population is 17% Hispanic and 14% black yet, as of Monday, 63% of its caseload of more than 9,000 COVID cases with racial data recorded were nonwhite residents, and at least 40% of the state's 307 victims were black.

ZIP code data in New York City released last week showed that black, brown and immigrant communities are disproportionately represented among the diagnosed virus cases and deaths. On Wednesday, the city's Department of Health released racial data showing 27.5% of the victims whose race is known are black, although blacks are only about 22% of the population.

"It's sick. It's troubling. It's wrong," Mayor Bill de Blasio said, "and we are going to fight back with everything we've got."

The scattered release of data comes as the Centers for Disease Protection and Control is under increasing pressure to be more transparent about the toll of the virus on communities of color.

The agency has not publicly reported racial or ethnic demographic data for COVID-19 tests performed across the country, though its own standardized form required for reporting COVID-19 tests and cases includes a section for indicating the race or ethnicity of those tested. On Wednesday, the CDC did release racial data for March hospitalizations in 14 states that showed a third of patients were black.

Of the entities that released racial data to the AP, much of it remained sorely lacking. Overall, more than a third of the caseload records did not include race and, in some places, such as Virginia and parts of Florida, that number was more than a half.

Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, told the AP it would be "indefensible" if the federal government was concealing any testing and treatment data. The committee, along with hundreds of medical professionals, sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on Monday urging him to ensure his agency will "collect, monitor, and disseminate racial data" for the coronavirus.

African Americans and members of some ethnicities share an additional vulnerability: They are overrepresented among workers like nurse aides, grocery store clerks, emergency dispatchers and public transportation employees who cannot telecommute. That forces them out into the general public at a time when others are under strict stay-at-home orders.

"All one has to do is stand on a platform and you'll see that the trains are filled with black and brown and low-income people going into communities to service those who are able to telecommute," said Eric Adams, president of New York City's Brooklyn borough.

Milwaukee community organizer Sylvester Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with COVID-19, lives on



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 49 of 83

the city's predominantly black north side, home to a concentration of cases. "It is unbelievable that people on one side of this city are dying like this," he said.

Each loss leaves a ripple, forever altering families and communities.

The pastor of a black church in Baton Rouge was one of Louisiana's first confirmed coronavirus deaths, followed days later by the loss of a Shreveport clergyman known for his street ministries. The virus claimed one of the state's most revered musicians, Ellis Marsalis, along with a popular New Orleans DJ who was a leading figure in the city's bounce music scene.

In Detroit, the deaths include Gloria Smith, a fixture at the city's African World Festival, who died within a week of her husband, and educator and playwright Brenda Perryman.

Marsha Battle Philpot, a writer and cultural historian known as Marsha Music, said a Facebook memorial page is flooded daily with stories of loss among black people in Detroit.

"I think this is going to be a collective loss that is going to reverberate through generations," she said.

Stafford and Morrison are members of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Stafford reported from Detroit, Morrison from New York and Hoyer from Washington. Associated Press writers Sophia Tareen in Chicago, Deb Riechmann in Washington, Ashraf Khalil in Washington, Mike Stobbe in New York, Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, and Josh Hoffner in Phoenix contributed.

## Dems debate how to hit Trump on virus, economy amid crisis

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are wrestling over how best to assail President Donald Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the economy's shutdown, even as the country lurches into an unpredictable campaign season during its most devastating crisis in decades.

Trump has provided Democrats with plenty of political fodder, including leading a slow-footed federal response to an outbreak that has caused profound economic, health and social disruption. Democrats are already using reams of video of Trump denying and playing down a crisis now killing hundreds of Americans daily, erasing millions of jobs and closing countless businesses.

Underscoring a Democratic consensus that Trump's own words will be a potent weapon, Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., said: "Donald Trump does have the biggest bully pulpit. But fortunately for Democrats, Donald Trump has the biggest bully pulpit."

Yet seven months from Election Day, Democrats have not matched the attention Trump can command with daily, nationally televised briefings that can exceed two hours.

And they're juggling conflicting instincts: attack Trump aggressively now and risk accusations of using a catastrophe for political reasons, or wait until society starts returning to normal. That might give him time to define himself as a wartime president battling a virus that's enveloped the globe.

"There has been gross incompetence" by Trump and that's "a huge vulnerability," said Jim Margolis, a leading Democratic communications consultant. "But Democrats must take care not to gratuitously attack the administration or look like they are playing politics with a crisis."

"A purely partisan attack is inappropriate for the times we're in," said former Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., who once headed House Democrats' campaign organization.

Both approaches — strike vigorously now or later — are being tested in real time.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has faulted Trump's response. But he's avoided the sharpest attacks while trying to project an image as a steady, experienced crisis manager.

"He's the commander in chief — it's time he steps up, takes responsibility, and does his job," Biden tweeted Wednesday. His path to the nomination cleared hours earlier when his only viable rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., dropped out.

Congressional leaders including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Democratic governors like New York's Andrew Cuomo and Michigan's Gretchen

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 50 of 83

Whitmer have tangled with Trump. But they've mostly stressed legislation and other steps they're taking to bolster the economy and the overwhelmed health care system.

They've also presented themselves as calming alternatives to Trump, whose briefings have been marred by false and confusing assertions that contradict public health professionals' views and angry outbursts at reporters whose questions he dislikes.

"This moment is exactly wrong for President Trump because he can't distract people from a pandemic with a provocative tweet," said Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii.

Yet at the same time, Democratic political groups are spending millions on television and digital ads that pull few punches.

"Crisis comes to every president. This one failed," says one spot by Unite the Country, a political committee backing Biden. As red circles dotting a U.S. map ominously expand, the announcer says Trump "let the virus spread unchecked across America."

"Perception can get baked in very quickly," said Tara McGowan, who leads PACRONYM, an anti-Trump political committee. "You simply can't afford to wait."

The array of voices delivering Democrats' messages has reflected the party's lack of an undisputed leader before Biden formally clinches the nomination.

"It's really going to have to be an all hands on deck approach," said Guy Cecil, who heads Priorities USA, the largest Democratic outside political group.

Democrats' efforts to enter the spotlight have been complicated by the nation's lockdown, which has prevented public rallies and interactions with voters that are normally the lifeblood of politics.

"Trump's press conferences blot out the sun," said Adam Jentleson, a Democratic strategist.

Trump has noticed. He tweeted that "Radical Left Democrats have gone absolutely crazy" over his daily briefings and boasted of "Monday Night Football, Bachelor Finale" type ratings.

Republicans say Democratic attacks now would be ineffective, with voters concentrating on keeping their families safe. "People are hungering for official information as opposed to a partisan response," said GOP pollster Patrick Ruffini.

Other Republicans see big vulnerabilities for Trump.

"If this is a war, it's hard to spin a war," said long-time GOP consultant Stuart Stevens, a Trump opponent. "There are body counts. And what are you going to do with these unemployment numbers?"

After a slow start that concerned many Democrats, Biden has asserted a more visible role with television interviews, virtual town halls, podcasts and newspaper columns that describe his prescriptions for a recovery, such as accelerated aid for the jobless and small businesses.

Biden aides said his approach balances holding Trump accountable while making specific policy recommendations. They said it also lets him display the empathy that's been part of his public persona ever since his wife and daughter were killed in an auto accident shortly after his 1972 election to the Senate.

Still, Democrats' quandary over finding a messaging balance has fueled countless conversations within the party. More than 100 groups, from the AFL-CIO to Public Citizen, hold thrice-weekly conference calls to share research and strategy, said Leslie Dach, who runs the Protect Our Care Coalition, which hosts the calls along with the Center for American Progress.

"It's a moment to double down, but we have to do that in a surgical way, not a jackhammer on his head," said Bradley Beychok, president of American Bridge.

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.

---

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Jews prep for a pandemic Passover: Smaller but no less vital

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

Passover and its epic story — how the Jewish people escaped to freedom after plagues struck their oppressors — are uniquely resonant this year, as Jews find ways to honor the holiday amid the outbreak of what feels like a real-life plague.

The coronavirus has forced Jewish families to limit the celebratory Passover meals known as seders from extended families and friends to small, one-household affairs.

But the pandemic hasn't cut the connection that Jews from all backgrounds feel to one of their calendar's most important holidays — and, for many, the global crisis has deepened its meaning.

Rabbi Noam Marans, director of interreligious relations at the American Jewish Committee, described the gravity of Passover during the coronavirus by reciting a key portion of the Haggadah, the sacred text Jews use on the holiday.

"This year we are enslaved — next year we will be free." That aspiration is very real this year," Marans said, looking ahead to a future victory over the disease.

As the all-are-welcome spirit of seders is constrained by public health rules set up to help stop the virus, more liberal Jewish communities are embracing digital connections with socially distant family and friends.

Jews in all branches of the faith are also taking the opportunity to ensure those in high-risk populations have enough of the food, including the unleavened bread known as matzo, which represents their ancestors' exodus from bondage in Egypt.

The Chabad-Lubavitch movement of Hasidism has expanded its annual distribution of "seder-to-go" kits, which had typically been prepared for hospitalized or otherwise housebound Jews, to help serve families and individuals confined to their homes during a quarantine. Chabad projects it will distribute 250,000 seder kits throughout North America.

Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin, spokesman for Chabad-Lubavitch, said that he has started speaking to his children about the deeper and historical meaning of the seder to help them understand why this year's dinner will look and feel so different. Part of the spirit of Passover, Shmotkin said, involves recognizing obstacles but managing "to supersede that and break out, find a way to see godliness in it."

Steve Weinstein, 62, is preparing for a seder for two this year — just Weinstein and his wife, without the extended family they typically host in Milwaukee.

"It's very sad not to have everybody together," Weinstein said.

Although he's only started to think about the broader message of this more somber Passover, Weinstein said, "we'll find ways to be able to equate" the holiday's biblical narrative with the outbreak. The virus could be viewed in one sense, he said, as the oppressive rule that Jews eventually overcame.

Passover's power to bring Jews both observant and secular to the seder table is unparalleled among holidays on the faith's calendar, according to 2013 polling by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center. Seven in 10 Jews reported participating in a seder the previous year, compared with 53% who reported fasting during Yom Kippur, the holy Jewish day of atonement.

With the coronavirus shaking up Passover tradition, different branches of the faith are offering their own seder guidance. For those permitted and planning to use Zoom, FaceTime or other digital platforms for a virtual seder, the Union of Reform Judaism created a guide for creative ways to get online guests involved.

For Orthodox Jews, the six leading organizations that made a unique joint plea last month for worshippers to curb outside interactions during the pandemic released further united guidance on Passover last month.

That Orthodox guidance asks that observers only purchase "the truly ESSENTIAL" Passover items and includes a narrow exemption for households to welcome any seder guests: Outsiders must be alone or "absolutely unable to prepare" for the holiday, must undergo a two-week quarantine in advance, must maintain social distancing, and must display no symptoms of the virus alongside their hosts.

U.S. political leaders offered their own well wishes this week as Passover approached. A call faith leaders held Wednesday with President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence included prayers from a rabbi as well as from a Christian pastor for Easter, while likely Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 52 of 83

and his wife held their own pre-Passover call with supporters on Tuesday.

In Israel, Passover is similarly constrained amid the spread of the virus. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu entered self-quarantine this week after an aide tested positive for COVID-19 and echoed his government's entreaties that people forego family visits during the pandemic.

International Fellowship of Christians and Jews President Yael Eckstein, who lives in the north of Israel, is preparing for her group to help direct an estimated 75,000 Passover food boxes and 130,000 boxes of matzo to elderly and needy households. Eckstein is also grappling with whether she can safely host a family member who would otherwise be alone for the holiday.

Despite the challenges of Passover during coronavirus, Eckstein said she's taking comfort in what she sees as Passover's message, "that good comes from bad situations. And we have to just do the best we can within the sad situation, but also realize we don't have to be consumed by it."

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## Countries start thinking about easing up on restrictions

By **MARINA VILLENUEVE** and **LORI HINNANT** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as coronavirus deaths mount across Europe and New York, the U.S. and other countries are starting to contemplate an exit strategy and thinking about a staggered and carefully calibrated easing of restrictions designed to curb the scourge.

"To end the confinement, we're not going to go from black to white; we're going to go from black to gray," top French epidemiologist Jean-François Delfraissy said in a radio interview.

Deaths, hospitalizations and new infections are leveling off in places like Italy and Spain, and even New York has seen encouraging signs amid the gloom. At the same time, politicians and health officials warn that the crisis is far from over and a catastrophic second wave could hit if countries let down their guard too soon.

"We are flattening the curve because we are rigorous about social distancing," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "But it's not a time to be complacent. It's not a time to do anything different than we've been doing."

In a sharp reminder of the danger, New York state on Wednesday recorded its highest one-day increase in deaths, 779, for an overall death toll of almost 6,300.

"The bad news is actually terrible," Cuomo lamented. Still, the governor said that hospitalizations are decreasing and that many of those now dying fell ill in the outbreak's earlier stages.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was issuing new guidelines for some workers who have been within 6 feet of someone with a confirmed or suspected infection to go back on the job if they have no symptoms. The guidelines apply to employees in critical fields such as health care and food supply and require they take their temperature beforehand, wear face masks at all times and practice social distancing.

In other developments:

— Stocks shot 3.4% higher on Wall Street amid the encouraging signs about the outbreak's trajectory. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 780 points.

— U.S. researchers opened another safety test of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine, this one using a skin-deep shot instead of the usual deeper jab. A different vaccine candidate began safety testing in people last month in Seattle.

— British Prime Minister Boris Johnson spent a second night in intensive care but was improving and sitting up in bed, authorities said.

— Saudi Arabian officials announced that the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen will begin a cease-fire starting Thursday. They said the two-week truce was in response to U.N. calls to halt hostilities around the world amid the epidemic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 53 of 83

In China, the lockdown of Wuhan, the industrial city of 11 million where the global pandemic began, was lifted after 76 days, allowing people to come and go. The country on Thursday announced two additional deaths in Wuhan but no new cases there.

Wuhan residents will have to use a smartphone app showing that they are healthy and have not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus. Schools remain closed, people are still checked for fever when they enter buildings and masks are strongly encouraged.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious-diseases expert, said the Trump administration has been working on plans to eventually reopen the country amid evidence that social distancing is working to stop the virus's spread.

But he said it's not time to scale back such measures: "Keep your foot on the accelerator because this is what is going to get us through this," he said at Wednesday's White House briefing.

Vice President Mike Pence warned that Philadelphia was emerging as a potential hot spot, saying that he spoke to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and that Pittsburgh was also being monitored for a possible rise in cases.

The U.S. is also seeing hot spots in such places as Washington, D.C., Louisiana, Chicago, Detroit and Colorado. The New York metropolitan area, which includes northern New Jersey, Long Island and lower Connecticut, accounts for about half of all virus deaths in the U.S.

Pence said he would speak to leaders in African-American communities who are concerned about disproportionate impacts from the virus. Fauci acknowledged that historic disparities in health care have put African-Americans at risk for diseases that make them more vulnerable in the outbreak, adding that makes it even more imperative for communities of color to practice social distancing.

In Europe, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte is expected to announce in the coming days how long the country's lockdown will remain in place amid expectations that some restrictions could be eased. Discussions are focused first on opening more of the country's industries.

Proposals being floated in Italy include the issuing of immunity certificates, which would require antibody blood tests, and allowing younger workers to return first, as they are less vulnerable to the virus.

Italy, the hardest-hit country, recorded its biggest one-day jump yet in people counted as recovered and had its smallest one-day increase in deaths in more than a month. Nearly 18,000 have died there.

In Spain, which has tallied more than 14,000 dead, Budget Minister María Jesús Montero said Spaniards will progressively regain their "normal life" from April 26 onwards but warned that the "de-escalation" of the lockdown will be "very orderly to avoid a return to the contagion."

The government has been tight-lipped about what measures could be in place once the confinement is relaxed, stressing that they will be dictated by experts

Without giving specifics, French authorities have likewise begun to speak openly of planning the end of the country's confinement period, which is set to expire April 15 but will be extended, according to the president's office. The virus has claimed more than 10,000 lives in France.

Earlier this week, Austria and the Czech Republic jumped out ahead of other European countries and announced plans to relax some restrictions.

Starting Thursday, Czech stores selling construction materials, hobby supplies and bicycles will be allowed to reopen. Only grocery stores, pharmacies and garden stores are up and running. The reopened businesses will have to offer customers disinfectant and disposable gloves and enforce social distancing.

Austria will begin reopening small shops, hardware stores and garden centers on Tuesday, and shopping malls and hair salons could follow two weeks later. People will have to wear face masks.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said authorities will watch carefully and will "pull the emergency brake" if the virus makes a comeback.

British government officials, beset with a rising death toll of more than 7,000, said there is little chance the nationwide lockdown there will be eased when its current period ends next week.

The desire to get back to normal is driven in part by the damage to world economies.

The Bank of France said the French economy has entered recession, with an estimated 6% drop in the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 54 of 83

first quarter compared with the previous three months, while Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, is also facing a deep recession. Expert said its economy will shrink 4.2% this year.

Japan, the world's third-largest economy, could contract by a record 25% this quarter, the highest since gross domestic product began to be tracked in 1955.

Worldwide, 1.5 million people have been confirmed infected and around 90,000 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. The true numbers are almost certainly much higher, because of limited testing, different rules for counting the dead and concealment by some governments.

For most, the virus causes mild to moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. But for some older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death. Over 300,000 people have recovered.

Hinnant reported from Paris. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed.

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

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

By The Associated Press undefined

The Chinese city at the heart of the global pandemic, Wuhan, reopened Wednesday after 76 days in lockdown. Elsewhere, the economic, political and psychological toll of fighting the new coronavirus grew increasingly clear and more difficult to bear.

New York endured one of its darkest days so far, with the virus death toll surging past the number killed on 9/11. It recorded 731 new coronavirus deaths, its biggest one-day jump yet, for a statewide toll of nearly 5,500.

And British Prime Minister Boris Johnson remains in intensive care with the coronavirus but is improving and sitting up in bed, a senior government minister said Wednesday, as the U.K. recorded its biggest spike in COVID-19 deaths to date.

Here are some of AP's top stories Wednesday 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:

— Even as coronavirus deaths mount across Europe, New York and other hot spots, the U.S. and other governments are beginning to envision an exit strategy and contemplating a staggered and carefully calibrated relaxation of the restrictions designed to curb the scourge. At the same time, politicians and health officials emphatically warn that the crisis is far from over, and a catastrophic second wave could hit if countries let their guard down too soon.

— U.S. researchers have opened another safety test of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine, this one using a skin-deep shot instead of the usual deeper jab. A different vaccine candidate began safety testing in people last month in Seattle.

— As health officials around the world push to get more ventilators to treat coronavirus patients, some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines when they can. The reason: Some hospitals have reported unusually high death rates for coronavirus patients on ventilators, and some doctors worry that the machines could be harming certain patients.

— In a heartfelt plea for unity, the World Health Organization's chief sought to rise above sharp criticism and threats of funding cuts from U.S. President Donald Trump over the agency's response to the coronavirus outbreak. The vocal defense from the WHO Director-General came a day after Trump blasted the U.N. agency for being "China-centric."

— The coronavirus is proving particularly devastating to black Americans. Of the victims whose demographic data was publicly shared by officials — nearly 3,300 of the nation's 13,000 deaths thus far — about 42% were black, according to an Associated Press analysis. African Americans account for roughly 21%

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 55 of 83

of the total population in the areas covered by the analysis.

— Even as parishioners, followers and the faithful seek solace and strength from religious leaders in a time of pandemic, the list of those who have died includes more and more clergymen and women. The dreaded daily uptick is reflected worldwide as spiritual leaders in the Middle East, Europe and the U.S. are among the casualties.

## AP FACT CHECK:

— President Donald Trump offered a rosy portrait of a smoothly running federal emergency lending program for small businesses that doesn't match reality and revised history again on how seriously he took the coronavirus threat, suggesting he likened it to a pandemic flu. He never did.

Have tips for the AP Fact Check team? Contact [FactCheck@ap.org](mailto:FactCheck@ap.org)

## 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.

**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:

— 76: Wuhan was released from a 76-day coronavirus lockdown on Wednesday, and it's as if the Chinese city where the pandemic started late last year has awakened from a long slumber.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

— **PET THERAPY:** Pets are proving to be unexpected heroes in lockdown. People have flooded shelters, looking for pets to fill their extra hours at home.

— **BIPARTISAN UNITY:** Louisiana's Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry is pledging to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards in a jaw-dropping truce in a state known for cantankerous politics.

— **SAMBA SCHOOLS:** Rio de Janeiro's samba schools usually spend the year furiously sewing costumes for the city's blowout Carnival celebration. Now, they're making medical outfits for hospital workers who face a surge of coronavirus patients.

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

## Congress in standoff on virus aid, but first checks coming

By **LISA MASCARO** AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is rushing headlong into a conflict over the next coronavirus aid package as the White House wants to pump \$250 billion into a small business fund but opposes Democrats' proposal to tack on billions for protective gear, food stamps and support to state and local governments. An attempt for a Thursday vote in the Senate will pose a first test.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 56 of 83

Despite the urgency to act, it's a sudden breakdown over what all sides agree is the need for federal help as the pandemic crisis roars through communities large and small, and Washington prepares to go beyond the \$2.2 trillion package approved just two weeks ago.

President Donald Trump urged passage of the small business funds "ASAP."

Still, signs of potential progress emerged Wednesday in Washington's effort to push cash out the door to suddenly out-of-work Americans and shuttered businesses.

The first tranche of \$1,200 direct payments to Americans are set to begin next week, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told House Democrats during a conference call with the administration's coronavirus task force.

Mnuchin also told the lawmakers that \$98 billion in loans for small businesses has been approved under the program which the Trump administration wants Congress to bolster in Thursday's vote, according to a person unauthorized to discuss the private call and granted anonymity.

But the White House opposes a proposal from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer to add another \$250 billion for other needs, according to a senior administration official unauthorized to discuss the situation and granted anonymity.

The White House prefers quick passage of infusion for small business payrolls, the official said.

That leads to the standoff because without bipartisan cooperation, no proposal is likely to be approved as Congress is all but shuttered amid the virus outbreak.

Pelosi said flatly the Republican-only proposal would face objections in the House.

"We have to spend what we need," Pelosi told NPR, when asked if there were limits on federal aid.

Vice President Mike Pence convened private conference calls Wednesday with House Republicans and Democrats, in separate sessions with Mnuchin and the task force, to brief far-flung lawmakers on the response to the crisis.

Lawmakers heard from Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Deborah Birx and other task force officials who outlined the difficult week in the U.S. with the rising number of coronavirus cases and deaths.

In the morning call with Republicans, Pence and the GOP leaders made a push for boosting the small business Paycheck Protection Program, according to a Republican aide unauthorized to discuss the call and granted anonymity.

The GOP leaders were in agreement about quickly approving more funding for the program, the aide said.

Part of the sweeping \$2.2 trillion package that became law just two weeks ago, the \$350 billion Paycheck Protection Program has been swamped as businesses rush to apply for up to \$10 million in forgivable loans to keep paychecks flowing amid the stay-home shutdown.

In the call with Democrats, Mnuchin appeared to address head-on concerns that the small business aid was riddled with problems and not getting into the hands of those who need it most.

He told them that the loans have been approved so far by 3,600 lenders. It was not clear, however, how much of that money was now actually out the door.

But Democrats want assurances the small business funds go to minority-owned and other companies that may be under-banked without easy access to financial institutions.

"We cannot solidify the inequality to access to capital that exists in our economy at a time when we are address the coronavirus crisis," Pelosi said.

It's an issue that has been raised by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and others who said millions of small business owners struggled to access the aid.

Lawmakers have raised concerns that the \$1,200 direct payments to Americans could be delayed for months for those who do not have direct deposit through Treasury.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's decision to rush Trump's request for small business aid to a vote without input from Democrats threatened a fragile alliance for bipartisan action.

"I hope none of my colleagues object to my request for these urgently-needed funds," McConnell said on Twitter late Wednesday. "There is no reason why this bipartisan job-saving program should be held hostage for other priorities."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 57 of 83

The Democrats say they support the \$250 billion in assistance to small businesses.

But they're also calling for an additional \$100 billion for hospitals and community health centers to provide testing supplies and protective equipment like masks and gowns. They are seeking another \$150 billion for state and local governments to manage the coronavirus crisis

They also want a 15 percent increase to the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food stamp benefits.

Mnuchin also spoke by phone Wednesday to Schumer, who told the secretary about Democrats' "very reasonable and needed" proposal, said Schumer's spokesman, Justin Goodman.

Republicans swiftly countered that Democrats were blocking fast action on the small business aid. Many of the Democratic requests revisited behind-the-scenes battles from the round of talks that produce the CARES Act two weeks ago.

"Senate Democrats should drop their shameful threat to block this funding immediately," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of GOP leadership.

With Congress adjourned except for procedural pro-forma sessions, the House and Senate could deploy procedures that would allow a simple voice vote, without a roll call, or leaders could try to approve the package with unanimous consent.

Consent, though, seems unlikely, as Democrats push for add-ons and fiscal hawks criticize the cost. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., objected to the earlier package, forcing lawmakers to return to Washington for a vote.

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Saudi officials announce Yemen cease-fire amid pandemic

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL** and **AHMED AL-HAJ** Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen announced Wednesday that its forces would begin a cease-fire starting Thursday, a step that could pave the way for the first direct peace talks between the two sides that have been at war for more than five years.

In a statement carried by Saudi Arabia's official state news agency, a Saudi military spokesman, Col. Turki al-Malki, said that the ceasefire would last two weeks and that it comes in response to U.N. calls to halt hostilities amid the coronavirus pandemic. He said the ceasefire could be extended to pave the way for all the parties "to discuss proposals, steps, and mechanisms for sustainable ceasefire in Yemen ... for a comprehensive political solution in Yemen."

There was no immediate reaction from Houthi leaders or Yemen's internationally recognized government to the coalition's statement.

Within hours of the announcement, residents in the contested Yemeni province Marib said a suspected Houthi missile struck a security building in the city center. There was no immediate claim of responsibility or reports of casualties. A Yemeni presidential adviser, Abdel-Malek al-Mekhlafi, blamed the Houthis, saying on Twitter that the attack shows the rebels "are fueling war not peace."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who called for a cease-fire in all global conflicts on March 23 to tackle the virus and specifically called two days later for a cessation in Yemen, welcomed the announcement, saying: "This can help to advance efforts towards peace as well as the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

He urged Yemen's government, which is backed by the Saudi-led coalition, and the Houthis "to follow through on their commitment to immediately cease hostilities" in response to his March 25 plea and to engage with each other without preconditions in negotiations facilitated by the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

"Only through dialogue will the parties be able to agree on a mechanism for sustaining a nation-wide ceasefire, humanitarian and economic confidence-building measures to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people, and the resumption of the political process to reach a comprehensive settlement to end the conflict," Guterres said in a statement.

Guterres said earlier this month that warring parties in 11 countries had responded positively to his ap-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 58 of 83

peal for a global cease-fire to tackle the virus. Guterres said then that the world faces “a common enemy — COVID-19,” which doesn’t care “about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith.”

Heavy fighting in Yemen between coalition-backed government forces and the Houthis killed more than 270 people the past 10 days, government officials and tribal leaders said Wednesday. The two sides are battling over for the key border province of Jawf and the oil-rich central province of Marib. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, while the tribal leaders did want to be quoted by name out of fear of reprisals.

The flare-up in fighting came at a time Saudi Arabia intercepted a missile targeted at their capital, Riyadh, late last month. The Houthis frequently launch missiles across Yemen’s border into Saudi Arabia, but it’s rare that they reach the capital.

The war has proved costly for Saudi Arabia and has damaged its image abroad. The calls for peace come amid a trying time. The country is engaged in an international price war over the cost of oil, having pushed its production higher to try to take back market share from Russia and the United States. International rights groups criticized Saudi Arabia over the conflict and the humanitarian toll. Saudi Arabia is also battling the coronavirus outbreak, with 2,932 confirmed cases and 41 deaths.

Iran, which backs the Houthis, is also facing challenges at home. As the worst-hit country in the Middle East, it has 67,286 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3,993 deaths.

Al-Malki, the coalition spokesman, said the ceasefire was aimed at “building confidence” between the two warring parties and to support the United Nations-led initiative to end the war.

Yemen, the Arab world’s poorest nation, has been convulsed by civil war since 2014. That is when the Iranian-backed Houthis took control of the country’s north, including the capital of Sanaa. The Saudi-led military coalition intervened against the Houthis the following year, conducting relentless airstrikes and a blockade of Yemen.

Past attempts at ending the conflict have stalled. A 2018 peace agreement, brokered by the U.N. in Sweden, led to a rough road map to end fighting in the key port city of Hodeida but brought little actual progress.

The talks proposed by Al-Malki would be the first face-to-face peace negotiations among the Saudis, Houthis and government since the war started. In addition to representatives from the two warring parties, al-Malki said a Saudi military team would also be present.

In the past, informal and secretive talks took place inside Saudi Arabia and Oman between the Houthis and Saudis. Both sides blamed the failure of the talks on manipulation by Saudi Arabia or Iran.

The conflict has killed over 100,000 people and created the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine.

Authorities in Yemen have yet to announce a confirmed case of the coronavirus, but experts fear the virus could eventually prove deadly there after the years of devastation by the war.

## Girl who inspired Charlotte’s Web marijuana oil dies

By COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A girl with a rare form of epilepsy whose recovery inspired the name of a medical marijuana oil that drew families of children with similar health problems to Colorado for treatment has died after being hospitalized and treated as a likely coronavirus patient, her mother said Wednesday. Charlotte Figi was 13.

Charlotte, who lived in Colorado Springs, died Tuesday after suffering a seizure that resulted in cardiac arrest and respiratory failure, her mother, Paige Figi, said in a statement. Charlotte tested negative for the coronavirus when she was initially admitted to a hospital on Friday but was still treated as a likely COVID-19 case when she was returned to the hospital Tuesday after the seizure because her whole family had been sick for a month with suspected coronavirus symptoms, Figi said.

Her death was first announced by the group co-founded by Paige Figi, Realm of Caring Foundation, to help other families who uprooted their lives for a chance to use cannabis to treat their children’s seizures

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 59 of 83

before marijuana became more widely legalized in the United States.

Charlotte's case and the advocacy of her parents played a significant role in drawing attention to the potential that a drug derived from cannabis could be used to treat epilepsy.

"Some journeys are long and bland and others are short and poignant and meant to revolutionize the world. Such was the path chosen by this little girl with a catastrophic form of epilepsy called Dravet Syndrome," the announcement said.

At age 5, Charlotte suffered as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak.

With doctors out of ideas, Paige Figi began calling medical marijuana shops. Her symptoms largely disappeared after she began taking an oil created using a strain of marijuana with low THC, the drug's psychoactive compound, but high in the chemical CBD, created by Stanley Brothers, a marijuana business in Colorado. It later named it after her.

Federal prohibition of marijuana has limited research into marijuana and individual compounds' health effects, but Charlotte's family and hundreds of others shared their own experience using it for seizure disorders.

U.S. health regulators in 2018 approved the first prescription drug made with CBD to treat rare forms of epilepsy in young children.

In an online tribute, Stanley Brothers praised Charlotte as "a light that lit the world."

"She grew, cultivated by a community, protected by love, demanding that the world witness her suffering so that they might find a solution," it said.

For most, the coronavirus causes mild to moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. But for some older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death. Over 300,000 people worldwide have recovered.

## Sanders drops 2020 bid, leaving Biden as likely nominee

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bernie Sanders ended his presidential bid on Wednesday, making Joe Biden the presumptive Democratic nominee to challenge President Donald Trump in a general election campaign that will be waged against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sanders initially exceeded sky-high expectations about his ability to recreate the magic of his 2016 presidential bid, and even overcame a heart attack last October. But he couldn't convert unwavering support from progressives into a viable path to the nomination, with "electability" fears fueled by questions about whether his democratic socialist ideology would be palatable to general election voters.

"The path toward victory is virtually impossible," Sanders told supporters Wednesday. "If I believed we had a feasible path to the nomination I would certainly continue the campaign, but it's just not there."

He called Biden a "very decent man" but didn't offer an explicit endorsement of the former vice president. Sanders said his name would remain on the ballot in states that have not yet held primaries so he can gain more delegates and "exert significant influence" on the Democratic platform.

Biden, who is backed by much of the party's establishment, told supporters at a virtual fundraiser that he had a "short conversation" with Sanders on Wednesday.

"He didn't just run a political campaign. He created a movement," Biden said. "That's a good thing for our nation and our future. His campaign has ended, but I know his leadership will continue."

Trump sought to foment the tension among Democrats by tweeting Wednesday that the party stacked the race against Sanders. The president said the senator's supporters "should come to the Republican Party."

Sanders began his latest White House bid facing questions about whether he could win back the supporters who chose him four years ago as an insurgent alternative to Hillary Clinton. Despite winning 22 states in 2016, there were no guarantees he'd be a major presidential contender this cycle.

But Sanders used strong polling and solid fundraising — collected almost entirely from small donations made online — to quiet early doubters. Like the first time, he attracted widespread support from young voters and made new inroads within the Hispanic community, even as his appeal with African Americans

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 60 of 83

remained weak.

Sanders amassed the most votes in Iowa and New Hampshire, which opened primary voting, and cruised to an easy victory in Nevada — seemingly leaving him well positioned to sprint to the Democratic nomination while a deeply crowded and divided field of alternatives sunk around him.

But Biden won a crucial endorsement from influential South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn and a subsequent, larger-than-expected victory in South Carolina, which propelled him into Super Tuesday, when he won 10 of 14 states.

In a matter of days, Biden's former Democratic rivals lined up to endorse him. His campaign had appeared on the brink of collapse after New Hampshire but found new life as the rest of the party's more moderate establishment coalesced around him as an alternative to Sanders.

Things only got worse the following week when Sanders lost Michigan, where he had campaigned hard and upset Clinton in 2016. He was also beaten in Missouri, Mississippi and Idaho the same night, and the results were so decisive that Sanders headed to Vermont without speaking to the media.

The coronavirus outbreak essentially froze the campaign, preventing Sanders from holding the large rallies that had become his trademark and shifting the primary calendar. It became increasingly unclear where he could notch a victory that would help him regain ground against Biden.

Though he will not be the nominee, Sanders was a key architect of many of the social policies that dominated the Democratic primary, including a "Medicare for All" universal, government-funded health care plan, tuition-free public college, a \$15 minimum wage and sweeping efforts to fight climate change under the "Green New Deal."

Sanders began the 2020 race by arguing that he was the most electable Democrat against Trump. He said his working-class appeal could help Democrats win back Rust Belt states that Trump won in 2016, including Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. But as the race wore on, the senator reverted to his 2016 roots, repeatedly stressing that he backs a "political revolution" from the bottom up under the slogan "Not me. Us."

Sanders, 78, also faced persistent questions about being the field's oldest candidate. Those were pushed into the spotlight on Oct. 1, when he was at a rally in Las Vegas and asked for a chair to be brought on stage so he could sit down. Suffering from chest pains afterward, he underwent surgery to insert two stents because of a blocked artery, and his campaign revealed two days later that he had suffered a heart attack.

A serious health scare that might have derailed other campaigns seemed only to help Sanders as his already-strong fundraising got stronger and rising stars on the Democratic left, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, endorsed him. Many supporters said the heart attack only strengthened their resolve to back him.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren outshone him throughout much of the summer, but Sanders worked his way back up in the polls. The two progressive candidates spent months refusing to attack each other, though Sanders offered a strong defense of Medicare for All after Warren offered a plan for a transition to it that would take years.

But they clashed bitterly, if briefly, in January, when Warren said that Sanders had suggested during a 2018 private meeting that a woman couldn't be elected president. Sanders denied saying that, but Warren refused to shake his outstretched hand after a debate in Iowa.

Warren left the race after a dismal Super Tuesday showing in which she finished third in her own state. Any lingering tension seemed to fade by Wednesday when Warren tweeted her thanks to Sanders for "fighting so relentlessly for America's working families."

With the leading progressive now out of the race, Biden moved to appeal to their supporters on Wednesday.

"I hope you will join us," he said in a statement. "You are more than welcome. You're needed."

But Sanders made clear that while he is exiting the campaign, he will still be a force.

"Please stay in this fight with me," he told his backers. "The struggle continues."

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

## Linda Tripp, whose tapes exposed Clinton scandal, dies at 70

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Linda Tripp, whose secretly recorded conversations with White House intern Monica Lewinsky led to the 1998 impeachment of President Bill Clinton, died Wednesday at age 70.

Her death was confirmed by attorney Joseph Murtha. He provided no further details.

In August 1994, Tripp became a public affairs specialist at the Pentagon, where Lewinsky worked after being a White House intern. The two reportedly became friends.

Tripp made secret tapes of conversations with Lewinsky, who told her she had had an affair with Clinton. Tripp turned almost 20 hours of tapes over to Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor investigating the president, prompting the investigation that led to his impeachment.

As news broke Wednesday that Tripp was near death, Lewinsky tweeted that she hoped for her recovery “no matter the past.”

## Some doctors moving away from ventilators for virus patients

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As health officials around the world push to get more ventilators to treat coronavirus patients, some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines when they can.

The reason: Some hospitals have reported unusually high death rates for coronavirus patients on ventilators, and some doctors worry that the machines could be harming certain patients.

The evolving treatments highlight the fact that doctors are still learning the best way to manage a virus that emerged only months ago. They are relying on anecdotal, real-time data amid a crush of patients and shortages of basic supplies.

Mechanical ventilators push oxygen into patients whose lungs are failing. Using the machines involves sedating a patient and sticking a tube into the throat. Deaths in such sick patients are common, no matter the reason they need the breathing help.

Generally speaking, 40% to 50% of patients with severe respiratory distress die while on ventilators, experts say. But 80% or more of coronavirus patients placed on the machines in New York City have died, state and city officials say.

Higher-than-normal death rates also have been reported elsewhere in the U.S., said Dr. Albert Rizzo, the American Lung Association’s chief medical officer.

Similar reports have emerged from China and the United Kingdom. One U.K. report put the figure at 66%. A very small study in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the disease first emerged, said 86% died.

The reason is not clear. It may have to do with what kind of shape the patients were in before they were infected. Or it could be related to how sick they had become by the time they were put on the machines, some experts said.

But some health professionals have wondered whether ventilators might actually make matters worse in certain patients, perhaps by igniting or worsening a harmful immune system reaction.

That’s speculation. But experts do say ventilators can be damaging to a patient over time, as high-pressure oxygen is forced into the tiny air sacs in a patient’s lungs.

“We know that mechanical ventilation is not benign,” said Dr. Eddy Fan, an expert on respiratory treatment at Toronto General Hospital. “One of the most important findings in the last few decades is that medical ventilation can worsen lung injury — so we have to be careful how we use it.”

The dangers can be eased by limiting the amount of pressure and the size of breaths delivered by the machine, Fan said.

But some doctors say they’re trying to keep patients off ventilators as long as possible, and turning to other techniques instead.

Only a few weeks ago in New York City, coronavirus patients who came in quite sick were routinely placed on ventilators to keep them breathing, said Dr. Joseph Habboushe, an emergency medicine doctor who works in Manhattan hospitals.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 62 of 83

But increasingly, physicians are trying other measures first. One is having patients lie in different positions — including on their stomachs — to allow different parts of the lung to aerate better. Another is giving patients more oxygen through nose tubes or other devices. Some doctors are experimenting with adding nitric oxide to the mix, to help improve blood flow and oxygen to the least damaged parts of the lungs.

“If we’re able to make them better without intubating them, they are more likely to have a better outcome — we think,” Habboushe said.

He said those decisions are separate from worries that there are not enough ventilators available. But that is a concern as well, Habboushe added.

There are widespread reports that coronavirus patients tend to be on ventilators much longer than other kinds of patients, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

Experts say that patients with bacterial pneumonia, for example, may be on a ventilator for no more than a day or two. But it’s been common for coronavirus patients to have been on a ventilator “seven days, 10 days, 15 days, and they’re passing away,” said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, when asked about ventilator death rates during a news briefing on Wednesday.

That’s one reason for worries that ventilators could grow in short supply. Experts worry that as cases mount, doctors will be forced to make terrible decisions about who lives and who dies because they won’t have enough machines for every patient who needs one.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said Wednesday that officials are looking into other possible therapies that can be given earlier, but added “that’s all experimental.”

The new virus is a member of the coronavirus family that can cause colds as well as more serious illnesses. Health officials say it spreads mainly from droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. There is no proven drug treatment or vaccine against it.

Experts think most people who are infected suffer nothing worse than unpleasant but mild illnesses that may include fever and coughing.

But roughly 20% — many of them older adults or people weakened by chronic conditions — can grow much sicker. They can have trouble breathing and suffer chest pain. Their lungs can become inflamed, causing a dangerous condition called acute respiratory distress syndrome. An estimated 3% to 4% may need ventilators.

“The ventilator is not therapeutic. It’s a supportive measure while we wait for the patient’s body to recover,” said Dr. Roger Alvarez, a lung specialist with the University of Miami Health System in Florida, who is a leader in the effort to use nitric oxide to keep patients off ventilators for as long as possible.

Zachary Shemtob said he was “absolutely terrified” when he was told his 44-year-old husband, David, needed to be put on a ventilator at NYU Langone last month after becoming infected with the virus.

“Needing to be ventilated might mean never getting off the ventilator,” he said.

Shemtob said the hospital did not give any percentages on survival, but he got the impression it was essentially a coin flip. He looked up the rates only after his husband was breathing on his own six days later.

“A coin flip was generous it seems,” he said.

But Shemtob noted cases vary. His husband is relatively young.

“David is living proof that they can really save lives, and how incredibly important they are,” Shemtob said.

---

Associated Press reporters Candice Choi and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

---

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.

## Doctor’s death highlights limits of coronavirus death count

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As the coronavirus bore down on New York, Dr. Doug Bass’ family begged him to work from home. He refused, pointing to his patients at Phoenix House, a drug and alcohol treatment center where he served as medical director.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 63 of 83

"He said he was on the front lines and they needed him," his brother, Jonathan Bass, told The Associated Press. "Too many people relied on him."

Bass, 64, died suddenly last month after suffering symptoms commonly caused by coronavirus, including coughing, a fever and severe stomach cramping. That made him possibly the first physician still treating patients in New York City to die from the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Except he wasn't counted.

It happened so quickly he was never tested for COVID-19, but his brother believes he was among the hundreds of undiagnosed cases that, for weeks, have been excluded from the official coronavirus death toll.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Wednesday the city would begin counting victims like Bass who weren't tested, including those dying at home whose symptoms fit certain parameters.

"It's just horrendous. The numbers speak for themselves. This used to be a very, very rare thing in New York City and suddenly it's jumped up. The only thing that's changed is COVID-19," de Blasio told reporters.

A year ago, the New York City Fire Department was receiving an average of 64 calls for cardiac arrest per day, generally with no more than half of those patients dying, FDNY spokesman James Long said. "Now, in this pandemic, we are seeing more than 300 cardiac arrest calls each day, with well over 200 people dying each day," Long wrote in an email.

Casualties have been undercounted worldwide, experts say, due not only to limits in testing but the different ways nations count the dead — not to mention deliberate underreporting by some governments.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued new guidance saying it is acceptable to count undiagnosed COVID-19 cases as "probable" or "presumed" coronavirus deaths under circumstances that are "compelling within a reasonable degree of certainty."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday said he was also interested in trying to find a way to account for people who die at home without being tested.

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

Bass, the New York City doctor, believed he had been getting better in the days before his death and continued working for Phoenix House, which provides residential and outpatient treatment at multiple locations in New York City and Long Island.

He had a weakened immune system, his brother said, but "nothing life-threatening and nothing terminal." He collapsed in the elevator of his building in Manhattan's East Village neighborhood after calling for an ambulance because he could not breathe. Officials at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, the hospital where Bass was taken, declined to comment on his death.

Ann-Marie Foster, the president and chief executive officer of Phoenix House, said her organization had at least two patients who had tested positive for coronavirus, but added it was not clear whether Bass had dealings with them. She said she received an email from Bass at 6:27 p.m. on March 27, the evening before his death.

"We've lost a gem," she said.

There have been similar uncounted fatalities among health care workers.

An emergency room physician at East Orange General Hospital outside Newark, Frank Gabrin, died March 31 from what his loved ones and colleagues described as coronavirus complications. A cancer survivor who also was never tested for COVID-19, Gabrin died in his husband's arms, at home in New York City, days after developing symptoms that included a dry cough, aches and fever.

The actual coronavirus death toll will be better understood when the pandemic is finally over, based on an a review of fatalities in out-of-hospital settings, said Dr. Mitchell Katz, president and chief executive officer of NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest municipal health system in the country.

"If an older person was found dead in their home, it would not be easy to know whether they succumbed to COVID without ever having been brought to diagnosis, or whether they succumbed to cardiac arrest," Katz told reporters recently.

"I think there will be ways, when all of this horror that we're living through is done, to try to study these things," he added. "But I think, right now, everybody is in the moment trying to save as many lives as

they can.”

Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak in New York and David Porter in Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this report

## Cats, dogs, Quillie the hedgehog source of comfort in crisis

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

Lala, a 3-month-old black Lab, romped into Ufuoma George’s life a few weeks ago, just as she retreated into her New York apartment in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lala, she thought, would be company. But she’s turned out to be so much more.

“Being alone at home kind of is hard,” says George, “but with a pet you have someone to take care of, someone to play with you, someone to greet you in the morning, so it’s kind of like really calming and comforting.”

Whether it’s a dog, a cat or, yes, a hedgehog named Quillie Nelson, pets are proving to be unexpected heroes in lockdown. They include the newly adopted and fostered like Lala; people have flooded shelters, looking for pets to fill their extra hours at home.

Laura Evans, her husband and their three kids brought 12-week-old Zoe to their Bethesda, Maryland, home after the pandemic hit. The squirmy Yorkshire terrier needs constant attention, and they’re happy to oblige.

“We wanted to bring a little light and life to our house,” Evans said. “She’s a cuddly work, homework sidekick. Everyone wants to hang with her.”

Nancy Karan said her pet Shadow gets her out of her New York apartment for quality time with her fellow dog walkers, at a safe distance. At night they sleep together, “because it’s very comforting just to have his body on my bed.”

In Houston, Quillie Nelson and other pets help maintain routines for Rachael Pavlik and two teens.

“I think having pets during a scary time like this is good for the whole family. It’s good for the kids to have a sense of normalcy and a sense of responsibility, like they have to get out of bed before noon to feed their animals,” she said.

Kitty Block, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, urged more people to foster and adopt as the health crisis worsens.

“It frees up space in the shelter to take these animals in that may be displaced because their family member, their owner is ill or financially in a troubled situation,” she said.

While many people seek comfort, some frustrations have surfaced with all the togetherness. Professional dog trainer Nicole Ellis in Los Angeles, of the service Rover.com, said owners should make a conscious effort to tire out their animals before a Zoom meeting or important phone call.

“We can’t blame them if they’re like, ‘I’m bored! I’m bored!’ and they haven’t done anything all day. It’s not their fault,” she said.

That doesn’t seem to be a problem for Squiggles, a bearded dragon in South Orange, New Jersey. Dan Cohen’s 13-year-old daughter, Julia, has survived with help from her chill lizard, who has her own emotional support vest and tiny mask.

“We don’t want her catching coronavirus,” he joked.

Aubrey Fine, a licensed psychologist and professor emeritus at California Polytechnic State University, said the relationship is mutually beneficial between humans and animals.

“In a time of tremendous and unique life challenges, goodness is still around us. When you’re looking at souls, animals touch human souls and humans touch animal souls. And together serendipity can happen.”

Associated Press writers Leanne Italie, Ted Shaffrey and Brooke Lefferts in New York contributed to this story.



While nonstop global news about the effects of the coronavirus has 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.

## Mayor says virus has hit black, Hispanic New Yorkers hard

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE, KAREN MATTHEWS and MICHAEL HILL** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New data shows New York City's death toll from COVID-19 has been disproportionately high in black and Hispanic communities. And deaths continue to rise statewide at a record pace, even as stay-at-home restrictions show signs of working.

Here are the latest coronavirus developments in New York:

### OUTBREAK DISPARITIES

New York City's death toll from the coronavirus has been disproportionately high in black and Hispanic communities, and the city is starting an outreach campaign for those residents, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Wednesday.

"We're seeing folks who have struggled before really being hit particularly hard," de Blasio said at a City Hall briefing.

Preliminary data indicates that black people account for 28% of the city's COVID-19 death toll, even though they are just 22% of the city's population. Hispanic people account for 34% of the city's virus death toll and 29% of its population.

De Blasio said of the racial disparities: "It's sick. It's troubling. It's wrong. And we are going to fight back with everything we've got."

Dr. Oxiris Barbot, the city's health commissioner, noted that the communities that have been hit the hardest by the virus "have had higher rates of underlying chronic illness" than other New Yorkers.

State health officials reported Wednesday that nearly 4,600 people have been killed by the virus in New York City. The city's new round of data is based on a smaller number of cases, about 1,600, where the race and ethnicity of the victim is known.

De Blasio said the city would embark on a multimillion-dollar public service campaign to reach non-English speaking communities with information about the virus. The state also announced an awareness campaign to include hard-to-reach communities.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, speaking separately later in the day, said he was troubled by the disparities and will order more testing in minority communities.

"Why is it the poorest people always pay the highest price?" Cuomo asked. "But let's figure it out. Let's do the work. Let's do the research. Let's learn from this moment."

When the city fatality figures are adjusted to reflect the age makeup of ethnic groups within the city's population, the disparities are more stark. The age-adjusted death rate for both blacks and Hispanics was more than double the rate for non-Hispanic whites.

Asians, meanwhile, experienced a much lower rate of fatalities: 8.4 per 100,000 residents, compared with 10.2 for non-Hispanic whites, 19.8 for non-Hispanic blacks and 22.8 for Hispanics.

Although the figures released Wednesday show racial disparities in who has died of the virus, the disparities are not as great as those that have been reported elsewhere in the country.

### DEATHS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS

New York coronavirus deaths rose by 779, a record number for a second consecutive day, and Cuomo warned the toll will climb even as hospitalizations from the outbreak finally moderate.

New York state recorded 6,268 deaths by Tuesday.

The grim news was accompanied by more evidence that New York is arresting the outbreak's month-long rise. The hospitalization rate is decreasing, Cuomo said, meaning the overburdened system could stabilize over the coming weeks if trends continue. While new hospitalizations were up by more than 500

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 66 of 83

on Tuesday, that compares to more than 1,000 daily for most of last week.

The governor said New York is at last "flattening the curve" of the outbreak. Still, the number of deaths will continue to rise as patients hospitalized for a longer period of time die.

"I understand the science of it. I Understand the facts and the logic of it. But it is still incredibly difficult to deal with," Cuomo said at a state Capitol news briefing. "Every number is a face, and that's been painfully obvious to me every day."

Cuomo raised alarms when he announced Friday he'd issue an executive order saying the state could take excess equipment from hospitals and shift them elsewhere because of a dire need for ventilators in New York City and its suburbs. But officials say fewer ventilators are needed now than projected. And some hospitals around New York say they are voluntarily agreeing to work with the state to shift hundreds of ventilators.

## FORMER LAWMAKER DIES

Former state Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, 73, died Wednesday of suspected complications from the coronavirus. The Democrat represented parts of Westchester County from 1983 to 2010.

He was known for his work of environmental legislation and overseeing public authorities, as well as his sharp wit and extroverted personality.

His death was announced by the Assembly. His wife, Paige, told The New York Post that her husband likely died of a heart attack that she believed was triggered by COVID-19. She said Brodsky started feeling ill a week ago, had a fever and was awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

All New Yorkers will have the option of voting by absentee ballot in June 23 primaries under an executive order Cuomo announced Wednesday. Cuomo said the order will add the risk of attracting COVID-19 as a reason to vote absentee.

## NUMBER DISCREPANCY

De Blasio acknowledged that the city's official coronavirus statistics have missed hundreds of people who died at home without ever being tested for the virus, and said the city would start including such victims in its COVID-19 tally.

"The blunt truth is coronavirus is driving these very tragic deaths," de Blasio said on CNN's "New Day." He added, "We're not talking about, you know, 10 people, 20 people. We're talking about something like 100, 200 people per day."

The city's Fire Department has recorded as many as 200 deaths at home daily in recent weeks, far more than the average 25 deaths at home before the pandemic.

De Blasio said the city would start including in its official tally of deaths people who died at home without a test.

## BROADWAY

Producers have extended the suspension of all shows on Broadway, saying musicals and plays will stay shuttered through June 7 in accordance with latest medical guidance.

Hill and Villeneuve reported from Albany, N.Y.

## Working at home tests family atmosphere of TV morning shows

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For all the planning that went into "CBS This Morning" putting on a broadcast with its anchors working remotely, no one thought about the pillow.

It sat — slightly crookedly — on a chair behind Gayle King in the makeshift studio set up in her family

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 67 of 83

room. And that pillow, every time the camera caught it, was driving one viewer nuts.

More than most news programs, morning shows on ABC, CBS and NBC thrive by fostering a sense that their personalities are a chummy family. Now, due to coronavirus restrictions, those family members appear onscreen in dislocated boxes, and invite viewers into their homes instead of vice versa.

The least they can do is straighten out the furniture.

"We're doing the best we can," King replied on-air to the pillow-obsessed fan.

"CBS This Morning" was first evicted from its New York studio on March 12 after someone in the building came down with the coronavirus, but it resisted breaking up its team of King, Tony Dokoupil and Anthony Mason. They traveled to a studio in Washington, D.C. for two days, returned to CBS headquarters then did a week at a nearby theater where Stephen Colbert films the "Late Show" when he has an audience.

But after Mason began to self-quarantine after being exposed to someone who had exhibited coronavirus symptoms, work at home became a reality for CBS News.

Each morning show had its own trigger. Because past health issues compromised Robin Roberts' immune system, her doctor ordered ABC's "Good Morning America" anchor out of New York. A cold first forced the "Today" show's Savannah Guthrie into a basement in upstate New York.

"There's an intimacy to morning television, and what I'm very proud of is that we've been able to stay a family," Roberts said. "Yes, we may be in different boxes on the screen and not sitting next to each other, but we're still connected."

Roberts said she senses viewers looking over her shoulder at framed pictures in the background of the daily camera shot from her Connecticut home, trying to figure out who they are.

"We're opening up our homes," she said. "We're being very vulnerable in sharing so much of ourselves and people that are at home and missing their colleagues, they're doing the same thing. It's very relatable."

On NBC's "Today" show, Carson Daly has shown off his new baby and submitted to a homemade haircut.

Roberts' "GMA" partner, George Stephanopoulos, started working from home after his wife, Ali Wentworth, came down with COVID-19. With the responsibility of taking care of her and their children while watching their own health, he's looked utterly exhausted.

NBC's Al Roker, delivering weather forecasts from his kitchen with his backyard in view, has one of the more interesting backdrops. So is the knick-knack filled dining room where Mason sits, dominated by a large painting of the Piazza San Marco in Venice.

With a large monitor behind him, Dokoupil's location seems indistinguishable from a regular studio, in part because he has to share a workspace with his wife, NBC News' Katy Tur. Guthrie has gone from drab — an ugly blue backdrop — to arguably deceptive, a background photo of Rockefeller Center. Her backing is a fluid situation.

The basement isn't exactly picturesque, but it's the best place to set up the studio, she said.

"The problem with my kitchen is that it's teeming with toddlers," she said. "It's better in the basement."

Not every personality works from home. Guthrie's partner Hoda Kotb has largely kept to the show home off Rockefeller Plaza, where the crowds that used to peer into the streetside studio are now gone. When she broke down following a recent story about New Orleans, Guthrie was too far away to offer a hug. It would have violated social distancing protocol, anyway.

"Everybody wants to have the optimal working conditions," King said, "and the optimal working conditions are to gather at that table ... When it's no longer feasible or no longer smart to do that, you have to pivot. This story is such a moving target."

She's learned she's not the work-at-home type. King is about to become even more alone; she's had help from a technician but that will end when CBS installs a robotic camera.

"I know the importance of doing it this way," she said. "The social distancing is no joke ... If any one of us goes down, all of us go down."

The intense story has also forced content changes on the shows, not just physical ones. Lighter, celebrity segments are largely gone. From her basement, Guthrie has interviewed Govs. Andrew Cuomo and J.B. Pritzker, Trump administration medical experts Jerome Adams, Deborah Birx and Anthony Fauci, New York

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 68 of 83

City Mayor Bill De Blasio, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and the heads of Ford and Johnson & Johnson.

While news prevails, the shows want to highlight heroes and do service journalism. A segment about cleaning groceries got 3 million hits on Roberts' Facebook page. As one producer said, "I could visit every emergency room in the country every day, but even I wouldn't want to watch that."

Maintaining a balance is important, said "Today" executive producer Libby Leist.

"Sometimes it's how you tell the story," Guthrie said. "I think we're trying to have a touch that is human and, for lack of a better word, gentle, while also being rigorous, straightforward and honest."

This story corrects that Antony Mason began to work at home after being exposed to someone who exhibited coronavirus symptoms, instead of someone who tested positive.

## Tradition stymied: A year unlike any since WWII for Augusta

**PAUL NEWBERRY AP National Writer**

The Masters is so intertwined with Augusta, they added an extra day to spring break.

You see, the first full week of April isn't just a blip in time for this place.

It's their identity, their way of life, their cart path to success.

A restaurant or bar can take a huge step toward profitability off the business it generates in a single week. An ahead-of-its-time industry sprung out of the locals renting their homes to strangers to accommodate the influx of fans, sponsors and media. From ticket brokers to impromptu parking-lot attendants, it seems everyone in the east Georgia city of 200,000 has figured out a way to make a buck off the first major golf championship of the year.

But the Masters is more than just commerce. Relationships are made out on the course, over a pimento cheese sandwich perhaps. Or afterward, over a late-night bourbon and cigar. Then, the whole cycle repeats itself, year after year, decade after decade.

In some ways, it has the feel of a family reunion.

"We obviously do a lot of business that week," said Mark Cumins, who 35 years ago co-founded one of the city's most famous restaurants, TBonz steakhouse, right down the road from Augusta National Golf Club. "But it's not just the money. People have been coming for a long time. We like 'em. Even though it's a busy, busy, busy week, it's a good time. That's what makes the Masters special."

Of course, this tradition unlike any other is on hold at the moment. The coronavirus pandemic has killed thousands, forced nearly everyone to hunker down in their homes, and shut down sporting events around the world. In upcoming weeks, The Associated Press will look at how the cancellation or postponement of iconic sporting events impacts cities and communities.

For the first since a three-year hiatus during World War II, the Masters won't be held in its usual slot on the calendar, serving as sort of an unofficial kickoff to spring.

The tournament is now set for November, when all those booming drives and tricky putts will be accompanied by the changing leaves of fall rather than azaleas blazing forth in all their colorful glory, the hope of spring replaced by the gloom of an approaching winter.

Everyone wonders what an autumn Masters will look like, what the world will look like in seven months.

"We don't what the know rules will be," Cumins said. "Are people even going to want to go out to crowded places?"

Until now, Masters week always coincided with spring break for Augusta's schools, largely to accommodate another tradition that predates the Airbnb era. Many locals clear out of their homes for the week, heading off on vacation and freeing up space for all those visitors who couldn't possibly be handled by the city's limited hotel space.

Even that comes with an extra Augusta touch.

Since the tournament doesn't end until early Sunday evening, and most of those renters need to stay on until the next morning, the schools tacked on an extra day to the week-long break. The kids don't have to resume classes until the Tuesday after the Masters.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 69 of 83

"Of my friends, I would say probably 80 to 90 percent rent out their homes, and have been for years," said Suzi Hall, whose two-story home is just a few miles from the course. "It's a huge industry."

For at least 15 years, Hall and her husband have rented their five-bedroom house to a contingent of AP reporters and editors covering the Masters.

Their two daughters were little girls when that tradition began.

Now, one is married, the other just completed graduate school.

Washington Road is usually the epicenter for Masters week, a hodgepodge of sprawling strip malls, fast-food joints and, of course, John Daly, who sets up his camper in the Hooters parking lot to sign autographs, pose for pictures and sell all sorts of kitschy merchandise.

This week, the parking lot is empty other than barriers adorned with hastily drawn signs, showing customers where they can pick up to-go orders.

The hoopla of the Masters stretches beyond Washington Road. A few miles away, the French Market Grille would normally be in the midst of doling out spicy Cajun cuisine to packed houses. Instead, owner Walter Clay has been making dinners for laid-off employees who need all the help they can get.

"During the Masters, we do a month's worth of business," said Clay, who also owns another popular restaurant, Raes Coastal Cafe. "Then we do another month's worth over the next three weeks. That's nice. It's like running a business with 12 months of expenses but 13 months of revenue."

The Masters has a trickle-down effect on the entire Augusta economy.

For instance, all those homes that are rented out require extra cleaning services during the week. Those jobs aren't needed at the moment, of course. That's a financial blow to some who can least absorb it.

"This is a game changer for a lot of people," Hall said.

Indeed, this is a city that marks time by its signature event.

How many days until the Masters?

Then, as soon as it's over, they start counting down again.

Now, all they can do is wait.

---

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/pnewberry1963> and find his work at <https://apnews.com>

---

More AP golf: <https://apnews.com/apf-Golf> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Louisiana responds to coronavirus with rare bipartisanship

By KEVIN McGILL and MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A simple gift from a bitter political rival — a medical mask emblazoned with Louisiana's state seal — has helped Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards pound home a bipartisan plea for people to stay at home and avoid spreading the new coronavirus.

The token from Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry — and Landry's pledge to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Edwards in the fight against the pandemic — marked a jaw-dropping truce in a state known for cantankerous politics.

The rare show of unity comes in an era of deep, political divides nationwide that have persisted, and in some cases, worsened amid the virus pandemic, even as some call for leaving such disputes aside in favor of working together.

And it seems to be having a positive effect: The growth in the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Louisiana appears to have slowed, and the number of patients on ventilators was down as of Wednesday afternoon.

Before his recent demonstrations of support, Landry had been at odds with the governor over policy and political turf since both took office in 2016, while Edwards' more than four years in office had been marked by ugly budget battles with a Republican-dominated Legislature.

Even President Donald Trump, who called Edwards "a disaster" while campaigning for a Republican to

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 70 of 83

replace him in last year's state election, had rare words of praise for the governor.

"In the case of Louisiana, we have a very good governor, John Bel Edwards, though he's a Democrat," the president told Fox News on March 26.

Republican Sen. John Kennedy, a frequent cable news talking head and critic of Edwards, is on board as well. "I'm not going to second-guess Gov. Edwards," he said. "We're all working together."

Republican House Speaker Clay Schexnayder said he initially thought Edwards went too far with a state-wide stay-at-home order, but he quickly changed his mind. "It's actually kind of nice that we're not all mad at each other right now," he said in a recent interview.

The current atmosphere of bipartisanship marks a striking contrast to 2005, when the response to catastrophic levee failures after Hurricane Katrina was marked by disagreements between the late Democratic Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Republican President George W. Bush's administration; and the ineffective efforts of Democratic New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who later went to federal prison for corruption.

Bipartisan unity in the age of COVID-19 may be due to the virus's broad scope, said Pearson Cross, an associate dean and political science professor at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Katrina hit a heavily Democratic part of a state that had a Democratic governor in 2005. It was easy for a Republican administration to lay the problems with recovery at Blanco's feet, Cross said. The pandemic affects Republican-led states as well as Democratic ones, making it harder to try to single out a Democratic administration for problems with the response.

"That being said, John Bel Edwards has clearly gone out of his way to make nice with President Trump," Cross said.

The unified message in the time of the coronavirus appears to be having a positive effect. Last month there were fears that Louisiana would, by now, have reached a grim coronavirus reckoning on par with the devastated country of Italy, with too few life-saving ventilators to go around and the number of critically ill patients exceeding the number of available beds.

Instead, Edwards is sounding notes of extremely cautious hope.

"It appears we're trending in a positive direction because of the mitigation measures that people have been taking," the governor said at his daily news conference Tuesday.

The reasons for hope lie in the number of those requiring hospitalization. Although it was nearly 2,000 as of Wednesday, that number had dropped slightly from the day before and officials believe the overall rate of growth has slowed. The number of patients requiring ventilators to do their breathing for them had dropped to 490, down from 519 Tuesday and 552 Monday.

Edwards credited medical professionals with fine-tuning their use of ventilators, lessening the amount of time patients spend on them and easing the need to stockpile them.

Mitch Landrieu, who oversaw a revitalized Katrina recovery effort as mayor from 2010 to 2018, credits his successor, fellow Democrat LaToya Cantrell, and Edwards with strong early responses to COVID-19's emergence in Louisiana in March.

Those efforts included early, firm orders for social distancing and business closures, coupled with measures to convert a convention center into a hospital space.

Landrieu is harshly critical of Trump for downplaying the virus's threat earlier this year and for lashing out at governors who criticize his handling of the pandemic. Landrieu said Edwards "has done a great job of trying to keep his powder dry with the president under difficult circumstances" while keeping all state officials, Republican and Democrat, "in the loop because you're one team."

Louisiana's situation is still far from rosy. Known cases have spread to 63 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. The New Orleans area remains a hot spot, with more than half of the more than 17,000 known Louisiana cases, a number that grows daily, in part because the state's testing capacity is improving. The number of Louisiana deaths attributed to the disease increased by 70, to 652 as of Wednesday.

"Just because we think we're starting to flatten the curve doesn't mean our job is over," Edwards said Tuesday. "In fact, now is the time to double down."

\_\_\_ Deslatte reported from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## Justice delayed: Virus crisis upends courts system across US

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Courthouses shuttered. Thousands of trials on hold. Legal deadlines pushed.

The coronavirus pandemic has crippled the U.S. legal system, creating constitutional dilemmas as the accused miss their days in court. The public health crisis could build a legal backlog that overwhelms courts across the country, leaving some defendants behind bars longer, and forcing prosecutors to decide which cases to pursue and which to let slide.

"Everybody is scrambling. Nobody really knows how to handle this," said Claudia Lagos, a criminal defense attorney in Boston.

Judges from California to Maine have postponed trials and nearly all in-person hearings to keep crowds from packing courthouses. Trials that were underway — like the high-profile case against multimillionaire real estate heir Robert Durst — have been halted. Some chief judges have suspended grand juries, rendering new indictments impossible. Other have allowed them to sit, though six feet apart.

Prosecutors may have to abandon some low-level cases to keep people from flooding into the legal system.

Many judges are holding hearings by phone or video chat to keep all cases from grinding to a halt. Other courts are stymied by outdated technology. The clerk for the the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Molly Dwyer, likened the logistical challenges to "building the bike as we ride it."

Judges have asked for emergency powers to delay trials longer than the law generally allows and extend key deadlines, like when a defendant must initially appear in court.

That could keep people locked up longer, exposing them to unsafe jail conditions, and violate their constitutional right to a speedy trial, defense lawyers say.

"We shouldn't be creating mechanisms in the current crisis to keep people in jail longer. The jails are just tinderboxes waiting for the virus to take off," said Jeff Chorney, deputy public defender in Alameda County, California. Courts there now have seven days instead of 48 hours to hold arraignments, during which a defendant is often appointed a lawyer and can enter a plea.

The pandemic has shuttered nearly every aspect of everyday life as the death toll mounts and more states impose strict stay-at-home orders. There are nearly 400,000 cases and more than 12,000 deaths in the U.S., according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Still, coast-to-coast disruptions of the courts system are unprecedented.

In 2004, Hurricane Katrina forced courts in New Orleans to temporarily close. The suspension of legal deadlines after the natural disaster left thousands languishing behind bars for months without formal charges, attorneys say. Lawyers there fear a repeat.

"On a regular day, without a crisis like Katrina and COVID, you can imagine people getting lost in a system like this," said Alanah Odoms Hebert, executive director of the ACLU of Louisiana. "There will be a lot folks who fall through the cracks."

No civil litigation is getting done. U.S. District Judge Steven Seeger in Chicago chafed at a recent request for an emergency order barring the alleged misuse of elf and unicorn drawings. "The world," he said, "is facing a real emergency. (The) plaintiff is not."

The COVID-19 disruptions are causing widespread confusion with prosecutors and defense attorneys as they struggle to file documents, get matters heard in courthouses operating on skeleton crews and share information with jailed clients while maintaining social distancing.

Lawyers for Elizabeth Holmes, head of the blood-testing startup Theranos scheduled to be tried this summer for allegedly defrauding investors, asked a California federal judge to also exempt them from the orders. They said the restrictions made witness preparation and serving subpoenas difficult. The judge refused.

Attorneys are wary of visiting their clients in jails for fear of contracting the virus or spreading it behind bars. They rely on phone calls, which in some places are recorded, limiting what they can say.

"You have to sort of chose between your safety and your client's safety ... or their constitutional rights. It's a really impossible situation," said William Isenberg, a Boston defense attorney.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 72 of 83

The haphazard operations could lead defendants to later challenge convictions, even if their lawyers did the best they could during the virus-related tumult.

Courthouse chaos may worsen when the shutdowns end, as judges try to return to old cases while fielding a burst in new cases. A flood of lawsuits linked to COVID-19 will add to the logjam.

"The courts are looking down the barrel of a real serious bottleneck," said Jonathan Smith, executive director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. "I don't think anybody has figured out what they're going to do."

Crime victims are also forced to wait. In Minnesota, the virus has postponed the federal trial of an Illinois militia leader accused of being the ringleader in the 2017 pipe bombing of a Minnesota mosque. Michael Hari's trial was already postponed once. Now it's scheduled for late July.

Mohamed Omar, executive director of the mosque, said community members want to see quick justice, but that he understands the need for a delay.

"The safety of our community and those that are vulnerable are more important to us now more than any other thing," he said. "This is bigger than all of us."

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

---

Tarm reported from Chicago. Associated Press reporters Curt Anderson in Miami, Mike Balsamo in Washington, D.C. and Amy Forliti in St. Paul, Minnesota contributed to this report.

## **Ecuador struggles to bury coronavirus dead; some bodies lost**

**By CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press**

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Alfonso Cedeño died at a crowded hospital in the Ecuadorian city of Guayaquil, where the only bed doctors could offer was an ambulance stretcher. Two weeks later, his family doesn't know where his body is.

"My uncle is nowhere to be found," Alfonso Mariscal said Tuesday.

Relatives who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus in this sweltering metropolis of 2.6 million say burying their family members is as agonizing as trying to get them care here in one of Latin America's most infected cities.

Hundreds died at home, left in family living rooms for days before overworked coroners could retrieve their bodies. Those who perished in hospitals were put in chilled shipping containers that serve as make-shift morgues.

Government representatives say they are now quickly picking up and burying the dead, but family members describe the process as a wrenching, confusing odyssey. Some have had to search through body bags in teeming morgues to find loved ones. Others, like Mariscal, still don't know where their relatives have been taken.

The lucky ones are placed in cardboard caskets because wooden coffins have become too expensive or scarce. Their relatives then wait for hours outside cemeteries in pickup trucks to bury their dead.

"Families are crying out," said Merwin Terán, who owns a Guayaquil funeral home. "But as much as they scream, there is nothing they can do."

Many fear Ecuador could be a frightening harbinger of what's to come in the rest of Latin America, a region with far fewer confirmed infections than the U.S. or Europe, but with more severe shortages of doctors, hospital beds and ventilators.

Most of the small South American nation's 4,000 cases are in Guayas province, which includes the city of Guayaquil, where overstretched hospitals often must turn away those sick from COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Jorge Wated, who leads a government task force, said officials retrieved over 520 people who died at home over the last week. As of Tuesday, workers had buried 146 of the deceased and expected to inter



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 73 of 83

50 more that day, he told a local radio station. He said emergency services are now collecting the dead within 12 hours.

About 2,000 cardboard coffins are being given to family members who cannot obtain a wooden casket, a practice Wated said Ecuador also used after a devastating 2016 earthquake that killed nearly 700 people.

"We have to find the best option for this moment," he said.

Across the globe, wrenching scenes are playing out in hospitals and funeral homes struggling to cope with the coronavirus dead. In devastated swaths of Italy, funerals are witnessed by just a few people and last five minutes, ending without embraces. In the U.S., some funeral homes are removing chairs to encourage social distancing or using technology to offer online guest books and livestreamed services.

In Ecuador, where about a quarter of the population earns less than \$85 a month, those are luxuries many cannot afford.

The government itself is burying many of the dead, informing relatives through a new website which cemetery their family member was taken to. They will not be allowed to visit until the health emergency is declared over.

Melanie Peralta said the crisis in Guayaquil has put class differences into stark relief. Her father, Guillermo Villao, died on March 31 after suffering from a fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing — all signs of coronavirus, though he was never tested. For six days, hospital staff could not say where her father's body was.

Finally, the family got an answer after paying a worker \$100 to help find his remains.

"There was nothing to identify him," she said. "His body was already decomposed."

Peralta wonders what would have happened if she didn't have cash on hand to enlist someone at the hospital to try to find her father.

"Those who don't have money don't find their family members," she said.

A state worker was fired at a different hospital Tuesday after families complained they were being charged to get information on the remains of their loved ones.

Wated described such stories as "a shame," but said it is the responsibility of hospitals to ensure the dead are properly identified. He said cemetery workers are taking pictures of the deceased before interring them. The government will also begin burying the remains of anyone not collected by relatives within 24 hours of death.

Cedeño, a 57-year-old union leader, was taken to a public hospital in Guayaquil in late March after having difficulty breathing. There were no beds, so doctors put him in a plastic chair and connected him to an intravenous line, said Ricardo Ramirez, a retired physician and friend who communicated with him by phone.

Twelve hours later, he was still in the chair and in desperate need of a ventilator, but the intensive care unit remained full. A hospital worker improvised by pulling a stretcher and an oxygen mask from an ambulance.

But it proved too little too late; Cedeño died that evening. His family believes the virus killed him, but he was never tested.

"It's not their fault," Ramirez said of the doctors. "They are also impotent."

Nonetheless, he said hospital officials failed to adopt a protocol that would ensure bodies were clearly identified and that morgues were not overwhelmed.

"It's an incredible thing, the drama, the horror people are living here," he said.

Marsical thought he had finally located his uncle Tuesday when he logged on to the website for the Gardens of Hope cemetery and found Alfonso Cedeño's name, along with information stating that he had been buried Monday.

But when he went to the crypt, his relative wasn't there.

"I opened the vault," he said. "It was empty."

---

Christine Armario can be reached at [carmario@ap.org](mailto:carmario@ap.org) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/cearmario](https://www.twitter.com/cearmario).

## DC fights to enforce distancing and braces for looming surge

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pick-up basketball games. Crowds gathering at an outdoor fish market. Family hikes along trails in Rock Creek Park. The warmer weather is bringing violations of social distance guidelines in the nation's capital, even as health officials predict the city could become one of the next U.S. hot spots in the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 1,200 people have tested positive, with 22 deaths, in Washington. But national and local health officials predict that the worst is yet to come.

Last week, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that models predict the virus would peak in the District of Columbia in May or June and would result in nearly 1 in 7 Washington residents infected by the end of the year and a high-end death toll over 1,000.

"We are concerned that the next wave ... that D.C. could be in the second wave," Bowser said. "We want the message to get in everybody's head — that we see a level of infection in our city that if we aren't strict in our social distancing, the community spread will continue and we will have more people succumb to illness and perhaps death."

Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, has repeatedly mentioned the District of Columbia as a potential looming hot spot, along with Chicago, Detroit, Colorado and Pennsylvania. Birx said national health officials have "developing concerns" about the capital, noting that Washington appears to be in the early stages of a now-familiar pattern: a steady daily rise in reported infections that precedes a massive spike that overloads local health systems.

"We are concerned about the metro area of Washington and Baltimore," Birx said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

On Saturday, she said, "We're hoping and believing that if people mitigate strongly, the work that they did over the last two weeks will blunt that curve and they won't have the same upward slope and peak that New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and part of Rhode Island are having."

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 vast majority of people recover.

Washington's attempts to slow the spread through social distancing have been complicated by noncompliant residents. Last month, authorities were forced to essentially seal off the Tidal Basin around the Jefferson Memorial to keep crowds from gathering to view Washington's signature blooming cherry blossom trees.

Over the weekend, as warm weather drew stir-crazy families outdoors, Bowser abruptly ordered a popular wharf-side open-air fish market shuttered after photos on social media showed crowds gathering there.

"We had to close that market because the social distancing requirements were not being met," Bowser said Monday. "We cannot express enough that staying at home is every individual's responsibility to save lives."

Rock Creek Park, the massive 1,754-acre (710-hectare) green space at the heart of the capital, also drew healthy crowds of cyclists and hikers last weekend. For the most part, people seemed to be staying apart and sticking to their family clusters, with police officers on horseback patrolling the trails. But the physical reality of the hiking trails and bike paths made it impossible for everybody to stay 6 feet (1.83 meters) apart at all times.

Sounding genuinely fed up, Bowser, a Democrat, expressed frustration Monday with steady reports of pick-up basketball games and other gatherings still taking place.

"This is after we closed parks. This is after we put police tape around playground equipment. This is after we've taken down basketball hoops and tennis nets. We still have people gathering in places they know they shouldn't. We need the public's assistance here," Bowser said.

Violators of the city's stay-home order could face a 90-day jail sentence or a \$5,000 fine. No one has been arrested or fined yet, and Bowser said she would rather not see police officers in that role.

"If we expect the police department to be able to make every single person do what they know they're

supposed to do, we're going to be disappointed," she said.

D.C. Councilman Trayon White sounded equally frustrated. White said his daily rounds of his ward now include an unexpected new job: personally dispersing groups of people gathering on street corners.

"I'm telling people, 'It's a new day! Y'all can't stand up here. Right now, this is me, the councilmember, saying it. But in a minute, it's going to be police up here saying it. And I don't want that type of tension,'" White said. "We need officers to be addressing other issues."

White, a Democrat, said his current message to constituents is simple and stern.

"Go in the house, stay in the house, man," he said. "Stay out the way. Stay OUT THE WAY!"

## Making plans, defiantly, amid the chaos and madness

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

As owners of a wedding and event-planning business, Karina Lopez and Curtis Rogers have always known how the best-laid plans can go awry. But there's no way they could have imagined just a few weeks ago what would happen to their very own wedding plans.

First, the joyous bash they'd been meticulously planning for many months — a three-day celebration for 200 guests — was thrown into indefinite limbo. Then they both tested positive for coronavirus.

Yet now, as they recover in quarantine and try to keep their distance from each other in a one-bedroom New York City apartment, Lopez and Rogers are still making wedding plans — methodically and, indeed, defiantly. After all, they're planners. It's what keeps them going.

"I definitely had one or two meltdowns," says Lopez, 32, who is still experiencing symptoms but feels she's on the mend. "Which I look back and realize is so silly, considering what people are going through." But now, she says, wedding planning has become therapy: "It went from making me insane, to keeping me sane."

Making plans. In normal times, it's a process we don't really think about. But during this pandemic, the process of planning — be it a short-term grocery list or organizing an entire summer wedding — has taken on an entirely different meaning, serving for some as a life preserver amid all the fear and uncertainty.

It depends on the personality. Some people thrive by living in the moment. But others really need their plans.

"For many, having schedules and structure and timelines and things they can count on is important. Knowing they can count on something happening gives them security, some stability, some purpose," says Helen Park, a family therapist, social worker and specialist in mindfulness.

In current conditions, Park notes, even non-planner types are seeking ways to organize their lives. If you're hunkered down at home, suddenly Friday doesn't seem like Friday because the weekend hardly feels different. Monday morning carries little of that back-to-the-trenches feeling, even if a Zoom call is waiting at the kitchen table.

On social media, jokes abound about this unsettling sense of timelessness.

"What year is it this week?" asks one meme. "It's the 87th of March," goes another. Or: "Today is Blursday the fortyteenths of Maprilay."

As Park conducts therapy sessions to help families eke out a quasi-normal existence, she finds them unmoored "because it's not just day-to-day life that has been upended," she says. "The nature of what we're dealing with is so new and unknown. Is it two weeks like this, two months, until the summer, or after? If we knew, we could start to internally organize our lives. But the sands are shifting constantly."

Lopez and Rogers refuse to accept they won't be getting married on August 1. A few days ago, they agreed their wedding would proceed, whether as the extravaganza they'd planned or, if necessary, a marriage via Zoom, Lopez says, "with our immediate families and our officiant in our living room."

"As silly as it sounds, this gave me hope," she says of the decision. The couple recently wrote a blog post promising friends their invitations soon — and untouched.

Kasey Woods cannot give her son his senior prom via Zoom, much as she'd like to. Woods, a New York mother of three who works in public relations, alternates her anxiety about the pandemic with feelings of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 76 of 83

pride for her oldest son, who's been accepted for the fall to his mother's own alma mater, Howard University. She was hoping that attending admitted students day would seal the deal for him, since he's choosing between several schools. That, of course, was canceled, along with prom and a surprise 18th birthday party she'd been planning.

And yet Woods keeps planning, too, whatever she can. "One of my ways of regulating my life and my mental health is that I have to write everything down," she says. "My notebook and my calendars are my lifeline."

Michelle Bushee, a real estate broker in Pittsburgh, has always been an avid planner. And she's old-school: Bushee eschews digital planners for the paper kind — not little black books, but those big spiral volumes with expansive pages that she normally fills up with meetings, house showings, closings and volunteer activities.

"My weeks used to look really scary," she says, meaning scary busy. Now her planner instills a different kind of fear: The entire month of April is empty — big white pages of miserable nothingness. "Now THIS," she says, "scares me."

A couple weeks ago, Bushee had what she admits was "a really bad mental health week, I'll be honest. I think it was the shock and the anger of the situation. I kind of got off track."

She decided to double down on her morning routine. For years, this has included rituals like journaling, writing down three things she's grateful for and deciding what will be the "win" of the day.

"Just something so that at the end of the day, regardless of how crappy it was, there's something that was a win — even taking the dog for a walk," she says. Most helpful, though, is when she's able to do something for others — for example, a recent initiative to deliver 500 catered meals to a hospital emergency room for health care workers.

"I find that my purpose is somewhat displaced right now, and I'm trying to find another purpose," she says. "So part of my planning has become, 'Who can I help today?'"

A big music fan, she's also holding onto the list of concerts she bought tickets for this spring and summer: the Rolling Stones, the Doobie Brothers, Dave Matthews. Some have been canceled; others surely will be. But she keeps the list.

Park, the family therapist, appreciates that people need their plans. She worries, though, that trying to hold onto a rigid structure that no longer makes sense may produce anxiety in itself. "You can be putting in a lot of energy to fight to keep that structure in place," she says.

If a day is particularly bad — and Bushee says she's had plenty — she finds she can at least draw comfort from a very simple bit of prescribed structure that's really a built-in piece of planning in miniature: a recipe. Cooking at home has become not only a necessity, but a release.

"I made chicken pot pie for my family the other day," she says. "including homemade crust, which I never do. You know what? It was pretty awesome."

---

Follow AP National Writer Jocelyn Noveck on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JocelynNoveckAP>

## Coronavirus scams: guard against fraud cures and other cons

By LINDA A. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Con artists are finding lots of marks amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Watchdog groups and authorities report a surge of complaints about scams targeting people who fear catching the virus or need money due to lost income.

Scams include "investments" in phony COVID-19 cures and charging people in advance for nonexistent home tests, fake protective gear or even overpriced toilet paper that never arrives. Other fraudsters offer "help" finding a new job or quickly getting federal stimulus checks, if people provide bank account and Social Security numbers or pay upfront fees.

The Federal Trade Commission reported that through March 31, Americans filed complaints about losses to coronavirus-related fraud totaling nearly \$6 million.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 77 of 83

Kathy Stokes, head of AARP's fraud prevention program, notes "a significant uptick in reports" to its fraud watch network.

And the Better Business Bureau, which offers anti-scam tips, is getting so many virus-related fraud reports that it's started a COVID-19 category on its scam tracker.

"They're preying on people who are desperate," many of them alone, said BBB national spokeswoman Katherine Hutt.

About one-third of people contacting the agency lost money, some hundreds of dollars. The rest wanted to warn others.

To avoid being duped, be super-skeptical. Don't jump on offers that sound too good to be true. Stop and investigate or seek advice from trusted sources.

Some more tips:

—Don't answer your phone unless you know the caller.

"Use your answering machine," Stokes said, and don't call back unfamiliar numbers. If you answer a robocall and are directed to press a number for details on an offer, don't. It's likely a scam.

—Beware "spoof" calls. These falsely ID callers as agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration or Small Business Administration and tell you to call a number for help getting money. Instead, look up that agency's phone number to check.

"Most of those are phishing scams trying to get your personal or financial information," or get you to pay a fee, said Paul Rodriguez, acting director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

—Consider the source. Government agencies contact people by mail, NOT by phone, text, social media or email.

—Don't fall for pitches offering drugs or nutritional supplements to cure or prevent infection by the coronavirus, or at-home virus test kits. They don't exist, and the first time you hear about one won't be from a stranger; it'll be on the news.

Dozens of drugmakers are researching treatments and vaccines, but none will be available for many months.

—Question email and text requests that seem to be from friends or relatives, asking you to buy store gift cards from a third party promising to forward the cards to them.

Diann Gray, a Denver widow, was called last week by her grandson, daughter-in-law and a church friend, each of whom had been contacted by scammers. They'd apparently hacked Gray's former Facebook page and found contact info for friends and family to target. One church friend said an email claimed Gray needed a supermarket gift card to buy food.

"I have plenty of food," said Gray, 64.

—Don't send money to someone you haven't met, particularly via money orders, prepaid debit cards or gift cards, which aren't secure or traceable, advises Hutt. Don't give info to people who contact you, or click unfamiliar email links, which could put malware on your computer to find passwords and financial information.

—Question possibly true things, like emails and online ads offering hard-to-find hand sanitizer, sterile gloves and masks. Many people have reported ordering via credit card, but never received the items and the seller vanished.

Unless you've previously done business with a company, check its website for reviews, evidence that it's been in business a while, and a working phone number.

—Check out charity solicitations from unfamiliar groups and crowdfunding campaigns, Rodriguez says. If a "charity" requests money, confirm it's legit via sites like Charity Navigator, which monitors how charities spend money, or see if the charity is registered with your state's charity regulator, usually part of the state attorney general's office, consumer affairs agency or department of state.

—See something? Say something: Report suspected scams to your state attorney general, the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission or the Better Business Bureau.

\_\_\_ Follow Linda A. Johnson at [https://twitter.com/LindaJ\\_onPharma](https://twitter.com/LindaJ_onPharma)

## **Pope creates new expert commission to study women deacons**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press**

ROME (AP) — The Vatican said Wednesday that Pope Francis has created a new commission of experts to examine whether women can be deacons, an ordained role in the Catholic Church currently reserved for men.

The 10-member commission, the second of Francis' pontificate to study the fraught issue, includes equal numbers of men and women representing the United States and six European countries.

Deacons are ordained ministers who perform many of the same functions as priests. They preside at weddings, baptisms and funerals, and they can preach. They cannot celebrate Mass.

Married men can be ordained as deacons. Women cannot, though historians say women served as deacons in the early Christian church.

In response to women demanding to be given greater roles in the 21st century, Francis established a commission in 2016 to study female deacons in the early Christian church. But the members failed to reach a consensus and the group effectively ended its work.

The issue was revived during Francis' 2019 summit on the Amazon. The region's bishops called for the question of women deacons to be revisited given the shortage of priests in the vast territory. Francis agreed at the time, and the new commission appears to be his follow-up.

Significantly, the scope of the commission's mandate does not appear to be limited to the early church, as was the 2016 commission. Amazonian bishops had called for the real-life experiences of their region's Catholic faithful to be taken into consideration in any new evaluation.

Advocates for expanding the ministry to include women say doing so would give women greater say in the ministry and governance of the church, while also helping address priest shortages in several parts of the world.

Opponents say allowing women to be deacons would become a slippery slope toward ordaining women to the priesthood. The Catholic Church reserves the priesthood for men, saying Christ chose only men as his 12 apostles. Francis has repeatedly reaffirmed the teaching.

The new commission has as its president the archbishop of the central Italian city of L'Aquila, Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi. An official from the Holy See's powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was named to serve as No. 2.

## **Masked crowds fill Wuhan's streets, trains as lockdown ends**

**By SAM McNEIL Associated Press**

WUHAN, China (AP) — Amid streets newly bustling with cars and pedestrians, Wang Chun celebrated the lifting of a virus lockdown on her hometown of Wuhan on Wednesday with a dance outdoors after 2 1/2 months largely cooped up at home.

"I'm so happy Wuhan has defeated the virus," Wang said after recording a K-Pop-inspired duet with a male partner for posting on the internet. Neither of them wore face masks, at least for a brief few minutes.

After she put on the mask again, Wang confronted the question many of the city's 11 million residents are asking themselves: When will they be going back to work?

"That's a very good question," Wang responded with a giggle.

Wuhan ended its 76-day lockdown Wednesday morning, allowing residents to again travel in and out of the city without special authorization through the use of a mandatory smartphone app powered by a mix of data-tracking and government surveillance showing they are healthy and have not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus.

Long lines formed at the airport and train and bus stations as thousands streamed out of the city to return to their homes and jobs elsewhere. Yellow barriers that had blocked off some streets were gone, although the gates to residential compounds remained guarded.

After more than two months indoors, Wuhan resident Tong Zhengkun was one of millions of enjoying

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 79 of 83

a renewed sense of freedom.

"Being indoors for so long drove me crazy," an emotional Tong said as he watched a celebratory midnight light display from a bridge across the broad Yangtze River flowing through the city, where the coronavirus outbreak began late last year.

Tong said his apartment complex was shut down after residents were found to have contracted the coronavirus. Neighborhood workers delivered groceries to his door.

Such measures won't be entirely abandoned following the end of Wuhan's closure, which began on Jan. 23 as the virus raged through the city and overwhelmed hospitals. Schools are still closed, people are still checked for fevers when they enter buildings, and masks are strongly encouraged. City leaders say they want to simultaneously bring back social and commercial life while avoiding a second wave of infections.

The economic costs of the outbreak in Wuhan and across China have yet to be calculated but are expected to be severe. Estimates of job losses range into the tens of millions, with the government offering aid to small and medium size businesses that furnish the most employment.

The ability to travel again is a huge relief, however, and about 65,000 people were expected to depart Wednesday by plane and train. It didn't take long for traffic to begin moving swiftly through reopened bridges, tunnels and highway toll booths. Nearly 1,000 vehicles went through a toll booth at Wuhan's border between midnight — when barricades were lifted — and 7 a.m., according to Yan Xiangsheng, a district police chief.

According to airport official Lou Guowei, the first flight left Wuhan Tianhe International Airport at 7:25 a.m. for Sanya, a coastal city in Hainan province known for its beaches.

"The crew will wear goggles, masks, and gloves throughout the flight," chief flight attendant Guo Binxue was quoted as saying by China's official Xinhua News Agency. "It will be very smooth because we have made much preparation for this flight."

Xiao Yonghong had found herself stuck in Wuhan after returning to her hometown on Jan. 17 to spend the Lunar New Year with her husband, son and parents-in-law.

"We were too excited to fall asleep last night. I was looking forward to the lockdown lift very much. I set up an alert to remind myself. I was very happy," said Xiao, who was waiting for her train outside Hankou station with her son and husband, all three of them wearing masks and gloves.

At the airport, Chen Yating took personal protection a step further, wearing white coveralls, gloves, a mask and a baseball cap. She was waiting to catch a flight to the southern Chinese business hub of Guangzhou.

"We are living in a good era," Chen said. "It is not easy to have today's achievement."

The end of Wuhan's lockdown came one day after Japan declared a state of emergency for Tokyo, Osaka and five other prefectures to try to stem the spread of the virus. India and much of Europe and the U.S. have also issued stay-at-home orders, although not nearly to the same extreme as Wuhan.

Restrictions in the city where most of China's more than 82,000 virus cases and over 3,300 deaths from COVID-19 were reported have been gradually eased as cases declined. The government reported no new cases in the city on Wednesday, but said 62 had been recorded elsewhere — 59 of them coming from abroad. That underscores the government's new emphasis on preventing new infections from overseas as well as a second wave of domestic cases, particularly among those who might have the virus but are not showing symptoms.

In most cases, the virus causes mild to moderate symptoms such as fever, cough and sore throat. But for some older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and lead to death. Over 307,000 people have recovered.

While there are questions about the veracity of China's count, the unprecedented lockdown of Wuhan and Hubei province, where the city is located, have been successful enough that other countries adopted similar measures.

"The people in Wuhan paid out a lot and bore a lot mentally and psychologically," resident Zhang Xiang said. "Wuhan people are historically famous for their strong will."

During the lockdown, Wuhan residents could leave their homes only to buy food or attend to other tasks deemed absolutely necessary. Some were allowed to leave the city, but only if they had paperwork

showing they were not a health risk and a letter attesting to where they were going and why. Even then, authorities could turn them back on a technicality such as missing a stamp, preventing thousands from returning to their jobs outside the city.

Residents of other parts of Hubei were allowed to leave the province starting about three weeks ago, as long as they could provide a clean bill of health. People leaving the city still face numerous hurdles at their final destinations, such as 14-day quarantines and nucleic acid tests.

Wuhan is a major center for heavy industry, particularly autos, and while major plants have restarted, the small and midsize businesses that employ the most people are still hurting from both a lack of workers and demand. Measures are being instituted to get them back on their feet, including 20 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in preferential loans, according to the city government.

The exact source of the virus remains under investigation, though many of the first COVID-19 patients were linked to an outdoor food market in the city.

Associated Press producer Olivia Zhang in Wuhan, China, and writer Yanan Wang in Toronto contributed.

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

## Passover in isolation dampens holiday mood in Israel

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Each year, Patricia Sheetrit and her family gather with in-laws for the first night of Passover, bringing together some 20 people for the holiday's main event, the festive meal known as the Seder.

But like most Israelis, Sheetrit and her husband will be stuck at home this year — holding a bare-bones Seder for two.

"Everyone is sad and alone, and everyone is worried about one another," Sheetrit said.

As a modern pandemic afflicts the globe, Israeli Jews are being forced to scale back or cancel beloved traditions and rituals marking Passover, the holiday celebrating Israelites' freedom from Egyptian bondage and referencing biblical plagues.

Communal preparations have been canceled. Police are enforcing stay-at-home orders and a general lockdown through Friday morning. Families are turning to videoconferencing in hopes of capturing a small slice of the holiday spirit.

"There's a lot of families, a lot of seniors, a lot of singles who will be having Seder alone, and that's very challenging because this is really the family holiday," said Rabbi Kenneth Brander, president of Ohr Torah Stone, a network of 27 modern Orthodox institutions.

The week-long festival starts Wednesday night with the Seder, a large meal that retells the Exodus story. A highlight of the joyous dinner is the chanting of the 10 plagues — the biblical afflictions that pushed the Pharaoh to free the Israelite slaves.

Ordinarily, most Israeli Jews — religious and secular alike — spend the Seder with extended family in an experience akin to Thanksgiving. It also is customary to invite strangers such as lone travelers or students.

But this year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered a general lockdown on Wednesday night, telling Israeli Jews that "every family will sit down for Seder night on its own." Police plan to set up checkpoints in neighborhoods and on major highways to enforce travel restrictions.

Israel has over 9,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus, and at least 71 deaths.

Jews make up about 80% of Israel's population. The pandemic is also disrupting other faiths' celebrations this month, including the Christian holiday of Easter and the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Despite growing anxiety over spiking unemployment, and political paralysis after three inconclusive elections in the past year, Israeli Jews are still trying to salvage some holiday spirit.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 81 of 83

Jewish tradition prohibits the consumption of leavened goods and instead requires eating matzo, a crisp, unleavened flatbread. The week leading up to Passover is marked by frenetic cleaning and preparations.

In the run-up to the holiday, many religious neighborhoods around the country set up gigantic cauldrons of boiling water for dunking kitchenware to make them suitable for use on Passover. On the morning before the holiday commences, it's traditional to burn leftover bread outdoors.

This year, the Health Ministry has banned both communal activities as a precaution, though a small group of people in one neighborhood was seen illicitly cleansing plates on Tuesday. On Wednesday, residents in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem defied the orders and burned their leavened bread in a dumpster.

City Hall set up containers for residents to dump their remaining baked products. The containers were collected, and the city was holding a massive bonfire Wednesday to destroy them.

Synagogues also have been closed and holiday prayers are to be held individually at home due to a ban on public gatherings.

"All the different things that happened both before and on Pesach, this year suddenly are not happening, or happening in very different ways than they always did," said Rabbi Issamar Ginzberg, a Jerusalem-based ultra-Orthodox rabbi, referring to Passover by its Hebrew name.

Israel's ultra-Orthodox population, which initially resisted safety precautions, has been hit especially hard by the outbreak, with an estimated 50% of the country's cases. One ultra-Orthodox city, Bnei Brak, has been placed under a closure.

Ginzberg said he and most other ultra-Orthodox families are strictly observing social distancing rules. "This year everyone's essentially staying home, nuclear family only, and no guests, which is also something unique," he said.

The effect on Israel's collective psyche after weeks of a climbing death toll and stringent social distancing will come to a fore at the time of the Seder, said Yoram Yovell, a Hebrew University psychiatrist.

Even in the most difficult times in Jewish history, Jews managed to celebrate with their extended families, Yovell said. The disruption of a key family event like Passover will be "very demoralizing and very anxiety provoking," he said, adding that Muslim communities may experience a similar trauma when Ramadan arrives.

To raise spirits, several Israeli towns are calling on residents to sing songs from the Hagaddah, the text read at the Seder, from apartment balconies. Yovell suggested leaving the front door open so that people "can hear their neighbors and the neighbors can hear them."

"That is a way of — while still complying with the social distancing regulations — getting a sense of togetherness," Yovell said.

For many, Zoom videoconferencing will be the centerpiece of their Seder table this year. A group of Sephardic, or Middle Eastern, rabbis even issued a ruling permitting the elderly, sick and quarantined to use video chat during the holiday meal, despite an Orthodox prohibition on using electronics on holidays.

Sheetrit, who has three grown children and a young granddaughter, said her extended family intends to hold a digital Seder over Zoom — "to feel somewhat together during this loneliness."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 9, the 100th day of 2020. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 9, 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

On this date:

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 82 of 83

Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after being denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1963, British statesman Winston Churchill was proclaimed an honorary U.S. citizen by President John F. Kennedy. (Churchill, unable to attend, watched the proceedings live on television in his London home.)

In 1968, funeral services, private and public, were held for Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1979, officials declared an end to the crisis involving the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, 12 days after a partial core meltdown.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1992, former Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega was convicted in Miami of eight drug and racketeering charges; he served a 17-year U.S. prison sentence.

In 1996, Dan Rostenkowski, the once-powerful House Ways and Means chairman, pleaded guilty to two mail fraud charges in a deal that brought with it a 17-month prison term. (Rostenkowski served 15 months, and was pardoned by President Clinton in 2000.)

In 2003, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

In 2005, Britain's Prince Charles married longtime love Camilla Parker Bowles, who took the title Duchess of Cornwall.

In 2009, North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament appointed Kim Jong Il to a third term as leader. Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhardt, 22, and two others were killed in a car crash by a suspected drunken driver. (Andrew Thomas Gallo was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to 51 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement. (His vacancy was filled by Elena Kagan.) Meinhardt Raabe, who'd played the Munchkin coroner in "The Wizard of Oz," died in Orange Park, Florida, at age 94.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama briefly visited Jamaica, where he met with Caribbean leaders and spoke at a town hall of young leaders; the president then flew to Panama City for a summit of Western Hemisphere nations and a historic encounter with Cuban President Raul Castro. Canadian-born filmmaker Paul Almond, 83, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Israelis voted in an election that would bring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a historic fifth term. Iranian lawmakers dressed in paramilitary uniforms chanted "Death to America" as they convened for an open session of parliament after the White House designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization. Magic Johnson abruptly quit as the Los Angeles Lakers' president of basketball operations; the announcement came before the final game of the Lakers' sixth consecutive losing season.

Today's Birthdays: Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 92. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 87. Actress Michael Learned is 81. Country singer Margo Smith is 78. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 67. Actor Dennis Quaid is 66. Comedian Jimmy Tingle is 65. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 61. Talk show host Joe Scarborough is 57. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 56. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is 56. Actor Mark Pellegrino is 55. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 55. Actress Cynthia Nixon is 54. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 51. TV personality Sunny Anderson is 45. Rock singer Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) is 43. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 41. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 40. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 40. Actor Ryan Northcott is 40. Actor Arlen Escarpeta is 39. Actor Jay Baruchel is 38. Actress Annie Funke is 35. Actor Jordan Masterson is 34. Actress Leighton

# Groton Daily Independent

**Thursday, April 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 271 ~ 83 of 83**

Meester is 34. Actor-singer Jesse McCartney is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazmine Sullivan is 33. Actress Kristen Stewart is 30. Actress Elle Fanning is 22. Rapper Lil Nas X is 21. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 21. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN'-koh) is 20.

Thought for Today: "Thinking is like loving or dying. Each of us must do it for ourselves." — Josiah Royce, American philosopher (1855-1916).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.