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“HEM YOUR BLESSINGS
WITH THANKFULNESS
SO THEY DON'T
UNRAVEL.”

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN



Happy Easter!

Church Services on-line

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)
- Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)
- St. John's Lutheran Church (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church:
(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)
- United Methodist Church: (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)
- Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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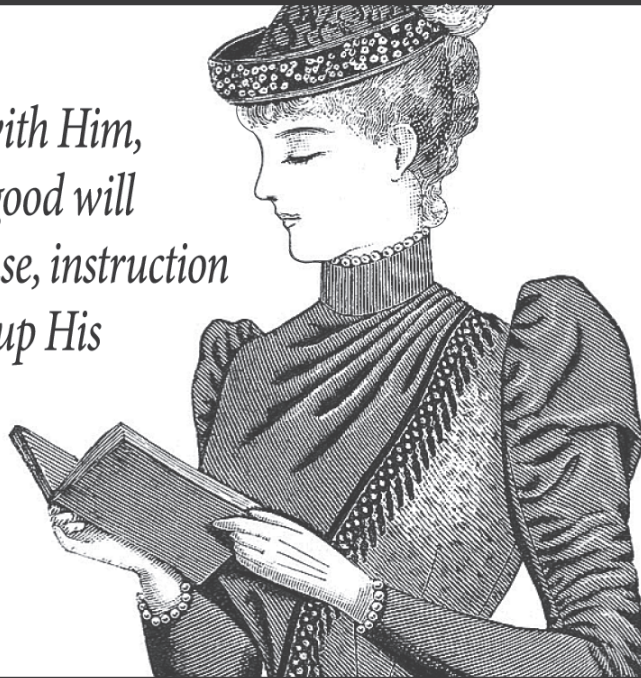
Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*“Now acquaint yourself with Him,
and be at peace; thereby good will
come to you. Receive, please, instruction
from His mouth, and lay up His
words in your heart.*

JOB 22:21-22 



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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Corinthians in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Who saw a vision of a woman named Wickedness flown away in a basket by two angels? *Jonathan, Dodo, Zechariah, Belshazzar*

3. From Judges 17, who confessed to his mother about stolen pieces of silver? *David, Micah, Jonah, Esau*

4. What animals did Samson use to set the Philistines' field on fire? *Lions, Camels, Foxes, Rats*

5. Mahershalalhashbaz is the longest word in the Bible on being whose son? *Adam, Moses, Noah, Isaiah*

6. From Genesis 27, to whom did Isaac give a blessing? *Jacob, Abraham, Moses, Noah*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Zechariah; 3) Micah; 4) Foxes; 5) Isaiah; 6) Jacob

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Oriental Chicken Express

Today, Chinese dishes are almost as American as apple pie! This filling main dish is no exception.

- 1/4 cups diagonally sliced celery*
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper*
- 1/4 cup diced green onion*
- 1 (16-ounce) can fat-free chicken broth*
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour*
- 1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy sauce*
- 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken breast*
- 1 (8-ounce) can sliced water chestnuts, drained*
- 1 (8-ounce) can pineapple chunks, packed in fruit juice, drained*
- 3 cups hot cooked rice*

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute celery, green pepper and onion just until tender. In a covered jar, combine chicken broth and flour. Shake well to blend. Pour broth mixture into skillet with vegetables. Stir in soy sauce.

2. Continue cooking over medium heat, until mixture starts to thicken, stirring often. Add chicken, water chestnuts and pineapple. Mix well to combine. Lower heat and simmer for 5 minutes or until mixture is heated through, stirring often.

3. For each serving, spoon 1/2 cup hot rice on a plate and spoon about 1 cup chicken mixture over top. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: 214 calories, 2g fat, 16g protein, 33g carb., 298mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Vegetable.

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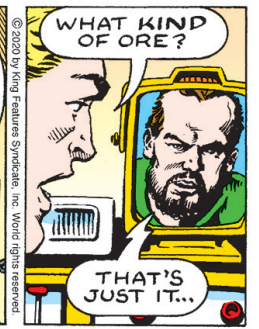
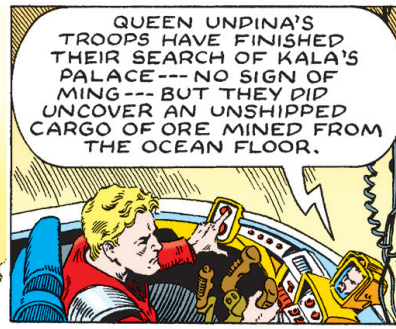
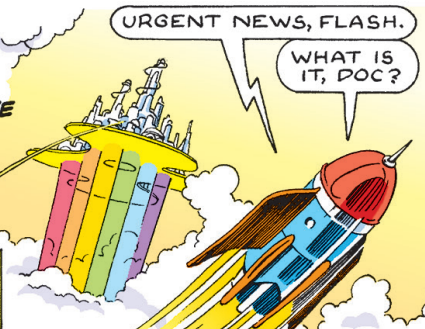
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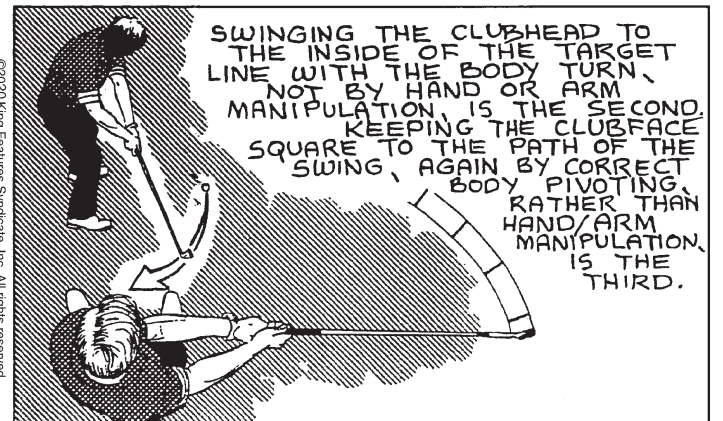
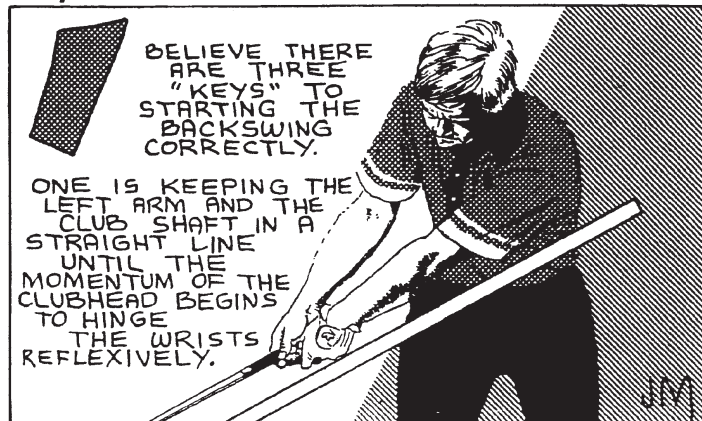


FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
4-5 ART ASSIST MARK McMURRAY

HEADING BACK TO ALANIA, FLASH RECEIVES A COMMUNIQUE FROM DR. ZARKOV.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Husband Starting Radiation Treatment

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband is about to start radiation treatment for stage one cancer on his vocal chord. Does radiation negatively affect the immune system the same way chemotherapy does? Should I be looking out for people who don't vaccinate? — *H.T.*

ANSWER: Radiation can affect the immune system when it is given to large areas of the body, since the immune system cells are largely sensitive to radiation. Whole-body radiation rarely is used now, except in people planning for bone-marrow transplant. By contrast, localized radiation does not adversely affect the immune system to anywhere near the degree that chemotherapy can, since the bone marrow, where the immune system cells live, is diffuse throughout the large bones of the body.

As far as avoiding unvaccinated individuals, people who are unvaccinated and who are healthy do not pose a risk. It is in an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease (there have been localized outbreaks of measles and mumps in the past year, and there are seasonal outbreaks of influenza) that unvaccinated people are much more likely to be infectious. So anyone with immune system disease (such as chemotherapy or whole-body radiation) should avoid people with potentially infectious illness. Caregivers of people with severe immune disease certainly should be immunized according to current guidelines. Even elderly people whose caregivers are immunized for flu get flu less than those whose caregivers are not.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I know women who have had double mastectomies in order to reduce the risk of cancer. It seems extreme, but I guess it depends on the evaluation of risk. Are prophylactic hysterectomies done for similar reasons? It used to be routinely done when a woman had passed her reproductive years. I'm interested in your take on this. Will health insurance cover these types of surgeries, and if not, how expensive are they? — *S.B.*

ANSWER: Prophylactic mastectomies — that is, surgery to remove the breasts in order to avert a breast cancer diagnosis — are a reasonable choice for some women at very high risk of breast cancer, especially those with a family history of breast cancer who have an identifiable genetic predisposition, such as one of the BRCA gene mutations. This decision should be made carefully and in consultation with her doctors, usually an oncologist and a genetic counselor. I have very little experience with this in my own patients, fortunately, but I understand that in the case of women with very high genetic risk, it usually is covered by insurance, if it is the consensus of the treating physicians and the patient that she should proceed.

Hysterectomy — the removal of a uterus — is not done routinely today, the way it was decades ago. They are removed for disease, either benign or malignant. However, the removal of both ovaries and Fallopian tubes, called a bilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy, is performed in some women at high risk for ovarian cancer. In fact, women with the BRCA mutations may consider both a prophylactic double mastectomy and a prophylactic bilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy, since BRCA mutations increase risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer (as well as other cancers).

The cost of surgery in the United States varies dramatically depending on where it is done, but in general it is very expensive.

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

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1. Which Cliff Richard song has a crystal ball, a cat and a potion?
2. Name the group that was originally called Sigma 6.
3. Which group had a hit in 1965 with "Do You Believe in Magic"?
4. What group wrote and released "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)," and when?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Gonna break from these chains around me, Gonna learn to fly again, May be hard, may be hard, But I'll do it."

Answers

1. "Devil Woman," in 1976. The song went gold in the U.S.
2. Pink Floyd. They rebranded themselves as the Meggadeaths, the Abdabs and the Screaming Abdabs, Leonard's Lodgers, the Spectrum Five and the Tea Set. They took the Pink Floyd name in 1966, a combination of other bands, Pink Anderson and Floyd Council.
3. The Lovin' Spoonful, on their debut album of the same name. The song has been widely used, including in the 1998 film "The Parent Trap."
4. The Four Seasons, in 1975. Legend says the song was originally to be about Prohibition ending Dec. 5, 1933.
5. "When I'm Back on My Feet Again," by Michael Bolton in 1990. It was written by Diane Warren shortly after the death of her father.

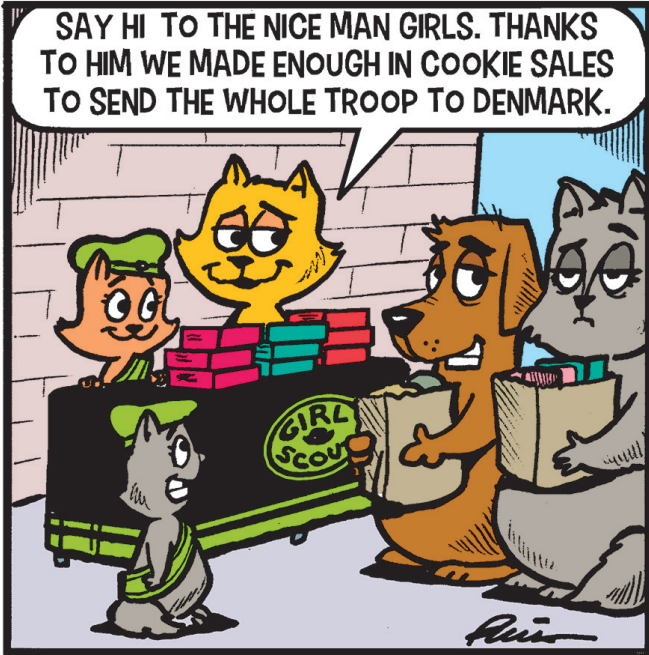
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

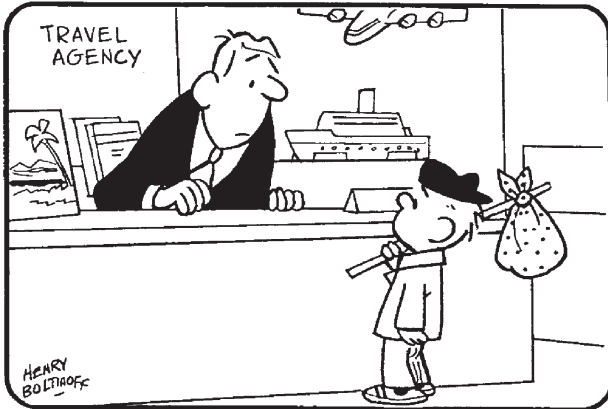


GRIN and BEAR IT

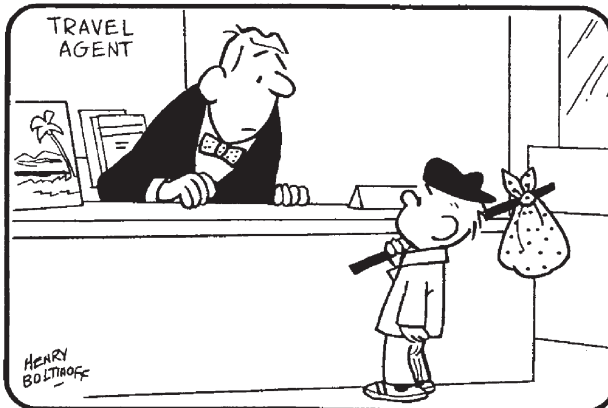


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Plane is missing. 3. Ship is missing. 4. Window is added. 5. Hobo stick is different. 6. Word changed to "agent".

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- Earth Day Tip: When choosing personal care products, apply the same eco standards as you do with food. Check the ingredients list to find safe products. Go for products that are free of dyes and perfumes. When possible, choose products that use the least packaging.

- Have a bright flashlight handy in the laundry room. It's much easier to identify stains with the right lighting. Sending a still-stained garment to the dryer can set the stain, making it much harder or impossible to remove.

- Three easy steps to sear your meat: Preheat the skillet, wait 30 seconds before you add oil and pat your meat dry before placing in the skillet.

- "I use a paperclip covered by tissue to clean the cracks on my keyboard."
—*I.P. in South Carolina*

- If you leave a load of laundry too long in the washer, you can re-run it

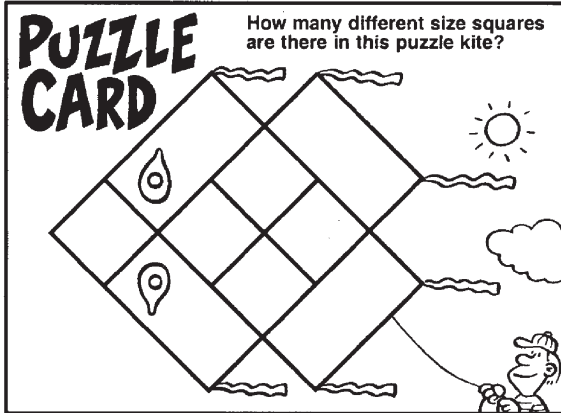
and add a cup of white vinegar to the load to kill the musty smell of potential mildew.

- "I make my own little good-behavior coupons for my three children. I print them on different colors of paper for each child. They can cash in coupons for activities or rewards, and if they go in together to get something, I will give them bonus coupons for working together. I think this has made goal-setting a priority for them, and it has helped them learn the lesson of shared goals — an important one for a large family." —*R.V.F. in Arizona*

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

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PUZZLE CARD

How many different size squares are there in this puzzle kite?

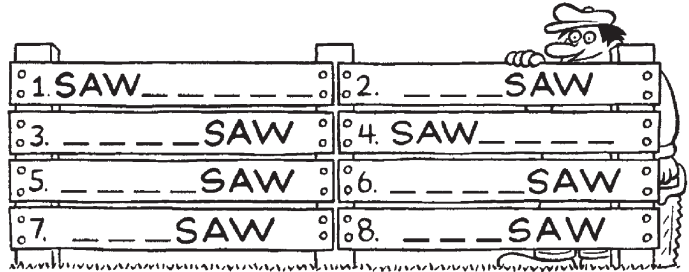
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Illustrated by David Coulson

Answer: 11 squares.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



SAWMILL SHENANIGANS!

The mill foreman, "Bucksaw" Williams, has painted eight partially spelled words on the fence. Each word contains a "saw" in it. Use the hints below to complete each word.

1. Used to hold things up.
2. Has a lot of ups and downs.
3. Scrutinized with care.
4. A \$10 bill.
5. Long, two-handled saw.
6. Knew beforehand.
7. Used to cut sharp curves.
8. Used to cut along the grain.

Answers: 1. Sawhorse, 2. Seasaw, 3. Overseaw, 4. Sawbuck, 5. Whipsaw, 6. Foresaw, 7. Jigsaw, 8. Ripsaw.

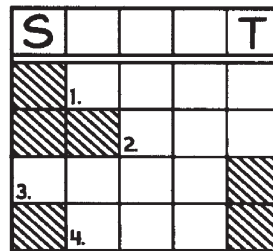
THE WINNING EDGE! Hand anyone an ice-cream stick and bet them that they can't drop it from two feet above the table and have it land on its edge.

SECRET: When it's your turn to go, bend the stick in half before dropping it. This will cause it to land upright on its edge.



FIND-A-WORD! On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. Lean to one side
2. A social insect.
3. To look over quickly.
4. An airtight container.

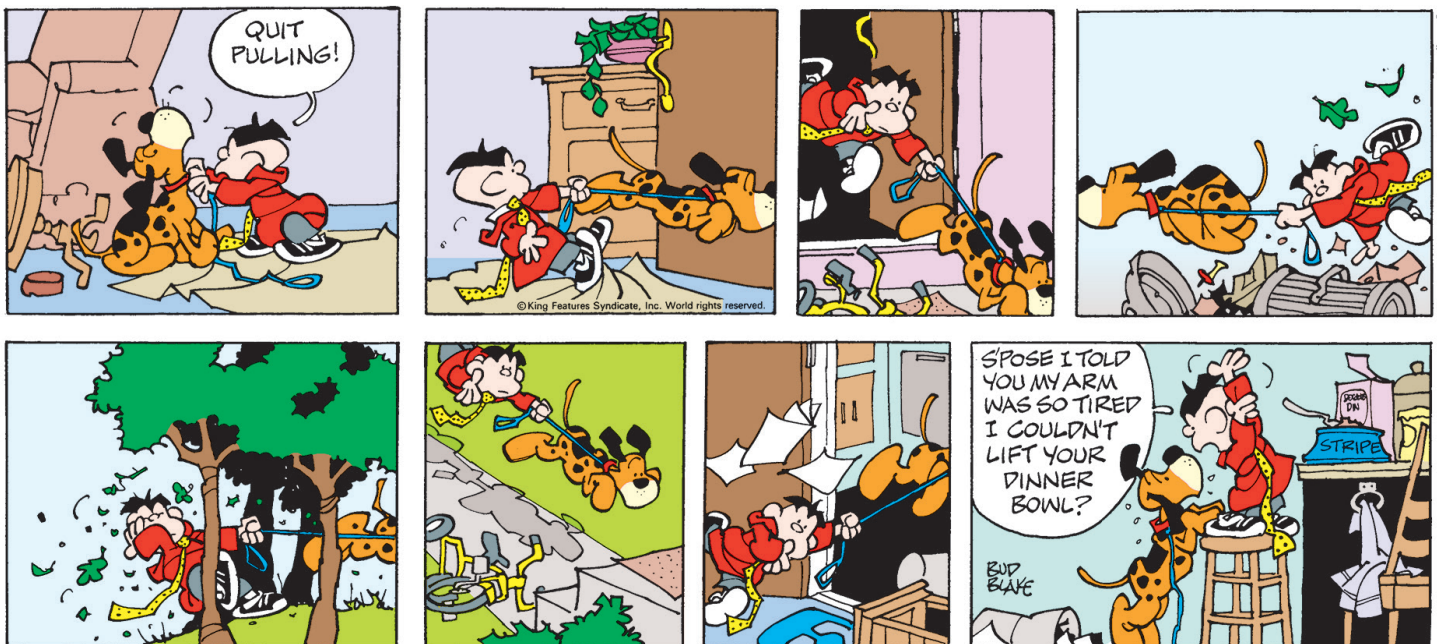


Answers: 1. Cant, 2. Ant, 3. Scan, 4. Can.
Mystery word: Scant.



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pythias' pal
- 6 Try the tea
- 9 Cleveland cager
- 12 Memorable mission
- 13 "— Little Teapot"
- 14 Blackbird
- 15 Make obscure
- 16 "Material Girl" singer
- 18 Bold alternative
- 20 Check
- 21 Dogtag wearers
- 23 — good deed
- 24 Founded (on)
- 25 Love god
- 27 Ill-suited
- 29 Praying bug
- 31 Tiny
- 35 Vote for
- 37 Prego rival
- 38 Start a rally
- 41 Moon vehicle acronym
- 43 — Perignon
- 44 Shaving cream additive
- 45 Cut aid
- 47 Insanity
- 49 Free of frost
- 52 Inseparable
- 53 Bullring bravo
- 54 Beetle
- Bailey's bully

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16			17			
		18			19				20			
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
			35			36			37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- 55 Commotion
- 11 Food item
- Tennyson
- 56 Trawler need
- 17 Speaker
- 34 Summa — laude
- 57 Hiker's route
- 19 Grown-up nit
- 36 Storage area
- DOWN**
- 21 Prized session
- 38 Pago Pago's place
- 1 Slight touch
- 22 A Gershwin brother
- 39 Savanna grazer
- 2 Hearty quaff
- 24 Morsel
- 40 Wild West show
- 3 Wisconsin's capital
- 26 Spielberg or Soderbergh
- 42 Interior
- 4 Leave out
- 28 In the cards
- 45 Capri, e.g.
- 5 Wanderer
- 30 — -de-France
- 46 Approach
- 6 Ape
- 32 Fortified Portuguese wine
- 48 A billion years
- 7 Apple product
- 50 Movie trickery (Abbr.)
- 8 Cushion
- 53 Christmas candies
- 51 Wet wriggler
- 9 Christmas candies
- 33 "But — on forever":
- 10 Warbucks'

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

D	A	M	O	N		S	I	P		C	A	V	
A	L	A	M	O		I	M	A		A	N	I	
B	E	D	I	M		M	A	D	O	N	N	A	
		I	T	A	L	I	C			R	E	I	N
G	I	S		D	O	A			B	A	S	E	D
E	R	O	S			U	N	F	I	T			
M	A	N	T	I	S			A	T	O	M	I	C
				E	L	E	C	T		R	A	G	U
S	E	R	V	E		L	E	M		D	O	M	
A	L	O	E			I	O	D	I	N	E		
M	A	D	N	E	S			D	E	I	C	E	
O	N	E			O	L	E		S	A	R	G	E
A	D	O			N	E	T		T	R	A	I	L

LAFF - A - DAY



“...And another thing—she’s never ready on time.”

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

CABIN FEVER:
DAY 21

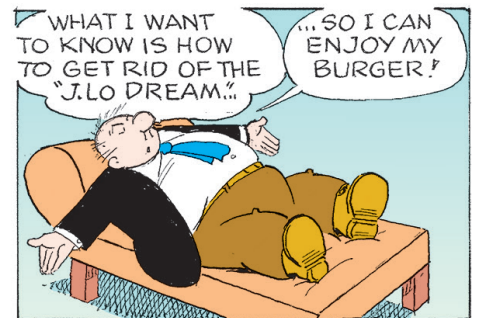
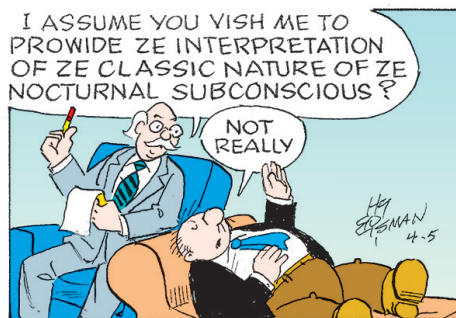
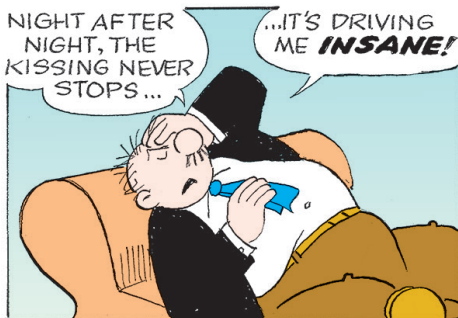
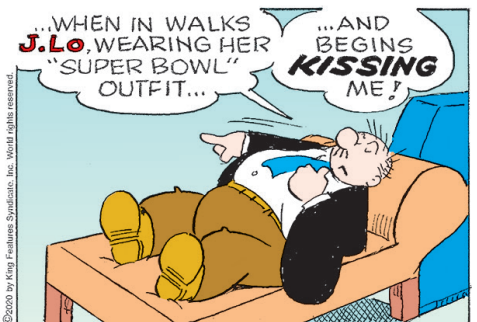
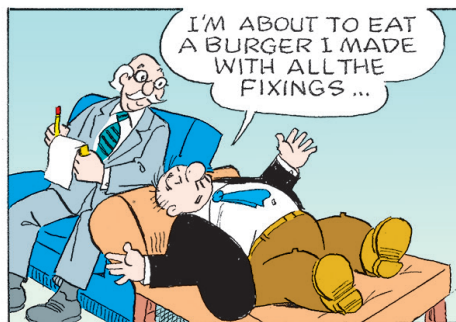
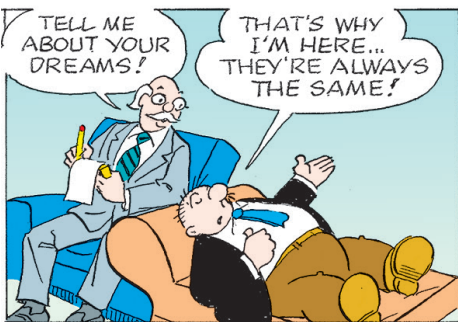
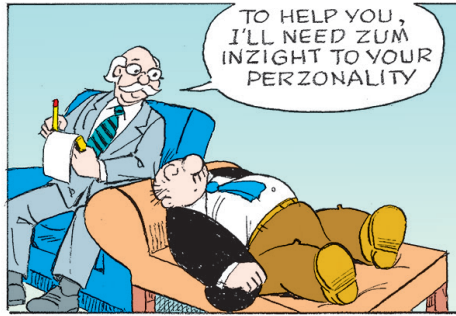
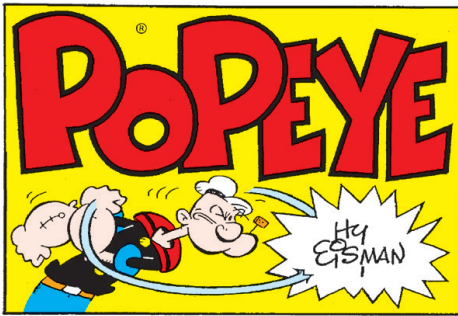


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KOPERVAS

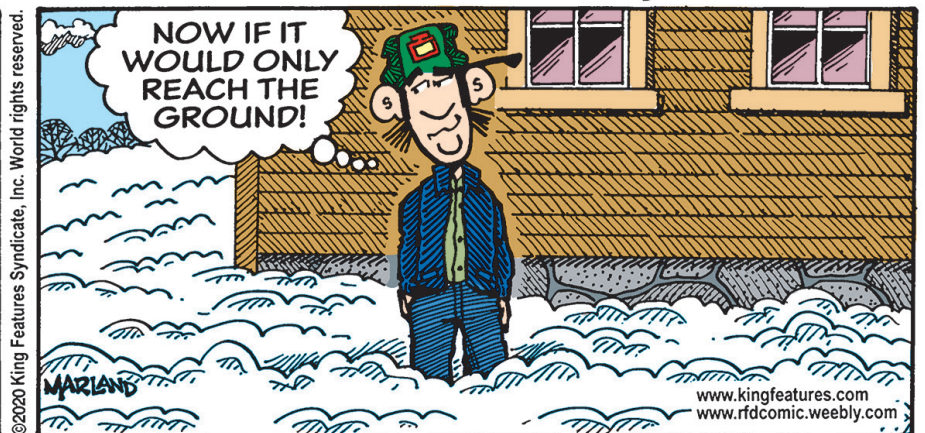
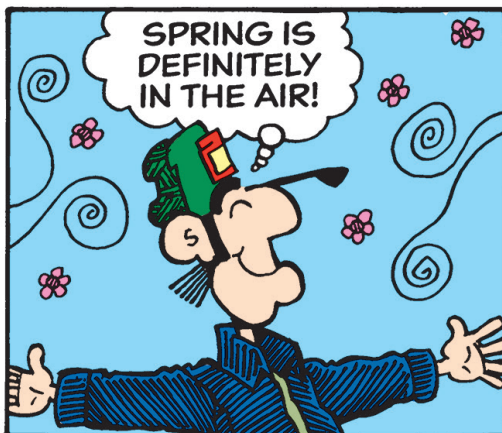
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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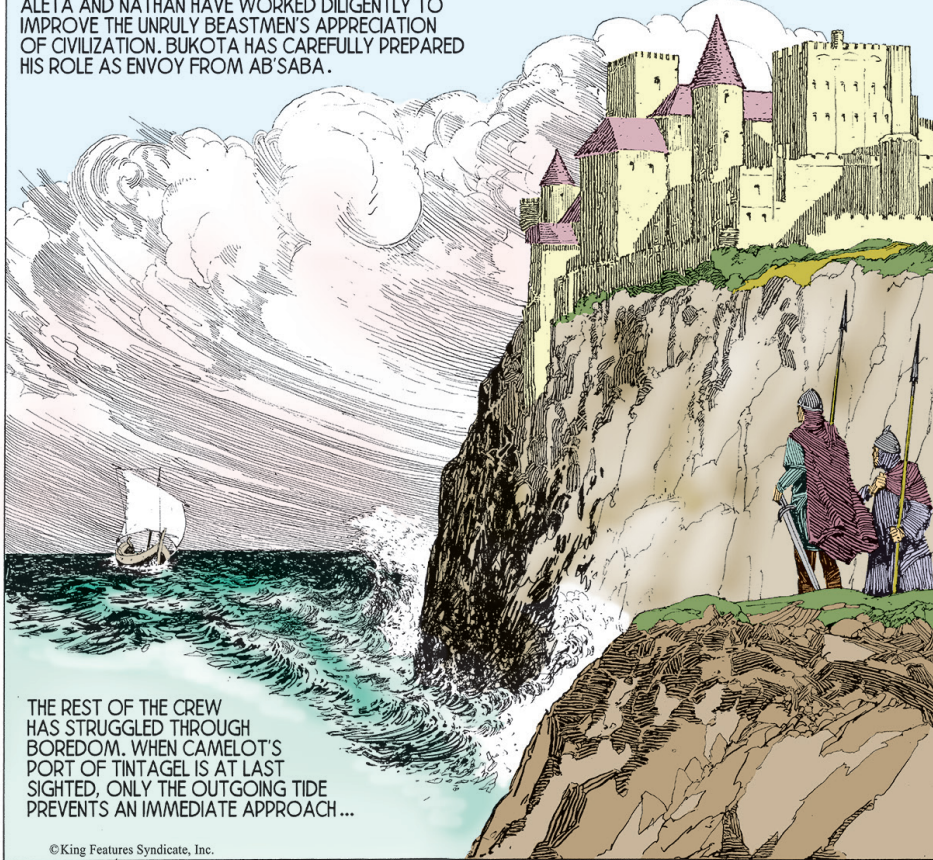
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Our Story: FOLLOWING THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE LOST SEA OF WEED, THE VOYAGE HOME HAS BEEN LARGELY UNEVENTFUL. LET US JUMP AHEAD SEVERAL WEEKS IN TIME.

ALETA AND NATHAN HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO IMPROVE THE UNRULY BEASTMEN'S APPRECIATION OF CIVILIZATION. BUKOTA HAS CAREFULLY PREPARED HIS ROLE AS ENVOY FROM AB SABA.

HAL FOSTER'S BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant



THE REST OF THE CREW HAS STRUGGLED THROUGH BOREDOM. WHEN CAMELOT'S PORT OF TINGAGEL IS AT LAST SIGHTED, ONLY THE OUTGOING TIDE PREVENTS AN IMMEDIATE APPROACH...

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...SO SIR GAWAIN DECIDES TO CELEBRATE THEIR ARRIVAL BY COOKING AN OMELET FROM THE EGG STOLEN FROM THE BEASTMEN'S ISLE.

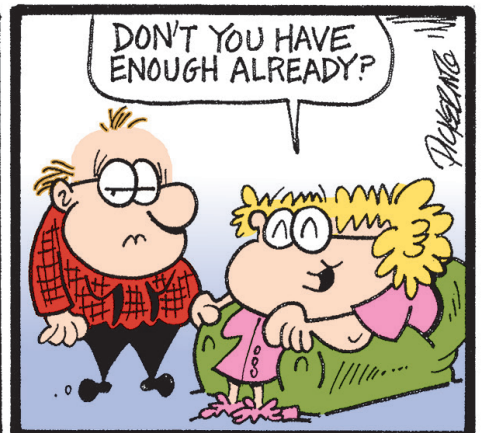
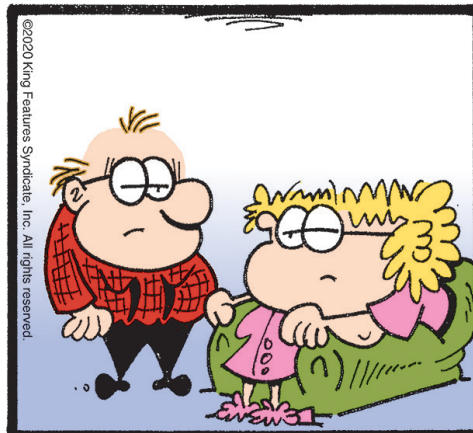
BUT, TO HIS CONSTERNATION, NATHAN, THE OBSERVANT SCHOLAR, OBJECTS. "IT MUST BE STUDIED AND OBSERVED FIRST!"

NEXT:
Home
and
dry



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Summer Dreams

Surely our world will be back to normal this summer ... right? Surely we'll be able to get out of the house without fearing every person who comes near us. We'll be able to leisurely wander through the grocery store, which will be stocked as it used to be. We'll stop to talk to friends on the street and sit in coffee shops and chat. We'll attend church, go to our meetings, stroll through the neighborhood admiring the flowers and take part in our exercise classes.

Surely we'll be able to do those things again, right?

Yes. We will. But first we have to get there. To get back to where we used to be, we have to stay healthy now.

We need exercise to stay healthy. Even if you can't go to a class, you can find plenty of them for seniors on YouTube. Look through the offerings and bookmark a few. Rotate through them on a daily basis so you don't get bored.

Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and put "exercises for seniors" in the search box. Some of them are even broken down by age.

We need to stay mentally healthy as well, despite the television news. Check the Good News Network online [www.goodnewsnetwork.org] for positive, uplifting stories. You also can put "good news" in your browser search box.

It's been difficult to get grocery store deliveries in a lot of areas because they have little stock. However, if you get delivery of your prescriptions (many pharmacies are providing this service now), call to ask whether they can add a few things to your order. Many drugstores carry soups, crackers, milk, canned fruits and vegetables, bottled water and snacks — some even carry a limited supply of fresh fruit.

We can get through this, especially if we turn off the television news.

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1. What 1987 inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame served as executive director of the National Football League Players' Association from 1983-2008?

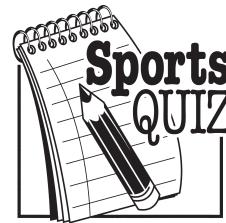
2. A bronze statue of what Kentucky Derby-winning racehorse was unveiled in front of a Churchill Downs entrance in April 2009?

3. What 1990 book by author/journalist Buzz Bissinger documented a high-school football team in Odessa, Texas, and was the inspiration for two TV series and a feature film?

4. Kyle Orton, who played quarterback for five NFL teams from 2005-14, played football at what Big Ten university?

5. Born in Vienna in 1913, what pioneering athletic coach and trainer helped Roger Bannister run the first recorded sub-4-minute mile in May 1954?

6. What former Major League Baseball pitcher inspired the nickname for



by Ryan A. Berenz

ular collateral ligament reconstruction surgery?

7. The city of Beaumont, Texas, is home to a museum and visitor center dedicated to what legendary female multisport athlete?

Answers

1. Gene Upshaw.

2. Barbaro. After winning the 2006 Derby, he suffered a fractured leg at the Preakness Stakes and was euthanized in January 2007.

3. "Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream."

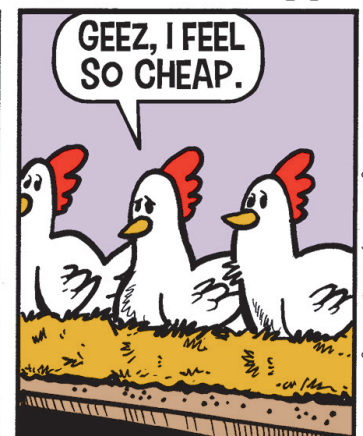
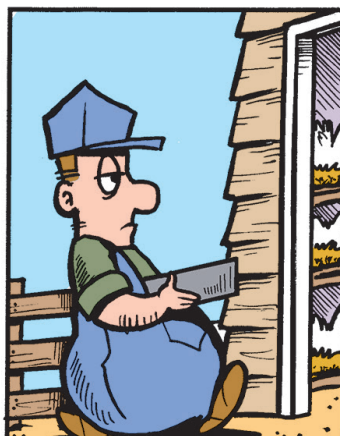
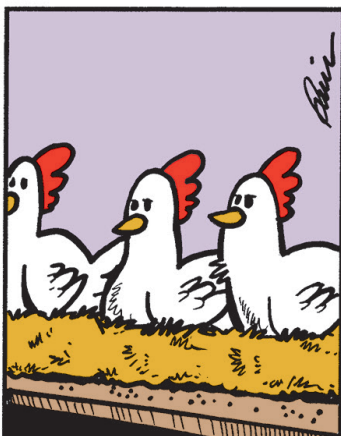
4. Purdue.

5. Franz Stampfl.

6. Tommy John, who played with

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





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



On the Front Lines

After nearly a month of nation-wide social distancing, everyone's lives are looking very different. Many South Dakotans are teleworking, but several of our industries have had to completely change how they operate.

Over the last few weeks, I've visited with folks who've had to make big adjustments in their daily operations. During my weekly grocery visit, I spoke with Justin, the store manager of County Fair Foods in Mitchell. Much like our health care providers and law enforcement, our grocers and ag producers are on the front lines of this pandemic. There's a lot to worry about right now, but our grocers are ensuring food on the shelves isn't one of them.

According to Justin, grocery stores like his are working overtime to ensure the shelves stay stocked and the store stays clean. I also visited with Leanne from Mitchell Middle School. Just like Justin, she's on the front lines. Leanne is one of several school employees who has dedicated her time overseeing the lunch program for students who typically receive free or reduced lunch during the school day. School closures have been devastating to children and families across the state and it's more important than ever our students who need a hot meal, receive one.

Speaking of meals, if you're fortunate enough to work from home and are still receiving a paycheck – there's no better time to get takeout from your favorite local restaurant. Many local restaurants are now offering delivery and carry-out to make up for lost profits. My family ordered take-out from our favorite local place this week and it made life feel a little more back to normal.

South Dakotans are tough. I visited with our local firefighters in Mitchell – although it's business as usual for them, they want to make sure South Dakotans are taking the steps to protect themselves during the pandemic. Wash your hands, stay home as much as possible, and avoid groups. Our firefighters, EMT's, and law enforcement will continue to answer our calls for help.

I'm grateful for our workers on the front lines. To the health care providers working overtime and putting your own health at risk, thank you. To the local media reporting the facts on the ground, thank you. To the state and federal employees working to ensure South Dakotans questions get answered, thank you. To the grocers, farmers, school cafeteria and restaurant employees feeding our families, thank you.

And finally, to the South Dakotans staying home and looking out for their neighbors, thank you.

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Celebrating Easter Differently During the Coronavirus Crisis

Each spring, Christians around the world celebrate Easter. Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and is the day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead three days after his crucifixion. Christians look upon Easter as one of the holiest days of the year. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are granted the gift of eternal life. My family is Catholic, and celebrating Easter together has long been a tradition. This year, because of the social distancing required to limit the spread of the coronavirus, Easter will look quite different for all of us.

Our Jewish friends and neighbors who celebrated Passover this week are experiencing the same feelings of separation. In America, we celebrate many different religious traditions. This reminds us of the brilliance of our founding fathers who placed great emphasis on protecting our rights to celebrate our religious beliefs.

While most churches have opted to close in order to protect the health of parishioners, many are offering livestream videos of church services. You can check your local church's website or social media pages to see if this is something they offer. We always go to mass on Easter morning, but this year we will be watching from home. Like so many other families, we will also be forgoing the big Easter celebration with kids and grandkids after church service.

This Easter season, many of our neighbors and friends are having a hard time right now. And we're all dealing with this new "normal". Health care workers and first responders are continuing to put their lives at risk to fight an invisible virus. We're so thankful to them for what they do. We're also thankful for the folks who continue to go into work, day after day, to provide important services to our communities. For business owners who have had to make the difficult decision to close their doors temporarily, please know that we are working around the clock to help you access funding so you can keep employees on the payroll and be ready to open again as soon as the pandemic is over. Social distancing, while necessary, isn't easy, especially for folks in rural areas, or who may be living alone. I encourage South Dakotans to call their neighbors, grandparents, parents or anyone they know who may be feeling isolated or lonely during this time. We're all dealing with an unprecedented challenge, but we will get through it together.

If any South Dakotan has questions or needs help, please don't hesitate to contact my offices in Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls or Aberdeen. All of our contact information can be found on my website, www.rounds.senate.gov.

Governor Noem recently declared a "Day of Prayer" in South Dakota, to encourage people to pray for an end to this pandemic, and President Trump did the same thing for the country a few weeks ago. Turning to prayer has helped our family as Jean went through her cancer treatment, and I believe it can help in this situation as well. We pray for everyone battling the coronavirus, as well as for the scientists working hard to create a vaccine.

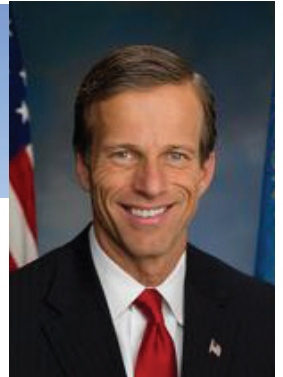
All Americans are feeling uncertain during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's natural to experience stress or anxiety right now, because we just don't know how long this may last. Easter is a reminder to us that pain and suffering do not last forever. Jesus' death and resurrection shows us that we can find peace even during the most trying times. Because of my faith, I have hope that brighter days are ahead.

Even though this spring feels different this year, Jean and I pray that all South Dakotans are able to find joy this Easter Season and take time to reflect on what's truly important. May you find the comfort I find in 1 Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

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John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Heroes Come In Unlikely Forms

I've written this sentence too many times over the last few years, but South Dakota's agriculture community is hurting. It has been for a long time. While farmers and ranchers are all too familiar with adversity, the most frustrating part about what they've been facing is that it has all been out of their control. Between Mother Nature, multiple trade disputes, and poor commodity prices, things were bad enough. Once a global pandemic struck, things quickly went from bad to worse.

Don't get me wrong, everyone is hurting right now. We're all living through what seems like a twisted movie plot. No one is spared from the effects of this pandemic. Tasks as simple as running to the grocery store have been upended. Social distancing has become the new, albeit temporary, normal.

Everyone deserves to see brighter days – and they will soon enough – but I'm fighting particularly hard to ensure our farming and ranching community isn't left behind in Congress' coronavirus response. We've already passed legislation to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation, plus provide nearly \$10 billion in emergency funding for producers who have been affected by the pandemic, but more needs to be done.

These last few weeks, all Americans have learned just how important agriculture is in our day-to-day lives. People outside of farm country often take a fully stocked grocery store shelf for granted. Not anymore. As South Dakotans know, those items don't just appear out of thin air. Someone grows the grain. Someone raises the livestock. Someone runs the operation. Someone ships the food. Together, they all help feed our nation and the world. They have been for generations.

Cattle producers, in particular, have been facing an uphill battle lately. Last month, I spoke directly to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue about the concerns I had been hearing about market volatility from producers in South Dakota. I've been keeping pressure on USDA and recently urged them to investigate these matters, which the secretary has agreed to do.

I've also formally requested that Attorney General William Barr and the Department of Justice investigate price manipulation and other anticompetitive activities in the beef market. As I told the attorney general in early April, the cattle industry has experienced similar market volatility before, but the widening profit margin gap between cattle producers and packers raises serious concerns about potential instances of price manipulation and other unfair practices within the beef industry. They need to look into this – now.

I've found myself wishing, now more than ever, that there was a simple solution to make things better. Unfortunately, there isn't one at hand, but I can continue to put in the hard work to ensure I am doing everything possible to help defend and support the agriculture community during this crisis – the same goes for my teams in South Dakota and Washington. We're here to help. If you're looking for more information, you can call one of my offices or visit www.thune.senate.gov/COVID19.

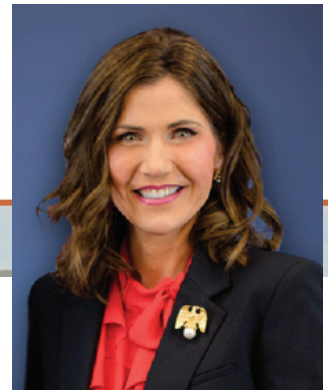
America has discovered that heroes come in unlikely forms these days, and I'm reminded of what Paul Harvey once said about what God needed on the eighth day: "A caretaker ... Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.' So God made a farmer." They're all heroes in my book.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



A Marathon, Not a Sprint: South Dakota's Fight against COVID-19

South Dakotans are stepping up. They are taking personal responsibility to keep themselves, their loved ones, and their fellow citizens safe. They're practicing social distancing. And our frontline workers are bravely serving their fellow South Dakotans, fighting this virus day-in and day-out.

The State of South Dakota is doing our part as well. This week I signed four executive orders to help fight the spread of COVID-19. Some had to do with the entire state; one specifically told vulnerable populations in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties to stay home for the next three weeks.

We unveiled a new tool for South Dakotans to use to help fight the spread of the virus as well. Many South Dakotans have already downloaded the Care 19 app, which will empower individuals to do their part by providing accurate and timely information to assist the Department of Health's contact tracing efforts. South Dakota is the second state in the nation to adopt this new technology.

But in addition to these and many other mitigation efforts that we are employing, many South Dakotans are also offering their prayers as another powerful weapon in the fight against COVID-19. And this week is an important time to do so. The Jewish Passover started this past Wednesday. For Christians, today is Good Friday; Sunday is Easter. This Holy Week is the perfect time for us to join together and pray for an end to this pandemic.

I declared this past Wednesday a Statewide Day of Prayer. But our prayers shouldn't stop there. We should all continue to pray for success in the fight against this disease, for comfort for those who have suffered loss, and for strength for all those who continue to fight, both in South Dakota and around the world.

Our celebrations may be a little different this Holy Week. We may not be able to gather in big groups with friends and family or praise God in fellowship with our respective churches. I would encourage South Dakotans to take this unique opportunity to develop new traditions for praising God.

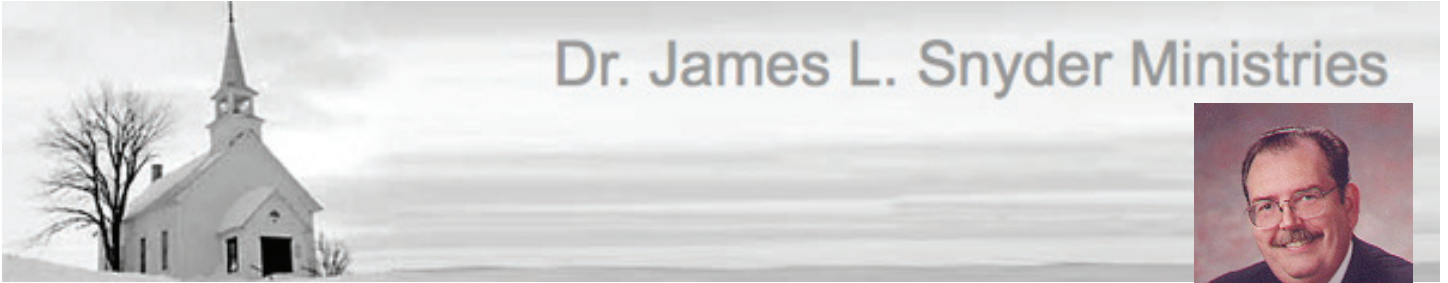
I wanted to highlight one example of this: a group of young South Dakotans who, together with their classmates, offered this beautiful prayer for peace in times of adversity. I'd encourage you to listen to their beautiful song, and I am so grateful that they found a way to praise God (and warm all of our hearts) while still practicing social distancing.

Thanks to all the hard work South Dakotans are doing, we've cut our projected peak infection rate in half already. South Dakotans have been absolute rockstars, but there's more work to do. We will continue to use every tool available to us to fight this virus.

Together, we can do this.

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There's Always Tomorrow

For almost four weeks now, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly have enjoyed some exceptional time together.

It has been the rich experience I never thought I would experience until I retired from everything. But, if this is retirement, "Lord, let it be so."

Nothing to complain about here.

We have enjoyed spending quality time together and catching up on things that happened 50 years ago. Her memory is a lot better than mine, to be sure.

This time off has really been a rejuvenating experience, at least for me.

I must confess that I have had a Pajama Dilemma I never experienced before.

When do I take my pajamas off in the morning, get dressed, and then later, when do I undress and put on my pajamas? This new schedule has not been clearly outlined, at least from my wife's perspective. How long can I wear my pajamas? And, do you wear a tie with pajamas?

I tried to explain to my wife that we are saving a lot of water by not having to wash clothes as much as we used to. That does not sit well with her.

Although we may be on a rather relaxed schedule, she still maintains a schedule.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are always prepared at the same time every day. I would not mind if I munched on something (other than vegetables) all day long, particularly an Apple Fritter. But, no, we are on a strict diet. And when I say "strict," I mean what she determines to cook.

Don't take me wrong; she is a terrific cook. It is the schedule that I have an issue with.

I said to her last week, "Why don't you just fix up some nice food to eat and let me eat anytime I want to?"

That sounded like a beautiful schedule for me, but it did not go down very well with her. According to her, there is a time to eat, and then there is a time NOT to eat. She emphasized the word NOT. I got the message.

During the last several weeks, my wife spent a lot of time in her "Craft Room." She does a lot of crafts, and I am not allowed in that room.

The other day as I walked by the craft room, I looked in, and she said, "Is there anything you want?"

I knew the answer she was expecting, and so I gave it to her and went to the other end of the house. She does a lot of work in there. In fact, she has been making face masks for people.

With a smile on my face, I asked her, "Are you going to make me a face mask?"

Without even looking up, she said, "I don't have enough material."

There was no way I was going to ask her to explain what she meant by that. Down deep inside, I knew what she meant.

Every once in awhile, she would ask me to do something, and I would respond by telling her that I'll get to it and do it.

The difference between my wife and me is that she takes everything seriously, and I have yet to find anything that I will take seriously.

"I thought you were going to take out the garbage," she said to me the other day.

"I will," I mumbled to her as I was doing some reading.

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"When?" She said with a very stern tone in her voice. "You said you would do it yesterday."

Being very nonchalant, I said, "Well, there's always tomorrow." Then I would laugh. I noticed, though, she never laughed.

I am not quite sure how many times I pulled that one on her, but she finally had enough.

Looking at me, she said, "You said that yesterday. This is the tomorrow you were talking about yesterday."

I had to stop and think about what she was talking about. Tomorrow and yesterday are just words as far as I am concerned.

During this hiatus, I didn't think too much about the schedule. And so as far as I was concerned, yesterday and tomorrow have no real significance to me. One day is as good as the other.

My wife, on the other hand, has a schedule that she loves to keep to. In fact, since this hiatus, she has cleaned the house from top to bottom 117 times. At least it seems that way to me.

Our house is so clean that I have no reason to sneeze anymore. If was any dirt, pollen, or dust, it is completely gone. I did not know how much I enjoyed the dust.

We were watching television together the other night, and a ridiculous idea danced through my head. With nothing more to think about, this idea took focus.

Doing a commercial, I stared across the room, and my wife said, "What are you looking at?"

Staring intently, I pointed and said, "Is that dust I see over there?"

As I watched her search for that maverick dust particle, I could not help but think of a verse of Scripture. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

One thing I have learned, and that is, all of my yesterdays, todays and tomorrows are in God's hands, and I have nothing whatsoever to worry about.

COVID-19 testing in S.D. is inefficient and imperfect, but remains only option for confirming cases

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

The ability to quickly, regularly and accurately test for the deadly coronavirus is a key component of the ability of the medical field and the public to understand the extent of the pandemic, and of government officials' ability to adequately respond.

And yet, the testing for the presence of the virus in residents of South Dakota and around the U.S. has been plagued by a series of problems. Among them: a lack of needed testing supplies; inefficiencies in how the test is administered and how results are analyzed; and the potential inability of the test itself to accurately confirm the presence of the virus.

The consequences of those testing limitations are potentially fatal. Far more people are likely infected with COVID-19 than is known. The lack of confirmed positives has opened the door to downplaying of the depth and seriousness of the pandemic by government officials and individuals. And in some cases, the opportunity for "false negatives," in which tests do not indicate the presence of the virus in an infected person, can lead to unnecessary spreading of the virus.



The inability of the American medical system to perform timely, accurate testing for the presence of COVID-19 has hampered efforts to understand and respond to the pandemic. Photo:

Stock image

South Dakota shares same testing challenges as rest of nation

South Dakota ranks among the top 20 states in testing per capita for the virus that causes COVID-19, and while state officials tout that fact, experts say testing rates are still too low to know just how widespread the disease really is.

Of the state's roughly 880,000 residents, about 7,100 had been tested for COVID-19 as of April 8, according to South Dakota Department of Health Data. The low rate of testing for COVID-19, though, is due almost entirely to a shortage of critical testing supplies. Similar shortages are being experienced all over the country and are forcing public health officials to put strict limits on who gets tested and when.

While it may not be as complete as healthcare professionals would like, the data shared publicly through the South Dakota Department of Health's COVID-19 webpage, <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>, is the best data currently available. The data include the most recent reported testing results from the state health lab, Avera Health, Sanford Health, the Mayo Clinic's commercial clinical lab and Quest Diagnostics, a private, multi-national clinical laboratory company, said DOH spokesperson Derrick Haskins.

The private labs testing for COVID-19 have let the Department of Health take the lead on public sharing of test data, but officials at Sanford Health and Avera Health have been fairly open with South Dakota News Watch about what their individual testing regimes have found.

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As of Wednesday, April 8, Sanford Health had performed 5,053 COVID-19 tests across its multi-state hospital system, according to Shawn Neisteadt, a senior media relations specialist with Sanford. Of the more than 5,000 COVID-19 tests Sanford had conducted, roughly 2,900 of the tests were conducted on South Dakotans. Slightly over 200 of Sanford's tests returned positive results.

Leaders at Avera Health have been a little more reticent to share their testing data. On Monday, April 6, Dr. David Basel, vice president of clinical quality at Avera Health, told News Watch that Avera had recorded 192 positive COVID-19 tests. About 85 percent of Avera's tests were conducted on South Dakotans.

The state's numbers are updated every day by noon and represent the testing reported through the previous day. As of Thursday, April 10, 7,647 tests for the disease had been performed on South Dakotans, with 536 tests returning a positive result. Between April 7 and April 8, 399 new tests were reported to the DOH and 54 of those tests, roughly 13.5%, returned positive results. Between April 8 and April 9, 500 new tests were conducted. Of those, 89 tests, about 17.8%, were found to be positive for COVID-19.

A large part of the reason for the relatively high rate of positive results is that testing is being conducted on people who are already showing strong symptoms of COVID-19, such as pneumonia, and are more likely to test positive. But experts expect as many as 80% of people infected with the COVID-19 virus either don't develop symptoms at all or only show mild symptoms, such as a dry cough and fever. Simply put, far more people have been infected with the virus than have tested positive for it.

"That's a major driver for why the government has changed its recommendation to wear masks," said Dr. Marie-Louise Landry, director of the clinical virology laboratory at Yale University. "Now we realize that there are many people who may have such minor symptoms, they may have a runny nose or a little cough that is typical for this time of year, and say 'this can't be COVID,' and, in fact, it can be."

There is no way to know exactly how many people have actually been infected, Landry said. At least not yet. Severe shortages of critical testing supplies mean public health officials likely will have to continue limiting the availability of tests to high-need and high-risk populations.

However, there is some hope on the horizon, Landry said. New tests designed to identify COVID-19 antibodies in blood samples are likely to start arriving at hospitals and clinical labs within a month. Antibody tests aren't effective for identifying active infections but they could help scientists get a better understanding of how prevalent the COVID-19 virus actually is, she said.

"People are very hopeful the antibody test could give us that information and how many people are immune," Landry said. "If we have a lot of people with immunity, that can protect the people who are not immune. The antibody tests are going to be very important and could really help us."

In the meantime, the testing data DOH shares with the public is still useful, Basel said.

"Personally I pay a lot of attention to them, because it's kind of a leading indicator," he said. "It helps us quite a bit in knowing how many people are symptomatic and how many of those are symptomatic because of this coronavirus. It is still very helpful from that monitoring standpoint."

"Every time we think things are better and we'll tell people we're going to expand testing, we find out that we're not going to be getting some key reagents and can't do it. We are doing testing, but it is more limited by far than we would like to, and very frustrating."

-- Dr. Marie-Louise Landry, Yale University



Dr Landry

COVID-19 testing mostly restricted to high-risk patients



Hospitals across the country, including the Sanford and Avera health systems in South Dakota, have implemented drive-up testing sites during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Stock image

people we're going to expand testing, we find out that we're not going to be getting some key reagents and can't do it," said Landry, of Yale. "We are doing testing, but it is more limited by far than we would like to, and very frustrating."

In another example of the extent of the supply shortage, South Dakota's State Epidemiologist Joshua Clayton said during an April 9 conference call with healthcare providers that the state health lab's supply of "flocked" sample swabs was running very low. The state had ordered new foam-tipped swabs but didn't expect them to arrive until mid-May, Clayton said.

In an effort to manage their supply shortages, the state health lab, Sanford Health and Avera Health all are following guidelines set by the federal Centers For Disease Control and Prevention and have decided not to test anyone who isn't displaying active COVID-19 symptoms, such as a fever or shortness of breath. Patients who haven't been in contact with someone who tested positive also aren't considered a high priority for testing, according to CDC guidelines.

The state health lab has further restricted testing to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 symptoms, healthcare workers and people living or working in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Sanford Health's lab also has restricted testing to hospitalized patients with COVID-19 symptoms, older adults and all patients with underlying medical conditions that put them at greater risk from COVID-19, said Neisteadt.

All of the restrictions on who gets tested and when has likely reduced the number of confirmed and reported cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota and across the country, experts said.

Uncertainty over accuracy of most common COVID-19 tests

Despite some glaring limitations, the most common methods used for diagnosing COVID-19 infections in South Dakota can be very accurate, experts say.

Doctors at the state public health lab and at Sanford Health and Avera Health are using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology to identify the virus in patients. Under the right circumstances, PCR-based testing is known to be nearly 100% accurate when it comes to identifying viral infections. Still, the science of diagnosing COVID-19 specifically has only been around for a few months, and there are a lot of unknowns, said Landry.

"We don't really know how a lot of these tests perform and which ones are more accurate than others," Landry said.

One example of what scientists don't know about COVID-19 testing is what part of the body is the most

Shortages of necessary testing supplies, such as swabs and chemicals needed to run tests for the virus that causes COVID-19, are forcing hospitals to limit who they test to conserve supplies.

"We don't know how often we will get resupplied ... so we do still conserve somewhat on the number of tests that we do," said Basel of Avera Health.

Nationwide, clinical laboratories are running short of everything from sample collection swabs to the solution needed to transport samples from where they are collected at the lab. Even the chemical solutions required to run the actual tests are in desperately short supply.

"That's been very limiting. And every time we think things are better and we'll tell

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reliable place to find the virus that causes the disease, said Dr. Jim Dunn, director of medical microbiology and virology at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. The virus tends to move around as it runs its course, so one day it might be concentrated in the nasal cavity, the next it might move to the lungs, which can lead to poor sample collections and bad test results, he said.

"There are people working on that," Dunn said. "They're looking at different types of samples at different time points during infection, even things like blood samples, or stool samples to really try to figure out how we can best identify those patients that are infected."

Right now, the CDC recommends taking swabs of mucus from the nasopharynx, a location deep in the nasal passage. To do that, a sample collection swab must be inserted through the nose all the way to the back of the nasal cavity to a point that is, roughly, right above the back of a person's mouth. Swabbing the nasopharynx, while not perfect, is still the best known method for obtaining a sample of the virus from an infected person. This is a common sampling method being used at drive-up COVID-19 test sites in South Dakota and elsewhere.

PCR-based testing methods work by essentially copying relatively small amounts of a virus' genetic code so that it can be more easily identified. The method has been globally recognized by scientists as one of the most accurate ways to identify whether someone is actively infected with a virus. PCR-based tests have been used for many years to diagnose the flu and HIV, for example.

"This kind of testing looks directly for the presence of the virus in the patient's sample," said Dr. Lorne Holland, senior director of clinical pathology at Sanford Health. "Because they directly measure the virus, molecular testing methods are both sensitive and specific — they are able to detect small amounts of the virus and reliably detect this virus even if other viruses or bacteria are present too."

After the swabbing process is finished, the swab must be placed in a sterile transport medium to protect the virus' genetic material from degradation before it gets to the lab.

Once in the lab, the sample is placed in a chemical solution designed to copy one of the virus' genetic building blocks. In the case of SARS-CoV-2 — the official name of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 — the targeted building block is RNA, a molecule that is similar to DNA and is used to store genetic information. The chemical solution, aided by specialized lab equipment called thermocyclers, then specifically targets SARS-CoV-2 RNA and uses chemical reactions to make billions of copies of it. Eventually, the copies change the chemical solution's color to indicate the presence of the virus.

If the solution doesn't change color, there was no virus in the sample. The chain reactions that copy the virus' RNA don't work if the targeted RNA isn't present.

Sanford Health's labs have been using PCR-based viral testing for several years and the lab's procedures are well-established, Holland said. The instruments Sanford uses have a long track record of producing very reliable and accurate results, though there are still some limitations, he said.

"No laboratory test can ever be perfect. For example, if a patient was exposed to the virus an hour ago, then no test will be positive," Holland said. "However, performing our testing with proven, molecular PCR technology is the best possible testing we can offer for our patients."

"That's one of the biggest reasons why we don't test people who don't have symptoms. Because their viral load is probably low enough that even if they do have some degree of the virus, it's not going to be high enough that we're going to detect it."

-- Dr. David Basel, Avera Health



David Basel, MD

Rate of 'false negatives' in COVID-19 testing unknown

The type of tests used to diagnose COVID-19 have proven reliable over decades of use with other diseases, but experts worry that because tests for the new virus were hastily designed, there could be higher than expected rates of "false negative" results, or those that do not indicate the presence of the virus when indeed the patient is infected.

Usually, before a medical test can get approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration, it is often subjected to years of development and evaluation for accuracy. The tests for SARS-CoV-2 were developed over the course of a couple of months and continue to be surrounded by unanswered questions, such as when and what type of sampling methods are best.

There are several ways a COVID-19 test could deliver a false negative result, Landry said. First, getting a good sample can be difficult. A swab must be inserted through a patient's nose to the nasopharynx. Not only is the swabbing process uncomfortable for the patient, it can cause coughing or sneezing which can expose whoever is administering the test to the virus if they aren't wearing the right protective gear, said Landry.

"You actually have to put the swab in very deep and a lot of people don't do that very well," Landry said.

Another major reason a test might deliver a false negative result is that the virus tends to move around the respiratory system as it progresses, said Dr. Dunn. A patient with COVID-19-caused pneumonia, for example, may not have a high concentration of the virus in their nose. In that case, a nasal swab might not collect enough virus for a test to detect it, Dunn said.

Taking a second, oral swab in addition to a nasopharyngeal swab and testing both at the same time might help ensure an accurate test result, Dunn said. Taking two swabs, though, would exacerbate a third testing limitation — the nationwide shortage of testing supplies.

Medical professionals can't use just any swab that happens to be at hand when they test someone for COVID-19. Swabs need to be long enough to reach all the way through the nasal cavity to the nasopharynx, and its tip has to be capable of collecting a clean sample. Cotton swabs, such as Q-tips, wouldn't work very well, Dunn said.

Still, another potential cause of false negative COVID-19 test results is taking a swab before a patient starts showing symptoms, said Basel.

"That's one of the biggest reasons why we don't test people who don't have symptoms. Because their viral load is probably low enough that even if they do have some degree of the virus, it's not going to be high enough that we're going to detect it," Basel said.

Exactly how high the false negative rate might be for COVID-19 tests isn't well understood. And is likely to take months of dedicated research to get reliable data, Basel said. Testing guidelines for COVID-19 were created at what amounts to light-speed in the medical world and continue to evolve as new information is discovered, Dunn said. Limits on supplies also are forcing hospital systems such as Avera Health to avoid retesting patients, Basel said.

The good news is that if a sample contains the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the tests South Dakota's labs use are nearly 100% accurate. None of the state's labs have reported any known false negative tests, so far.

"Thus far, we have identified no possible false positives or false negatives," said Holland, of Sanford Health. "No lab test is perfect, but we are more than 3,000 tests in and we've yet to identify a suspicious result."



James Dunn

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Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller

It seems our situation continues to improve today. Although our reported cases topped a half-million today, the rate of increase continues to slow. The number of new deaths in the US went over 2000 for the first time Friday at 2074, we expect this is very near the peak, so that number is anticipated to trend downward very soon as well. It is important to note that, while the overall picture is improving, various states are in different places in the cycle, and so different patterns will be playing out in some locations over the next few weeks. These differences are associated with different population densities, differing testing capacity, date of the first case, and the speed and strictness of social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

There have now been 528,301 cases reported in 50 states, DC, and 4 US territories. NY, with 180,458 cases now has more than any country in the world except for the US, and they have 34% of the US cases. NJ follows with 58,141 cases; together these two states account for 45% of US cases. MI has 23,853, MA has 22,860, CA has 22,338, PA has 21,711, LA has 20,014, IL has 19,180, FL has 18,978, and TX has 13,117. These ten states have reported 76% of the US total to date. There are 3 more states over 10,000 cases, 6 more over 5000, 20 more + DC over 1000, and 11 + PR and GU over 100. Just VI and MP remain below 100 cases.

The rate of increase nationally was 6.7%, so this number has continued to drop. NY reports a 5.8% increase and, importantly, a smaller number of new cases than yesterday, the first time that's happened since I started tracking this a few weeks ago. NJ is up 6.5%, and its number of new cases was just 3 more than yesterday, so they're approaching the point where the number of new cases each day might decrease. These are all positive trends.

There have been 20,554 deaths from Covid-19 reported in the US, a number that now surpasses Italy. NY has 8627, NJ 2183, MI 1391, LA 806, MA 686, IL 681, CA 629, and PA 506. There are 15 more states reporting over 100 deaths, 10 more over 50, 10 more + DC and PR over 10. 6 states + GU, VI, and MP all report fewer than 10 deaths, and WY still has reported none. This rate of increase is also slowing.

Other hopeful signs include that CT reports the number of individuals hospitalized is decreasing, OH looks to fall short of projected numbers of hospitalizations, and CA showed a 2% decrease in ICU patients. These things are all signs the shelter-at-home policies are having the desired effect. We are warned, however, that if we stop doing all of these things by the end of this month, we could be right back here in July sometime. We'll need transmission near zero before we begin, if we are to be successful. When the time comes to reduce restrictions, there will need to be a plan in place to do that carefully. We can probably learn a lot from observing other countries.

Several European countries are beginning or preparing to begin loosening restrictions. Those that did lockdowns early, implemented massive testing programs, and are past their peaks are gradually easing the restrictions. The plan is to take a step, see what happens, and be prepared to step back if cases spike. The Czech Republic, Austria, Denmark, and Norway are all starting this careful process, and observation of their progress should prove instructive for us. Additionally, Germany and Switzerland look to be ready to start easing later this month, so we'll have more information from watching them as well.

There are still trouble spots in the middle of the country, LA and IL, as well as MI are still seeing a great deal of transmission, and there are some small-population states with worrying trends as well. Chicago warns it is running out of ventilators; we can hope other areas' need for these machines is reduced in time to redirect supplies elsewhere. That may happen; King County, WA, where the first cases were diagnosed

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in the US, has taken down the Army field hospital built there and redirected ventilators to other harder-hit states. New case reports in San Francisco have leveled off as well.

That antibody test we talked about a while ago, the one that can tell whether someone's been infected, even if they never developed symptoms, looks as if it will be available within the week. If supplies are sufficient, that will be an important piece of our efforts to get past the lockdowns, as will more and more diagnostic testing capacity. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how critical these things will be if we're going to move forward without reigniting outbreaks. Easing restrictions when we still do not have the ability to identify infected people is doomed to failure. We simply must get this problem sorted out. We will continue to hope for better news on that front.

The picture is hopeful moving into the important upcoming religious celebrations for Jews, Christians, and Sikhs; but these celebrations will be somewhat muted this year, I suspect, for all. Most of us celebrate with family or with friends or with other members of our faith; and most of us will be unable to do so this time around. That can feel lonely and a little bit disorienting for some of us, so we're going to be needing comfort. Of course, we have many ways to connect with the people we love these days, and it will help to employ those in upcoming days. I'm going to suggest, if you are feeling bereft because you can't attend a service this year, consider doing a service instead. Pull out the principles on which your faith is founded and put them into action in the world; those don't change even when your circumstances do. If you can't serve a family dinner, serve your fellow humans. There is much to be done, and that doesn't stop when you're stuck at home. Let's all make a plan to emerge from our isolation a better version of the person who entered it weeks before. I wish you all a fulfilling celebration this week, a way to ease your loneliness and that of someone else, and brighter days ahead.

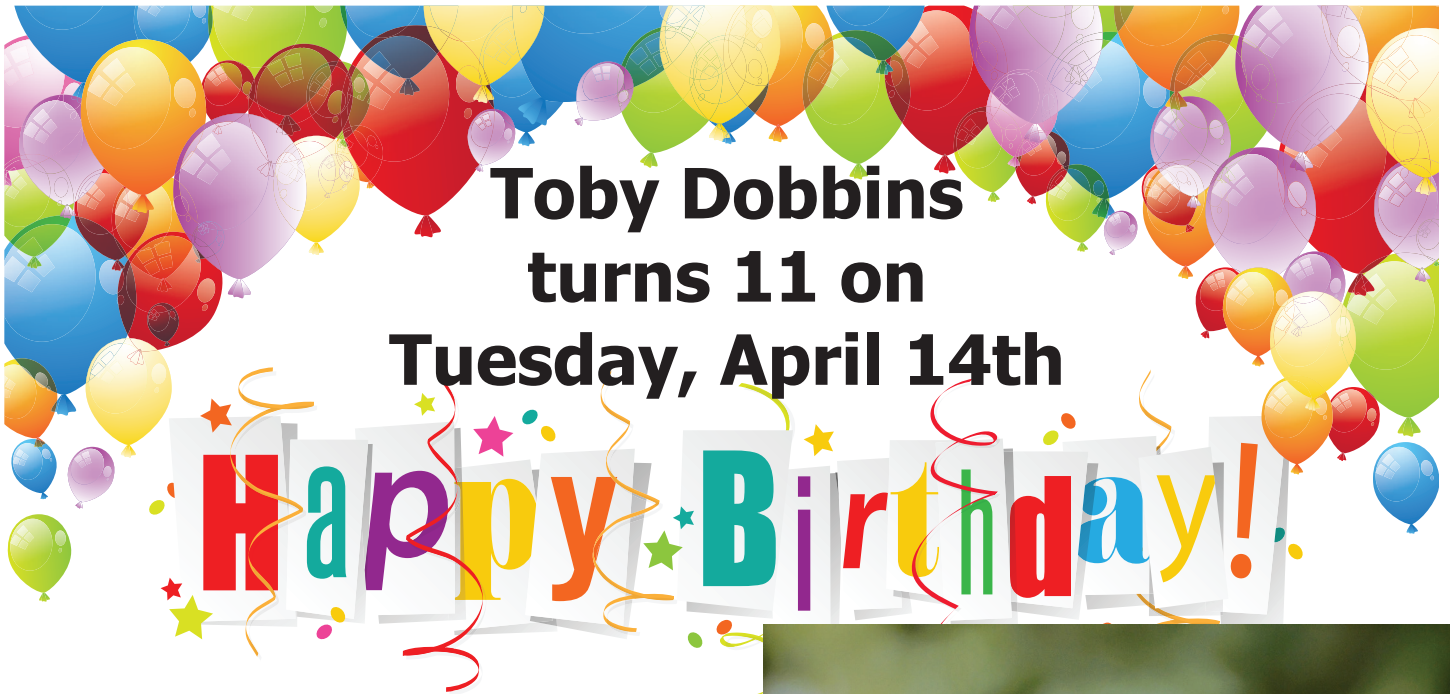
Stay healthy, stay safe, stay home. We'll talk again.

South Dakota State University has canceled all campus events and activities until Aug. 15 From Brookingsradio.com

Canceled events include:

Summer sports and academic camps hosted by academic departments and intercollegiate athletics;
Events held in the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center;
Events, including weddings, held by outside groups at university-operated facilities; and
All large-scale meetings/conferences scheduled in campus facilities by university and/or outside groups.
The event cancellation also includes university-sponsored events that occur off-campus.

The following SDSU facilities remain closed until further notice: Wellness Center, McCrory Gardens, South Dakota Art Museum, South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, the University Bookstore in the University Student Union, SDSU Dairy Bar and SDSU Meat Lab. The Fishback Early Learning Center Preschool will also be closed. The kindergarten on campus is currently closed and it will continue to follow the schedule determined by the Brookings School District.



At this time with the virus, he can't have a party with his friends, but we can still celebrate with cards in the mail or a birthday balloon from the Groton Independent!

Toby Dobbins
307 N 5th St
Groton, SD 57445

Toby is the son of Peryn and Angela Dobbins and the grandson of Kay and Doug Daly.



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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	Apr. 9	Apr. 10	Apr. 11
Minnesota	1,154	1,242	1,336	1,427
Nebraska	523	577	648	704
Montana	332	354	377	389
Colorado	5,655	6202	6,510	6,893
Wyoming	230	239	253	261
North Dakota	251	269	278	293
South Dakota	393	447	536	626
United States	431,838	466,396	501,701	530,006
US Deaths	14,768	16,703	18,781	20,608
Minnesota	+85	+88	+94	+91
Nebraska	+45	+54	+71	+56
Montana	+13	+22	+23	+12
Colorado	+226	+547	+308	+383
Wyoming	+9	+9	+14	+8
North Dakota	+14	+18	+9	+15
South Dakota	+73	+54	+89	+90
United States	+31,909	+34,558	+35,305	+28,305
US Deaths	+1,857	+1,935	+2,078	1,827

Last Week	This Week
Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty 312,245 US	Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty 530,006 US
126,168 Spain	163,027 Spain
124,632 Italy	152,271 Italy
96,092 Germany	130,730 France
90,853 France	125,452 Germany
82,574 China	83,096 China

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Dakotas COVID-19 Update

Positive Cases: +90 (626 total)
 Negative: +267 (7378 total)
 Ever Hospitalized: +4 (33 total)
 Deaths: 6 (no change)
 Recovered: +12 (189 total)

Brown: +1 recovered (10 of 14 recovered)
 Jerauld: +2 positive (3 total)
 Lincoln: +1 positive, +1 recovered (17 of 39 re-
 covered)
 Lyman: +1 recovered (2 of 2 recovered)
 Minnehaha: +86 positive, +10 recovered (66 of
 438 recovered)
 Sanborn: 1st positive case
 Yankton: +1 positive (20 total positive)

1 Beadle County case was moved to Jerauld
 County.

1 Brookings County Case/recovery was moved to
 Minnehaha County

The N.D. DoH & private labs are reporting 472
 completed tests today for COVID-19, with 15 new
 positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 293.
 NDDoH reports 1 new death.

State & private labs have reported 10,080 total
 tests with 9,787 negatives.

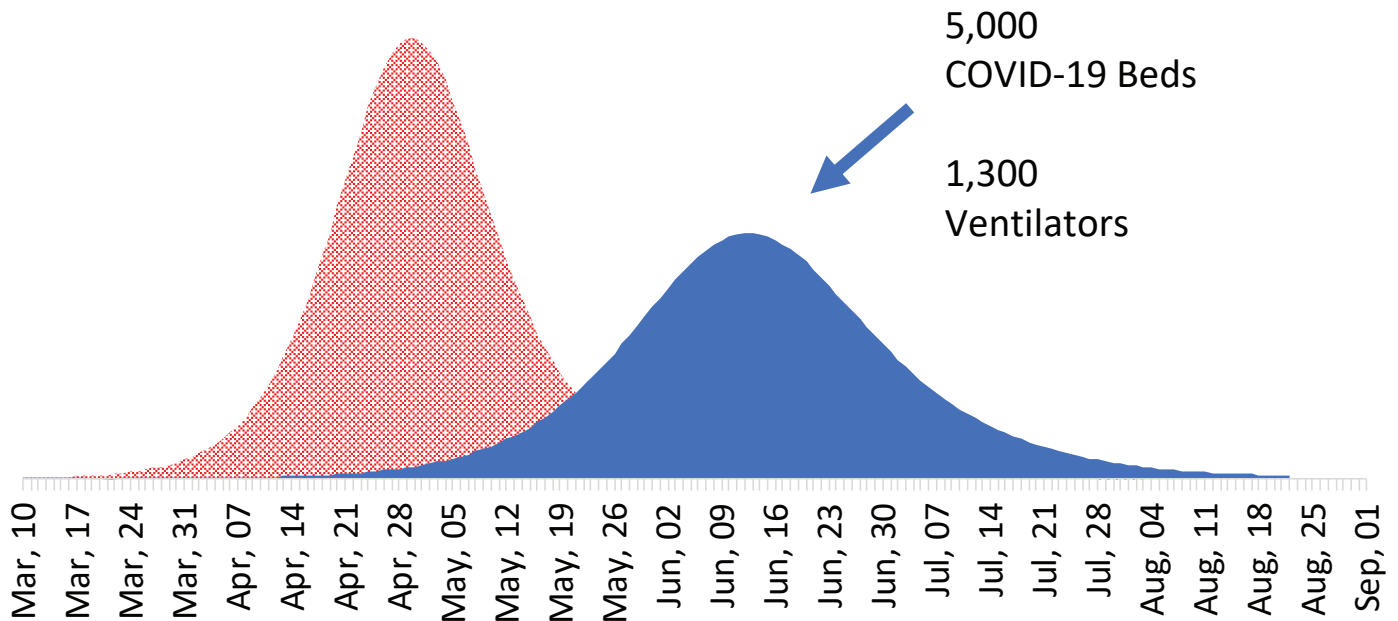
119 ND patients are recovered.

County	Total Positive Cases	# Recovered
Aurora	1	1
Beadle	21	19
Bon Homme	3	2
Brookings	6	6
Brown	14	10
Charles Mix	3	1
Clark	1	1
Clay	6	3
Codington	12	11
Corson	1	0
Davison	3	3
Deuel	1	1
Fall River	1	1
Faulk	1	1
Hamlin	1	1
Hughes	4	3
Hutchinson	2	2
Jerauld	3	0
Lake	2	1
Lawrence	9	8
Lincoln	39	17
Lyman	2	2
Marshall	1	1
McCook	2	1
Meade	1	1
Miner	1	0
Minnehaha	438	66
Oglala Lakota	1	0
Pennington	8	5
Roberts	4	3
Sanborn	1	0
Spink	3	2
Todd	1	1
Turner	5	1
Union	4	2
Yankton	20	12

SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS	
Test Results	# of Cases
Positive*	626
Negative**	7378
Pending***	2
Ever Hospitalized*	33
Deaths**	6
Recovered	189

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0 to 19 years	21	0
20 to 29 years	121	0
30 to 39 years	155	0
40 to 49 years	107	0
50 to 59 years	126	2
60 to 69 years	73	1
70 to 79 years	14	1
80+ years	9	2

Slides presented by SD Governor Noem from yesterday's briefing



- Projected Peak Hospitalizations with No Containment or Social Distancing
- Projected Peak Hospitalizations Based on Current Action/Strategy

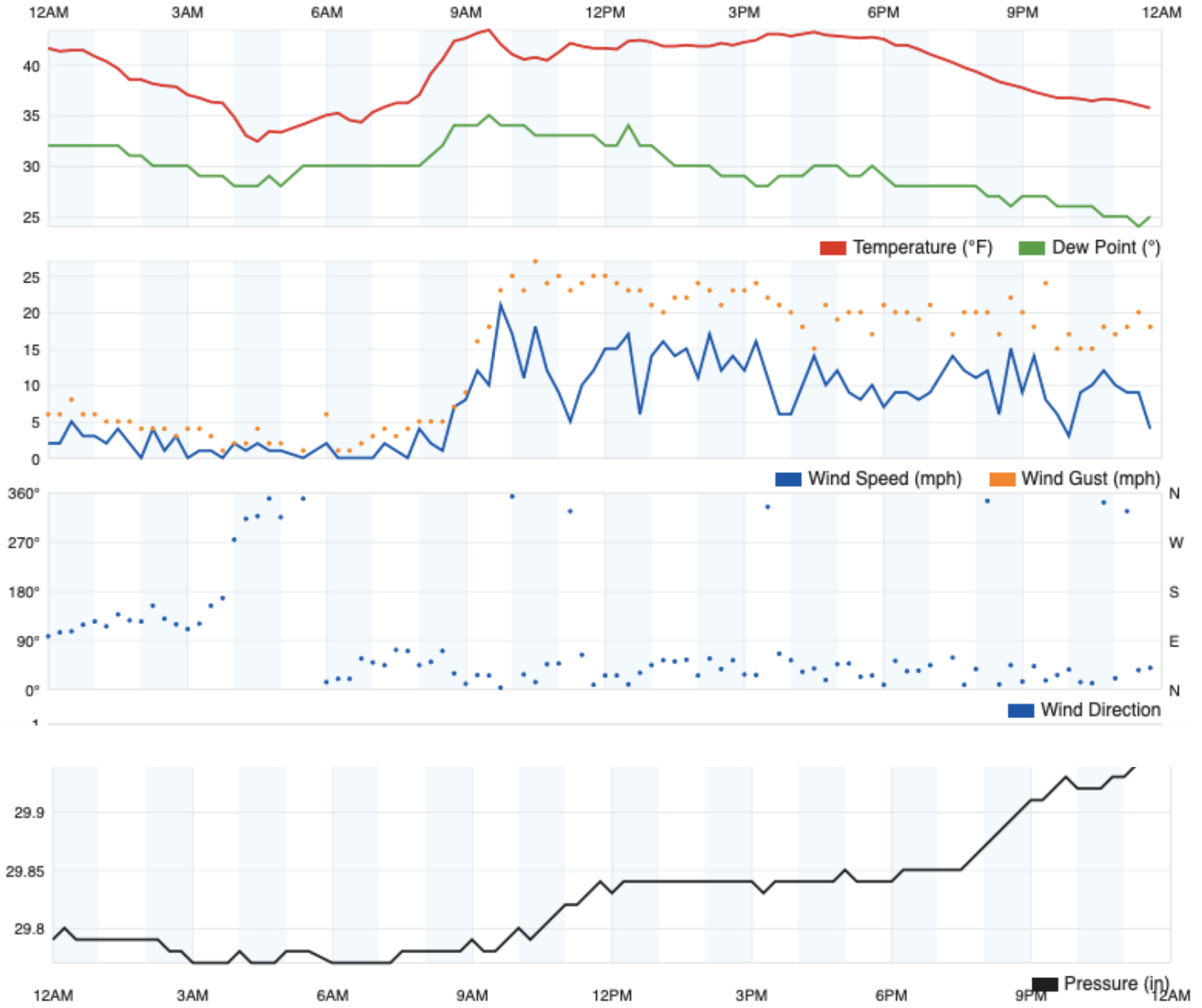
Key Dates

- January 2020: Department of Health began monitoring the situation and providing weekly situation updates to the Governor.
- January 22, 2020: Department of Health began regular internal planning meetings.
- January 27, 2020: Department of Health launched its COVID-19 website.
- February 10, 2020: Department of Health activated its internal Emergency Operations Center.
- March 7, 2020: Department of Health briefed members of the legislature regarding preparations.
- March 10, 2020: First positive cases in South Dakota announced.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Cloudy
then Partly
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 37 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 19 °F

Monday



Chance Snow
and Breezy

High: 36 °F

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy


Low: 20 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 37 °F

 **Breezy/Windy Again Today** 

*Snow Transitions East This Morning
Isolated Snow Showers This Afternoon West/North-Central*



Highs Around 35

Cold Continues Monday
Additional Snow
Showers Possible

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Snow will transition from South Central South Dakota into eastern South Dakota through the morning, with additional snow showers possible this afternoon out west. Another round of snow showers is expected again for Monday. Temperatures will remain cold for the next several days.

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Today in Weather History

April 12, 1970: A strong spring storm affected the northern and western two-thirds of South Dakota. Heavy snow fell throughout the morning hours dumping over a foot of snow over a large area of the state. Winds whipped the snow into 2 to 4-foot drifts across much of northern South Dakota. The Aberdeen area was the hardest hit with around 17 inches reported. While southeast South Dakota, southwest Minnesota, and northwest Iowa did not feel the effects of the storm, east-central South Dakota was not as fortunate. Freezing drizzle and freezing rain resulted in heavy icing in east central South Dakota causing extensive damage. The ice storm caused power outages to 20 to 80% of the rural electric service in the area.

1927: A tornado wiped out the town of Rock Springs Texas, killing 72 persons and causing 1.2 million dollars damage. The tornado was more than one mile in width and destroyed 235 of 247 buildings, leaving no trace of lumber or contents in many cases. Many survivors were bruised by large hail that fell after the passage of the tornado.

1934: Winds atop Mount Washington New Hampshire, averaged 186 mph for five minutes, with a peak gust of 231 mph, the highest wind speed ever clocked in the world at that time. In a report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), that record was toppled in 1996 at Barrow Island, Australia during Typhoon Olivia. The new world record is now 253 mph. The 316 mph wind speed recorded at Moore, Oklahoma on 5/3/1999 logged during an F5 tornado was not recorded at ground level.

1945: A series of significant tornadoes raked Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois. Antlers, Oklahoma were nearly obliterated by a massive F5 tornado that zigzagged from southwest to northeast across the town. 69 people died in the twister. Another tornado killed eight people in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The disaster was overshadowed by the loss of President Franklin Roosevelt, who died suddenly at his vacation home at Warm Springs, Georgia.

1987 - A cold front crossing the central U.S. produced heavy snow in the Central Rockies, and severe thunderstorms over Kansas and Oklahoma. Snowfall totals ranged up to 16 inches at Red Mountain Pass CO. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 87 mph at Ponca City OK. Winds associated with the cold front itself gusted to 69 mph at Tucumcari NM. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed the Southern Appalachians. Totals in North Carolina ranged up to 17 inches at Mitchell. Winds at Flat Top Mountain gusted to 80 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Twenty-two cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV with a low of 15 degrees, and Baton Rouge LA with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Arctic air invaded the central U.S. Lincoln, NE, reported a record low of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms developing along the arctic cold front produced heavy snow in north central Kansas, wind gusts to 61 mph at Midland TX, and wind gusts to 69 mph at Rawlins WY. Warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Las Vegas NV reported a record high of 91 degrees, and on the 13th, Sacramento CA reported a record high of 95 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2010 - One-inch diameter hail falls in Fresno, CA. Two condominiums are destroyed by thunderstorms in California's San Joaquin Valley. Up to three funnel clouds were also seen in the region.

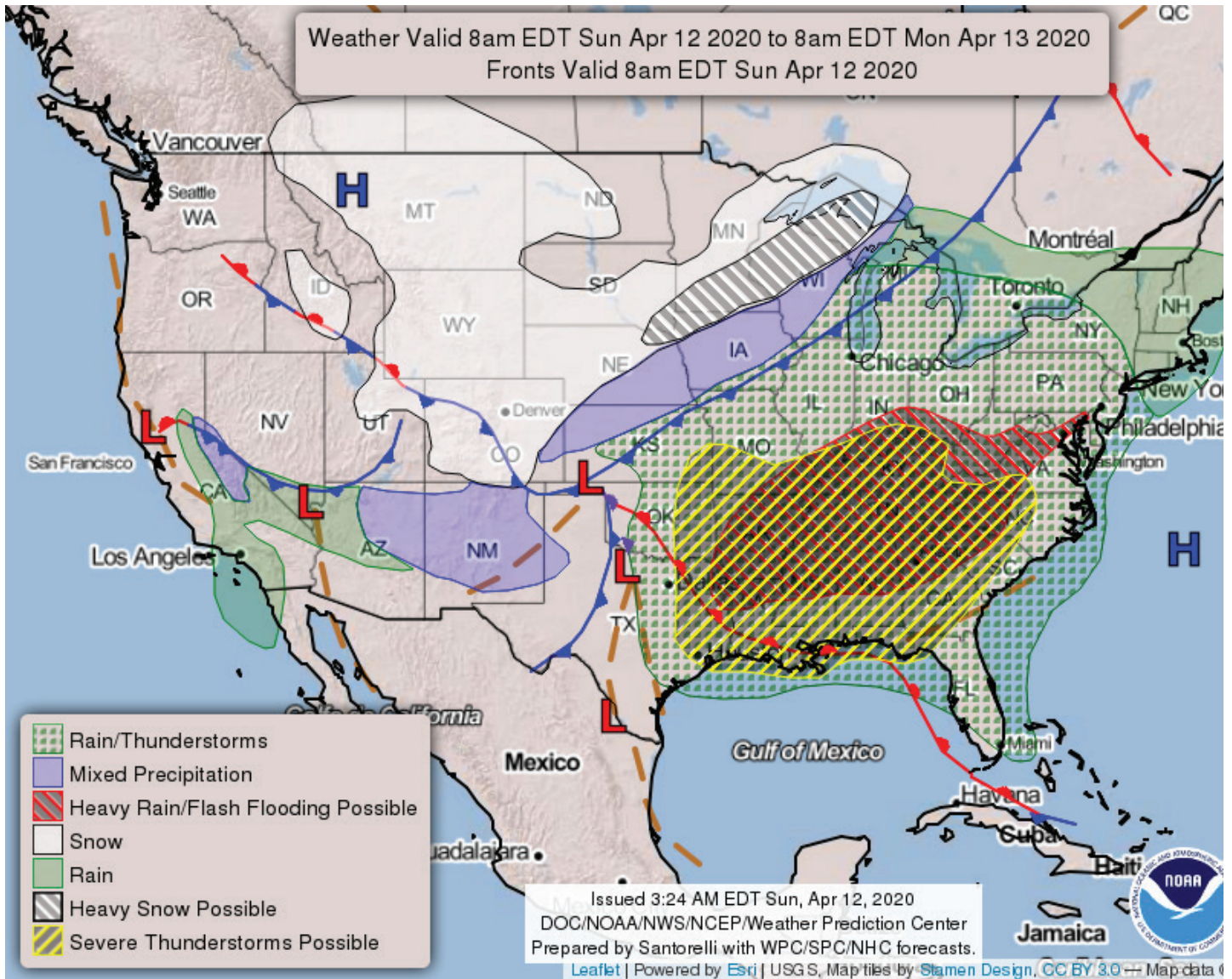
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 44 °F at 9:31 AM
Low Temp: 32 °F at 4:27 AM
Wind: 27 mph at 10:25 AM
Snow

Record High: 85° in 1931, 1925
Record Low: 9° in 1961
Average High: 55°F
Average Low: 30°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.52
Precip to date in April.: 0.94
Average Precip to date: 2.70
Precip Year to Date: 1.29
Sunset Tonight: 8:17 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:51 a.m.



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“ WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME?”

Henry Ford was always the center of attention. It seemed that people could never get enough information about him or what he was doing. On one occasion he purchased a very large insurance policy. It made the headlines in a Detroit newspaper.

One of his friends, an insurance salesman, read the article and called Mr. Ford. “Why,” he asked, “didn’t you purchase the policy from me?”

“Because,” came the answer, “you didn’t ask me.”

All of us have the same needs. No doubt that God “wired us” with the same needs so we can understand one another so we would know how to help each other. We are quick to help others when we know that they have physical or emotional needs because our needs are similar to ours. It comes naturally. But the greatest need that each of us has is a spiritual need: To know Jesus Christ as Savior and enthrone Him as Lord. We must always consider this basic need.

It’s difficult for most individuals to ask for help. However, when they do, it is a good place to begin to build a relationship so that we can eventually ask life’s most important question: Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior? If we ask, God will open the door for us to witness His love.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be aware of the needs of others and in Your name help them when we can. But let us never forget their most important need: salvation. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 14:15-24 Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

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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

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News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

03-10-12-30-33

(three, ten, twelve, thirty, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$24,000

Lotto America

11-22-32-34-41, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(eleven, twenty-two, thirty-two, thirty-four, forty-one; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.1 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

Powerball

22-29-30-42-47, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 3

(twenty-two, twenty-nine, thirty, forty-two, forty-seven; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Number of COVID-19 cases in South Dakota rises to 626

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota has risen to 626, state health officials said.

The South Dakota Department of Health reported 90 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus on Saturday. South Dakota's death total remains at six, with no new deaths reported Saturday.

Health officials said 86 of the new cases reported are in Minnehaha County, South Dakota's most populous county. Of the 438 total cases reported in Minnehaha County, 238 have been tied to an outbreak at a Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Sioux Falls.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken on Saturday called for the company to close its plant for a minimum of 14 days. Noem said she also wants the company to pay its employees during the shutdown.

Reported hospitalizations from the disease increased to 33. Of reported cases, 189 have recovered.

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.

Whitewood Chief: Man shot after fight with officers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Whitewood police officer shot a man who began fighting and resisting arrest at a gas station, the department's police chief said.

The Rapid City Journal reports the 40-year-old man was taken to a Rapid City hospital Friday with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

Whitewood Police Chief Paul Witcraft said the man began resisting and fighting with the officers, who were planning on arresting him on suspicion of drunken driving.

Authorities said several officers responded and one fired at the man.

Witcraft said the shooting is under review. He said investigators will examine the officers' body-worn and patrol vehicle cameras, plus surveillance footage from the gas station.

The officer is on paid administrative leave.

'I owe them my life': Boris Johnson hails hospital staff

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he owes his life to the National Health Service staff who treated him for COVID-19, ahead of figures Sunday in which the U.K. is expected to surpass 10,000 coronavirus-related deaths.

"I can't thank them enough," Johnson said in his first public statement since he was moved out of intensive care Thursday night at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. "I owe them my life."

Johnson, 55, was diagnosed over two weeks ago, becoming the first world leader confirmed to have the illness. His coronavirus symptoms at first were said to have been mild, including a cough and a fever, and he was working from home during the first few days.

But he was admitted to St. Thomas' on April 5 after his condition worsened and he was transferred the following day to its intensive care unit, where he received oxygen but was not put onto a ventilator. He spent three nights there before moving back to a regular hospital ward.

While he convalesces, Johnson has asked Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to handle the nation's response to the pandemic that has infected at least 1.78 million worldwide and killed 109,000 people. Experts say those numbers seriously understate the impact of the pandemic, due to limited testing and different ways of counting the dead.

Johnson's Conservative government has come under fire for its slow response to confronting the pandemic, as well as a lack of personal protective equipment for medical workers and the slow rollout of a coronavirus testing program. One senior medical official lacerated the government for not acting quickly enough.

Britain has been in effective lockdown since March 23 and the government is set to extend the restrictions sometime next week.

Figures later Sunday are expected to show that over 10,000 people in the U.K. have died after testing positive for coronavirus. That would make Britain the fourth European country after Italy, Spain and France to reach that grim milestone, even with its limited testing.

On Saturday, Britain reported 917 new coronavirus-related deaths, taking the total number of people who have died in the hospital with the virus to 9,875.

With Britain's death toll increasing at such a rapid daily pace, and the virus death tolls in Italy and Spain on a downward slope, there are growing fears that the U.K. will end up being the country with the most virus deaths in Europe. The continent has had almost 74,000 reported coronavirus deaths.



Three police officers at left and a security guard at right guard an entrance outside St Thomas' Hospital in London, where British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is being treated for coronavirus, Friday, April 10, 2020. In a statement Thursday, a spokesman at 10 Downing Street said Johnson "has been moved this evening from intensive care back to the ward, where he will receive close monitoring during the early phase of his recovery." (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

Last week, the British government's chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, warned that the daily number of deaths would likely increase for a couple more weeks.

Britain's business secretary, Alok Sharma, refused to be drawn in on whether the U.K. will end up with the highest death toll in Europe.

"We are at different trajectories," he said told the BBC. "We are starting to see these measures work."

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The Latest: Pope says pandemic poses 'epochal challenge'

By 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

— Pope calls for solidarity to confront "epochal challenge"

— British PM Boris Johnson says he owes life to health staff

— Spain has lowest growth in coronavirus cases in 3 weeks

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is calling for solidarity the world over to confront the "epochal challenge" posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

He has urged political leaders in particular to give hope and opportunity to laid-off workers.

Francis made his traditional Easter address on Sunday and called for sanctions relief, debt forgiveness and cease-fires to calm conflicts and financial crises around the globe.

He has offered special prayers for the sick, the dead, the elderly, refugees and the poor. He also has offered

thanks and encouragement to doctors and nurses who have worked "to the point of exhaustion and not infrequently at the expense of their own health."

Francis has urged the European Union to step up to the "epochal challenge" posed by COVID-19 and resist the tendency of selfishness and division. He recalled that Europe rose again after World War II "thanks to a concrete spirit of solidarity that enabled it to overcome the rivalries of the past."

He says "this is not a time for self-centeredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons."



Pope Francis celebrates Easter Sunday Mass, inside an empty St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Sunday, April 12, 2020. Pope Francis and Christians around the world marked a solitary Easter Sunday, forced to celebrate the most joyful day in the liturgical calendar amid the sorrowful reminders of the devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death. (Andreas Solaro/Pool via AP)

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MADRID — Spain has reported its lowest daily growth in confirmed coronavirus infections in three weeks as it prepares to loosen its strict lockdown measures and let some workers return to the job.

Spanish health authorities have reported 4,167 confirmed new cases over the past 24 hours. The country's total is at 166,019, second only to the United States.

Deaths in Spain have reached a total of 16,972, with 619 new fatalities confirmed since Saturday. More than 60,000 patients have recovered from COVID-19 in Spain.

The country on Monday will allow workers in industry and construction to return to work after a two-week shutdown of economic activities other than health care and the food industry.

Those who can work from home are strongly encouraged by authorities to continue doing so. Retail shops will remain closed other than supermarkets, fruit stands, bakeries, butchers, newsstands and pharmacies.

DHAKA, Bangladesh -- Bangladesh has recorded four deaths and 139 cases of the new coronavirus in the last 24 hours.

Officials say the death toll is at 34, with 621 confirmed cases.

Almost half of the cases have been reported in the capital of Dhaka.

The country of 160 million people is expected to remain in a nationwide lockdown until April 25.

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he owes his life to staff at the National Health Service who treated him for COVID-19.

Johnson has made his first public statement since he was moved out of intensive care at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, saying he "can't thank them enough. I owe them my life."

The 55-year-old Johnson was diagnosed with COVID-19 more than two weeks ago, becoming the first world leader confirmed to have the illness.

His coronavirus symptoms at first were said to have been mild, including a cough and a fever.

He was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital last Sunday after his condition worsened and was transferred to the intensive care unit the following day, where he received oxygen but was not put onto a ventilator.

He spent three nights there before moving back to a regular ward on Thursday.

SEOUL, South Korea — Some South Korean churches have held their Easter services online amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Seoul's Yoido Full Gospel Church, one of the biggest churches in South Korea, delivered an online live streaming of its Easter service on Sunday.

A small number of masked followers attended the service broadcast via the church's website. They were seated notably apart from each other to abide by social distancing rules. Choir members also wore masks when they sang hymns.

Many South Korean churches have switched to online services to support government-led efforts to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. Local media reported some churches resumed offline services to mark Easter Sunday, raising worries about new infections.

South Korea has reported 32 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, a continued downward trend in new infections in the country.

SYDNEY — Australia's Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy says the country is "in a good place" in its fight against the coronavirus as the death toll rose by three to 59.

Murphy says "there is no place in the world I would rather be than Australia at the moment."

Australia now has 6,289 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus.

Murphy says people in the community are still transmitting the virus so it is necessary to "keep our pressure on and make sure that we don't end up like countries in the world that you have all seen on the news."

He says the country is "in a good place ... but we have to maintain that good place."

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Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg says it would be "very dangerous and unrealistic" to remove social distancing restrictions too soon.

He says those restrictions will stay in place across Australia "for as long as it takes" based on medical advice.

BERLIN — The head of the European Union's executive branch is suggesting that people hold off on booking summer vacations for now, pointing to uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

Most planes are currently grounded and many countries have put wide-ranging travel restrictions and warnings in place. Some nations are considering first steps out of weeks-long shutdowns of public life but much of Europe is near a standstill.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen tells Germany's Bild am Sonntag newspaper she "would advise waiting with such plans."

She added in an interview published Sunday that "no one can make reliable forecasts for July and August at the moment."

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Southeast Asian travel associations are urging airlines to refund passengers for flight cancellations due to the coronavirus outbreak, rather than issuing travel vouchers.

The International Air Travel Association estimates industry liability in this area at \$35 billion, but told the travel agent community in a letter earlier this month that airlines' most urgent need amid the crisis was to keep their remaining liquidity to pay salaries and other fixed costs. As such, IATA said airlines should be allowed to issue vouchers in lieu of cash refunds to ease their burden.

But the Federation of ASEAN Travel Associations, which represents over 7,700 travel agents in 10 South-east Asian nations, says it is "a matter of principle" to return payments collected from customers. While it is sympathetic with airlines, it says it is "poor financial management" to take deposits for future services but unable to provide refund.

The federation urged IATA in a statement Sunday to compel airlines to process cash refunds, failing which it warned could stifle forward bookings, travel patterns and consumer confidence as well as spur unnecessary lawsuits. It also urged governments worldwide to provide financial resources and relief to the aviation and travel industry.

With a third of global fleet parked as countries sealed their borders due to the virus outbreak, IATA has estimated that revenue for passenger ticket sales will fall 44% from last year.

TOKYO — Japanese health care facilities are getting stretched thin amid a surge in coronavirus patients.

The Japanese Association for Acute Medicine and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine, representing such professionals, issued a joint statement recently warning about a "collapse of emergency medicine," which may lead to the collapse of medicine overall.

The statement said many hospitals were turning away people rushed by ambulance, including those suffering strokes, heart attacks and external injuries. Some people who were turned away later turned out to have the coronavirus.

Masks and surgical gowns were running short, the statement said.

Japan has nearly 7,000 coronavirus cases and about 100 deaths, but the numbers are growing. The government has declared a state of emergency, asking people to stay home.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Catholic bishops in New Zealand wrote a special pastoral letter to worshippers stuck at home, comparing the country's lockdown to the Biblical story of Easter.

"The future, for many, appears uncertain or even dire," the letter read. "In the meantime, we are continuing to have the tomb experience of being locked down at home and we know, for many families, that this situation is becoming difficult and stressful."

The letter also said the lockdown was giving people new insights.

"People have noticed families doing things together. The world has become quieter and we have noticed the beauty of nature," the letter read. "This time has proved to be a reflective time enabling us to refocus or revision ourselves and how we live."

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea reported 32 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, a continued downward trend in new infections in the country.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement Sunday the additional cases increased the country's total to 10,512.

It says 7,368 of them have been recovered and released from quarantine and that 13,788 are under tests to determine whether they've contracted the virus.

The center says that South Korea's death toll from the coronavirus increased by three to 214.

South Korea's caseload has been slowing recently, compared with early March when it recorded hundreds of new cases every day. But there are worries about a steady rise in infections linked to those arriving from overseas and recent transmissions at bars and other leisure facilities.

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Pope celebrates joy of Easter amid sorrow of virus pandemic

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis and Christians around the world marked a solitary Easter Sunday, forced to celebrate the most joyful day in the liturgical calendar amid the sorrowful reminders of the devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

Families who normally would attend morning Mass in their Easter best and later join friends for celebratory lunches hunkered down home. Police checkpoints and closed churches around the globe forced the faithful to watch Easter services online or on TV.

A few lucky Romans participated from their balconies overlooking Santa Emerenziana church in the northern Trieste neighborhood, where the priest celebrated a rooftop open-air Mass.

At the Vatican, Francis processed into a largely empty St. Peter's Basilica for Mass, celebrated before a handful of token faithful sitting one per pew and with the choir's "Kyrie" hymn echoing off the bare marble



Pope Francis spreads incense at the start of Easter Sunday Mass, inside an empty St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Sunday, April 12, 2020. Pope Francis and Christians around the world marked a solitary Easter Sunday, forced to celebrate the most joyful day in the liturgical calendar amid the sorrowful reminders of the devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death. (Andreas Solaro/Pool via AP)

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floors.

Normally, St. Peter's Square would be awash in fresh flowers for Easter, with tulips and orchids decorating the piazza's promenade in a riot of color to underscore Easter's message of life and rebirth following Christ's crucifixion.

This year, however, the cobblestoned piazza was bare. Police barricades ringed the square, blocking the tens of thousands who would normally flock to hear the pope's Mass and noontime "Urbi et Orbi" speech and blessing "to the city and the world."

Francis instead celebrated Mass inside the basilica, decorated with only a few potted palms and white hydrangeas. Rather than appearing on the basilica loggia to impart his blessing, Francis was to speak in front of the tomb of St. Peter, underscoring the solitude confronting all of humanity amid lockdown orders and quarantines to prevent further contagion.

It was a scene repeated around the world, with churches either closed or, for the few still open for Mass, forcing the faithful to practice social distancing. In South Korea, where one outbreak was tied to a church sect, services were largely held online.

A small number of masked faithful attended service at Seoul's Yoido Full Gospel Church, one of the biggest churches in South Korea. They were seated notably apart from each other, and choir members sang hymns from behind masks.

At Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified and entombed, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa urged the faithful to not be discouraged.

"Despite the sign of death and fear that we are seeing everywhere all over the world, we have to look at the good all those that are giving their lives for the others," he said.

Only a handful of clergy were on hand for the Mass, and the streets of the Old City surrounding the church were empty of pilgrims and vendors.

"The message of Easter is that life, despite all, will prevail," said Pizzaballa, the top Roman Catholic cleric in the Holy Land.

The Church of England shuttered its churches, prompting the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to celebrate Easter Sunday service from his kitchen in London. The spiritual leader of 85 million Anglicans worldwide, Welby delivered his sermon in full robes behind a makeshift altar on his dining room table.

"Welcome to the kitchen of our home on Easter Day," he said. "Once this epidemic is conquered here and elsewhere, we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all was normal."

In New Zealand, Catholic bishops wrote a special pastoral letter to worshipers stuck at home, acknowledging the stresses and uncertainties of this Easter like no other but urging the faithful to take comfort in time with family.

"This time has proved to be a reflective time enabling us to refocus or revision ourselves and how we live," the letter said.

In Lebanon, home to the largest percentage of Christians in the Arab world, Cardinal Bechara Rai urged the faithful to abide by lockdown measures, which have been imposed as Lebanon endures its worst economic and financial crisis in decades.

"We are praying so that Lebanese officials work together in the spirit of collaboration to revive Lebanon economically, financially and socially," Rai said in an almost empty church in Bkerki, northeast of Beirut, the seat of the Maronite Church he heads.

The church would normally be packed with people marking Easter, including the president, prime minister and parliament speaker.

For Orthodox Christians, this Sunday marked the start of Holy Week, with Palm Sunday services held in similarly barren churches.

Pope Tawadros II, the spiritual leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christians, celebrated in a largely empty Monastery of Saint Pishoy, in a desert valley west of the capital of Cairo. The church made the prayers available on its official Facebook page.

The Coptic Orthodox Church, one of the world's oldest Christian communities, had decided earlier this month to suspend Easter prayers and celebrations at churches and monasteries to contain the spread of the virus.

AP writers from around the world contributed.

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New virus hot spots sprout; World marks Easter at a distance

By GEIR MOULSON and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The world celebrated Easter at a distance on Sunday, with most churches closed and family gatherings canceled amid wide-ranging coronavirus shutdowns. Huge uncertainties loomed about the outlook not just for the next few weeks but for the months ahead — with a top European Union official raising a question mark over summer vacation plans.

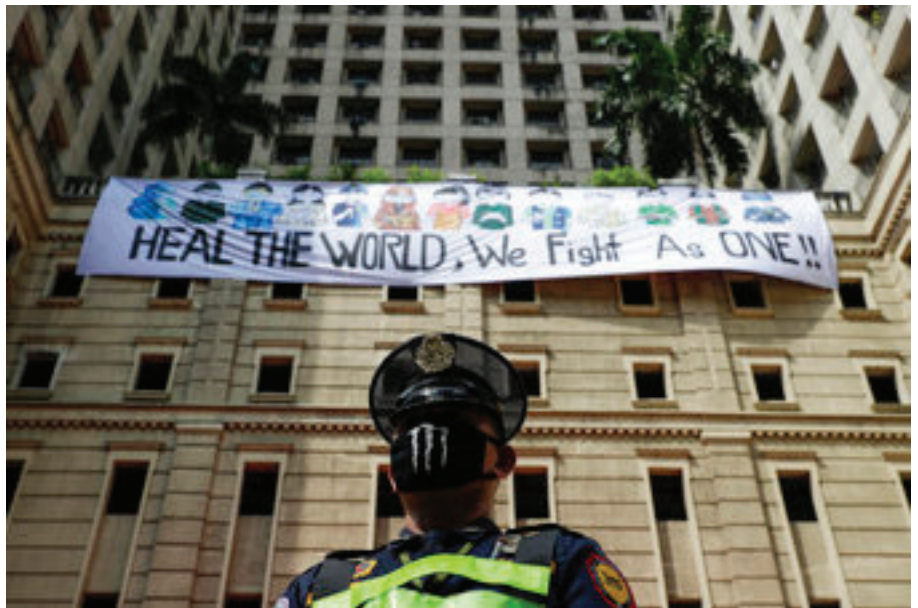
Southern Europe and the United States, whose death toll of over 20,600 is now the world's highest, have been the recent focal points of the pandemic. But coronavirus hot spots have been shifting constantly and new concerns are rising in Japan, Turkey, the U.S. Midwest and Britain, where the death toll on Sunday was expected to surpass 10,000.

St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, where tens of thousands would normally gather to hear Pope Francis deliver his "Urbi et Orbi" speech and blessing "to the city and the world," was empty of crowds and flowers Sunday, ringed by police barricades. Pope Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely empty basilica, with the faithful watching on TV at home.

Similar scenes played out around the world. Some South Korean churches held Easter services online while Catholic bishops in New Zealand wrote a special pastoral letter to worshippers stuck at home.

In Europe, countries used roadblocks, fines, gentle persuasion and other tactics to keep people from travelling over an Easter weekend that was basking in beautiful spring weather. As hard-hit countries like Italy and Spain see reduced daily infections with and deaths from the virus, economic pressures are mounting to loosen the tight restrictions on daily life put in place to fight off the pandemic.

Germany's president told his compatriots in a rare televised address Saturday night: "Every one of you has changed his life radically; every one of you has saved human lives in doing so and is saving more every day."



A security guard stands in front of a banner as residents clap and sing from their windows to pay tribute to health workers, essential personnel and security forces during an enhanced community quarantine to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, April 12, 2020. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

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When and how weeks-old restrictions on public life are loosened is something that "all of us have ... in our hands, with our patience and our discipline," Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

Some European nations are moving toward tentative moves to loosen their shutdowns, with Spain set to allow workers in some nonessential industries to return to factories and construction sites Monday.

But much uncertainty remains. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said in an open letter to Austrians that the virus will "be with us for months yet."

Asked by Germany's Bild am Sonntag newspaper whether people should book summer holidays now, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen replied: "I would advise waiting with such plans."

"No one can make reliable forecasts for July and August at the moment," she said.

Restaurants and bars already are missing out on holiday business.

"Sales are zero and we have a series of expenses: rent, stock, and we have even had to increase spending with security personnel to prevent robberies in an empty Málaga," said Pablo Gonzalo, a bar manager in the southern Spanish city.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for others, especially older people and the infirm, it can cause severe symptoms like pneumonia and lead to death.

More than 1.78 million infections have been reported and 109,000 people have died worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. The U.S. has the highest reported figures, with over 530,000 confirmed cases. The figures certainly understate the true size and toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing, uneven counting of the dead and some governments' desire to play down the extent of their outbreaks.

While some nations think about a pandemic exit strategy, others are dealing with alarming rises in infections or deaths.

Turkey took many by surprise in imposing a partial weekend lockdown after previously taking a more relaxed approach than its European and Mideast neighbors. A sudden Friday evening announcement of a 48-hour curfew in 31 cities, including Ankara and Istanbul, led to crowds rushing to grocery stores for panic buys.

The country previously imposed a curfew on those under 20 and over 65, exempting most of the workforce as Turkey sought to keep its beleaguered economy on track.

In Japan, emergency medical groups warned that Japanese health care facilities are getting stretched thin amid a surge in coronavirus patients. They said masks and surgical gowns were running short.

The Israeli government approved a tight quarantine of several areas of Jerusalem on Sunday, including the historic Old City, to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the city's most susceptible neighborhoods.

Britain's death toll neared the 10,000 mark. Reported deaths surged by 980 on Friday — exceeding even the peaks seen in hard-hit Italy and Spain — and were still high at 917 on Saturday, although data have suggested that the number of hospital admissions is leveling off.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the first major world leader to have COVID-19, gave an emotional tribute to the National Health Service staff who treated him.

"I can't thank them enough. I owe them my life," Johnson, 55, said in his first public statement since he was moved out of intensive care at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, where he continues to recover in a regular ward.

In the United States, about half the deaths are in the New York metropolitan area, where hospitalizations are nevertheless slowing and other indicators suggest that lockdowns and social distancing are "flattening the curve" of infections.

New York state on Saturday reported 783 more deaths, for a total of over 8,600. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the daily number of deaths is stabilizing, "but stabilizing at a horrific rate."

"What do we do now? We stay the course," said Cuomo, who like other leaders has warned that relaxing restrictions too soon could enable the virus to come back with a vengeance.

In the Midwest, pockets of contagion have alarmed state and city leaders and led to stricter enforcement.

Nearly 300 inmates at the Cook County Jail in Chicago have tested positive for the virus, and two have

died. Cook County has set up a temporary morgue that can take more than 2,000 bodies.

In Wisconsin, health officials expect to see an increase in cases after thousands of people went to the polls Tuesday to vote in the state's presidential primary.

Twenty-four residents of an Indiana nursing home hit by COVID-19 have died, while a nursing home in Iowa saw 14 deaths.

While the U.S. government has not released a count of coronavirus deaths in nursing homes, an AP tally from media reports and state health departments indicates at least 2,500 people linked to the virus in nursing homes and long-term care facilities have died.

Moulson reported from Berlin. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

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Turkey charts less restrictive virus path to protect economy

By SUZAN FRASER and AYSE WIETING Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Police across Turkey are conducting routine ID checks on the streets, stopping anyone who looks under 20 or over 65 as they enforce a coronavirus curfew for the young and the elderly. Yet factory workers are still going to their jobs, people freely ride buses and many offices remain open.

Turkey has charted its own course to navigate the pandemic with more relaxed restrictions than its neighbors in Europe and the Middle East, relying on a strategy of limiting access and mobility nationwide that stops short of a mandatory lockdown.

Citing economic concerns, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has so far resisted calls for more drastic measures. But with the number of infections rising sharply — and likely still weeks away from their peak in the country — many believe he will not be able to hold off declaring a total lockdown much longer.

On Friday authorities imposed a surprise two-day curfew in 31 cities to reduce mobility over the weekend.

The announcement prompted people to rush into the streets and form long lines outside grocery stores, with many ignoring social distancing rules and not wearing mandatory masks.

Confirmed infections in Turkey have jumped to over 52,000 with more than 1,100 deaths since the first case was announced on March 11, prompting the World Health Organization to warn last week that it was "alarmed that Turkey has seen a dramatic increase in virus spread over the last week."



A passenger boat in the normally crowded but now mostly deserted Golden Horn with New Mosque in the background hours after the two-day curfew declared by the government to slow coronavirus spread, in Istanbul, Saturday, April 11, 2020. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.(AP Photo/Emrah Gurel)

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Erdogan has repeatedly called on Turks to observe their "own state of emergency" by staying at home voluntarily, but has also said the country would consider tighter measures if those in place fail to curb the contagion.

"Our most important sensibility is the continuation of the supply of basic needs and ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of production to support exports," Erdogan said last week. "Turkey is a country which in all conditions and circumstances must maintain production and ensure that the wheels (of production) carry on turning."

Turkey was one of the first to take measures against the coronavirus by closing its border with hard-hit Iran and halting flights from China and Italy. It has since shut down all international arrivals, restricted domestic flights and set up road checkpoints outside cities to prevent unessential travel.

Authorities have closed schools, cafes, nightclubs and barber shops, and cancelled sports events and prayers at mosques. The government has banned anyone 65 or older — the most vulnerable to the disease — from leaving home and later extended the ban to people under 20 after many youth, falsely believing they were safe from the virus, continued to socialize.

At least 156 towns or villages have been placed under quarantine, with residents unable to leave their homes. Face masks are now compulsory in public places such as supermarkets, and the government is distributing them free of charge.

But absent a full lockdown, many stores and businesses remain open in Istanbul, home to 15 million, and people take public transportation and freely stroll the shores of the Bosphorus.

Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu said about 64% of residents are still out and about amid the partial restrictions. With about 60% of the country's coronavirus cases, Istanbul is the epicenter of Turkey's outbreak, and Imamoglu has been pleading for a comprehensive stay-at-home order in the city, if not the whole country.

"We are insisting on a curfew to decrease this activity ... to completely shut down the engine," the mayor told The Associated Press.

"The only method to cut this off (the loss of lives) is for people to totally sever contact," Imamoglu, a key opposition figure who could challenge Erdogan in the general election in 2023.

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.

Worldwide, at least 1.7 million people have been infected, 109,000 have died and 404,000 have recovered from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University. Those reported numbers underestimate the true scope of the outbreak, due to limited testing, uneven counting of the dead and some governments desire to hide the scope of their outbreaks.

Coronavirus-related restrictions have varied by country. While most European nations have imposed strict constraints on movement, Turkey's approach is comparable to that of Sweden, where authorities have advised the public to practice social distancing but schools, bars and restaurants are open and only gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. The outbreak in the Scandinavian nation has claimed 887 lives.

Can Selcuki, head of the Istanbul Economics Research think-tank, said the government strategy of gradually limiting mobility aims "to stop the economy from coming to a full stop for as long as possible."

"But if the curve doesn't flatten and the numbers keep rising, then (a total lockdown) is definitely in the books," he said.

Erhan Baba, a 25-year-old accountant in Istanbul, said he has no choice but to go to work despite the risks of infection.

"I have to be outside. I have to use public transport. I have to go to the banks," he said, pinching his mask to stop it from slipping. "I am forced to go out to do my job to earn my daily bread."

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly said more than 6,000 elderly have been fined and 149 more prosecuted nationwide for violating the curfew, along with some 3,000 fines and 102 prosecutions for young people.

In Istanbul's Esenyurt district, police twice raided a coffeehouse that reopened clandestinely despite the ban and detained 14 people, the private DHA news agency reported.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey. Mehmet Guzel in Istanbul contributed.

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Lives Lost: Milwaukee police leader ensured racial equality

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Lenard “Lenny” Wells didn’t just put on a badge and grind through his police work. He mentored generations of officers and community activists who went on to become police leaders and lawmakers. He helped ensure African Americans had equal access to promotions in the desegregated Milwaukee Police Department.

His influence rippled widely in his decades in law enforcement, and that work didn’t end in retirement: He was teaching young people criminal justice at the University of Memphis in Tennessee when he died last month of complications from the coronavirus.

“Lenny wasn’t just a police officer,” retired Milwaukee police Sgt. Kerry Flowers said. “Lenny wasn’t just an educator. Lenny was a very versatile leader in Wisconsin.”

Wells, who died March 21 at age 69, dedicated his life to racial equality and fairness, both within the Milwaukee Police Department and the larger community.

“He was a legend on the Police Department,” said Andra Williams, a retired police captain, who met Wells in 1991. “We definitely lost a very good person and a good leader and someone who is really unsung for the stuff he did for the city and shaping police officers.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is part of an ongoing series of stories remembering people who have died from coronavirus around the world.

Wells was living in Olive Branch, Mississippi, about a 30-minute drive from Memphis, where he taught. He was visiting family in Milwaukee when he got sick. His funeral is planned for Saturday.

Wells joined the Milwaukee Police Department in 1973 as part of the first recruit class under a federally mandated affirmative action program. In 1989, he took the volunteer position as president of an association for African American officers, called the League of Martin. Under Wells’ leadership, the League of Martin sued the department to ensure promotions and assignments were fair.

In the 1990s, the percentage of women and minorities in sworn positions roughly doubled, the Milwau-



In this 2008 photo provided by the League of Martin, Lenard Wells, front row center, receives an award from an organization he led to promote the hiring of African-American officers in the Milwaukee Police Department called the League of Martin. Wells, a former Milwaukee police lieutenant and a mentor to many in the black community, died of the new coronavirus. (Kim Robinson/League of Martin via AP)

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kee Journal Sentinel reported.

Retired police Sgt. Frederick H. Birts Sr. and others said Wells was masterful at navigating racism within the department and making sure black officers were prepared for promotions and could handle delicate situations. Among the black officers Wells mentored are Milwaukee's assistant chief and chief of the Marquette University Police Department.

"It is hard to find anybody of any race who did not like him because he was also a great boss," Birts said. "Lenny was the same all the time. You knew what you were going to get."

Wells was so dedicated to fairness that as part of the Wisconsin Parole Board in 2006, which he joined after retiring as a police lieutenant five years earlier, he voted to free two men convicted of killing a Milwaukee police officer. Wells didn't want to do it but said he was obligated because they had completed requirements for parole and were eligible under the law.

"I know that bothered Lenny, because as a police officer, you want to support your colleagues, but Lenny had a responsibility to the citizens of the state of Wisconsin to follow the law," Flowers said. "He was conflicted with that — it bothered him, it really bothered him."

Retired Sgt. Carl Saffold, who began working with Wells in 1978, credited him for his community outreach work.

"He always was willing to extend a hand, give advice or direct a person or organization to the right people to advance their agenda — no matter what it is," Saffold said.

One of those who got advice was David Bowen, who met Wells as a 20-year-old worker at Milwaukee's Urban Underground community center, which focuses on youth-led social justice efforts. Bowen, who is now a state lawmaker, said he would "soak up knowledge and information" from Wells.

"I consider him a mentor," said Bowen, now 33.

Wells also embraced community policing long before it was popular, hosting a radio and TV show in the late 1990s called "Talking Cops, Cops Talking," where he and others answered questions from the public and gave tips on interacting with officers.

Flowers appeared on the show with Wells.

"We wanted to empower the community to work through issues that would come up with law enforcement," Flowers said. "It gave the public the feeling that we were a part of them. We were not just a group of people invading the community. We were brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters."

Biden beats Sanders to win Alaska Democratic primary

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Joe Biden has won the Alaska Democrats' party-run presidential primary, beating Sen. Bernie Sanders days after Sanders suspended his campaign.

Biden beat Sanders Saturday 55.3% to 44.7%. A total of 19,759 votes were cast.

Biden gets 11 delegates and Sanders gets 4. Sanders would have won more delegates but after ending his bid for the nomination last week, Sanders is no longer eligible to win delegates based on the statewide vote in primaries and caucuses, according to Democratic National Committee rules. Sanders is, however, still eligible to win delegates based on vote totals in individual congressional districts, which is why the AP allocated four delegate to Sanders in Alaska.

Overall, Biden has 1,228 delegates and Sanders has 918, according to the count by The Associated Press.

Casey Steinau, chairwoman of the state party, said Sanders, along with U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who also have suspended their campaigns, asked to be included in the tallies.

Sanders suspended his campaign this week but said he would keep his name on the ballot in states that haven't yet voted. He aims to collect delegates as part of an effort to influence the party's platform at this year's Democratic National Convention.

Sanders won the state party's caucuses in 2016, over Hillary Clinton.

The Alaska primary originally was scheduled for April 4, but concerns with COVID-19 upended plans. In response, the party, which had planned to offer voting by mail and at in-person locations, went exclusively to a vote-by-mail system.



FILE - In this March 12, 2020, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks in Wilmington, Del. Biden has won the Alaska Democrats' party-run presidential primary, defeating Sen. Bernie Sanders on Saturday, April 11, days after Sanders suspended his campaign. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

The primary itself was new to Alaska Democrats, who moved from their traditional caucuses to a primary for this year's race in a move Steinau said was aimed at increasing participation. It used rank-choice ballots.

The party said it sent in early March ballots to every person who was registered as a Democrat as of mid-February, more than 71,000. The party also included voter registration forms and downloadable ballots on its website.

Ballots had to be received by Friday to be counted, the party said.

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.

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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.

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.



FILE - In this March 24, 2020, file photo, medical staff members check a ventilator in protective suits at the care unit for the new COVID-19 infected patients inside the Koranyi National Institute of Pulmonology in Budapest. 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.

(Zoltan Balogh/MTI via AP, File)

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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.

The Latest: South Korea continues down trend in new cases

By 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 continues downward trend in new virus cases.
- Venezuela extends nationwide quarantine for another 30 days.
- Japan's PM sends stay-at-home message with his own home video.
- IRS says first economic support payments stemming from outbreak have been deposited.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea reported 32 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, a continued downward trend in new infections in the country.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement Sunday the additional cases increased the country's total to 10,512.

It says 7,368 of them have been recovered and released from quarantine and that 13,788 are under tests to determine whether they've contracted the virus.

The center says that South Korea's death toll from the coronavirus increased by three to 214.

South Korea's caseload has been slowing recently, compared with early March when it recorded hundreds of new cases every day. But there are worries about a steady rise in infections linked to those arriving from overseas and recent transmissions at bars and other leisure facilities.

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has extended a nationwide quarantine for another 30 days to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus throughout the crisis-stricken South American nation.

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Maduro announced the measure Saturday, the same day a fourth shipment of medical supplies arrived from China to fight the virus. So far officials say 175 people in Venezuela have fallen ill and nine have died from the virus.

Medical workers say Venezuela is vulnerable given the rampant malnutrition and poor condition of hospitals that lack basic supplies such as soap and water. Once it was first detected, officials quickly ordered its 30 million residents to stay home, also suspending schools and international flights.

Maduro said that in Venezuela the biggest threat of more infections now comes from thousands of Venezuelan migrants returning across the land border from Colombia, a political foe. At least 4.5 million Venezuelans have fled their homeland, most into neighboring Latin American nations in recent years escaping the growing economic and political crisis and shortages.

SEOUL, South Korea __ North Korea says it'll take more thorough measures to guard against the coronavirus, though it has been maintaining a "very stable anti-epidemic situation."

The Korean Central News Agency reports Sunday that leader Kim Jong Un and other leaders discussed the pandemic during a Politburo meeting in Pyongyang on Saturday.

It says the leaders agreed that it has become impossible to remove the danger of virus infections in a short time. It says such an environment can create "some obstacles to our struggle and progress."

North Korea has been taking all-out efforts to prevent the virus from spreading in the country. It has said there hasn't been a single virus case on its territory, a claim questioned by many outside experts.

During Saturday's meeting, the North Korean leaders said their country has been maintaining a "very stable anti-epidemic situation" because it took swift, strict anti-epidemic steps and has been operating a through, consistent quarantine system.

TOKYO — Japan's prime minister is sending the "stay home" message by example by posting on Twitter a video clip of him sitting at home.

In a one-minute video posted Sunday, an expressionless Shinzo Abe cuddles his dog, reads a book, sips from a cup and clicks on a remote.

Popular singer and actor Gen Hoshino is also featured in the video on a split screen, strumming on a guitar while at home. Hoshino performs his song advocating social distancing, which goes: "Let's survive and dance, each one of us, wherever we are, all of us as one, let's sing at home."

Abe issued a state of emergency several days ago and later expanded that nationwide, asking people who can to work from home and businesses to close. The number of coronavirus cases in Japan has been



People wearing face masks to help protect against the spread of the new coronavirus wait to cast their early votes for the upcoming parliamentary election at a polling station in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 10, 2020. The elections will be held on April 15 at about 14,300 polling stations all over the nation to pick lawmakers. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

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growing recently, raising worries about inadequate social distancing and overloading hospitals.

PHOENIX — The number of coronavirus cases on the nation's largest Native American reservation jumped by 17% Saturday as the Navajo Nation prepared to get new rapid-test kits.

The Navajo Nation said in a statement that the cases on the 27,000-square-mile (70,000-square-kilometer) reservation that sprawls across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah rose to 698 Saturday, up 101 from the day before. So far, 24 have died from complications of COVID-19.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer said they have been told that Abbott ID rapid test kits will become available at Navajo Area IHS facilities and tribal health care centers in the next few days. The tests come out with results within several minutes, they said.

"Quicker test results will likely result in even higher numbers of positive cases, but it will help to identify those who have the virus and begin to mitigate the cases much quicker," Nez said. "We must do better."

Nez and Lizer announced Thursday during a town hall they are quarantining themselves as a precaution after being in close proximity with a first responder who later tested positive. They say they donned masks and gloves while visiting communities and are following protocols to isolate.

BEIJING — China on Sunday reported another 99 virus cases, all but two of them in the province of Heilongjiang bordering on Russia.

No deaths were reported, leaving China's total at 3,339 among 82,052 cases.

Another 1,168 people were under isolation and monitoring for having tested positive for the virus, but were not showing symptoms or might have otherwise contracted it.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand has reported only 18 new cases of COVID-19 and no more deaths Sunday as strict rules on social isolation showed further signs of slowing the spread of the disease.

At a daily briefing, Director-General of Health Dr. Ashley Bloomfield says New Zealand now had 1,330 confirmed cases. Five people are in ICUs, one in critical condition.

Bloomfield says 471 people had recovered from the virus, including 49 in the last 24 hours as the number of people recovering continues to exceed new cases.

New Zealand's death toll stands at four.

WASHINGTON -- The IRS says the first economic support payments stemming from the coronavirus outbreak have been deposited in taxpayers' bank accounts.

In its tweeted announcement Saturday night, the IRS didn't say how many taxpayers have received the payments or how much money has been disbursed so far.

The tweet says: "We know many people are anxious to get their payments; we'll continue issuing them as fast as we can."

The payments are part of the \$2.2 trillion rescue package passed by Congress and then signed into law last month by President Donald Trump.

Anyone earning up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income and who has a Social Security number will receive a \$1,200 payment. Parents will also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

The payment steadily declines for those who make more.

SANTA FE, N.M. -- New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Saturday expanded her mass gatherings ban to combat spread of the coronavirus to include churches and other houses of worship on the eve of the Christian holy day of Easter.

Lujan Grisham's announcement of her deletion of a previous exemption for houses of worship said many congregations have already canceled in-person services because of the pandemic but that it was still necessary to be "absolutely clear that mass gatherings of any type are not permitted in houses of worship."

The governor noted that many New Mexico churches plan virtual Easter services through means such as webstreaming.

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"While this will be emotionally difficult for so many New Mexicans, public health must be the top priority. The only way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is by staying home and minimizing all person-to-person contact," Lujan Grisham said.

Archbishop John Wester Archdiocese of the Santa Fe Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church told The Associated Press in a pre-Easter interview that the new coronavirus was nothing to play around with: "You don't get any do-overs, you know. It doesn't take a day off for Good Friday or Easter Sunday."

The archdiocese is livestreaming Easter services on Facebook.

LAS VEGAS — Organizers of the Burning Man Project say they are committed to providing ticket refunds after the event was canceled because of COVID-19. But they are asking purchasers to consider foregoing refunds because the organization faces layoffs, pay cuts and other belt-tightening measures.

Burning Man is a lifestyle and entertainment gathering that typically attracts 80,000 people from around the world. It had been scheduled for Aug. 30 to Sept. 7 in the northern Nevada desert.

Organizers said Friday in a Facebook post that cancellation was "in the interest of the health and well-being of our community."

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The city of Louisville cannot halt a drive-in church service planned for Easter, a federal judge ruled.

On Fire Christian Church had sued Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and the city after Fischer announced drive-in style religious gatherings were not allowed on Easter.

U.S. District Judge Justin Walker sided with the church.

"On Holy Thursday, an American mayor criminalized the communal celebration of Easter," Walker wrote in his sternly worded 20-page opinion. "That sentence is one that this Court never expected to see outside the pages of a dystopian novel, or perhaps the pages of The Onion."

Walker added that "The Mayor's decision is stunning. And it is, 'beyond all reason,' unconstitutional."

Fischer had argued that drive-in church services weren't "practical or safe" for the community. However, Walker noted that drive-thru restaurants and liquor stores were still allowed to operate.

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II has stressed the need for the British people to continue to abide with lockdown restrictions over the rest of the Easter weekend.

In a two-minute audio broadcast from Windsor Castle, the queen said that by "keeping apart, we keep others safe" and that the coronavirus "will not overcome us."

Social distancing rules were observed during what is believed to be the queen's first Easter message. The 93-year-old monarch delivered the address alone into a microphone from the castle's White Drawing room while the sound engineer was in a nearby room.

Last Sunday, in a rare special televised address to the nation, the queen evoked wartime memories to reassure people that "We will meet again."

MANADO, Indonesia — Angry inmates have set fire to an overcrowded prison on Indonesia's Sulawesi island during a riot that erupted over measures imposed to contain the coronavirus.

Hundreds of police and soldiers were deployed to take control of Tuminting prison in North Sulawesi province, which is designed to house 490 inmates but now has more than 550, said Lumaksono, the head of Justice and Human Rights provincial office.

Lumaksono, who goes by a single name, says a preliminary investigation revealed that many inmates, mostly drug offenders, were angered by restrictions on family visits and envious following the early release of 115 inmates to curb the spread of the coronavirus in prisons.

He said they went on the rampage and started fires, and other inmates joined the protest and it turned violent, but there were no reports of deaths.

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WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials say the White House has approved the production of N95 masks amid the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a statement, \$133 million will be used to increase the production capacity of masks to more than 39 million over the next 90 days. Officials say the names of the companies that have been chosen to make the masks will be made available in the coming days when the contract is awarded.

The masks will be made under the Defense Production Act. President Donald Trump invoked the act, which gives the federal government broad authority to direct private companies to meet the needs of the national defense, to help provide medical supplies.

PARIS — For the third day in a row, less patients entered France's intensive care units for treatment for COVID-19, according to the nation's medical chief.

"A very high plateau seems to be forming," said Jerome Salomon in his daily briefing on the status of the coronavirus.

Despite that glimmer of hope, the number of deaths continued to mount. Since March 1, France counted 13,832 deaths in hospitals and homes for the aged.

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

Kansas' high court rules for governor on religious services

By ROXANA HEGEMAN Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Supreme Court ruled Saturday that a Republican-dominated legislative panel exceeded its authority when it tried to overturn the Democratic governor's executive order banning religious and funeral services of more than 10 people during the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision letting Gov. Laura Kelly's order stand came after the justices heard oral arguments one day before Easter, which is typically the busiest day on the Christian calendar in terms of church attendance. The Saturday hearing was the court's first conducted completely via video conferencing.

The court ruled that legislative action designed to give the legislative leadership panel the ability to overrule Kelly's executive orders was flawed and didn't legally accomplish that.

The hearing, which was the court's first conducted completely via video conferencing, came one day before Easter, which is typically the busiest day on the Christian calendar in terms of church attendance.

"In this time of crisis, the question before the court is whether a seven-member legislative committee has



Known as The Lighted Cross Church, Excelsior Lutheran Church near Wilson, Kan., is dark, Friday, April 10, 2020. The church is not holding their normal Good Friday service during the coronavirus outbreak. (AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

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the power to overrule the governor. The answer is no," said Clay Britton, chief counsel for the governor. Attorneys for the lawmakers, though, said the court should consider that the resolution that gave the panel its authority was a compromise meant to give legislative oversight at a time when the full Legislature couldn't meet. The panel is the Legislative Coordinating Council, which is made up of the top four House leaders and top three Senate leaders. Five of the seven members are Republicans.

"You will recall this was a time everybody was trying to skedaddle as fast as they could from the Statehouse because of the pandemic concerns," said attorney Brad Schlozman.

Both sides agree that worshipers should avoid gathering in large groups to avoid the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Many churches have been conducting services online for weeks, and none have publicly announced plans to reopen their doors to worshippers.

Lawmakers had intended to give the council the right to review Kelly's executive orders and to overturn many of them within days. Conservative Republicans were upset with an order from Kelly to close K-12 schools for the rest of the spring semester and wanted to block her from using sweeping gubernatorial powers granted to deal with short-term disasters.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state grew Saturday by 102, to 1,268. Kansas also reported five more deaths, bringing the total to 55.

The state has identified four outbreaks stemming from religious gatherings.

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.

Check out more of the AP's coronavirus coverage at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

By The Associated Press

The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's to become the highest in the world at more than 20,000, as Chicago and other cities across the Midwest braced for a potential surge in victims. Meanwhile, the coronavirus crisis is taxing New York City's 911 system like never before.

President Donald Trump and his officials have made critical promises meant to reassure a country in the throes of the pandemic. But Americans are still going without medical supplies and financial help from the government at the very time they need it most — and were told they would have it.

Europe is trying to persuade its residents to stay home ahead of the Easter holiday and the anticipated sunny weather while grappling with how and when to start loosening the weeklong shutdowns of much of public life.

Doctors around the world are frantically trying to figure out how COVID-19 is killing their patients so they can attempt new ways to fight back.

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

THE FIGHT FOR NEW YORK: Listen to AP's coronavirus podcast, "Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak," for an interview with three AP reporters who worked on "24 Hours: The Fight for New York," a multiformat package following 10 New Yorkers as they negotiate life in a city transformed by the virus.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— Republican leaders in the U.S. Congress prefer to replenish a small-business program rather than negotiate a broader coronavirus package that Democrats are pushing with the White House.

— Congo, which has been battling an Ebola outbreak that killed thousands of people, now must also

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face the coronavirus pandemic.

— Leaders in Iran decide to reopen government offices after a brief nationwide lockdown amid the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed more than 4,300 people in the country.

— A recent increase in virus cases in China has been largely attributed to people arriving from overseas. African nations and the U.S. say that's resulting in mistreatment of African Americans and Africans in the city of Guangzhou.

— Walt Disney World plans to stop paying wages to 43,000 workers while allowing them to keep their benefits for up to a year in the largest wave of furloughs since the theme park resort closed in mid-March.

— A federal judge ruled that Kentucky's largest city cannot halt a local church's drive-in service planned for Easter.

— The threat of strong tornadoes and other damaging weather on Easter posed a safety dilemma for Deep South communities deciding how to protect residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

— The IRS says the first economic support payments stemming from the coronavirus outbreak have been deposited in taxpayers' bank accounts.



FILE - In this March 31, 2020 file photo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks at the USTA Indoor Training Center where a 350-bed temporary hospital will be built in New York. Public schools in New York City's 1.1 million-student district will be shuttered for the rest of the academic year, but online education will continue as the city struggles to contain the coronavirus outbreak, de Blasio announced Saturday, April 11. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II, File)

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:

42%: The drop in drug arrests in Chicago in the weeks since the city shut down, compared with the same period last year. Part of that decrease is attributed to the economic slump resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

IN OTHER NEWS:

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— SMARTPHONE HELP: Apple and Google announce a joint effort to help public health agencies worldwide leverage smartphones to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

— TURIN SHROUD SHOWING: The Turin Shroud, a burial cloth some believe covered Jesus and which has links to a 16th-century plague in northern Italy, was put on special view for faithful worldwide through video streaming on Holy Saturday.

— HOPE IS BORN: The Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans welcomes a new resident, a baby giraffe named Hope.

— HOLY WATER FROM ABOVE: The archbishop of New Orleans sprinkled holy water from a World War II-era biplane high above the city in an unusual Good Friday blessing for those affected by the coronavirus.

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

20,000: US death toll overtakes Italy's as Midwest braces

By KATHLEEN FOODY, AMY FORLITI and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's for the highest in the world Saturday, surpassing 20,000, as Chicago and other cities across the Midwest braced for a potential surge in victims and moved to snuff out smoldering hot spots of contagion before they erupt.

With the New York area still deep in crisis, fear mounted over the spread of the scourge into the nation's heartland.

Twenty-four residents of an Indiana nursing home hit by COVID-19 have died, while a nursing home in Iowa saw 14 deaths. Chicago's Cook County has set up a temporary morgue that can take more than 2,000 bodies. And Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has been going around telling groups of people to "break it up."

In Europe, countries used roadblocks, drones, helicopters, mounted patrols and the threat of fines to keep people from traveling over Easter weekend. With infections and deaths slowing in Italy, Spain and other places on the Continent, governments took tentative steps toward loosening the weeks-long shutdowns.

Glorious weather across Europe posed an extra test of people's discipline.

"Don't do silly things," said Domenico Arcuri, Italy's special commissioner for the virus emergency. "Don't go out, continue to behave responsibly as you have done until today, use your head and your sense of responsibility."



A worshipper prays during the celebrations marking Easter, at the chapel of Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn, in Vilnius, Lithuania, Saturday, April 11, 2020. The church cancelled all worship services but some people came to the chapel to celebrate Easter nearby. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

(AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis)

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The outbreak's center of gravity has long since shifted from China to Europe and the United States, which now has by far the largest number of confirmed cases — over a half-million — and a death toll higher than Italy's count of nearly 19,500, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

The death rate — the number of dead relative to the population — is still far higher in Italy than in the United States, which has more than five times as many people. And worldwide, the true numbers of dead and infected are believed to be much higher because of testing shortages, different counting practices and concealment by some governments.

About half the deaths in the U.S. are in the New York metropolitan area, where hospitalizations are nevertheless slowing and other indicators suggest lockdowns and social distancing are "flattening the curve" of infections and staving off the doomsday scenarios of just a week or two ago.

New York state on Saturday reported 783 more deaths, for a total of over 8,600. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the daily number of deaths is stabilizing, "but stabilizing at a horrific rate."

"What do we do now? We stay the course," said Cuomo, who like other leaders has warned that relaxing restrictions too soon could enable the virus to come back with a vengeance.

With authorities warning that the crisis in New York is far from over, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the city's 1.1 million-student school system will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. But Cuomo said the decision is up to him, and no such determination has been made.

In the Midwest, pockets of contagion have alarmed state and city leaders and led to stricter enforcement.

Nearly 300 inmates at the Cook County Jail have tested positive for the virus, and two have died. In Wisconsin, health officials expect to see an increase in cases after thousands of people went to the polls Tuesday for the state's presidential primary.

Michigan's governor extended a stay-at-home order with new provisions: People with multiple homes may no longer travel between them.

In Kansas, the state Supreme Court heard arguments in a dispute Saturday between Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly and Republican lawmakers who overturned her executive order banning religious services and funerals with more than 10 people. New Mexico's governor expanded a ban on mass gatherings to include churches and other houses of worship.

An AP tally from media reports and state health departments indicates at least 2,500 deaths have been linked to coronavirus in nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the United States, though the federal government has not been releasing a count of its own.

The Internal Revenue Service said the first economic support payments from a \$2.2 trillion rescue package have been deposited in taxpayers' bank accounts, but it didn't say how many people received them or how much money has been disbursed so far.

Elsewhere around the world, Italian authorities set up roadblocks around Milan to discourage people from going on Easter weekend trips. British police kept a close watch on gatherings in parks and at the seaside on one of the hottest days of the year. And France deployed some 160,000 police, including officers on horseback who patrolled beaches and parks.

With religious leaders around the globe urging people to observe Easter safely at home, the archbishop of Turin, Italy, allowed a video streaming display of the Shroud of Turin, believed by the faithful to be the burial cloth of Jesus, so that they can pray in front of it during the epidemic.

Pope Francis celebrated an Easter vigil Mass in an empty St. Peter's Basilica, where the footsteps of the pontiff and his small entourage on the marble floor could be heard clearly as they walked in slow procession toward the altar. Francis likened coronavirus fears to anxiety felt by Jesus' followers after his crucifixion.

"For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour," he said, encouraging people to "sow seeds of hope, with small gestures of care."

Austria aims to reopen small shops on Tuesday. Spain, with more than 16,600 dead, plans to allow workers in some nonessential industries to return to factories and construction sites Monday. Spanish authorities said they will distribute 10 million face masks at major train and subway stations.

Italy continued to include all nonessential manufacturing in an extension of its national lockdown until May 3. But Premier Giuseppe Conte held out hope that some industry could re-open earlier if conditions permit.

Arcuri said that the exit from the lockdown will include increased virus testing, the deployment of a voluntary contact-tracing app and mandatory blood tests as Italy seeks to set up a system of "immunity passports."

India extended its lockdown of the nation of 1.3 billion people by two more weeks. But Iran, the site of the worst outbreak in the Middle East, reopened government offices and businesses outside Tehran.

In Indonesia, inmates set fire to a prison on Sulawesi island during a riot, apparently angry over restrictions imposed to contain the coronavirus. There were no reports of riot-related deaths.

Britain on Saturday reported 917 more deaths from the coronavirus, down from the peak of 980 recorded a day earlier. The country's overall death toll neared 10,000. At the same time, data suggest that the number of hospital admissions in Britain is leveling off.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the first major world leader confirmed to have COVID-19, continued to recover at a London hospital, where he was able to take short walks, according to his office.

Worldwide, confirmed infections rose to about 1.8 million, with over 108,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins. More than 400,000 people have recovered.

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

Forliti reported from St. Paul, Minnesota. Moulson reported from Berlin. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

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

Melania Trump is having a moment during coronavirus pandemic

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump is having a moment in the midst of a pandemic.

After catching some criticism for not mentioning the coronavirus in a March speech to a parent-teacher group, the first lady has increased her engagement on the issue, mostly through social media since she is staying home like most Americans.

This week, she posted a photo of herself wearing a white face mask — something her husband, President Donald Trump, has said he will not do. It was her way of reinforcing the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that everyone cover their nose and mouth in public.

"It is another recommended guideline to keep us safe," she said in a video released Thursday.

Like everyone else, the first lady is retooling her spring plans because of



FILE - In this March 10, 2020, file photo first lady Melania Trump speaks at the at the National PTA Legislative Conference in Alexandria, Va. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

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the virus threat.

Before the pandemic shut down activity in the U.S., she was preparing for the annual Easter Egg Roll, once set for Monday. She also was planning an April state dinner for Spain's king and queen, now postponed.

Her debut as a fundraiser for her husband's reelection campaign was nixed, as was her annual spring break week with son Barron at the family's Mar-a-Lago private club in Palm Beach, Florida.

Instead, she's been burning up the long-distance phone lines checking in with her counterparts in U.S.-allied countries that also are struggling to control the virus, including Spain, Canada, France, Italy and Japan. Canada's Sophie Grégoire recently recovered from the disease.

The first lady is also using her social media accounts to provide a steady stream of guidance and tips for coping under stay-at-home orders, including reposting CDC guidance about frequent hand-washing, keeping a social distance from others and other suggestions for avoiding infection.

She has thanked medical professionals, urged blood donation, suggested email and FaceTime as alternatives for keeping in touch with friends and family, and shared resources from Scholastic for the millions of K-12 students now learning online at home because their schools are closed.

"I encourage parents to let children know this will not last forever," the first lady said in one video message.

She also has shared links to sites where astronauts on the International Space Station read story books to children, pointed to where Washington's cherry blossoms could be seen on a video feed and where people can amuse themselves on virtual tours of the 132-room White House.

Like students around the country, 14-year-old Barron, an eighth-grader, is at home keeping up with school online but missing playing his favorite sport, soccer.

"He's happy, but he's not as happy as you could be. He'd like to be playing sports," the president said.

Last month, Melania Trump generated an online backlash after she posted photos of herself in a hard hat overseeing construction of a tennis pavilion on the south grounds of the White House. Critics deemed the pics insensitive during the global scare over the new coronavirus.

She pushed back by tweeting at the naysayers to "contribute something good & productive in their own communities." She signed off with the hashtag for "Be Best," her program to teach online civility to children.

If Trump is a wartime president, Melania Trump is now a wartime first lady, and that means she has to figure out how to contribute to the effort, said Anita McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

Mrs. Bush became a champion for women's rights in Afghanistan after the U.S. went to war there. Her appearance before the Senate education committee on Sept. 11, 2001 was scuttled after the attack on the World Trade Center. Eleanor Roosevelt visited war zones during World War II.

"These are things that are thrust upon you," McBride said in an interview. "You're not planning for how you're going to be the cheerleader for the recovery from a pandemic."

McBride would like to see Mrs. Trump do something for children, like an online story time, since many are home and cut off from school, friends and group sports.

"She's great at connecting with kids and they could really use her presence right now," McBride said.

Myra Gutin, a first lady scholar at Rider University, wondered whether Melania Trump would visit hospitals in places considered "hot spots" once the situation improves and travel restrictions are lifted. The first lady visits hospitals in the U.S. and abroad for her youth initiative.

Gutin said Melania Trump is doing what she can under the circumstances.

"Everyone was waiting to see how things shook out, how the situation evolved," Gutin said.

This version of the story corrects that Laura Bush did not appear before a Senate committee on Sept. 11, 2001 after the World Trade Center attack.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Easter tornado threat poses safety dilemma during pandemic

By JAY REEVES Associated Press



Stephanie Fatheree, right, salvages items from her house damaged from the tornado the previous night with help from a neighbor on Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Harrisburg, Ark. Fatheree said she took shelter with her mother, Angie, in the bathroom during the tornado. Severe storms with high winds, hail and possible tornadoes have caused damage to dozens of homes and businesses in parts of Indiana and Arkansas. (Quentin Win-

stine/The Jonesboro Sun via AP)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The threat of strong tornadoes and other damaging weather on Easter posed a double-edged safety dilemma for Deep South communities deciding how to protect residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

An outbreak of severe thunderstorms was likely Sunday from Louisiana through the Tennessee Valley, the National Weather Service said. More than 4.5 million people live in the area where dangerous weather was most likely, including Birmingham and Jackson, Mississippi, the Storm Prediction Center said on its website.

The National Weather Service office in Jackson told residents to brace for the possibility of long-lasting tornadoes, wind gusts up to 70 mph (113 km) and tennis ball-size hail through Sunday evening. Waves of storms with occasional lulls could continue into early Monday, with as much as 3 inches (8 centimeters) of rain possible.

"This could be one of our bigger events we've had in a long time around here. Take this seriously," weather service forecaster Gary Goggins said in a public briefing broadcast on Facebook live from the agency's Birmingham-area office.

Severe thunderstorms began erupting Saturday in Texas as a low pressure system over the Southwest funneled unstable air toward the Southeast.

Seeking protection from violent weather during the coronavirus pandemic could present a challenge for some.

With many churches having ended traditional, indoor services because of the viral outbreak, congregations planned to hold online services or drive-in worship where people sit in vehicles, which are a bad place to be during a tornado. Some churches announced they were moving up Easter drive-in service to Saturday afternoon because of the threat.

Community storm shelters presented another problem.

Although forecasters and the Alabama Department of Public Health advised people to seek protection in public storm shelters if faced with the possibility of twisters, some communities, citing COVID-19, waffled on whether to open shelters on Sunday.

In a video message posted on the town's Facebook page on Friday, Alexander City Mayor Thomas Spragins said residents of the central Alabama town needed to find a safe place on their own since public buildings wouldn't be open as shelters because of the coronavirus.

"I'll be praying for everyone to have a safe and happy Easter," he said.

A statement from the city's police department on Saturday said shelters would be opened after all, with temperature checks performed and gloves and masks being provided to anyone entering.

The initial decision against opening shelters was at odds with a message from Gov. Kay Ivey.

"Both the National Weather Service and the State Public Health Department remind Alabamians that the use of shelters and other resources take precedent, should the need arise," Ivey said in a statement Saturday.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency sent a tweet Saturday saying shelters would open. It encouraged residents entering one to wear masks, use hand sanitizer and stay 6 feet (2 meters) apart. Strong storms earlier in the week caused damage in the Midwest.

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

Are schools open? Governor, NYC mayor give different answers

By KAREN MATTHEWS and BRIAN MAHONEY Associated Press



FILE- In this March 13, 2020 file photo, students at New York City's Stuyvesant High School leave after classes end for the week. Public schools in New York City's 1.1 million-student district will be shuttered for the rest of the academic year, but online education will continue as the city struggles to contain the coronavirus outbreak, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Saturday, April 11. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Governor and mayor locked horns again Saturday, this time over whether school buildings in the nation's largest district would close for the rest of the year, with classes continuing online.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a news briefing that public school sites in the city's 1.1 million-student school district would shutter for the rest of the academic year to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Soon afterward, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at his own briefing that the decision was his to make.

"It is my legal authority in this situation, yes," Cuomo said.

De Blasio, like Cuomo a Democrat, had said that it was not an easy decision to close school buildings in favor of online learning, but that "it is the right decision and it's also a decision made a little clearer by the fact that the distance learning is working more and more every day."

The goal, he said, is to reopen school sites by September, adding that high school graduates may have to go without a commencement ceremony.

But Cuomo said school closings would

have to be coordinated with districts surrounding the city.

"So I understand the mayor's position, which is he wants to close them until June, and we may do that, but we're going to do it in a coordinated sense with the other localities," Cuomo said. "It makes no sense for one locality to take an action that's not coordinated with the others."

When a reporter suggested that the mixed messages would confuse parents, Cuomo said, "We just clarified it. It's not going to be decided in the next few days because we don't know."

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Adding to the confusion, an email from the city to parents was issued while Cuomo spoke, advising of the extended school closing.

"NYC school students will continue with Remote Learning for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year," it said.

The dispute was the latest bout in a long-running grudge match between the two elected officials, who have failed to maintain a united front in the face of a pandemic.

When de Blasio said last month that city residents should prepare for a "shelter-in-place" order, Cuomo countered that the city didn't have the power to make such a declaration.

Days later, Cuomo announced a "New York state on pause" order directing nonessential businesses to close and telling people to stay 6 feet away from others when in public. The order sounded much like shelter-in-place, a term de Blasio has continued to use.

De Blasio spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein alluded to the earlier dispute on Twitter, saying Cuomo's reaction to de Blasio's school announcement was "reminiscent of how he reacted when the Mayor called for a shelter in place. We were right then and we're right now."

Cuomo addressed the school issue as he released numbers showing that 783 deaths from COVID-19 were recorded statewide on Friday, the fifth day in a row that the toll topped 700.

The new figures raised the number of coronavirus-related deaths in the state to 8,627.

"These are just incredible numbers depicting incredible loss and pain," Cuomo said.

The governor, whose national profile has risen as his virus briefings have become must-see TV, said again Saturday that he is not interested in running for president.

When a reporter said some Democrats would prefer Cuomo to former Vice President Joe Biden as their party's presidential nominee, Cuomo said, "That is on one hand flattering. On the other hand, it is irrelevant."

"I have no political agenda. Period," he said. "I'm not running for president. I'm not running for vice president. I'm not running anywhere. I'm not going to Washington. I'm staying right here."

De Blasio ran for the 2020 Democratic nomination but dropped out early in the race.

Cuomo's remarks Saturday were embraced by authorities on Long Island, which has seen its own surge in coronavirus cases. "Everybody wants to get back to normal as soon as possible, but we have to take a data-driven, regional approach," Laura Curran, the Nassau County executive, said in a statement.

"If this pandemic has taught us one thing," added Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, "it is that we are one New York and all in this together."

School buildings in New York City, the U.S. epicenter of the pandemic, have been closed since March 16. All school buildings in the state have been closed since March 18 following a Cuomo executive order.

The school closings were initially announced for a few weeks back before the virus's full impact was known. New York's school year lasts through late June.

A massive effort to move instruction online has met mixed success in the city, where many low-income students lack Wi-Fi and devices for connecting to their virtual classrooms.

De Blasio said tens of thousands of tablets and laptops have been loaned to students who needed them and the remaining students who lack devices for online learning will get them by the end of April.

De Blasio had resisted closing schools as the city recorded its first deaths from the coronavirus, saying he feared that health care workers would have to stay home to care for children and that hundreds of thousands of poor students would go hungry without free school meals.

Since then, the city has set up food distribution sites and centers where essential front-line workers can drop their children off.

Authorities in some other locales, including the states of Virginia and Pennsylvania, previously announced that schools would close for the rest of the year.

Coronavirus ravages storied New Orleans Mardi Gras group

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — On Fat Tuesday, 51-year-old Cornell Charles was taking part in a storied New Orleans Mardi Gras tradition central to the city's African American community — driving a car in the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club's parade.

A month later his wife of three decades was watching him take his last breath, a victim of the coronavirus epidemic raging through the city.

"I talked to him. I told him how much I was going to miss him," said his wife, Nicole, describing those last minutes on March 24. "He literally took his last breath in front of my face and that was it."

In a city ravaged by the coronavirus outbreak, members of the Zulu krewe, one of the groups that sponsor Mardi Gras parades and balls, have paid a heavy price. Four of the fraternal organization's members have died from coronavirus-related complications, said Zulu President Elroy A. James. Two others have also died since the pandemic began, though it's not known if their deaths were caused by the virus, he said.

An additional 20 have tested positive. Some are self-quarantining at home, some were hospitalized and released, while others are still hospitalized, James said.

James spends his days on the phone, texting with and calling board members and officers of the roughly 800-member Zulu organization.

"Members are calling every day checking on each other: 'How's this member doing? How's this family member doing?'" he said.

It's also taken a financial toll. Many Zulu members work in the hospitality sector and are out of work, James said, a widespread problem in a city with an economy closely tied to the restaurants, bars and nightclubs now largely shuttered due to the statewide stay-at-home order.

"Zulu is really a microcosm of the city of New Orleans," said state Sen. Troy Carter, a longtime Zulu member. "We're made up of every social and economic background that you can imagine. Our members come from all different walks of life."

The predominantly African American club is in some ways a reflection of how the disease has affected the black community in Louisiana. More than 70 percent of the state's coronavirus patients who have died are black, according to state data released this week.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild symptoms like fever and a cough that resolve in two to three weeks. But for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, more severe symptoms can occur, including pneumonia, that can lead to death.

For over a century Zulu members have paraded for Mardi Gras in their distinctive grass skirts and black



FILE - In this Tuesday, March 4, 2014, file photo, members of the Krewe of Zulu hold painted coconuts to give to parade-goers, as they march during Mardi Gras in New Orleans. In a city ravaged by the coronavirus outbreak, Zulu and its members have paid a heavy price. Several of the group's members have died from coronavirus-related complications, said Zulu President Elroy A. James. Multiple other members have tested positive. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

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face inspired by a 1909 vaudeville skit, according to a history compiled for the group's 100-year anniversary in 2009. It was not just a Mardi Gras parade group but one of the benevolent societies that played an important role in African American history by providing life insurance or funeral costs to its dues-paying members.

Over the decades Zulu Mardi Gras parades have featured ever-larger floats, with costumed float riders tossing out beads and trinkets, including the group's hand-decorated coconuts, among the event's most-coveted throws. The most famous man to reign as Zulu king was Louis Armstrong in 1949. Members are also elected to be one of the group's coveted characters, such as Mr. Big Stuff or The Big Shot.

"Nobody has more fun than Zulu," said Mardi Gras historian, Arthur Hardy. But, he emphasized, there's a lot more to the group than the parade. Zulu is known for its philanthropic works all year round, including the Junior Zulu program that reaches out to disadvantaged children and an annual Christmas bike giveaway.

That spirit of service is what drew Charles, said his wife, Nicole.

"The brotherhood, what they have given to the community. He loved that. My husband loved parades, so that was definitely an attraction, but he liked what he saw outside of the fun part of it," she said.

Charles started work every day by 3 a.m. as a courier delivering medication to hospitals and medical facilities. But his real passion, his wife said, was coaching young people. The football, baseball and basketball practices and games kept "Dickey" as he was often called, busy, but the father of two daughters always made time for family, his wife said.

She has been amazed at the outpouring of support from people telling her how much her husband meant to them. His likely would have been a big funeral with one of the jazz parades often seen in New Orleans funerals, but social distancing guidelines meant only a handful of people could be there.

Nicole hopes the coronavirus risk will have receded by June 23 — his birthday — so that family and friends can come together for the memorial service he deserves.

Lost opportunities to come together one last time to honor members is being felt keenly. Carter, the state senator, said a Zulu member's service in normal times might include a performance by the organization's gospel choir, a proclamation read by the group's president and a musical procession that begins on a somber note and ends with a "full fledged energetic celebration of life."

"I'm not sure if anyone else in the world does it the way New Orleans does," he said.

The organization plans a large memorial service in the safer future, complete with a "grand second-line," said James, the group's president, referring to a parade during which onlookers fall in behind the band and mourners, forming a "second line."

The group has weathered hard times before. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, at least 10 members died, many members' homes were flooded and the group's headquarters on Broad Street was swamped with water. But come Mardi Gras 2006 they paraded, believing it was an important part of the city's rebuilding.

James said he's confident that Zulu will play a role in the city's post-coronavirus resurgence.

"We also need to show the world that the city of New Orleans will return after this pandemic," he said.

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

The week that was: Stories from the coronavirus saga

By The Associated Press

As coronavirus cases topped 1.75 million in the world during the past week — Holy Week for Christians and Passover for Jews — deaths in the United States overtook Italy's. And fatalities kept adding up sharply in a sequestered, terrified New York City. Associated Press journalists fanned out across the city to compile a portrait, *The Fight For New York*, and tell the story of 24 hours in a metropolis under duress — including one account of a seventh-generation physician trying to navigate his way through.

Wuhan, the Chinese city where the outbreak started late last year, finally emerged from its slumber after

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76 days of lockdown. Residents were elated to be back outside, though life is far from normal. How the city manages the transition will be closely watched by policymakers around the world as they mull their own loosening of controls. Japan declared a state of emergency months after its first cases were identified, but stopped short of issuing a lockdown order.

Meanwhile, the pandemic is posing non-medical challenges beyond the personal and the economic. It also is making it harder for first responders, straining 911 services in New York City like never before.

Associated Press journalists across the planet chronicled it all — including continuing portraits of some of the lives lost and an exploration of a pandemic in sound. This guide to some of their words and images is a diary of a world at once on pause and in the middle of the biggest fight of its generation.

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

The new coronavirus made Dr. Jag Singh a patient at his own hospital. He's among a surge of COVID-19 patients around the world rushing to join studies of a biotech drug that showed promise against some similar viruses in the past.

As health officials around the globe push to get more ventilators to treat coronavirus patients, some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines, fearing they could make certain patients worse. U.S. nurses, meanwhile, are facing a fundamental question that pits their professional principles against their personal welfare. Says one: "Nobody wants to go to work and feel like they're gambling."

And with high-stress, high-stakes decisions, doctors are frantically trying to figure out how COVID-19 is killing their patients so they can attempt new ways to fight back.

THE ECONOMICS

It was another week of bleak economic news, especially in the U.S., where more than one in 10 workers have lost their jobs in just the past three weeks. Among them are gig workers and self-employed people who are struggling to get jobless aid. Small business owners looking to tap into a federal relief program also hit roadblocks, forced to wait for the cash infusions they need to survive. Globally, Oxfam warned that the coronavirus could push a half-billion people into poverty if richer nations don't help poorer ones. In Africa, officials feared the loss of millions of informal economy jobs like mechanics, street vendors and taxi drivers could cause a complete economic collapse.

Countries rushed to try to help, with the U.S. Federal Reserve announcing it will pump an additional \$2.3 trillion into the U.S. economy and the European Union backing a half-trillion euro rescue package (though not without some disagreements among the countries involved).

Despite President Donald Trump's assurances that the U.S. economy will leap back to life "like a rocket," there are emerging signs that any economic recovery will fail to match the speed and severity of the



The Rev. Nicolas Sanchez takes a phone call from a parishioner after live-streaming the Good Friday Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Los Angeles on Friday, April 10, 2020. The COVID-19 measures also have changed the way people worship, with churches and synagogues closed and many Passover and Easter services streamed online.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

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collapse. (As our correspondent notes, there's a reason economics is called "the dismal science".) There are also questions about whether the service industry, which has taken the hardest hit so far from the pandemic, will ever be the same again. Are crowded bars, gyms and movie theaters a thing of the past, and if so, what happens to the people who worked in them?

Other things are changing as well. The number of Americans getting on airplanes has sunk to a level not seen in 60 years. And the once-thriving housing market has ground to a halt, posing big challenges for people who need to move.

While many businesses around the world are closed, grocery stores remain open, providing an essential service for a public that still needs to eat despite the crisis. That's left their employees on the front lines, worried about getting sick.

Maybe you'd prefer not to go to the grocery store. Good luck getting a delivery slot. Around the world, online grocery services are struggling to meet a massive spike in demand. And if you did manage to get a delivery, you might have noticed it was missing toilet paper. Here's why — and lots more about TP.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

In any emergency, time is of the essence. And as the coronavirus spread across the world, the AP found that the United States wasted a lot of it. The U.S. squandered months before preparing for the coronavirus pandemic, according to a review of federal purchasing contracts. And even in the years before the outbreak, investment in public health fell. The country is reckoning with those decisions now.

What was the effect on Milwaukee's black population of Wisconsin's decision to go ahead with its primary amid the global pandemic? The city has suffered roughly half the state's coronavirus deaths, many of them among African Americans. Officials closed all but five of the city's 180 polling places, forcing thousands of voters to congregate at only a handful of voting sites and making it virtually impossible to socially distance. That left black residents, who make up 4 of every 10 Milwaukee residents, with an impossible choice: risk their health and possibly their lives to cast a ballot, or stay away and miss exercising a fundamental right of democracy.

Trump, meanwhile, has not delivered on many of the promises made by his administration when it comes to virus response.

INEQUALITY

As U.S. states and cities reported more specific data on the victims of the virus, a disturbing trend emerged: The virus was killing African Americans at a disproportionately high rate. "Everywhere we look, the coronavirus is devastating our communities," NAACP leader Derrick Johnson said. Meanwhile, members of the black community was dealing with their distrust of a U.S. public health system that had wronged them in the past.

As the economic toll deepened, governors sought flexibility in the food stamp program that would let poor people get groceries delivered and even hot meals.

The crisis continued to have unexpected impacts on some poor communities across the globe. It threatened the hundreds of billions of dollars in vital remittances that immigrant workers in developed nations sent home to their struggling families. In Africa, women under lockdown were losing access to birth control for family planning. And the economic devastation the virus wrought in Iran sent hundreds of thousands of Afghan migrants back home, potentially spreading the virus deeper into the poor, war-racked nation. South Africa found one reason for hope: Its history of TB and HIV testing had provided a strong infrastructure for COVID-19 testing.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

The virus-related isolation was keeping people apart in ways they never expected and don't welcome. But it also was bringing out something older and more traditional — skills lost in a society of convenience and service that are now resurging. And people accustomed to building their lives around planning are finding themselves defiantly going forward with that activity — despite the uncertainty about whether any of their plans will happen.

Some not-so-bad news, too: Data suggests that virus-related isolation may be tied to a drop in crime. And

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another virus side effect: unvarnished celebrities, stripped of their publicity machines, are letting people into their homes on social media — to mixed results and sometimes backlash.

Meanwhile, LGBT people who lived through the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s are looking at virus-era New York City and seeing parallels — and differences. Holocaust survivors, once more hiding from an enemy, this time unseen, are drawing their own parallels. “It feels the same,” says one.

There were lessons to be learned from other countries hit earlier by the virus, but America did not take many of them to heart. Could the pandemic ultimately lead Americans to embrace isolationism, as it has at times in the past?

ONE GOOD THING

AP’s daily “One Good Thing” series puts the spotlight on our shared experience worldwide during the pandemic as stories this week came from Fairbanks, Alaska; Raanana, Israel; Rio de Janeiro, and Jakarta, Indonesia.

Some days just deserve two examples of selflessness, like Tuesday when we told stories about a Rio de Janeiro firefighter hoisted 150 feet in the air so he can play his trumpet for an adoring, captive crowd of apartment residents; and a 16-year-old Virginia teen who flies medical supplies around the state.

And in case one needs convincing that we should continue to stay inside, 5-year-old Nova Knight gives a tough-love pep talk to other preschoolers. “I’m serious!” she says.

VIRUS DIARY

AP correspondents around the world are sharing their vantage points in the coronavirus saga — this week ranged from Gaza to Beijing to Atlanta. Find out more here.

GROUND GAME: INSIDE THE OUTBREAK

Tune in daily to the virus edition of AP’s “Ground Game” podcast, where host Ralph Russo taps the expertise of AP’s global team covering the coronavirus story.

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Chicago mayor takes hard line fighting coronavirus outbreak

By **KATHLEEN FOODY** and **DON BABWIN** Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As large American cities try various strategies to keep people home to limit the coronavirus’s spread, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has balanced a blend of stern — and occasionally scolding — news conferences with lighthearted social media to drive home her point.

Lightfoot’s hard-line approach began with an exasperated announcement in March that she was shutting down lakefront trails, adjacent parks and other crowded public spaces after Chicagoans flocked there on a 70-degree weekday.

“Your conduct — yours — is posing a direct threat to our public health,” Lightfoot chastised people spotted flouting social distancing orders.

Her tone earned the first-term mayor — the city’s first black female and first openly gay mayor — begrudging respect from some residents and inspired a wave of memes. Many edited a stone-faced Lightfoot into photos of the city’s parks or famous artwork. After weeks of quarantine-induced snacking, others printed photos of the mayor’s stern expression, captioned, “You just ate” and taped them inside fridges.

On Twitter, Lightfoot embraced the humor in a video depicting her at home as a sports fan rewatching classic games, an aspiring home baker and a guitar-picking songwriter — all with the message to “stay home, save lives.”

Chicago has reported 7,784 cases of COVID-19 and 249 deaths as of Saturday afternoon — about 40% of statewide cases and 36% of deaths across Illinois. Like Detroit and New Orleans, a disproportionate number are blacks. Blacks account for 72% of deaths from COVID-19 complications in Chicago and 52% of positive tests for the coronavirus, despite making up only 30% of the city’s population.

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Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot wears a mask as she attends a news conference in Hall A of the COVID-19 alternate site at McCormick Place in Chicago, Friday, April 10, 2020. The "alternative care facility" is designed to relieve pressure on city hospitals from rapidly mounting COVID-19 cases.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

In recent days, Lightfoot has taken her efforts a step further. At a press conference announcing a 9 p.m. curfew for liquor stores this week, Lightfoot said she had ordered groups of people to "break it up" while driving in a North Side neighborhood.

"Yes," she said, nodding slowly. "And I'll continue to do that. I mean what I say. We have to protect ourselves. We have to be smart about what we're doing in the course of this pandemic. And if it means that I drive around and check whether or not people are in compliance, I am happy to do it."

In reality, the city's police force has been the true enforcers of Illinois' stay-at-home order and Lightfoot's restriction.

Since March 25, the day Lightfoot ordered the lakefront and parks closed, police have dispersed 2,264 groups of 10 people or more, police spokesman Tom Ahern said. Interim Superintendent Charlie Beck issued a warning then that the time for educating

was over and the time for enforcement was ramping up. On Friday, Ahern said officers had written 11 citations and made 17 arrests on disorderly charges after refusing to disperse.

That low number, Ahern said, indicates people are dispersing when ordered.

In anticipation of Easter, Ahern said the department has been "in constant contact with community leaders, clergy and neighborhood groups" to ensure they follow the public health order. He said officers will check Sunday morning to make sure congregations and other groups are doing so.

Lightfoot urged people to watch live-streaming religious services from home and avoid in-person gatherings. She warned that religious and family celebrations risked reversing the city's progress at slowing the rate of new cases.

"This is tough on all of us, myself included, who look to this time to practice the traditions that mean so much to us and our loved ones," she said. "But it's imperative that this year, we worship in a new way."

For Chicagoans, coronavirus arrived in late January, when city health authorities reported that a local woman who had traveled to Wuhan became ill after returning home. For most people, the virus 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.

Early on, Lightfoot echoed the message of the city's public health officials and federal agencies: It's unlikely someone in Chicago will get sick but take precautions.

By early February, Lightfoot was already irritated with what she called poor communication by federal health authorities.

Her criticism of President Donald Trump's administration built as the virus spread across the country. Though Illinois officials expressed hope in recent days that the state had begun to "bend the curve" of reported cases and other data points tracking COVID-19 illnesses, Lightfoot said this week that she won't

feel comfortable lifting restrictions without widespread testing to reassure people that they are not infected. "The trajectory of cases has changed and changed for the good," Lightfoot said. "But I'm hesitant to even say that much."

It hasn't been all memes and shareable videos for Lightfoot.

She was criticized by local media — and some hairdressers abiding by orders to shut down their salons — for having her own hair cut in early April. The mayor defended it, saying she needed to represent the city on a national stage.

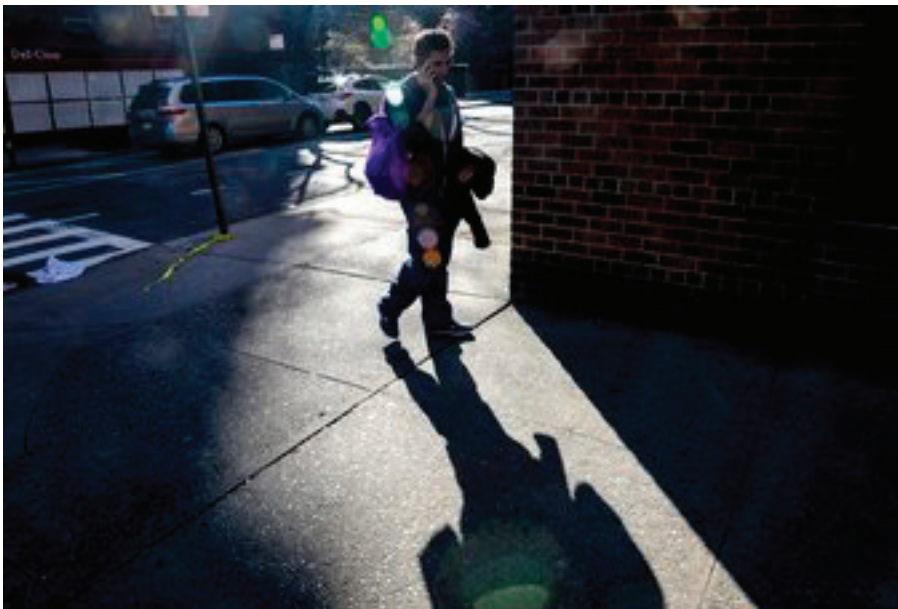
"We're talking about people dying here," Lightfoot said. "We're talking about significant health disparities. I think that's what people care most about."

Associated Press writer Sophia Tareen contributed to this report. Babwin reported from Oak Park, Illinois.

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

'We're all in with our patients': An ER doctor's virus fight

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press



Emergency room doctor Dr. Joseph Habboushe, who is taking on the challenge of treating patients with the new coronavirus, poses for photos Monday, April 6, 2020, in New York. He says health care workers are all in the fight together. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

NEW YORK (AP) — The call comes over the emergency-room loudspeakers: Sick patient. Everyone needed.

The patient is struggling to breathe, his blood-oxygen level a life-threatening 50%. Another presumed coronavirus case. Another human being whom Dr. Joseph Habboushe and his colleagues will try to save and get to a hospital bed for more care.

A seventh-generation physician who co-founded an online medical reference called MDCalc, the 44-year-old Habboushe has dug into the challenge of treating a new disease.

"It feels very appropriate that I get to be on the front lines and try to fight this war," he says. "We're all in this together, and we're all in with our patients."

But he's not immune to the dread. The fear that he or his colleagues may fall ill. The fact that "we don't know our enemy, really."

The Associated Press followed 10 New York City residents on Monday, April 6, as they tried to survive another day in the city assailed by the new coronavirus. For more, read [24 Hours: The Fight for New York](#).

Heading a coronavirus cases-only team at a Manhattan hospital that declined to be identified, Habboushe sees about 25 patients this Monday — fewer than in some recent days, but some are very sick. One was already on a ventilator when he arrived at 7:45 a.m., and her blood pressure was falling dangerously low.

Striking the right balance between boosting her blood pressure and keeping her sedated for the breath-

ing machine proves to be the morning's most demanding problem. But the team finds a solution, and the woman's condition stabilizes.

Then the man with the extremely low oxygen level arrives.

A ventilator is available, but some doctors are now looking to other techniques, when possible. Some hospitals have reported unusually high death rates for coronavirus patients on breathing machines, though information is still emerging and limited.

Habboushe and his team try other means of giving the patient oxygen, but his levels remain low. The team turns him onto his stomach, a move that can sometimes help.

A half-hour later, the man's oxygen level is at a normal 95%. It's too soon to say how he will ultimately fare, but the picture is much brighter.

Habboushe and his team don't end up putting anyone on a ventilator today. And all the patients survive, at least for now.

Still, the reflections of a doctor in the thick of the coronavirus crisis are a "bit of a roller-coaster," and it keeps running into the night.

"It's important that we focus on the positive and we focus on the increasing discoveries and ... finding ways to help these patients," he says. "If I don't do that, I just totally lose sight of what drives me every day."

Nurses, lauded for virus efforts, find their tires slashed

CORTLANDT, N.Y. (AP) — Some nurses at a New York hospital who had just been lauded for their work during the coronavirus pandemic ended their stress-filled overnight shifts to find their tires had been slashed while they worked.

New York state police reported that the tires of 22 vehicles were found slashed Friday morning outside New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt.

Daniel R. Hall, 29, was arrested on charges including criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance. Police said he had a small amount of PCP when he was arrested.

Hall is due in court May 18. It's not clear whether he has an attorney who can speak for him.

Hospital officials said they would pay for the damage.

"We were shocked to hear of this incident, especially at this time when our employees are working tirelessly and courageously" through the COVID-19 pandemic, the officials said in a statement to the Journal News.

Before the tires were slashed, dozens of police officers and firefighters had gathered outside the hospital Thursday night to applaud the health care workers, who like their colleagues across New York state have been treating patients stricken by the coronavirus, the newspaper reported.

"What our hospital is focusing on today is the beautiful tribute given by our first responders last night," the hospital statement said.



In this image from video provided by News12 Hudson Valley, one of 22 vehicles with a flat tire is seen in the parking lot outside New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt, N.Y., Saturday, April 11, 2020. Police arrested a 29-year-old man and charged him with possession of a controlled substance and criminal mischief for slashing the tires. Police said he had a small amount of PCP when he was arrested. (News12 Hudson Valley via AP)

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 12, the 103rd day of 2020. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1861, the Civil War began as Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. On this date:

In 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress authorized the colony's delegates to the Continental Congress to support independence from Britain.

In 1912, Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, died in Glen Echo, Maryland, at age 90.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1954, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission opened a hearing on whether Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, scientific director of the Manhattan Project, should have his security clearance reinstated amid questions about his loyalty (it wasn't). Bill Haley and His Comets recorded "Rock Around the Clock" in New York for Decca Records.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1963, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, charged with contempt of court and parading without a permit. (During his time behind bars, King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail.")

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight. Former world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, 66, died in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1988, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent to Harvard University for a genetically engineered mouse, the first time a patent was granted for an animal life form.

In 1990, in its first meeting, East Germany's first democratically elected parliament acknowledged responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust, and asked the forgiveness of Jews and others who had suffered.

In 2006, jurors in the Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) trial listened to a recording of shouts and cries in the cockpit as desperate passengers twice charged hijackers during the final half hour of doomed United Flight 93 on 9/11.

In 2009, American cargo ship captain Richard Phillips was rescued from Somali pirates by U.S. Navy snipers who shot and killed three of the hostage-takers. Angel Cabrera became the first Argentine to win the Masters.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama opened a 47-nation nuclear summit in Washington, boosted by Ukraine's announcement that it would give up its weapons-grade uranium. The musical "Next to Normal" won the Pulitzer for drama; Paul Harding's "Tinkers" was the surprise fiction winner.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton jumped back into presidential politics, announcing in a video her much-awaited second campaign for the White House. Pope Francis marked the 100th anniversary of the slaughter of Armenians by Ottoman Turks, calling it "the first genocide of the 20th century," a politically explosive declaration that provoked a furious reaction from Turkey. Jordan Spieth (speeth) romped to his first major championship with a record-tying performance at the Masters, shooting an 18-under 270 to become the first wire-to-wire winner of the green jacket since 1976.

One year ago: A 5-year-old boy was seriously injured when he was thrown from a third-story balcony at the Mall of America in Minnesota by a stranger who had randomly grabbed the child. (Emmanuel Aranda pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to 19 years in prison; the injured child was hospitalized for months.) A former Florida prep school administrator, Mark Riddell, pleaded guilty to taking college entrance exams for students in exchange for cash to help wealthy parents get their kids into elite universities. (Riddell later cooperated with investigators.) Former NFL player and coach Forrest Gregg died

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in Colorado Springs from complications of Parkinson's disease; he was 85. Actress Georgia Engel, best known as Georgette on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," died in New Jersey at the age of 70.

Today's Birthdays: Children's author Beverly Cleary is 104. Actress Jane Withers is 94. Playwright Alan Ayckbourn (AYK'-bohrn) is 81. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 80. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 76. Actor Ed O'Neill is 74. Actor Dan Lauria is 73. Talk show host David Letterman is 73. Author Scott Turow is 71. Actor-playwright Tom Noonan is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer JD Nicholas (The Commodores) is 68. Singer Pat Travers is 66. Actor Andy Garcia is 64. Movie director Walter Salles (SAL'-ihs) is 64. Country singer Vince Gill is 63. Actress Suzanne (cq) Douglas is 63. Model/TV personality J Alexander is 62. Rock musician Will Sergeant (Echo & the Bunnymen) is 62. Rock singer Art Alexakis (al-ex-AH'-kihs) (Everclear) is 58. Country singer Deryl Dodd is 56. Folk-pop singer Amy Ray (Indigo Girls) is 56. Actress Alicia Coppola is 52. Rock singer Nicholas Hexum (311) is 50. Actress Retta is 50. Actor Nicholas Brendon is 49. Actress Shannen Doherty is 49. Actress Marley Shelton is 46. Actress Sarah Jane Morris is 43. Actress Jordana Spiro is 43. Rock musician Guy Berryman (Coldplay) is 42. Actor Riley Smith is 42. Actress Claire Danes is 41. Actress Jennifer Morrison is 41. Actor Matt McGorry is 34. Actress Brooklyn Decker is 33. Contemporary Christian musician Joe Rickard (Red) is 33. Rock singer-musician Brendon Urie (Panic! at the Disco) is 33. Actress Saoirse (SUR'-shuh) Ronan is 26.

Thought for Today: "The surest test of discipline is its absence." — Clara Barton (1821-1912).