

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 1 of 78

- [1- Church Services Today](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [18- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [20- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [21- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [23- SD News Watch: Need for food skyrocketing among poor or unemployed S.D. residents during pandemic](#)
- [28- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [29- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [30- Dakotas COVID-19 Update](#)
- [32- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [33- Weather Pages](#)
- [36- Daily Devotional](#)
- [37- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [38- News from the Associated Press](#)



## 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.

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 2 of 78

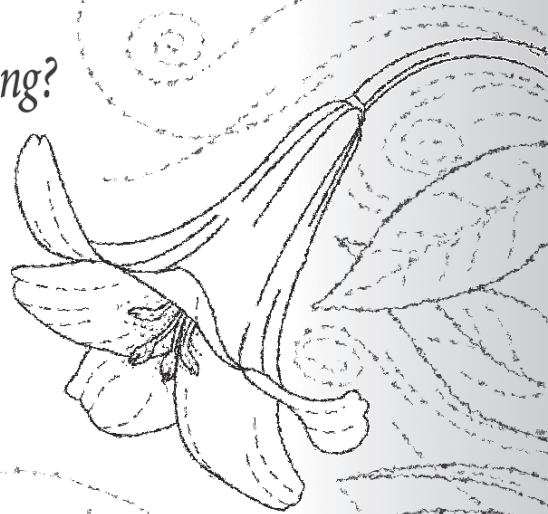
## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*So why do you worry about clothing?  
Consider the lilies of the field,  
how they grow: they neither toil  
nor spin; and yet I say to you  
that even Solomon in all his glory  
was not arrayed like one of these.*

MATTHEW 6:28,29



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



## BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. What's the collective name of the first five books of the Bible? *Pentimento, Pentateuch, Pensione, Pequod*

3. From Genesis 3:24, who/what guards the Garden of Eden? *Roaring lions, Armed angels, Golden rams, God Himself*

4. What animal did God provide Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac? *Dove, Calf, Ram, Camel*

5. From Joshua 14, to whom did Joshua give a blessing? *Jacob, Caleb, Esau, Himself*

6. In the Bible, how many men are named "Dodo"? *1, 2, 3, 4*

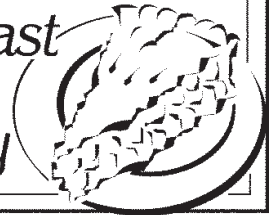
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Pentateuch; 3) Armed angels; 4) Ram; 5) Caleb; 6) 3

*"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.*

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Comfort foods

Made fast  
and  
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Dillied Tuna-Macaroni Salad

Who said that tuna at lunchtime has to be served as a sandwich? Surely, not anyone who tastes this!

- 2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup dill pickle relish
- 1 (6-ounce) can white tuna, packed in water, drained and flaked
- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 hard-boiled egg, chopped

1. In a large bowl, combine rotini pasta, onion, celery and Cheddar cheese. In a small bowl, combine dill pickle relish, tuna, mayonnaise and lemon juice. Add dressing mixture to pasta mixture. Mix well to combine. Fold in chopped egg.

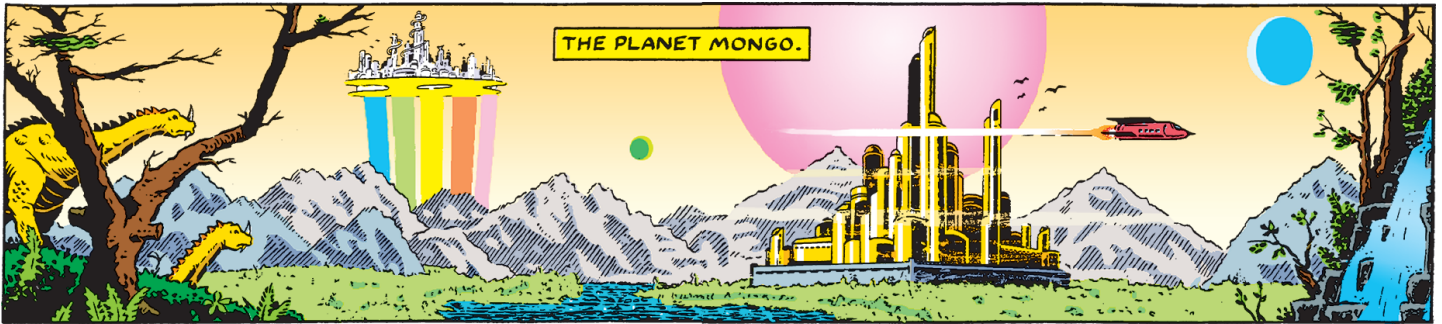
2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Serves 4 (1 cup each).

• Each serving equals: 257 calories, 5g fat, 20g protein, 33g carb., 686mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable.

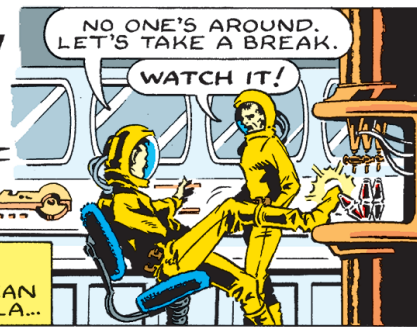
© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

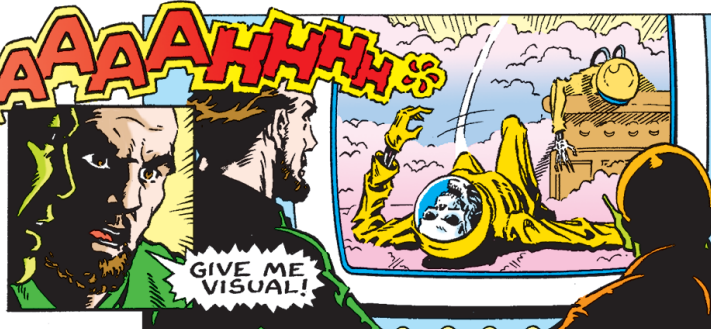
Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 4 of 78



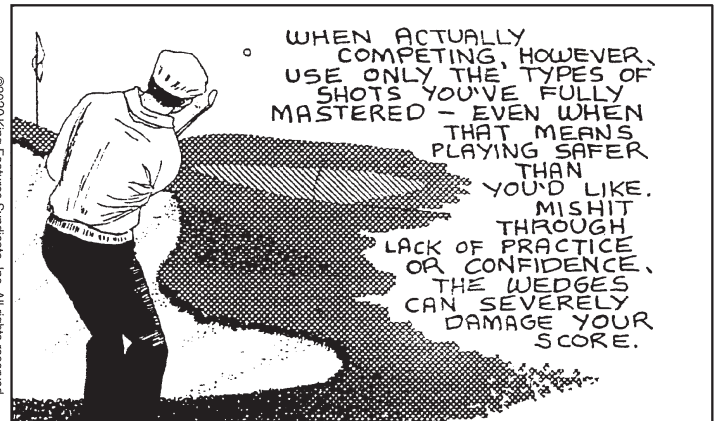
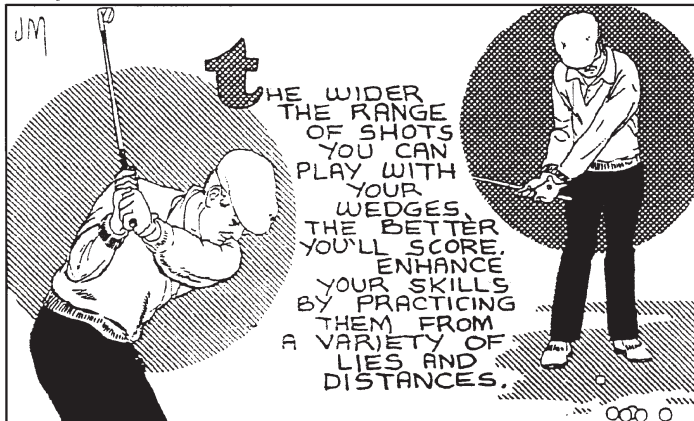
**FLASH GORDON**  
4-12  
BY JIM KEEFE



**ELEMENT-X:**  
AN UNKNOWN ORE MINED FROM THE OCEAN DEPTHS BY KING KALA...



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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



## Researchers Working on Cure for Herpes

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** If a person has been exposed (verified by blood test) to herpes 1 and 2, can that person be a blood donor? Could a person catch herpes by sitting on a toilet seat that has been used by an infected person? Are scientists working on a cure for herpes? — *Anon.*

**ANSWER:** There remains a stigma against people with genital herpes, which is almost always caused by herpes simplex virus type 2. However, most people with genital herpes will not have major disruptions to their lives provided they take some precautions.

First off, a person with herpes simplex virus type 1 (about half of the population between ages 18-49, higher in older people) or HSV-2 (about 12% of the same population) certainly can donate blood. Second, being exposed doesn't guarantee infection. Third, blood testing is not perfect. Fourth, getting any kind of sexually transmitted infection from a toilet seat is very unlikely. Herpes viruses have a very difficult time getting through intact skin, which is why most exposures come through mucus membranes, especially of the genitals and mouth.

There is a type of herpes (usually HSV-1, occasionally HSV-2) in wrestlers, called herpes gladiatorum or "mat herpes," and it can be transmitted from person to person through skin-to-skin contact, especially if the skin is raw or chafed.

Once a person has herpes of either variety, there is no cure. The virus stays in the nerve cells. There is extensive work being done both on preventing transmission and curing existing

infections, but herpes viruses are very good at escaping the immune system. This makes herpes difficult to treat.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Should a person be concerned about serious side effects from long-term use of Claritin-D? My son has been using the medication continuously for about nine years. He has had allergy shots, which were minimally helpful. He cannot use nasal rinses or sprays because they cause nosebleeds. He does have some sleeping problems, but since he's been taking Claritin-D for so long, it's hard to tell if that medication is the cause. — *M.S.*

**ANSWER:** Claritin-D is a combination of the antihistamine loratadine and the decongestant pseudoephedrine. Loratadine is considered safe in most people. Pseudoephedrine is safe for younger people, but it can raise blood pressure and pulse, and in older men, can cause urinary symptoms. He might try plain Claritin, which is just the loratadine, and save the Claritin-D for his worst days. Less pseudoephedrine is probably better.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I read your comments to I.T. with interest, as I had my gallbladder removed way back in 1968. I feel you left out a side effect that follows the procedure for many patients: the "dump" syndrome, or diarrhea. This result has plagued me and several others for years. I found some relief by taking cholestyramine before eating. — *J.C.*

**ANSWER:** That's a very good point, and one I did not highlight. "Dumping syndrome" refers to bile being delivered to the intestine suddenly, causing diarrhea. It isn't common, fortunately, and I, too, have found that cholestyramine can be very effective, in addition to eating smaller, more-frequent meals.

\*\*\*

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

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



1. Which Rolling Stones song did Keith Richards partially write in his sleep?

2. Who wrote and sang the theme song to the television show "Welcome Back, Kotter"?

3. Who was "KC" in KC & the Sunshine Band?

4. Which band released "Be-Bop-A-Lula"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "People always told me be careful of what you do, And don't go around breaking young girls' hearts."

### Answers

1. "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" in 1965. Richards recorded a few minutes of the riff on a cassette tape player while he was asleep. Next morning the tape contained the music, followed by 40 minutes of snoring.

2. John Sebastian, formerly of the Lovin' Spoonful, wrote "Welcome Back." The show's name had to be changed from just "Kotter" because Sebastian couldn't find a rhyme for the name.

3. The "KC" was taken from the last name of Harry Wayne Casey, who formed the group in Florida in 1973.

4. Gene Vincent and His Blue Caps, in 1956.

5. "Billie Jean," by Michael Jackson, in 1983. Although producer Quincy Jones felt the song was "weak" and wanted to leave it off the "Thriller" album, "Billie Jean" became one of the best-selling songs of all time.

# Groton Daily Independent

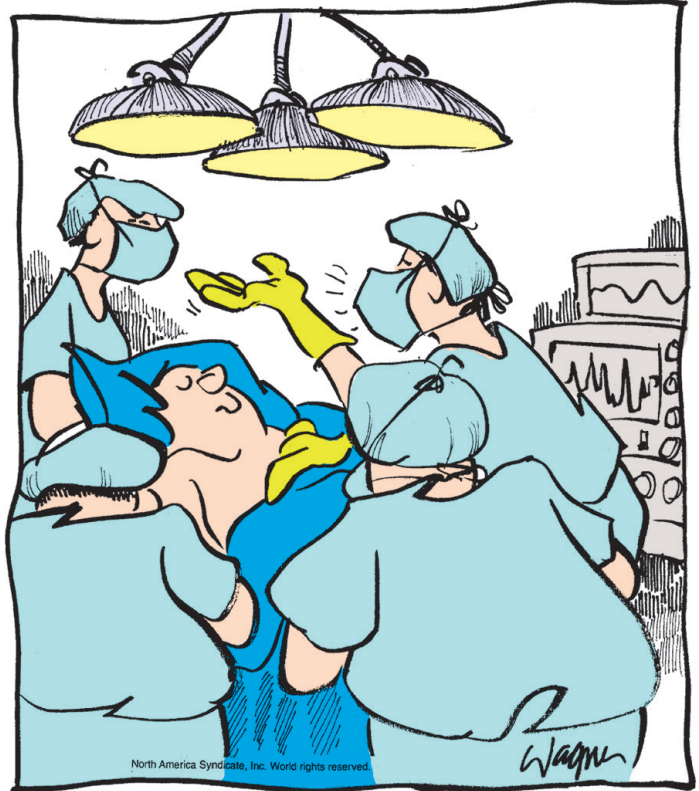
Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 6 of 78

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



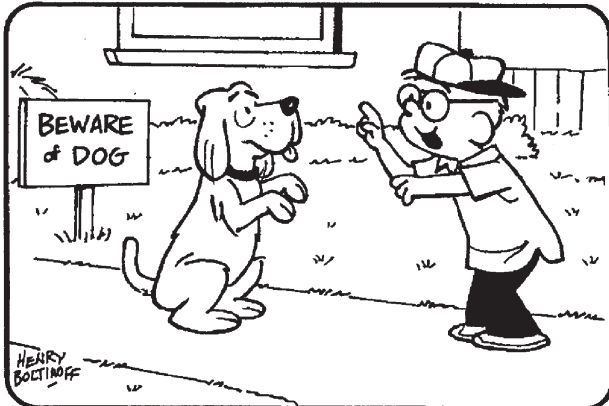
## GRIN and BEAR IT



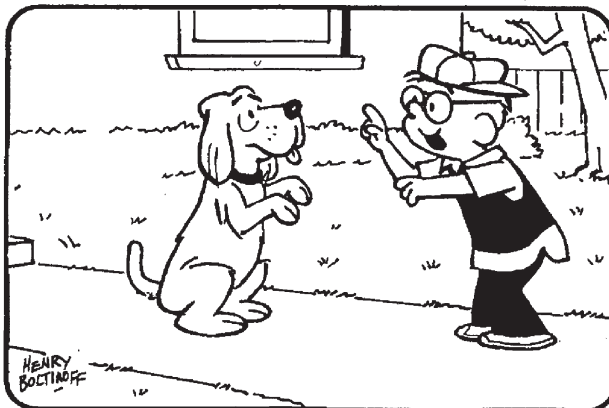
"Insurance claim form!"

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Step is added. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Tree is added. 5. Vest is added. 6. Hat is different.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



• “I use curbside pickup for my groceries these days. I keep two large laundry baskets in the hatchback of my vehicle. Any bags go in the baskets, so it’s easy to transport them into the house and keep contact to a minimum. When I’m done unloading and wiping down, I can spray out the laundry baskets and let them dry in the sun for next time. Can’t be too careful.” — *T.E. in Virginia*

• “Stay ahead of the drain: Pour a tea kettle of boiling water down the drain once a month, or if you notice the drain slowing. The hot water can break up material collecting inside the drain. Half a cup of baking soda added to the water will absorb any odors that are building.” — *Colepepper Plumbing in California*

• “I color code my plants by their light needs. The closer the pot color is to red, the more light it needs. For

instance, my lavender is in a red pot — full sun. I have a nice potted citronella that likes part sun, so it’s in a lime-colored pot (yellow-green) and my indoor pots are plum. I have a lovely rainbow of plants!” — *Y.S. in Arizona*


• A hanging shoe rack is a handy place to keep office supplies and school supplies for the whole family. Pencils, markers, assignment cards, and even papers. You can give each person a row, or label the pockets.

• There’s a lot of decluttering going on across the country right now. Here’s a pro tip: For seasonal items, if you didn’t wear it last season, consider selling or donating. Same applies if it’s a specialty item (skiwear, hiking boots, formalwear) that hasn’t been used for more than two years. Many people keep items that are on the expensive side, even though season after season goes by without the item being used. If you rationalize keeping the scuba suit, plan a scuba trip!

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

# Groton Daily Independent

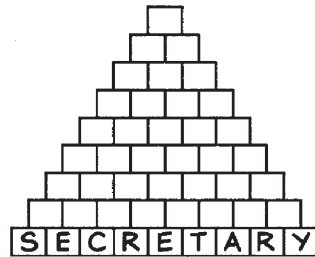
Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 8 of 78

G	E	E	M	B	O
C					Y
I					H
H					T
N					
A	S	R	A	I	T

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

### A SECRETARY PUZZLE!

Let's celebrate Secretaries Day, April 21, with a neat little word problem. Starting with the word SECRETARY at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following hints are from the bottom up:

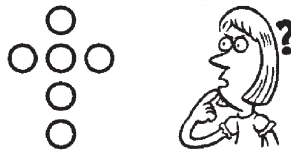
1. A record keeper (SECRETARY).
2. Goes back over.
3. Found on the moon.
4. Hardest to find.
5. A type of flower.
6. To satisfy fully.
7. An aromatic beverage.
8. In or near a location.
9. Top grade.

Answers: 1. Secretary 2. Retraces 3. Craters 4. Rarest 5. Aster 6. Sate 7. Tea 8. At 9. A

**HIDDEN** in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "C" on the left: "Charity begins at home."

**LOOSE CHANGE!** Challenge your friends to move one of these coins to a new position so that there will be four coins along each arm of the cross. **SECRET:** Pick up the bottom coin of the cross and place it ON TOP of the middle coin.



**IT'S MAGIC!** Use the numbers 5 through 20 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 50. We've filled in the four center squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error — and a good eraser!

	6	11	
	20	13	

Answers: First row: 12, 15, 18, 5. Second row: 17, 6, 11, 16. Third row: 7, 20, 13, 10. Fourth row: 14, 9, 8, 19.



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

OH, MY GOODNESS!

YOU'RE A MESS, PUNKINHEAD

TIE YOUR SHOELACES

TUCK YOUR SHIRT IN

STRAIGHTEN YOUR TIE

PUT ON YOUR JACKET

THAT'S BETTER

NOW, GO GET ME A COMB AND I'LL FIX YOUR HAIR

BUD BLAKE



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 9 of 78

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Resided
- 6 Things
- 11 Demosthenes or Cicero
- 12 Cancel out
- 14 Ubiquitous fastener
- 15 Early spring bloom
- 16 Feedbag tidbit
- 17 — the manger
- 19 Owns
- 20 Press
- 22 Ballet step
- 23 — song (cheaply)
- 24 Force measures
- 26 Decorum
- 28 Quite some time

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11												13
14												
16					17		18					19
20				21		22				23		
24				25		26		27				
16			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					

- |                           |                                |                              |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 30 Actor Stephen          | 53 Stationery brand            | 9 He-men                     | 33 Neighbor of Georgia |
| 31 Went sour              | 54 Is inclined (to)            | 10 George Washington         | 34 Female deer         |
| 35 Contents of some trays |                                | 11 Egg-shaped                | 36 Risk                |
| 39 Responsibility         | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 13 English composition       | 37 Cheers up           |
| 40 Court                  | 1 Cheerless                    | 18 Leg, slangily             | 38 Some lilies         |
| 42 Story                  | 2 "The Compleat Angler" author | 21 Must have                 | 41 Lash — (berate)     |
| 43 Donkey                 | 3 And so on (Abbr.)            | 23 Banquet                   | 44 Comic strip possum  |
| 44 Impostor               | 4 Tennyson title               | 25 Scale member              | 45 Nap                 |
| 46 Sudden turn            | 5 Cavalry unit                 | 27 Part of the Justice Dept. | 48 Body art, for short |
| 47 Traditional usage      | 6 Canine's neighbor            | 29 Cronkite, Rather, et al.  | 50 Calendar abbr.      |
| 49 Love apple             | 7 Sea bird                     | 31 Work together             |                        |
| 51 Medical prioritization | 8 Id counterpart               | 32 Doubtful                  |                        |

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 10 of 78

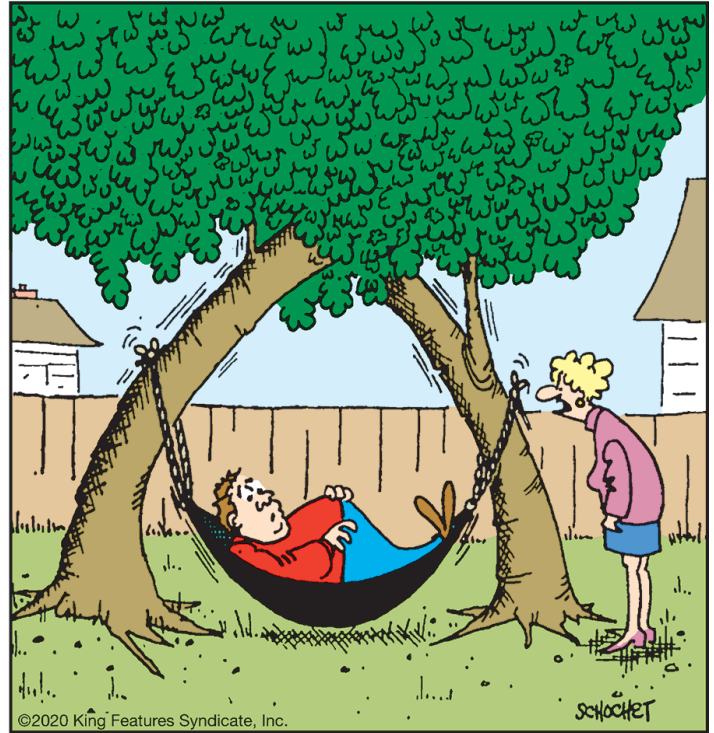
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

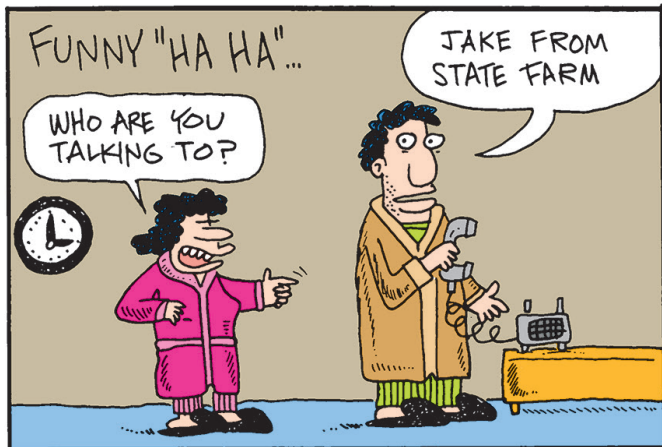
	D	W	E	L	T			I	T	E	M	S	
O	R	A	T	O	R			N	E	G	A	T	E
V	E	L	C	R	O			C	R	O	C	U	S
O	A	T		D	O	G	I	N		H	A	S	
I	R	O	N		P	A	S		F	O	R	A	
D	Y	N	E	S		M	O	D	E	S	T	Y	
		E	O	N		R	E	A					
C	U	R	D	L	E	D		A	S	H	E	S	
O	N	U	S		W	O	O		T	A	L	E	
A	S	S		P	S	E	U	D		Z	A	G	
C	U	S	T	O	M			T	O	M	A	T	O
T	R	I	A	G	E			A	Z	O	R	E	S
	E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

## LAFF - A - DAY

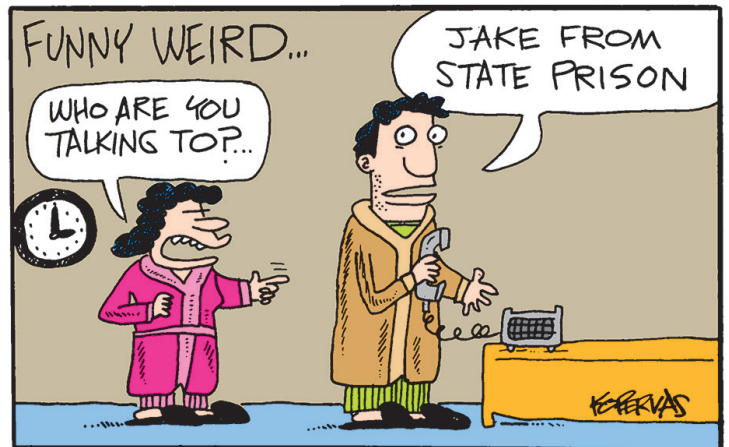


“Don’t you think it’s time you started thinking about a diet?”

## Out on a Limb



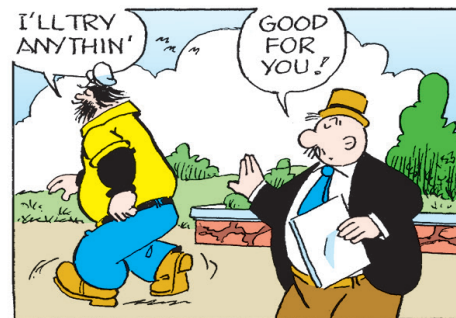
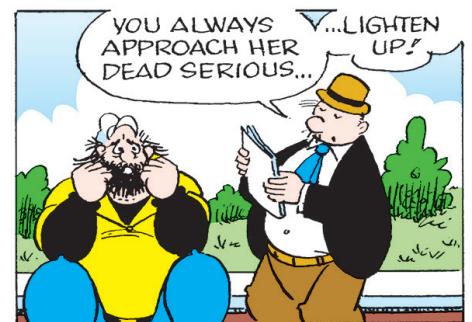
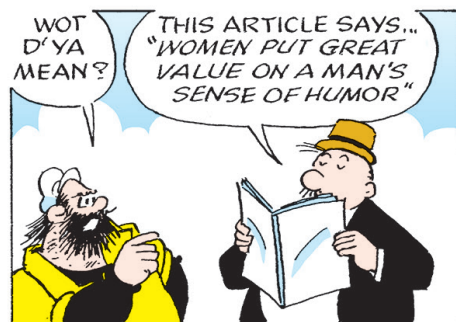
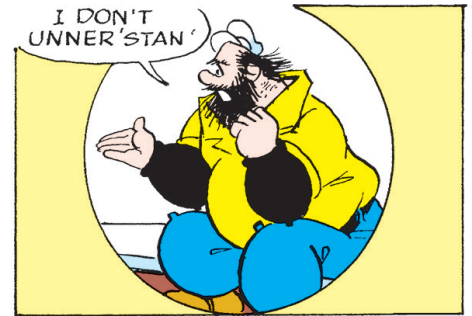
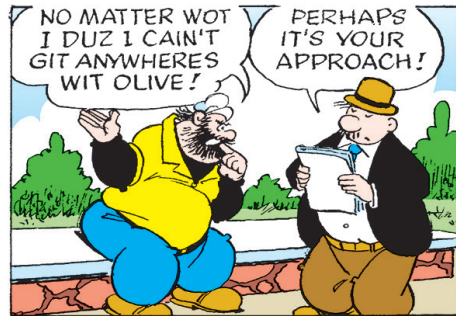
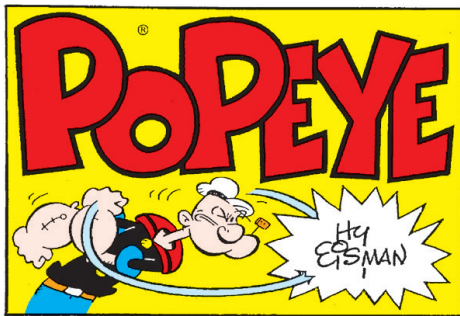
by Gary Kopervas



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

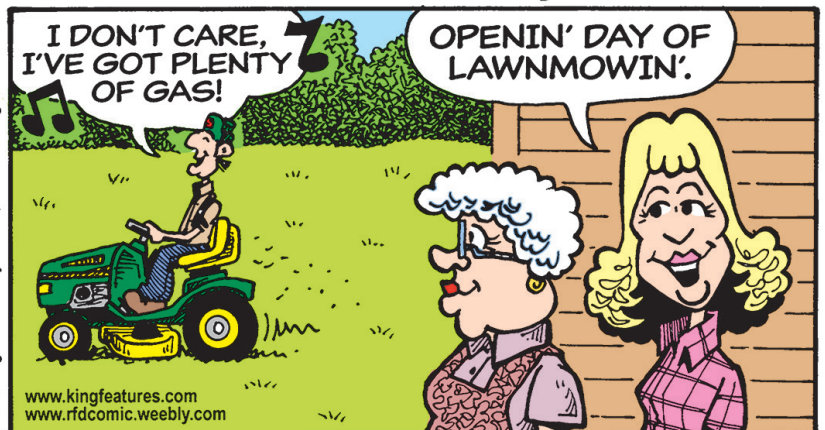
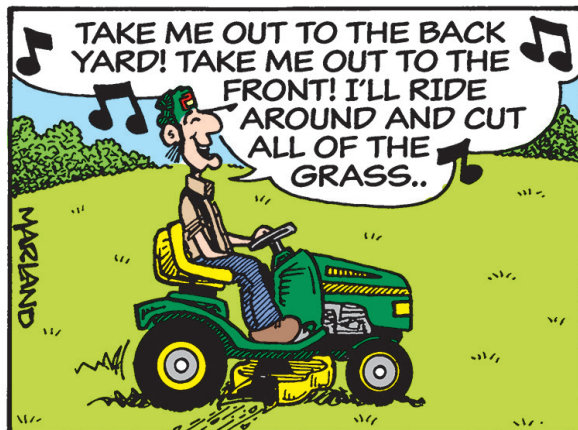
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 11 of 78



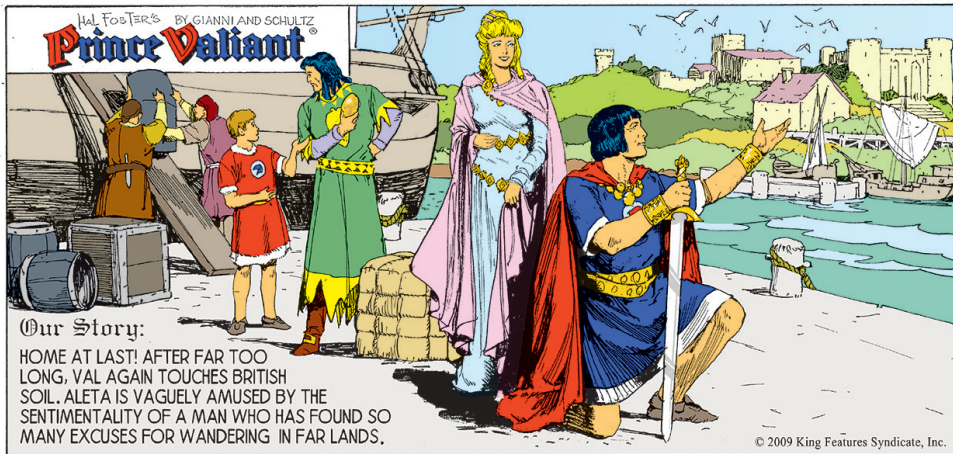
## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 12 of 78



**Our Story:**

HOME AT LAST! AFTER FAR TOO LONG, VAL AGAIN TOUCHES BRITISH SOIL. ALETA IS VAGUELY AMUSED BY THE SENTIMENTALITY OF A MAN WHO HAS FOUND SO MANY EXCUSES FOR WANDERING IN FAR LANDS.

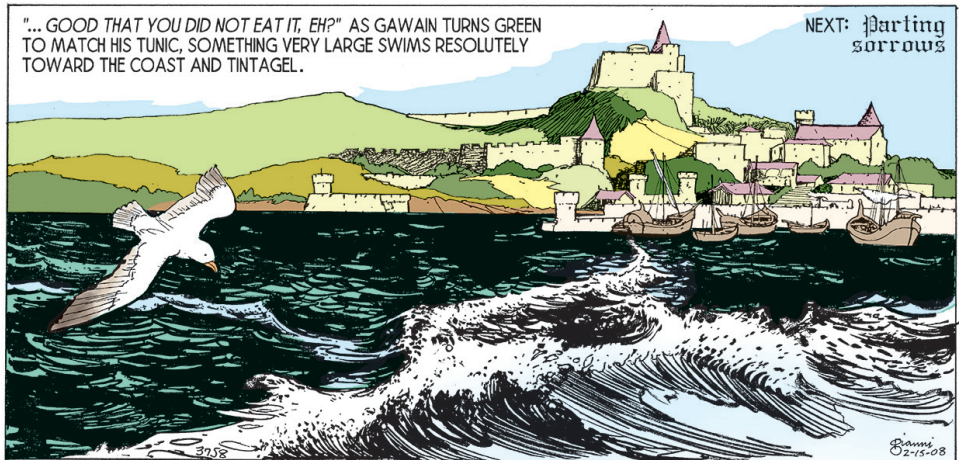
© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



NATHAN AND GAWAIN, MEANWHILE, CONTINUE TO ARGUE OVER THE FATE OF GAWAIN'S EGG. ONE OF THE BEASTMEN STEPS UP CLOSE AND SNARLS SOME GUTTURAL PICTISH.



NATHAN, WHO HAS SPENT TIME WITH THE BRUTES, TRANSLATES: "HE SAYS THAT THEY MAKE THEIR ARROW POISON FROM THE CREATURE THAT COMES FROM THIS SHELL ..."



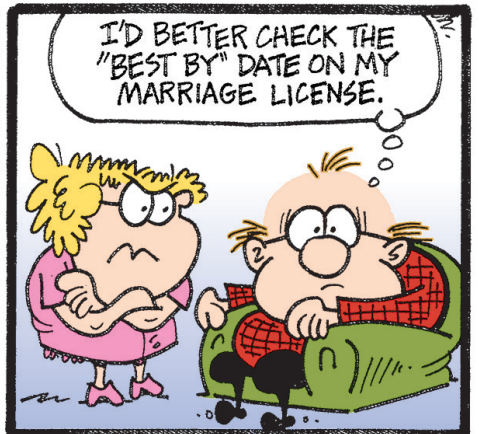
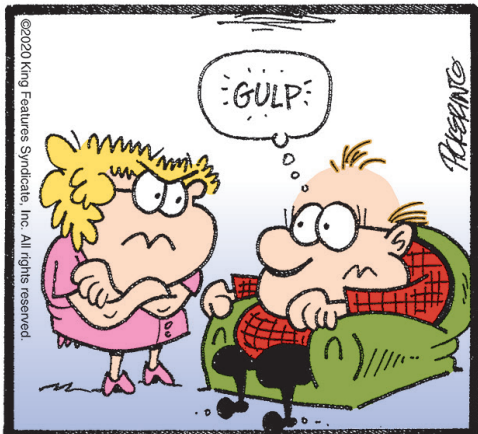
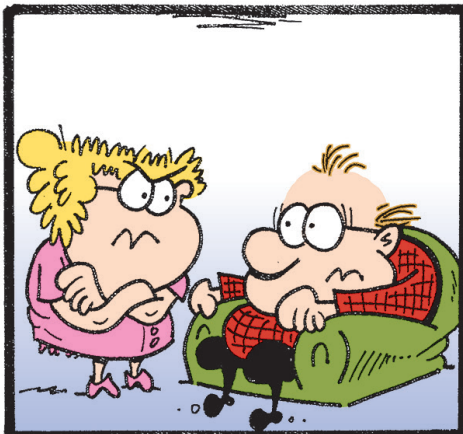
"... GOOD THAT YOU DID NOT EAT IT, EH?" AS GAWAIN TURNS GREEN TO MATCH HIS TUNIC, SOMETHING VERY LARGE SWIMS RESOLUTELY TOWARD THE COAST AND TINTAGEL.

NEXT: Darting sorrows

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Trip to Supermarket Brings New Dangers

It occurred to me the other day that I haven't been eating right. It's been difficult to find food in my stores, and it's been difficult to work up the courage to go out, fearing I might get too close to someone who is sick.

It also occurred to me that not eating right was bad for my immune system, should I need to fight off an illness.

I began going out just before my nearest store closed at night, dashing in for one or two items, using the self-checkout, and fleeing out the door with my haul. That's assuming my two items were actually on the shelves.

The store began holding "senior hours" early in the morning. Theoretically that would allow seniors to shop more safely and be able to find items on the freshly stocked shelves. In reality, said the store manager, it was likely more dangerous. He'd watched the

security tapes of a few early morning openings and had seen no less than 80 seniors pushing through the doors when they opened, with no sign of social distancing anywhere.

But now, in the nick of time, two stores have restarted pickup service, after having cancelled it for over a month. I place the pickup order online, select a time slot two days in advance, and drive there to have my groceries put in the car. It works, even if there are a lot of substitutions of items and a few items out of stock.

Here's a thought: Do you have a supplemental Medicare policy or Medicare Advantage? Does it cover meal delivery service, perhaps Meals on Wheels? Some do. Coverage might only apply at certain times (if you've just had surgery or have a medical condition), but a lot of rules are changing now. It wouldn't hurt to check your policy.

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 14 of 78

1. "Sometimes I underestimate the magnitude of me" is a quote from what 1993 inductee into the National Baseball Hall of Fame?

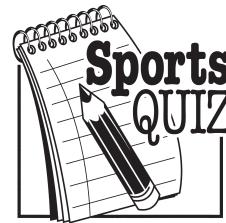
2. In March, what NFL star announced the establishment of media company 199 Productions, named after his selection number in the 2000 NFL Draft?

3. What martial art was introduced as an official medal event at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia?

4. The Indianapolis Colts selected Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning with the No. 1 overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft. What player was drafted at No. 2 by the San Diego Chargers?

5. True or false: On April 20, 1986, the Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan scored an NBA record 63 points in a first-round playoff win over the Boston Celtics.

6. At what track did motorsports



by Ryan A. Berenz

pioneer Danica Patrick win her first and only IndyCar race?

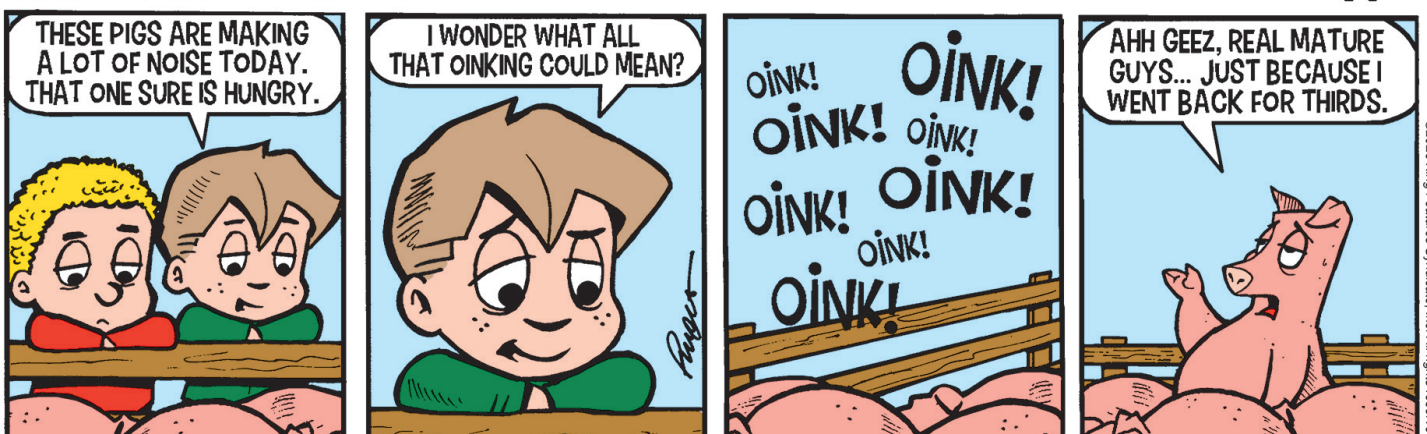
7. NHL great Wayne Gretzky concluded his playing career on April 18, 1999, as a member of what team?

## Answers

1. Reggie Jackson.
2. Tom Brady.
3. Taekwondo.
4. Ryan Leaf, Washington State quarterback.
5. False. Despite Jordan's playoff record 63 points, the Celtics defeated the Bulls 135-131 in Game 2 and went on to sweep the series 3-0.
6. Twin Ring Motegi. Patrick won the Indy Japan 300 in 2008.
7. The New York Rangers.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 15 of 78



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



## Let's Get It Done

As of April 13th, nearly eight thousand Paycheck Protection Program loan applications were approved in South Dakota alone. Our state has seen \$1.15 billion go out to businesses facing devastating losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While America is facing a crisis, we can hold onto hope. The CARES Act was focused on ensuring our businesses are still there when we come out on the other side of this pandemic.

I've heard from dozens of local businesses and employees who are utilizing the Paycheck Protection Program as a lifeline for their business. Josh from Spearfish let my office know a local business was able to retain their five employees because of the forgivable loan program, and Erica from Mitchell reached out to tell me her small family business kept their twenty employees because of the loan they received. The bill wasn't perfect, but when I hear stories like these, it drives home the fact that it was needed. The price of action is high, but the price of inaction is higher.

For weeks, I've been focused on simplifying the program. I fought for guidance for independent contractors and sole proprietorships who wouldn't normally be eligible. Moving forward, lenders will be able to more confidently consider these businesses for Paycheck Protection Program support.

It's plain and simple. This program is saving jobs. But as of today, because of such high demand, the funds have run dry. We need to replenish the bucket. The president has asked for an additional \$250 billion to be added to this program. I support that effort. If we think about this program from a long-term perspective, it's far better to keep people on payroll now, with jobs to go back to, than add them to the unemployment rolls.

Our state – our nation, really – is facing unprecedented unemployment numbers. South Dakotans who have never applied for assistance in their lives are being forced to turn in an application. This situation is unlike anything we've ever faced, and we don't want to create a long-term problem. Unfortunately, approval of the additional funds the president has requested is being held up in Congress.



## Working to Answer Your COVID-19 Healthcare Questions

As COVID-19 continues to spread in our state and across the country, South Dakotans are reaching out to my office for answers about how this virus will impact the economy and their businesses, and also how they can protect their health. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is continually putting out new guidance on their COVID-19 website with tips on how to protect against getting the virus, and what to do if you suspect you may have it. The CDC is a great resource, and I encourage folks to check out their site, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). We're also compiling the latest information from CDC on my website, [www.rounds.senate.gov/covid19](http://www.rounds.senate.gov/covid19).

While it's nice to have easy access to accurate information online, sometimes it's better to be able to ask your specific questions to a medical doctor. I spent my career in the insurance business, so I'm the first to admit I don't know the answers to all of the medical questions we've received! That is why I've brought in experts to join me on my recent telephone townhalls that all South Dakotans are invited to join. We were recently joined by Dr. Mike Wilde from Sanford Health and Dr. Jennifer McKay from Avera Health. On another telephone townhall, we were joined by one of my fellow senators, Dr. Bill Cassidy. Dr. Cassidy is a senator from Louisiana and is also a gastroenterologist. Additionally, he has a background in public health and vaccine programs, making him an ideal guest to answer questions about COVID-19.

Many of the questions answered by the doctors on our calls are questions that we've seen all over social media, on the news and through phone calls and emails to my office. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions, along with the answers given on our townhall calls:

Q: Is it safe to go to a clinic or hospital for a reason other than coronavirus if it's not urgent?

A: It really depends on the reason, and it's a good idea to call your physician to get their recommendation. If you do go to a medical facility, you should wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth. You can even make a mask out of a scarf or a bandana.

Q: How is COVID-19 different from the flu?

A: We see anywhere from 10,000 to 80,000 deaths from the flu, depending on the year. Typically, the people who die from the flu are newborns or people who are 85 years and older whose immune systems are not as strong as they once were. For the rest of us, we've been exposed to the flu virus for as many years as we've been alive, whether that's from getting the flu shot each year or just from being around it in the environment. That exposure helps us to build up immunity to it. COVID-19 is different because none of us have previously been exposed to this particular type of coronavirus. Therefore, more people at different stages of life are at risk of COVID-19, which makes it different and more dangerous than the flu.

Q: If we live in a small town with very few positive cases of COVID-19, do we still need to wear a mask when we go to the grocery store?

A: Yes, it's advisable to wear a mask when you go into a store right now. When you pay the cashier, you won't be 6 feet apart from them--you'll likely be a foot or two away. 50 percent of people who are infected never have symptoms, so you may not know that you're near someone who is carrying the virus.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 17 of 78**

Q: I work at an essential business that will continue to stay open throughout the pandemic. How can I protect myself at work?

A: Wear a mask, try to keep 6 feet apart from other people, wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds under hot water.

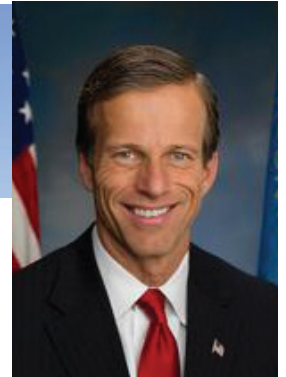
Q: How long until a vaccine is widely available?

A: It could be anywhere from 12 to 18 months until a vaccine is available to the public. The best evidence right now shows that when someone gets COVID-19 and recovers from it, they are then immune to it. This would be great news, and if we were able to track immunity in our cities and towns, we'd be able to get back to normal more quickly. Part of the CARES Act that was signed into law has specifically targeted accelerating the development of therapeutics and vaccines. This may increase the speed at which these vaccines are made available in large quantities.

As we continue learning more about COVID-19, new questions arise. We'll continue holding telephone townhalls with South Dakotans to try to answer as many questions as we can. I'm very grateful to all the nurses, doctors and medical professionals in South Dakota who are working around the clock to save lives right now. I'm also thankful to Drs. Cassidy, Wilde and McKay who took time out of their busy jobs to join our telephone townhalls.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you need any help right now. We'll do our best to get you answers. Continue to practice the social distancing and other tips from the CDC as we work together to beat COVID-19.

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



## Staying Connected While We're Staying Apart

The people of South Dakota are my top advisors. I rely on them more than anyone to get important advice and feedback about my work in Washington. While my reliance on their expertise hasn't changed – and it never will – the venues through which I receive it certainly has these days.

The coronavirus outbreak has changed just about everything in our day-to-day lives, not the least of which is how we stay connected with one another. Many people are now working from home, students' classes have been canceled for the remainder of the year, and social distancing is a big part of fighting this pandemic. If you're still getting used to all of this, you're not alone. I'm an extremely social person, but we all need to do our part to help slow the spread and flatten the curve. The cost of inconvenience is worth it in this fight.

One of the most important things I've learned over the last few weeks is that despite these temporary adjustments to our daily routines, Americans' desire to remain connected has never been stronger. It's been inspiring to see so many people who've used the power of technology to prevent this crisis from getting in the way of things like weddings, baby showers, classes, or even family meals. It's amazing to see how people have adapted and made things work.

I've been realizing how important adapting is, too. No in-person meetings? No classroom or school assembly visits? No hopping in the car and driving from town to town? No problem. There's a solution for all of that. I've been using everything from Skype to Shindig to FaceTime to Facebook Live in order to remain connected to the people of South Dakota throughout this crisis. Like I said, I still rely on your feedback to help ensure I'm doing the best job possible, especially now.

For years, I've used social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to share information and stay connected. Last month, I hosted a Q&A session on Instagram, and I recently used Facebook Live to host a digital town hall event where I was able to answer questions about the congressional response to the coronavirus crisis in real time. I think these are valuable ways to stay connected and be responsive, so look for similar events in the near future if you'd like to participate.

I've been using virtual conferencing tools to hold events with statewide organizations or with local groups in places like Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Spearfish, Belle Fourche, Hot Springs, Mitchell, Watertown, and other communities. I've also used those tools to join a virtual town hall meeting with Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) to discuss the coronavirus response throughout the Dakotas. And they've allowed me to stay connected with folks in the South Dakota media who have helped keep our state informed throughout this crisis.

While we've all been affected, I feel particularly bad for students. Spring is such an awesome time of year for sports, other extracurricular activities, and graduation. I've used technology to drop into remoting learning sessions in real time and have also been recording short video lessons for students about how the federal government works. If you're a South Dakota educator who would be interested in having me

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 19 of 78**

help with any of your lessons, please reach out to one of my offices, and we'll try our best to get something lined up.

Aside from their ability to connect people, the one thing all of these technological tools have in common is that they require a reliable internet connection. The coronavirus crisis has underscored the urgent need to expand effective broadband access to all parts of the country since people are relying on the internet now more than ever before.

One of my top priorities in Congress is ensuring rural America isn't left behind when it comes to advancements in fixed and mobile broadband technology. At my request, the federal agency responsible for our nation's digital infrastructure will hopefully take meaningful steps later this month to ensure certain resources that support technology like WiFi will be more readily available as we move toward the 5G revolution in South Dakota. Every step is important.

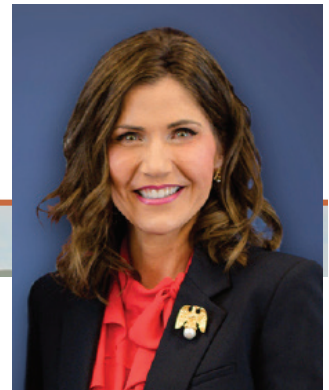
Just because we can't see each other face-to-face as often as usual doesn't mean we can't stay connected. So, as we all continue to deal with this crisis, I want you to know that my team and I are here to help. I've got a resources page set up on my website, which you can find at [www.thune.senate.gov/COVID19](http://www.thune.senate.gov/COVID19), and you can always call, email, or write – or join one of my future virtual events by keeping an eye on my social media channels for updates (@SenJohnThune).

# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 20 of 78



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Going on Offense against COVID-19

For many weeks, I have said that South Dakota is going to let the science, facts, and data drive our decision-making in the fight against COVID-19.

The science has left us with one worrisome truth: we cannot stop the spread of this virus. But we can take action to slow it down. That action needs to be targeted and based on facts and data, not driven by fear.

I firmly believe one of the best defenses is a good offense. And, in conjunction with our other mitigation efforts, South Dakota is keeping its people safe by going on offense against COVID-19.

South Dakota is now the first state in America to launch a statewide, state-backed clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine to fight COVID-19. We're testing it both as a therapeutic to treat the disease and as a preventative measure. There have been many success stories about the effectiveness of this drug. Hopefully, our trial will gather the science, facts, and data to support those success stories.

We were also the second state to launch the Care19 app, a phone app that will help our state Department of Health with contact tracing to slow the spread of this disease.

Though I've taken some criticism from the mainstream media for our targeted, thoughtful approach, the data and the facts continue to show that the people of South Dakota have taken my guidance seriously.

As I've said before, my role with respect to public safety is something I take very seriously. But the people themselves are primarily responsible for their safety. They are the ones entrusted with expansive freedoms - they are free to exercise their rights to work, worship, and play - or to stay at home, or to conduct social distancing.

South Dakotans are stepping up and taking their personal responsibility seriously. They are acting to keep themselves, their loved ones, and their fellow citizens safe. And because of this, our projections continue to improve.

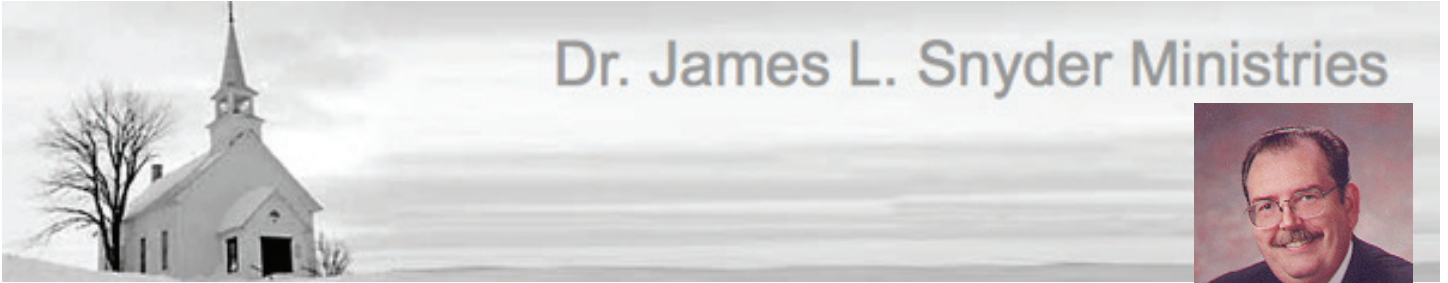
This week, Department of Health staff along with chief medical officials from Avera, Monument, and Sanford presented updated projections that show a further flattening of our curve. In total, thanks to the diligence of South Dakotans, we've cut our peak hospitalization projections by 75 percent.

Though we've seen marked improvement, my request to South Dakotans is to stay the course. We are well-positioned to win the fight against COVID-19, but we need to hang in there a little bit more. Please continue to social distance, practice good hygiene, and self isolate when sick.

Remember, we will get through this, just like we always do.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 21 of 78



## What's Time Got to Do with It?

After so many weeks, I haven't been able to keep track of them, one day seems just like the other day. Today reminds me of yesterday, and yesterday may be the same as tomorrow. I know I am used to being confused, but I have exceeded my limit on this time aspect.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have been spending all of our time together. We do not go anywhere except sometimes I slip over to the office and come back. Besides that, we are in each other's company, 24/7. Or is it 7/24? I'm not sure anymore.

For the most part, it has been a wonderful vacation from the rest of the world. I assure you, we surely needed this vacation. Sometimes the world can get rather sticky, if you know what I mean?

After being married for so many years (I cannot really remember how many it has been) I have begun to understand a little more about the other resident in our parsonage.

Just when you think you know everything, then you discover something you did not know before.

I love discovering new things about everything. I have discovered that the more you learn about your spouse, the more amicable the relationship is. I think it has something to do with expectations.

I knew this about my wife, but I was reminded of this in the last week or so. She is addicted to a time schedule.

That is not in itself a bad thing. After all, life is based upon some kind of a time schedule. The problem is, I do not have a time schedule, particularly during the days like we are living now. I sorta go with the flow.

In our house, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all served on a regular schedule. Before this vacation from society, we grabbed lunch whenever we could fit it into our schedule. Lunch was not the schedule but what we were doing at the time. It is quite different today.

Now, the schedule is built around our eating. Since our seclusion, I have eaten breakfast, lunch, and dinner on a very regular basis.

The problem is, it is going to cost me quite a bit. After all of these social shenanigans are over, I am going to have to go and buy new shirts and pants because the ones I have now will not fit.

I am thinking of taking it out of my wife's allowance; after all, she is responsible for the weight gain during these weeks at home. If it was not for her, and if she was not such a marvelous cook, I would not gain any weight whatsoever. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 22 of 78**

During these days of social hibernation, time has lost its real significance. It used to be I had a schedule, and I worked to keep that schedule to the very minute. Now, I have no schedule, and I have been keeping it quite strictly.

Just the other day my wife looked at me and said, "It's almost lunchtime. Don't you think you should get dressed and take off those pajamas?"

My answer was simply, "Why?"

My morning schedule is a complete mirror of my afternoon schedule, which is also a mirror of my evening schedule. I never know if it is morning, afternoon, or evening. According to my wife, what you are wearing determines the schedule. And believe me, she is always on schedule.

Nobody comes to the house anymore, not even the Jehovah's Witnesses. For whom do I have to dress up?

Very systematically, and you will not believe this, she meticulously sets the alarm clock so she can get up in the morning at the same time. I only said this once; I learned my lesson, "Why are you setting the alarm clock?"

With one of her stern looks, she said, "Because, somebody has to get up and work!"

She has a regular schedule of getting up in the morning and going to bed at night. That schedule has not changed.

It's a good thing she has this schedule because I wouldn't know what time of day it was if I was not eating lunch at the right time.

As for me, I am a rather casual dude and not addicted to time. What in the world does time have to do with me having fun? After all, you only can have fun right now. I do not want to miss my time for having fun today because I will never make up for it tomorrow.

My motto has always been; make the best use of the time at hand.

Thinking about this, I was reminded of what Solomon once wrote. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4).

I think Solomon had something here. There is a time for everything and if we do not give everything time, there is going to be a lot of confusion in our life.

## Need for food skyrocketing among poor or unemployed S.D. residents during pandemic

**Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch**

Demand for food assistance among needy South Dakota residents has skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and donations of food and the volunteers needed to help distribute it are becoming harder to find.

So far, the food collection and delivery systems in South Dakota have kept up and most families are getting the food they need.

But in early April, the state's largest network of food banks, Feeding South Dakota, said it expected food donations to fall by half for the month. At the same time, the 211 Helpline Center — a key connection between people in need and the organizations that provide help — has seen its number of calls for help more than double.

During the month of March 2020, the 211 Helpline Center received more than 2,280 calls from people running short of food, said Betsy Schuster, vice president of program development. In all of 2019, the Helpline Center fielded slightly more than 4,600 calls for food assistance, Schuster said.

The pandemic has left thousands of South Dakota families needing help on a number of fronts, both financially and in terms of meeting basic needs.

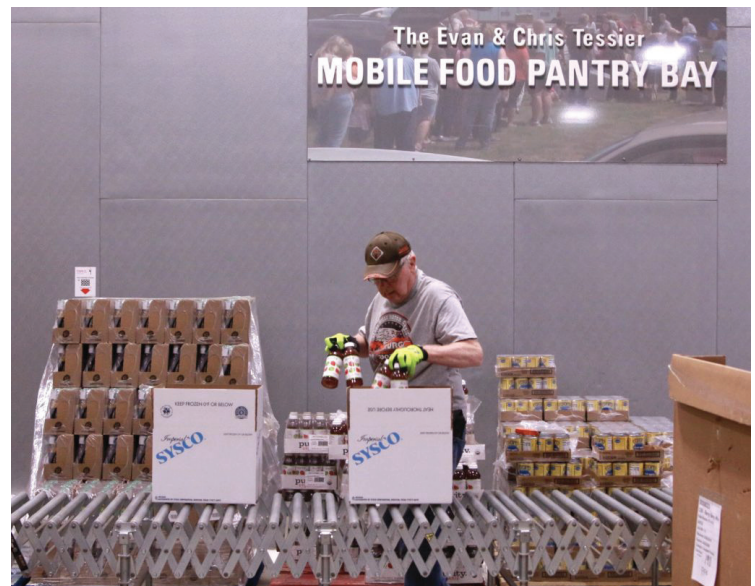
Many of the people asking for help are doing so for the first time and have no experience in managing a severe financial crisis, Schuster said. For some, the pandemic is the first time they have signed up for unemployment benefits, sought food stamps under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or asked for help from food pantries, she said.

"It just compounds everything," Schuster said. "Not only are they looking for food, but they're also just looking for answers on what their next steps are, how do they pay rent, how do they pay their utility bill coming up. They're tough calls."

In February, the latest month for which data is available, there were 78,006 South Dakotans enrolled for SNAP benefits. About half those enrolled, 37,763, were children under the age of 18.

The number of people who are now, or soon will be, considered "food insecure" is not expected to fall anytime soon. The number of unemployed people in South Dakota is surging.

The first full week of April saw first-time unemployment claims in South Dakota hit 7,916, which was roughly 40 times higher than the first week of March. Demand for SNAP benefits and other government-run food security programs likely surged as well in March but data from last month won't be available until April 20, Department of Social Services spokesperson Max Wetz said.



**Despite being in an age category that is at higher risk for serious COVID-19 symptoms, longtime Pierre resident Don Zeller has continued to volunteer at the Feeding South Dakota distribution center during the pandemic.** Photo: Nick

Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 24 of 78

Meanwhile, Feeding South Dakota expects to see higher demand for its services for up to a year.

"We're going to see the effects of the pandemic, and what we're doing to respond to it, for six to 12 months," said Jennifer Stensaas, communications coordinator for Feeding South Dakota.

The companies who make food products and the grocery stores who usually provide most of the food donations to Feeding South Dakota's parent network, Feeding America, don't have as much product to donate during the pandemic. Nationally, people have virtually stopped eating out and instead are buying more food from grocery stores, which means there are fewer surplus items for grocers to donate to food banks.

Meanwhile, the separate supply chain that serves restaurants, resorts and even schools has been unable to quickly shift gears and sell products to grocers. The companies that sell foods to restaurants don't typically have contracts to sell to grocery stores and such contracts are difficult and time consuming to secure. The food would need to be repackaged, too.

Also, creating a new delivery system to move large amounts of fresh food from fields to food banks would take too much time, labor and money for either farmers or food banks to handle while finances are already strained by the pandemic.

"The whole system is in shock," said Evert Van der Sluis, an economics professor at South Dakota State University. "About half of the money that we spend on food is spent on food away from home. That food away from home, other than the takeout food, that market is pretty well shot. It's gone. So now, most people are eating their food at home and that's less expensive but switching to that new system cannot easily be done."

Still, some suppliers for the restaurant and hospitality industries have been able to donate products locally. In one recent example, Grand Prairie Foods in Sioux Falls, which sells prepared foods for hotels and other businesses, donated thousands of packets of scrambled eggs once destined for hotel continental breakfast bars, Stensaas said. Those packets were distributed April 14 during the first of what will be bi-weekly food distributions at W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls.

Usually, most of the food Feeding South Dakota gives away has been donated either by grocers or manufacturers to its parent organization Feeding America. The donations are then divided among Feeding America affiliates based on need and population. Large donations, such as the recent pledge of 10 million pounds worth of pork products to Feeding America made by the Smithfield Foods Inc, are divided up between states too, Stensaas said. Exactly how the Smithfield donation will be divided up hasn't been decided yet, she said.

The need for food aid has increased dramatically across America and because demand for groceries has also increased and is projected to cause a decline in food donations, Feeding South Dakota has had to start buying more food than it typically does in order to keep up with the increased need, Stensaas said. The situation has greatly added to the importance of monetary donations and cost-saving volunteer labor.

"We've got a couple of different things going on here," Stensaas said. "We're seeing fewer donated products, more purchased products and higher shipping costs. So we're really going to be asking for funds, asking for the community to help us pay to bring this product into South Dakota."

"We're going to see the effects of the pandemic, and what we're doing to respond to it, for six to 12 months ... we're seeing fewer donated products, more purchased products and higher shipping costs."

-- Jennifer Stensaas, communications coordinator for Feeding South Dakota



**Jennifer Stensaas,  
Feeding South  
Dakota**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 25 of 78

## More volunteers needed, yet harder to find



**Andy Walz, Pierre operations manager for Feeding South Dakota, says the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the organization to adapt in order to keep providing food to needy people throughout South Dakota.** Photo/video: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Feeding South Dakota shuttered its food pantries in the state early on during the pandemic to ensure safety of employees, volunteers and customers, Stensaas said. Instead, the organization has switched much of its operation to pre-packing boxes and delivering them to a more diverse set of distribution sites.

As a consequence of pre-packing food boxes, the need for volunteers to pack the boxes has increased along with the demand for food aid. The pandemic, though, has limited the pool from which volunteers can be drawn.

"We used to benefit from the Department of Corrections work program. We don't have access to that anymore, and so really we're relying on everybody working overtime and volunteers coming in," Stensaas said. "Those are getting fewer and fewer because people are afraid to come in. We're doing our very best to keep people six feet apart from each other and everyone's washing hands and using gloves and all of that, but the reality is that our workforce is getting slim."

The problem has become particularly acute at Feeding South Dakota's distribution hub in Pierre, which serves a wide swath of the state with its mobile food pantry trucks.

Several of the communities that the Pierre warehouse typically serves have seen up to 50% increases in demand for food aid, said Operations Manager Andy Walz. For example, 300 cars showed up at a recent drive-in food distribution in Fort Pierre, when usually there might be 200 served, he said.

"We've seen that rise depending on the community," Walz said. "It varies location to location, but we're seeing that greater increase."

During the week of April 6-10, the Pierre warehouse expected to distribute food to between 750 and 800 households in three communities — Fort Thompson, Pierre and Reliance. Each household was slated to receive two boxes of food totaling 60 pounds; one box for shelf-stable items and another for frozen or refrigerated items. That means about 1,600 boxes with roughly 96,000 pounds of food needed to be packed by hand.

On the afternoon of April 7, two volunteers packed dry, shelf-stable goods into boxes. Long-time Pierre resident Don Zeller, worked at the head of a collapsible conveyor, started the box-packing process with canned goods and juice. Despite being at high-risk of COVID-19, Zeller volunteered three days in a row during most recent weeks.

"This is a whole lot better than playing solitaire at home," he said.

Lynelle Asher has been a regular volunteer at the Pierre warehouse for years. Asher said packing boxes is one way to do her part in fighting against the disease.

"I'm nervous but I'm still going to keep doing this," Asher said. "If at least I'm here, I know I'm doing something."

Asher and Zeller were beefing up the stockpile of pre-packed food boxes. Thousands of the boxes were stacked floor-to-ceiling in the industrial warehouse on April 7 awaiting delivery. There were enough boxes,

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 26 of 78

Walz said, to meet demand for a couple of weeks of mobile food pantry deliveries.

Having a stockpile of boxes on hand helps ensure reserves, but also requires more volunteers to continue preparations, Walz said.

Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals directly to elderly people in need, has also seen a sharp increase in demand for its service and volunteers, said George Larson, executive director of Meals on Wheels of western South Dakota.

In Rapid City, the number of households receiving meals jumped from about 470 at the beginning of March to about 597 in early April. Many communities in his service area have seen up to a 50% increase in demand for meals, Larson said.

"We've made some really amazing relationships here in town with Youth & Family Services, with YMCA, and even with the city of Rapid City," Larson said. "These organizations have actually stepped up and allowed their staff to be able to come volunteer for us."



**Lynelle Asher packs boxes with food at the Feeding South Dakota distribution center in Pierre on April 7. She said volunteering is a way to fight back against COVID-19 and help people who are struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

## Communities stepping up to meet the challenge

Even with a large pool of available volunteers, Meals on Wheels has had to increase the work hours for many of its paid, part-time staff, said Larson, who may hire more workers. All told, the organization has seen an additional \$150,000 worth of expenses during the pandemic to pay for more storage space, food and staff, Larson said.

"We have some truly amazing community partners. Through Black Hills Energy, the South Dakota Community Foundation, the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, there have been some very generous donations that have offset a large portion of that," Larson said.

The future, though, is uncertain. Prominent midwest economists such as Neel Kashkari, president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, say they are expecting the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout to last up to 18 months. If that were to happen, demand for food aid would remain high.

At the same time, outbreaks of COVID-19 in meat processing facilities, such as the shuttered Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, are beginning to slow production of meat products. Processing plant closures threaten to create a longer-term disruption in the meat supply chain, which could drive meat prices higher, Van der Sluis said. Meat is already one of the most expensive items for food banks to obtain.

Similar disruptions are expected in produce markets as fresh fruit and vegetable crops become ready for harvest. Those crops often need to be harvested by hand with workers in close proximity to each other.

"This Smithfield plant closure is just one more thing that points out the vulnerability of these supply chains, whether they are global or not," Van der Sluis said.

Feeding South Dakota officials are working to make sure the organization is able to keep providing food to those who need it, even if prices rise and supplies run short, Stensaas said. In one effort to control costs, Feeding South Dakota has been working closely with its sister organizations in Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin to avoid bidding wars on food products, Stensaas said.

The organization has sought more monetary donations and has had some success, Stensaas said. Since the beginning of April, Meals on Wheels and Feeding South Dakota have secured large, new financial commitments. The Black Hills Community Foundation on April 13, announced \$64,000 in grants as part

# Groton Daily Independent


Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 27 of 78

of its Collective Impact Food Security Initiative. Both Meals on Wheels and Feeding South Dakota were awarded \$20,000.

On April 15, MDU Resources Group, a partnership between several natural gas companies, announced it would give \$500,000 to food banks and pantries, including the Lemmon, S.D. food pantry and Feeding South Dakota.

"We live in a really great state. People are really stepping up," Stensaas said. "Some are deciding to change the timing of their annual donations and some are donating in addition to their annual contributions."

Larson is confident that support from businesses, foundations and government will ensure his organization will continue to provide meals for those who need them. "We are going to be here today, tomorrow and into the future," he said.



**ABOUT  
NICK LOWREY**  
Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 28 of 78

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Another slow news day, but an overall good news day. We're over three-quarters of a million cases in the US (which is not the good news): 726,800, a 3.9% increase. Today was the second consecutive day with a decline in both percentage rate of increase and in raw number increase; that's the good news. NY has 236,743 cases, a 3.1% increase; the state has shown declines in percentage and raw number increase for 4 consecutive days now. NJ, which together with NY has 44 of the nation's cases, has 81,420 reported cases, a 3.8% increase. They're on Day 2 of declining percentage and raw number increases. Rounding out the top 10: MA – 36,372, PA – 31,291, MI – 30,717, CA – 30,178, IL – 29,160, FL – 25,484, LA – 23,580, and TX – 18,820. There are 6 more states over 10,000 cases, 5 more over 5000, 21 morae + DC and PR over 1000, 5 more + GU over 500, 3 more over 100, and just VI and MP under 100 cases.

There have been 34,589 deaths. The raw number increase declined for the second consecutive day, and the percentage increase declined for the fourth consecutive day. Highest reported deaths: NY – 13,362, NJ – 4070, MI – 2307, MA – 1560, IL – 1272, LA – 1267, PA – 1098, CT – 1086, CA – 1065. There are 4 more over 500, 18 more over 100, 5 more + DC and PR over 50, 9 more over 10, and 5 + GU, VI, and MP under 10.

The only other thing I have for you today is word that another vaccine trial is now underway. With funding from BARDA (the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, which is under HHS) and in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, Moderna is administering its new vaccine (creatively named mRNA-1273) to 51 participants. Remember that this is just a Phase 1 trial, so all they're looking for at this point is safety, whether there is an immune response, and dosage vs. side effects. A good share of the funding provided is intended to permit the company to scale up for production of millions of doses; this is sort of a crap shoot since we don't know yet whether the vaccine will work out. Thing is, though, that we don't really want to sit around waiting for final results, then have to wait another several months for production to scale up at that point. When we get a working vaccine, we're going to want to push it to market just as fast as possible. I view this as an excellent expenditure of our tax dollars.

I'm going to leave it there tonight. Hoping you're all still being reasonable about protecting yourselves, your families, and others as well. What you do matters to far more people than just those you can see. Set a goal for tomorrow that, by the time you go to bed, someone somewhere will be just a little better off because you got out of bed that morning. Shouldn't take too much out of your day, and you'll sleep better.

Take care. We'll talk again.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 29 of 78

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 10	Apr. 11	Apr. 12	Apr. 13	Apr. 14	Apr. 15	Apr. 16	Apr. 17
Minnesota	1,154	1,242	1,336	1,427	1,621	1,650	1,695	1,809	1,912	2,071
Nebraska	523	577	648	704	814	871	901	952	1,066	1,138
Montana	332	354	377	---	387	394	399	404	415	422
Colorado	5,655	6,202	6,510	6,893	7,303	7,691	7,941	8,280	8,675	
Wyoming	230	239	253	261	270	275	282	288	296	
North Dakota	251	269	278	293	308	331	341	365	393	439
South Dakota	393	447	536	626	730	868	988	1,168	1,311	1,411
United States	431,838	466,396	501,701	530,006	557,590	582,619	609,685	639,664	671,425	706,779
US Deaths	14,768	16,703	18,781	20,608	22,109	23,529	26,059	30,985	33,286	37,079

Minnesota	+85	+88	+94	+91	+194	+29	+45	+114	+103	+159
Nebraska	+45	+54	+71	+56	+110	+57	+30	+51	+114	+72
Montana	+13	+22	+23	---	+10	+7	+5	+5	+11	+7
Colorado	+226	+547	+308	+383	+410	+388	+250	+339	+395	
Wyoming	+9	+9	+14	+8	+9	+5	+7	+6	+8	
North Dakota	+14	+18	+9	+15	+15	+23	+10	+24	+28	+46
South Dakota	+73	+54	+89	+90	+104	+138	+120	+180	+143	+100
United States	+31,909	+34,558	+35,305	+28,305	+27,584	+25,029	+27,066	+29,979	+31,761	+35,354
US Deaths	+1,857	+1,935	+2,078	1,827	+1,501	+1,420	+2,530	+4,926	+2,301	+3,793

	Apr. 19
Minnesota	2,213
Nebraska	1,287
Montana	426
Colorado	9,433
Wyoming	309
North Dakota	528
South Dakota	1542
United States	735,287
US Deaths	39,090

Minnesota	+142
Nebraska	+149
Montana	+4
Colorado	+379
Wyoming	+7
North Dakota	+89
South Dakota	+131
United States	+28,508
US Deaths	+2,011

### 2 Weeks Ago

Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
<b>312,245</b> US
<b>126,168</b> Spain
<b>124,632</b> Italy
<b>96,092</b> Germany
<b>90,853</b> France
<b>82,574</b> China

### Last Week

Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
<b>530,006</b> US
<b>163,027</b> Spain
<b>152,271</b> Italy
<b>130,730</b> France
<b>125,452</b> Germany
<b>83,096</b> China

### This Week

Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
<b>735,287</b> US
<b>195,944</b> Spain
<b>175,925</b> Italy
<b>152,978</b> France
<b>143,724</b> Germany

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 30 of 78

## Day County registers first COVID-19 Positive Case

Day County records its first positive case and Brown County recorded an additional positive case.

South Dakota:

Positive: +131 (1542 total)

Negative: +467 (10,118 total)

Hospitalized: +5 (68 total)

Deaths: No Change (7 total)

Recovered: +95 (552 total)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +1 (10 total), Brule +1 (35), Buffalo 7, Butte 12, Campbell 7, Custer 13, Dewey 19, Douglas +2 (21), Edmunds +1 (18), Grant 30, Gregory +1 (27), Haakon 10, Hand +2 (18), Hanson +1 (17), Harding 1, Jackson 3, Jones 4, Kingsbury +2 (53), McPherson 11, Mellette 9, Perkins 0, Potter +2 (26), Stanley +1 (29), Tripp +1 (47), Ziebach +1 (3), unassigned +37 (970).

No Changes on the Community Impact Map

Brookings: +2 recovered (9 of 9 recovered)

Brown +1 positive (18 total)

Day: First positive case

Jerauld: +2 recovered (4 of 4 recovered)

Lake: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)

Lincoln: +9 positive, +5 recovered (41 of 86 recovered)

McCook: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)

Minnehaha: +119 positive, +81 recovered (374 of 1,276 recovered)

Roberts: +1 recovered (4 of 4 recovered)

Sanborn: +1 recovered (1 of 3 recovered)

Union: +1 positive (5 total)

Yankton: +1 recovered (20 of 23 recovered)

The N.D. DoH & private labs are reporting 621 total completed tests today for COVID-19, with 90 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 528.

State & private labs have conducted 12,963 total tests with 12,435 negative results.

183 ND patients are considered recovered.

SOUTH DAKOTA CASE COUNTS	
Test Results	# of Cases
Positive*	1542
Negative**	10118
Ever Hospitalized*	68
Deaths**	7
Recovered	552

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES		
Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0 to 19 years	88	0
20 to 29 years	294	0
30 to 39 years	368	0
40 to 49 years	318	0
50 to 59 years	279	2
60 to 69 years	146	2
70 to 79 years	25	1
80+ years	24	2

# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 31 of 78

County	Total Positive Cases	Total Negative Cases	Total Cases Recove
Aurora	1	32	1
Beadle	21	157	19
Bennett	0	10	0
Bon Homme	4	84	3
Brookings	9	260	9
Brown	18	384	10
Brule	0	35	0
Buffalo	0	7	0
Butte	0	12	0
Campbell	0	7	0
Charles Mix	4	60	3
Clark	1	44	1
Clay	5	96	4
Codington	13	356	11
Corson	1	6	1
Custer	0	13	0
Davison	3	235	3
Day	1	41	0
Deuel	1	54	1
Dewey	0	19	0
Douglas	0	21	0
Edmunds	0	18	0
Fall River	1	9	1
Faulk	1	13	1
Grant	0	30	0
Gregory	0	27	0
Hankon	0	10	0
Hamlin	2	47	1
Hand	0	18	0
Hanson	0	17	0
Harding	0	1	0
Hughes	5	194	4
Hutchinson	2	69	2
Hyde	1	7	0

Jackson	0	3	0
Jerauld	4	24	4
Jones	0	4	0
Kingsbury	0	53	0
Lake	3	83	2
Lawrence	9	55	9
Lincoln	86	957	41
Lyman	2	15	2
Marshall	1	33	1
McCook	3	73	2
McPherson	0	11	0
Meade	1	50	1
Mellette	0	9	0
Miner	1	14	0
Minnehaha	1276	4080	374
Moody	1	66	0
Oglala Lakota	1	21	1
Pennington	10	309	6
Perkins	0	0	0
Potter	0	26	0
Roberts	4	70	4
Sanborn	3	31	1
Spink	3	76	2
Stanley	0	29	0
Sully	1	11	0
Todd	1	32	1
Tripp	0	47	0
Turner	5	106	3
Union	5	98	3
Walworth	5	23	0
Yankton	23	342	20
Ziebach	0	3	0
Unassigned*	0	970	0

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Male	839	5
Female	703	2

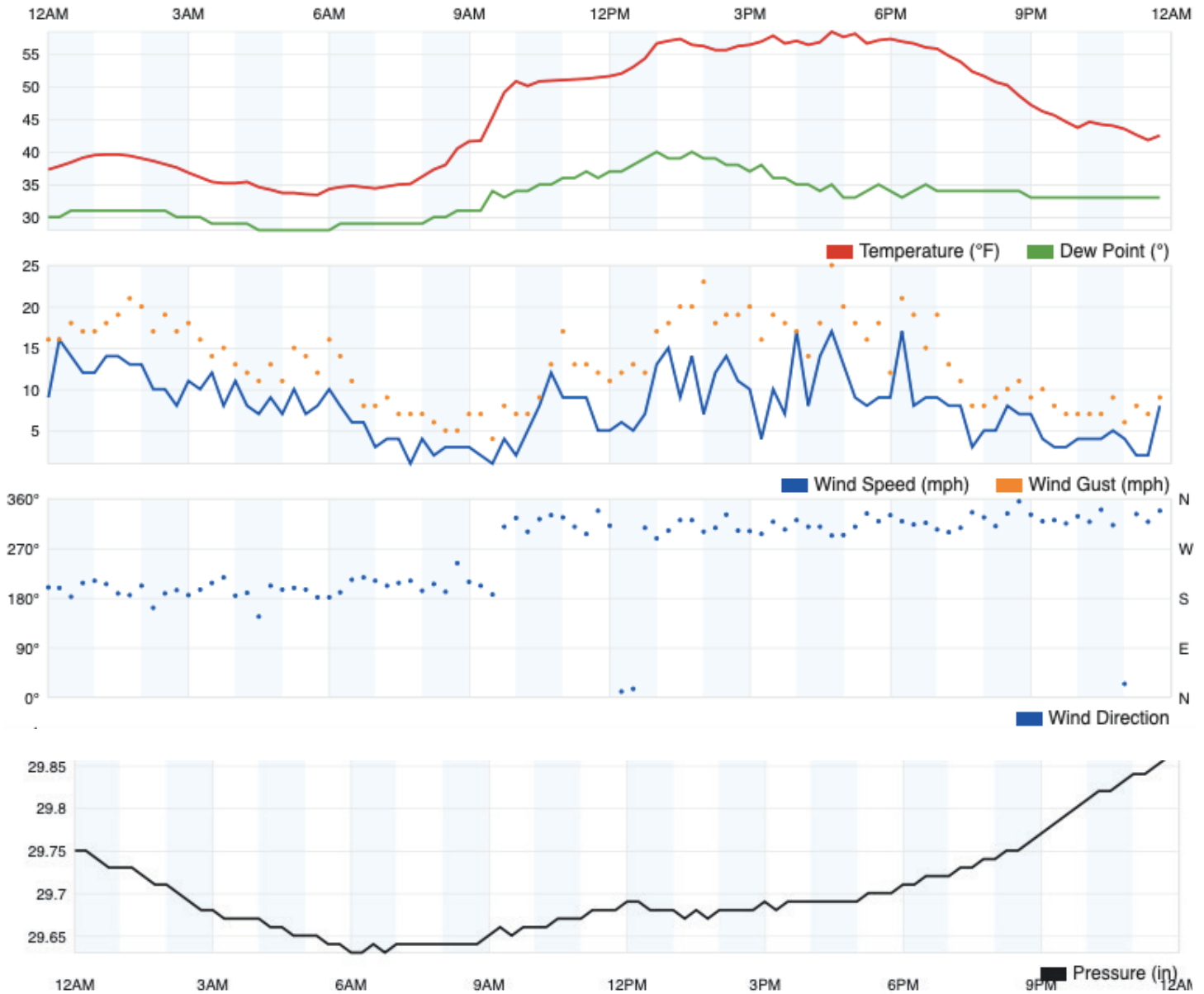
## COVID-19 DEATHS IN SOUTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	2
McCook	1
Minnehaha	3
Pennington	1

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 32 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 33 of 78

Today



Sunny

High: 54 °F

Tonight



Increasing  
Clouds

Low: 37 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny  
then Mostly  
Sunny and  
Windy

High: 60 °F

Monday  
Night



Partly Cloudy  
and Blustery  
then Mostly  
Clear

Low: 29 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 67 °F

*Warm And Dry Start To  
The Week*

*Today: Slightly Breezy, possible showers in south central SD. Highs 50 to 55°F*

*Monday: Windy and partly cloudy. Highs 55 to around 65°F*

*Tuesday: Mostly sunny, lighter winds. Highs 62-73°F*

Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 4/19/2020  
4:35 AM Central



Aside from possible light showers in central SD today, mostly dry conditions are expected to start the week. Temperatures remain near average today, warming up to near or above 70 by mid-week!

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 34 of 78

## Today in Weather History

April 19, 1955: An F2 tornado moved NNW from 16 miles Southwest of Aberdeen, in the Townships of Good Hope and Highland. Only the houses were left intact on the four farms that were torn apart. Also, an F2 tornado destroyed barns 8 miles Southeast of Gettysburg causing \$8,000 in damage. In Corson and Dewey Counties, two F0 tornadoes touched down, one after the other, causing over \$3,000 worth of damage and injuring two people. An additional F2 tornado moved NNW in Clear Lake and Richland Townships. Buildings were destroyed on five farms.

April 19, 1971: An unofficial rainfall amount of 6 inches in 24 hours was reported at White River. An official number of 4 plus inches was reported at Murdo, causing the washout of a railroad and derailment of a freight train. The Ghost Hawk Dam broke on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and the flood waters damaged a trailer home and two cars. Flooding occurred along the Bad, White, and Little White Rivers and Pine Creek.

April 19, 2006: An intense spring snowstorm swept across the Dakotas, dumping up to 5 feet of snow. The heaviest snow fell in the Black Hills, with 59.4 inches at Lead, SD. Bowman, ND reported 18 inches. The storm closed highways including I-94 in North Dakota, cutting power to thousands and was responsible for at least four deaths. Further west, 1 to 3 feet of snow and 50 to 60 mph winds caused drifts up to 10 feet, widespread power outages, and livestock losses.

1775: The first engagement of the Revolutionary War took place under crisp, clear weather at Lexington-Concord.

1927: A deadly tornado outbreak occurred across the central part of Illinois, killing 21 people. The first tornado touched down near Hardin, traveling northeast through Carrollton, then skimmed the south side of Springfield. At Carrollton, a teacher was killed as she held the door of the school shut, saving the lives of her students. The second tornado, peaking at estimated F4 intensity, touched down on the southeast side of Springfield, then moved to affect the towns of Riverton, Buffalo Hart, Chestnut, and Cornland. In Buffalo Hart, only three houses were left standing, while the northern half of Cornland was leveled. The tornado track was 65 miles, ending in Ford County.

1986: A major storm system produced ten tornadoes in Texas. One of these tornadoes virtually annihilated the town of Sweetwater. The tornado struck at the unlikely time of 7:17 am. One person was killed, and 100 were injured.

1941 - The temperature at Sodus, NY, soared to 95 degrees. The next day Albany, NY, reported a record for April of 93 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Glenrock, WY, received 41 inches of snow in just 24 hours, and a storm total of 58 inches, to establish two state records. (18th-20th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1976 - The northeastern U.S. was in the midst of an early season heat wave, and the Boston Marathon took place in 90 degree heat. At Providence RI the mercury hit 98 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 80s and lower 90s for Easter Sunday. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms over the southeastern U.S. early in the day spawned a strong (F-3) tornado which destroyed seventeen homes and severely damaged thirty houses near Madison FL killing four persons and injuring eighteen others. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 98 degrees at Hanksville UT equalled their record for April. Tucson AZ reported their earliest 100 degree reading of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Five cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and upper teens. Elkins WV reported a record low of 20 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Southern Plains produced golf ball size hail at San Angelo TX, and up to four inches of rain in southwestern Oklahoma. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

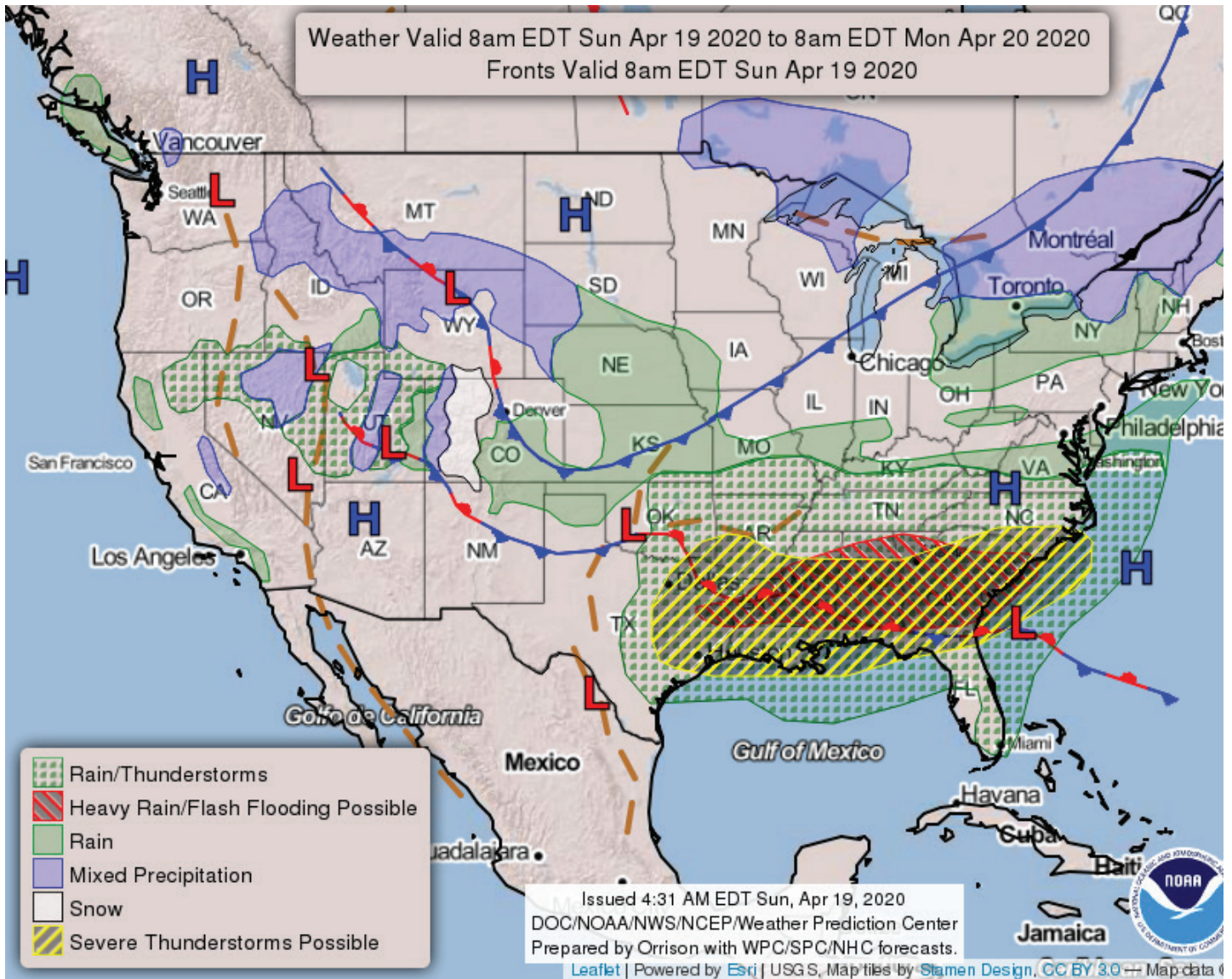
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 35 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 59 °F at 4:50 PM**  
**Low Temp: 33 °F at 5:37 AM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 4:42 PM**  
**Precip:**

**Record High: 90° in 1923**  
**Record Low: 12° in 1988**  
**Average High: 59°F**  
**Average Low: 33°F**  
**Average Precip in April.: 0.92**  
**Precip to date in April.: 0.94**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.10**  
**Precip Year to Date: 1.29**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 36 of 78



## IT'S A CHARLIE BROWN BASEBALL TEAM

Lucy and Linus were talking to their coach, Charlie Brown, at home plate. Kicking the dirt in disgust, Charlie Brown said, "Our team is no good. We have lost every game we've ever played. There is nothing good about our team!"

"But," protested Lucy, "Schroder almost hit a home run. And once we almost won a couple of games. Once we almost made a double play. Don't forget that you almost made it to first base before the ball, once."

"If it's any consolation, Charlie Brown," interrupted Linus, "we did lead the league in almos<sup>t</sup>s."

"Almos<sup>t</sup>s" are part of everyone's life. Some "almos<sup>t</sup>s" work to our advantage. For example, there are times when we almost slipped and fell. Or, we almost had an accident while driving home after a difficult day at work. Then there might have been occasions when we almost got that promotion at work. "Almos<sup>t</sup>" is "very nearly" but "not quite." So the almos<sup>t</sup>s are the same as if it never really happened at all.

On one occasion Paul was witnessing to King Agrippa. He appealed to the facts of Scripture in his conversation with the king and said, "I know these facts are not hidden from you and that you do believe them!" In other words, "Agrippa, you are almos<sup>t</sup> there!"

But sadly the king replied, "Paul, you almos<sup>t</sup> persuaded me to become a Christian."

Prayer: We pray today, Father, for those who might almos<sup>t</sup> be convinced to become a Christian. We ask for Your grace to work in their hearts through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Acts 26 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do --" Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?"

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 37 of 78

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
  - **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
  - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
  - 07/31-08/04/2020 State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
  - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
  - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
  - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
  - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
  - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
  - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
  - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
  - 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
  - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
  - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
- 
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
  - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
    - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
- 
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

03-04-19-29-33

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

Estimated jackpot: \$32,000

Lotto America

02-15-18-41-48, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2

(two, fifteen, eighteen, forty-one, forty-eight; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.2 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$164 million

Powerball

04-44-46-56-63, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

(four, forty-four, forty-six, fifty-six, sixty-three; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$24 million

### Juvenile detention center worker among positive virus tests

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An employee at the Minnehaha Juvenile Detention Center has tested positive for COVID-19, the facility's director said Saturday.

Detention center director Jamie Gravett told The Associated Press that the Sioux Falls facility was informed of the positive test Friday "and immediately began informing guardians, our partners, and contractors while caring for our youth and keeping them safe." Staff and juveniles are being monitored for symptoms and have their temperatures taken twice each day, she said.

The center in March put restrictions on visitors and began using "enhanced sanitation procedures," Gravett said. The facility currently has 29 juveniles and 50 staff members.

Of the 132 new cases reported in the state Saturday, 119 were in Minnehaha County, the location of the large outbreak at a Sioux Falls pork processing plant. The Smithfield Foods facility is one of the largest known clusters of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., with 634 workers and 143 of their close contacts testing positive as of Friday.

South Dakota's total number of COVID-19 cases jumped from 1,411 to 1,542.

With cases on the rise, the National Guard said it has selected locations for two 100-bed temporary hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients, one in Sioux Falls and one in Rapid City.

### Virus outbreak threatens Germany's tradition-laden breweries

By CHRISTOPH NOELTING and DAVID McHUGH Associated Press

WERNECK, Germany (AP) — The Werneck Brewery has survived a lot: world wars, economic crises and decades of declining beer consumption. But after 400 years in existence it has finally met a challenge it can't overcome: the coronavirus outbreak.

The brewery, which traces its history to 1617 and has been owned by the same family since 1861, is closing for good, taking with it 15 full-time jobs and more part-time positions. Also gone is a chunk of local history and tradition in Werneck, a town of 10,000 people in the brewery-rich southern state of Bavaria.

German brewers fear its demise is the leading edge of more closures as the virus outbreak threatens the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 39 of 78

existence of the country's many local producers of the national beverage - community institutions, often family owned for generations, whose buildings and affiliated taverns are regional landmarks in a country where the hometown brew is often a sentimental favorite despite competition from national brands.

Hardest hit are smaller breweries that like the one in Werneck that depend on supplying kegs to local taverns and events such as local festivals. Restaurants are closed and the government says mass gatherings will not resume until Sept. 1 at the earliest — and even then it may take years before they rebound to levels seen before the virus outbreak.

Retail sales are providing some support as people drink at home. Breweries are trying things like drive-through sales and even shipping beer and glasses to customers so they can join an on-line tasting.

But for many the months without income may be more than they can handle.

Family member and brewery manager Christine Lang said the decision to close came with "many tears." The beer market was already hard fought with tough price competition, she said. Then came the virus, and the restaurant customers the brewery depended on were suddenly closed, with no clarity on when they might open.

"No one knows how long the coronavirus will last, when there will be an improvement, and whether the restaurants will open again at all," she said. "And in our business it's the case that a beer that isn't drunk today won't be consumed twice in a couple of months, the sales revenue is gone, lost."

According to a survey by the national brewers association some 87% of breweries say they are putting workers on short hours, taking advantage of a government program that pays up to 60% of net salaries during business interruptions. The program is aimed at getting companies through a crisis, keeping workers from being laid off, and supporting consumer spending in the economy. But other programs such as credits and delays in collecting taxes are less useful, brewers say. Credits mean taking on new debt for the future, and the taxes will eventually have to be paid as well.

Holger Eichele, secretary general of the German Brewers Association, said that "many breweries will not survive this crisis, that is already becoming clear." In addition to longtime brewers focused on restaurants, "we also have many entrepreneurs, that is, craft breweries, that are not yet profitable, that have borrowed money to finance their startup, and it's also very difficult for them."

The unexpected shock comes at a time when enthusiasm for craft beer and microbreweries has helped the industry overcome several decades of declining beer consumption. The number of brewers has grown in recent years to over 1,500, as startups introduced new products such as India pale ales into what had been a very conservative lineup based on traditional pilsners and wheat beers.

More diversified producers are better equipped to survive. Welde, a family run brewery near Heidelberg that traces its history to 1752, normally sells about a third to retail outlets, a third to wholesalers who supply events and sports clubs, and a third to restaurants.



**In this , Friday, April 17, 2020 photo beer barrels of the Wernecker Brewery are stacked at the brewery in Werneck, Germany. Due to the impact of the coronavirus the traditional brewery has to close 400 years after its foundation.** (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 40 of 78

Managing director Max Spielmann, who represents the ninth generation of Spielmanns to run Welde, estimates that 30-40% of sales will be lost in April, May and June. "If you have 85% of your sales in keg beer to restaurants, then you only have 15% of your revenue left," he said. "The only sales channel that is doing well is retail sales in grocery stores, one can see that the consumption that normally would have taken place in restaurants has shifted to home."

He and other brewers are trying new things out of necessity. Welde offers an on-line beer tasting on Facebook. Participants can have six different beers and the appropriate glass delivered for 25 euros (\$27) so they can taste along with the chat on April 23.

The Schumacher Brewery in Duesseldorf is offering drive-through service on Fridays and no-contact home delivery. The website of the Gaffel brewery in Cologne, which makes the city's trademark beer dubbed koelsch, encouraged home consumption by showing two neighbors on adjacent balconies enjoying what the company says is "the best koelsch, by a good distance," a pun on the social distancing requirements of the moment.

Says Spielmann: "All my forecasts say that we will get through it, with a black eye." He thinks the crisis could spur people to support their local brewers, food producers, restaurants and hotels, keeping international tastes for food and drink but indulging them close to home, a prospect he called "glocal," combining "global" and "local."

For Lang from the Werneck Brewery, something irreplaceable has been lost.

"My family and I will miss it very much. The brewery has been ever-present, part of every dinner table conversation all our lives," he said. "We will be missing part of our identity, and in a way the region will too."

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

## The Latest: Spain reports fewest daily deaths for a month

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:

- Spain reports 410 deaths in last 24 hours, fewest daily since March 22
- Italy to indicate "in coming days" if restrictions will be loosened
- More than a thousand sailors contract virus on France's flagship aircraft carrier

MADRID — Spain has reported its lowest daily death total for confirmed coronavirus victims in nearly a month as the country contains a savage outbreak that has killed more than 20,000 people there.

Spanish health officials said Sunday another 410 people have died in the last 24 hours. That is the lowest daily death toll since March 22. It takes the total to 20,453 virus-related deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Spain also reported 4,218 confirmed new cases, pushing the total to 195,944 — second only to the United States.

Top health official Fernando Simón said the latest data gives Spain hope, adding that it shows "the rate of contagion has fallen and that we are on the correct path."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced Saturday he will seek a two-week extension of the state of emergency that is set to run out next week. But he also said that the government will begin to allow children to leave their homes from April 27.

ROME — Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte is promising a clear indication "in the coming days" of loosened restrictions in the so-called Phase II of the country's response to the virus outbreak.

It is expected to allow more freedom of movement and an easing of the industrial shutdown.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 41 of 78

Conte met with regional governors this weekend and told the right-wing conservative daily *il Giornale* in an interview published Sunday that "we are working on some proposals to loosen the measures in a way that we can 'live with' the virus in the coming months in conditions of maximum security."

Italy's lockdown runs through May 3. Regional governors in the hardest-hit north, which is also the nation's economic engine, have been pushing to reopen more non-essential industry, which has been on shutdown since March 26.

Schools are expected to remain closed until September, while there is no indication yet of how Italy might be able to relaunch tourism, even domestically.

Conte said it is important to keep the curve of infection down and continue to ease pressure on hospitals and intensive care units.

Italy was the first western country to be struck by the virus and has registered the most deaths in Europe, at 23,227.

**SOFIA, Bulgaria** — The Bulgarian Orthodox Church has resisted calls to close churches for Easter. It has urged worshippers to pray at home rather than going to church, however, following demands by health authorities.

The main Easter services will be broadcast live on television.

**PARIS** — Figures from France's military leadership show more than half the sailors aboard the country's flagship aircraft carrier contracted the new virus as the ship traveled through the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

A navy official says 1,046 of the 1,760 people aboard the *Charles de Gaulle* tested positive for the virus. Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Christophe Prazuck attributed the quick spread to the "great population density aboard the ship."

Speaking Saturday evening to Europe-1 radio, Prazuck said virus protection measures weren't followed properly, which "did not allow us to detect the beginning of the epidemic, and therefore to contain it."

The ship is undergoing a lengthy disinfection process since returning to its home base in Toulon last week. One person who served aboard is in intensive care and more than 20 others are hospitalized. Among those infected are two U.S. sailors serving as part of an exchange program.

Investigations are underway into what happened, and French military leaders have been questioned in parliament.

A similar outbreak on the *USS Theodore Roosevelt* led to the firing of its captain and the resignation of the acting U.S. Navy secretary.



**Doctor Meenal Viz holds a banner as she protests outside Downing Street in London, as the country is in lockdown to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, Sunday, April 19, 2020. The doctor who is pregnant protested about the lack of PPE and protection for NHS health workers.**

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 42 of 78

BERLIN — Germany is holding virtual commemorations for the liberation of two Nazi concentration camps 75 years ago, as long-planned anniversary events have had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Before the outbreak occurred, dozens of survivors had planned to attend the ceremonies.

In a video message, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas recalled the over 20,000 people who died at Sachsenhausen concentration camp north of Berlin, noting that a minute's silence for each of the victims would take two weeks.

Many of those killed at Sachsenhausen were Soviet soldiers. The camp was also used to intern Jews, political prisoners, gay people and Jehovah's Witnesses from more than 40 countries.

The virtual ceremony also commemorated the liberation of nearby Ravensbrueck concentration camp.

Germany's culture minister, Monika Gruetters, said the current closure of memorial sites due to the pandemic made it particularly important to hold virtual ceremonies and recall the atrocities committed by the Nazis.

Numerous further ceremonies are being affected by the lockdowns imposed to curb the virus spreading, including the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on May 8.

CAIRO — Pope Tawadros II, the spiritual leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christians, has held Easter services in an empty monastery in the desert amid coronavirus restrictions which kept the faithful from gathering at churches and monasteries across the country.

The services were held at the Monastery of Saint Pishoy, in a desert valley west of Cairo known as Wadi Natrun. Few clergies attended the services, which aired on Coptic Orthodox television station. The clerics were seen practicing social distancing during the prayers.

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

Christians constitute around 10% of Egypt's more than 100 million predominantly Muslim population. Egypt has 3,032 cases including 224 deaths.

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Two dozen crew members of a Taiwanese naval ship have tested positive for the new coronavirus after returning from a nearly two-month training mission that took them to the Pacific island nation of Palau.

Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control said Sunday that 21 more cases had been identified from a refueling ship, on top of three reported Saturday. More than 700 officers and sailors from the refueling ship and the two warships that took part in the mission are in quarantine for 14 days.

The CDC said that a Taiwanese student returning from the United States had also tested positive. That brought the total for Sunday to 22, an upward spike for the self-governing island. New cases had fallen to single digits in the past week, including three days in which none were reported.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's prime minister says the country will maintain much of its social distancing guidelines until May 5 but will relax some limits.

The comments by Chung Sye-kyun came hours after South Korea's health authorities reported eight more coronavirus cases, the first time a daily increase has dropped to a single digit in about two months.

Chung says the government will stop "strongly advising" religious organizations, gyms and bars to suspend their operations and allow less risky outdoor public facilities, like recreational parks, to be reopened.

He says outdoor sports games also can be held if there are no spectators. He says the government will allow a limited number of essential employment- and license-related examinations to take place if stringent quarantine steps are in place.

Despite a recent continued downward trend, Chung says that "it's definitely not time to feel relieved."

While saying South Korea must find ways to revitalize the economy, Chung says the government will toughen its social distancing rules if the danger of a spread of the virus increases again.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 43 of 78

ISLAMABAD — Even as Pakistan's daily confirmed cases inches upward, Prime Minister Imran Khan's government buckled to pressure from religious clerics refusing to order mosques throughout the country closed during Islamic fasting month of Ramadan.

Pakistan recorded 7,993 confirmed cases on Sunday, an increase of 514. Sixteen people died of the virus in the last 24 hours bringing the death toll to 159. But in Pakistan religious clerics have become a powerful force, holding sway often using fear of bringing mobs onto the street as leverage to force the government to bow to their demands.

Pakistan has been blamed for contributing to the outbreak of the virus in other parts of the world including Gaza after it refused to stop a gathering of tens of thousands of Tableeghi Jamaat (Islamic missionaries) until early March. By the time it was cancelled thousands were already in Pakistan and many returned to their countries infected. In Pakistan there are still several hundred of the Tableeghi jamaat in quarantine because they tested positive and hundreds more who spread throughout the country carrying the virus.

By some estimates nearly 2,000 confirmed cases in Pakistan can be traced to the Tableeghi Jamaat. Yet Khan's government agreed Saturday to leave the mosques open and instead requesting the faithful to practice safe social distancing. The request is not likely to be followed after several prominent religious clerics called for adherents to pack the mosques.

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's unpopular handouts of old-fashioned cloth masks as part of his coronavirus measures faced complaints, as thousands of those sent to pregnant women were dirty..

The health ministry said over the weekend that it has received at least 1,900 cases of the problems reported by 80 municipalities that the masks came with stains, dust and other contamination. The dirty masks were among a half million masks that the government started sending to pregnant women in Japan as a priority last week. Abe announced a plan on April 1 to mail two cloth masks each to all 50 million households in Japan amid dire shortage of masks.

The faulty masks were the latest embarrassment for Abe's government already criticized for its coronavirus measures inadequate, off-target, too little and too late.

The cloth masks also seem to have a size problem. When the masks also arrived at elderly care centers, television talk shows showed some caregivers struggling to fit the mask, saying the it was too small to cover both nose and mouth at the same time.

The ministry said it has urged mask makers to resolve the contamination problem, while asking municipal officials to visually inspect the masks before mailing them.

SINGAPORE — Fast-food giant McDonald's says it will suspend all operations in Singapore for two weeks from Sunday after seven of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

McDonald's said in a Facebook post it decided to follow the health ministry's advise to shutdown until May 4 when Singapore's partial lockdown ends as part of a preventative action in the battle against the COVID-19 outbreak. It said it would continue to pay the salary of 10,000 employees working in more than 135 outlets across the city-state during this period.

The fast-food chain, which serves six million customers every month, didn't give further details. Seven of its employees working in several outlets have been diagnosed with the virus in the past week.

The city-state Saturday reported a record daily jump of 942 new infections, the highest one-day spike seen in Southeast Asia, to bring its total to 5,992. The government has made it mandatory for people to wear masks outside them homes and imposed strict social distancing measures.

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

## Mass virus test in nursing home seeks to combat loneliness

By LORI HINNANT and JEAN-FRANÇOIS BADIAS

Associated Press

AMMERSCHWIR, France (AP) — Some were born in this warren of small rooms in what used to be a hospital, dating to the 17th century. Many are likely to die here. And all are currently confined to their rooms, denied the simple comfort of human companionship.

The residents at the Weiss nursing home in eastern France want to chat face to face, to play board games, to share meals. And so each gave a vial of blood to be tested for the coronavirus, as did each staff member — about 580 tests in all. The goal: to identify who must be isolated and who will be allowed the freedom to leave their rooms.

“We spend all our days between those four walls — that’s it, we are not allowed to go out. We don’t even have the right to go out in the hallway,” said Henry Bohn, a 69-year-old who suffered a stroke that has left him in a wheelchair. “They bring us breakfast, lunch and dinner here in the room. Luckily, we have the sun these days and it helps, but we do miss the essential things.”

An Associated Press photographer spent two days chronicling the virus testing at three of the 10 nursing homes in France’s Haut-Rhin region, where comprehensive testing was ordered by local authorities. The site in Ammerschwir poses particular problems with its small rooms and long corridors, and residents with often-severe cognitive difficulties.

“It is hard for them to remember the rules that we give them. When we put masks on them, they hardly keep them on, and they need to socialize and leave their rooms,” said Sylvie Ghiringhelli, the head nurse.

Some patients wander out anyway, clustering in hallways or taking seats in the common room before they can be led gently back.

The elderly make up a disproportional share of coronavirus victims globally, and that is especially true in nursing homes, which have seen a horrific number of deaths around the world.

In France, nursing home deaths account for more than a third of the country’s total 17,000 coronavirus victims — figures the government now documents meticulously after weeks of pressure. Infections have swept through the country’s 7,000 residences for the elderly, with more than 15,000 confirmed cases among patients and 8,900 among staff between March 1 and April 14.

And nowhere has it been deadlier than in France’s east, near the border with Germany, where the outbreak began at an evangelical gathering in the city of Mulhouse. Overall mortality in the Haut-Rhin was up 143% from March 1 to April 6, according to government figures.



**Marie Lithard, right, and her neighbor Yves Chretien sit looking out of their rooms in a nursing home in Ammerschwir, France Thursday April 16, 2020. The elderly make up a disproportional share of coronavirus victims globally, and that is especially true in nursing homes, which have seen a horrific number of deaths around the world. In France, nursing home deaths account for more than a third of the country’s total coronavirus victims — figures the government now documents meticulously after weeks of pressure.** (AP Photo/Jean-Francois Badias)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 45 of 78

Restricting residents to their rooms can take a different kind of toll.

"The confinement stopped all the communal meals in the dining room, stopped every form of social life," Ghiringhelli said. "There are no more activities, no more visits. Our residents bear the consequences."

Marie Louise Kopp's room is filled with souvenirs — photos, china cats, octagonal paintings — to help jog a 79-year-old memory that waxes and wanes.

"My son was coming to visit me and some family, but now nobody can," she said, an untouched newspaper on her lap. "Everyone stays at home with this crisis."

It's not clear when visitors will be allowed again, but the nursing home staff hope testing everybody will enable most residents to at least leave their rooms without fear of infection. Results are expected next week and the local administration and nursing home directors will then meet to discuss the next steps.

Elsewhere, France has locked down nursing homes after two positive tests and simply assumed that anyone with symptoms was infected.

"The testing will perhaps allow us to partially resume life, communal meals and activities in small groups," Ghiringhelli said. "And to mend the social ties."

Lori Hinnant reported from Paris.

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

## 'It made a world of difference:' UK doctor hails ex-students

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — At his darkest moment with the coronavirus, Dr. Poorna Gunasekera glimpsed three rays of light.

Following a severe deterioration in his COVID-19 symptoms, Gunasekera was rushed to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, southwest England, in the early hours of March 30, and three former students came to treat him.

Upon entering the "red zone," which is one step below the intensive care unit, the 57-year-old associate professor of biomedical sciences at the city's university was put into isolation.

"It was wonderful that during that time, two of my former students, who are doctors, and another, who is a nurse, actually came and they identified themselves," he told The Associated Press following his discharge from the hospital on April 9.

His voice choked with emotion as he remembered the encounters.

"It made a world of a difference to me," he said. "I couldn't have seen their faces, they were all in their protective things, but they came, and they not only treated me, they did some really difficult procedures ... it gave me so much strength to know that these wonderful people were actually there."

The feeling of respect was mutual.

Gertrude Magama, a 45-year-old nurse from Zimbabwe who has known Gunasekera since she volunteered for one of his projects, said it was an "honor" to look after him.

"I was touched when he reassured me that I was doing well when he was going through pain and discomfort," she said. "In my eyes, he will forever be a valuable part of my future success in my nursing profession."

Gunasekera, better known to friends and colleagues as P.G., grew up in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and led the Guard of Honour accorded to Queen Elizabeth II during her visit in October 1981.

He came to the U.K. in 1999 on a Commonwealth scholarship to study for a Master's at University College London and has been in the academic field ever since, and at Plymouth since 2012.

Medical knowledge doesn't necessarily bestow wisdom. He readily admits he underestimated his deterioration, even when his temperature soared above 39 C (102 F) and he lost 6.5 kilograms (around 14 pounds) with diarrhea. While people infected with the coronavirus often experience mild or moderate symptoms,

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 46 of 78

possible complications like pneumonia can put their lives at risk.

"As he is a doctor and trains doctors on a daily basis, I trusted him and gave him the benefit of doubt when he told me he was slowly starting to feel better," said his 26-year-old daughter Saki. "In hindsight, I think he was just trying to channel crazy levels of positive thinking so as to calm both his and my own worries."

Eventually, Saki, who had mild symptoms along with her boyfriend George, "decided to overrule" her father and had him rushed to hospital. It was a decision he acknowledges ultimately saved his life.

Gunasekera spent about a week hooked up to oxygen supplies as his lungs had taken a "battering."

Something curious occurred to Gunasekera on the "crucial" third or fourth day. He entered a pain-free phase "where the body stopped kind of talking to me" and his sense of proprioception — the awareness of one's body in space — switched off too.

"I wouldn't call it levitation, but I lost senses," he said. "It was the most peaceful state in life I've ever been in. It was almost as if some authority up there said 'stop worrying' and it was so convincing I actually stopped worrying."

He thinks it was a taste of nirvana, the ultimate goal of Buddhism when individuals enjoy indescribable peace.

"It was a state of absolute bliss," he said.

Yet the worrying resurfaced as his health improved and a few days later, Gunasekera was moved to a ward with three other recovering patients: "I was the baby of the bunch."

On their first day, none could speak, since they were all hooked up to oxygen. But on the second day, an 80-year-old ex-Royal Navy officer, known only as Robert, single-handedly raised their spirits.

"He was a piece of pure magic," Gunasekera said.

All four shared the same guilt of becoming new sources of outbreaks.

"All of us were ready for a kind of stigmatization that could come and we understood it," he said. "If the roles were reversed, I'd be careful of meeting someone who has been diagnosed as COVID-positive even if it was a long time ago."

Now he can't wait to see his new partner, Hayley, and her family again after his 14-day self-isolation is over. He's recuperating with Saki and George and his dog Barney in the tiny village of Filham in south Devon, and reflecting on how fortunate he is to get a second chance, unlike so many thousands of others. Britain has already had more than 15,000 people die in the pandemic and expects eventually to have



**In this image taken in June 2018, Dr. Poorna Gunasekera, second right, poses with a group of medical students from Plymouth University who had just completed training in ophthalmoscopy. At his darkest moment in his struggle with the coronavirus, Dr. Poorna Gunasekera glimpsed the first rays of light when three of his former students came to help. Having endured a severe deterioration in his COVID-19 symptoms after around 12 days of contracting the virus, Gunasekera was rushed to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, in the early hours of March 30. "It was wonderful that during that time, two of my former students, who are doctors, and another who was a nurse, actually came and they identified themselves," he told The Associated Press over several interviews following his release from hospital on April 9.** (Poorna Gunasekera via AP)

the worst death toll in Europe.

Gunasekera is especially admiring of the current generation of medical practitioners, of whom he has taught many, for being so much more "humble" than his.

"Having gone through medical school myself, I remember we came out with this feeling that we are God's gift to humanity, we were the supreme beings," he said.

The new generation, he said, are "taught to acknowledge that there is a limit to our knowledge, and that there is so much uncertainty out there."

Gunasekera hopes a more "cohesive society" will emerge that relates better to the struggles of Britain's National Health Service and that bridges the gap between generations.

"Social distancing, though it's physical distancing, the beauty is it's brought emotional connections," he said.

"This is almost a reset button that society needed and perhaps we'll come out of this a far better society, far better group of people than ever."

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

## **Pandemic provokes spike in demand for food pantries in US**

**By TERESA M. WALKER and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP) — Brooklyn Dotson needed food. Her first unemployment check had yet to arrive after she was let go by the warehouse where she used to work.

So the 25-year-old Nashville woman scrounged up some gas money and drove 30 miles (48 kilometers) to the GraceWorks Ministries food pantry in Franklin. There, at the pantry's new drive-thru, workers wearing masks and gloves loaded her van with about \$350 worth of groceries.

"I don't have any income coming in, I don't get any food stamps, so it's just hard to get any help right now," Dotson said while waiting in line at GraceWorks.

Food pantries stay busy even in the best of economic times; the coronavirus pandemic has prompted a spike in demand as millions of people like Dotson find themselves furloughed, laid off or with businesses that have suffered huge financial blows.

"About 50% of the people coming through our lines have never been here before," said GraceWorks President and CEO Valencia A. Breckenridge.

Just as demand is skyrocketing, however, many of the food banks' sources are drying up. Restaurants, hotels and resorts — many of which are shuttered or sharply limiting their operations — are no longer supplying them with food, while other suppliers are busy restocking grocery shelves. Farmers have switched from shipping vegetables and meats in bulk to individual packaging for grocery stores.

"It is a perfect storm scenario," said Katie Fitzgerald, chief operating officer for Feeding America, a nationwide association of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries.

Feeding America has seen an increase in demand from 98% of its member banks, according to a recent survey. The average increase for a member was 63%, while 95% of the association's food banks reported an increase in operating expenses, the organization said.

Congress included a significant boost for emergency food assistance in its coronavirus relief legislation, but Fitzgerald warned that funding may take months to reach localities while food banks contend with a flood of need in the near term. The \$100 million that billionaire Jeff Bezos pledged to the association on April 2 was already being deployed last week, she said.

"When people say what do you need the most, we need food and money," said Nancy Keil, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.

In addition to finding ways to meet the spike in demand, food banks have had to devise creative new ways to distribute ever greater amounts of food while keeping both recipients and their staff safe from exposure to the coronavirus.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 48 of 78

The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank in California has built "pop-up" pantries after some of its previous 275 or so sites had to stop operating during the pandemic, spokeswoman Keely Hopkins said. The new sites, many of which are serving hundreds of people per day, stay open for longer hours and use open spaces such as parking lots to facilitate social distancing, she added.

Paid staffers are diving in at many food banks to stock, sort and bag food for either delivery or drive-thru pickups, a measure they realized was necessary to protect volunteers, many of whom are older and particularly at risk for complications from the virus. Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee limits volunteers to 10 per room to fill boxes.

The board of the East Nashville Co-operative Ministry has proposed closing because so many of its volunteers are elderly, including Judy Wahlstrom, who runs the program.

Wahlstrom, 70, has refused, but she said she is taking precautions, allowing only one person inside at a time to select food off the shelves while she wears a mask and gloves.

"I said, 'If I get it, I get it,'" Wahlstrom said. "I don't have anybody at home dependent on me. I said, 'I got to keep it open.' And I gave the volunteers all the options."

At the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, spokeswoman Cathy Nestlen said nearly 45,000 volunteers helped out last year. This year, in order to adopt best practices for social distancing to combat the virus, staffers have stepped up to help.

Nestlen said the bank, which acts as a food distribution center for hundreds of member agencies, moved to a six-day work week this month and would consider moving to seven days a week if demand called for it.

Oklahoma had ranked among the hungriest states in the nation before the coronavirus, Nestlen noted. "This pandemic on top of it just shines a light on how so many households, not just in Oklahoma but around the country, live paycheck to paycheck," she said. "When a household becomes economically insecure, they almost immediately become food-insecure."

Food banks like Nestlen's are realizing the sharp increase in demand could continue for months, which she said makes donations even more crucial.

For now, one thing is certain: Whatever food they do acquire is flying off the shelves just as fast as it arrives.

"The food's coming in the back door, and it's going right out the front to the customers," said Courtney Vrabliik, executive director of The Store, a supermarket founded by singer Brad Paisley and his wife last month in Nashville to provide free food for those in need.

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

\_\_\_ The story has corrected the spelling of the Second Harvest Food Bank president's last name. She is Nancy Keil, not Kiel.



**In this April 9, 2020, photo, worker Laura Burbank pushes a cart filled with food for a family through the pantry at GraceWorks Ministries food pantry in Franklin, Tenn. The coronavirus pandemic has provoked a spike in demand for food pantries in the U.S.** (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)



## The Latest: Japan passes 10,000 domestic cases of COVID-19

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:

— Japan surpasses 10,000 domestic cases.

— California is on its way to acquiring 15,000 hotel rooms to house the homeless during the pandemic

— US, Canada to keep border closed 30 more days.

— Africa surpasses 20,000 cases, more than 1,000 deaths.

TOKYO — Japanese health ministry said Sunday that 568 new cases of the coronavirus were reported the day before, bringing a domestic total to 10,361. A combined total including 712 others from a cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo earlier this year came to 11,073, with 174 deaths.

The number of cases is still relatively small compared to the U.S. and Europe, but that's only as many as

Japan's limited testing has detected and actual infections are believed to be far more widespread.

Japan has finally started setting up additional testing centers in Tokyo and elsewhere, allowing primary care doctors to send suspected patients directly to testing stations rather than having them go through public health centers to screen eligibility, an earlier requirement that had prevented and delayed testing and treatment of many people.

Experts have noted that their strategy of going after clusters to trace infections is no longer effective to keep up with the surging cases and more tests are needed.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday expanded a state of emergency, which was limited to Tokyo and six other urban areas, to all of Japan, in a bid to prevent further spread of the virus nationwide amid concerns that hospitals are already overburdened with influx of patients.

It took two months for the cases to reach 1,000 since the first case was detected in mid-January, but the spread of the infections has accelerated in recent weeks and the number doubled from around 5,000 in just 10 days.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported eight more cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, the first time for a daily jump in the country to drop to a single digit in about two months.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the additional figures released Sunday took the country's total to 10,661 with 234 deaths.

It says 8,042 of the total have been recovered and released from quarantine and that 12,243 others



**In this Feb. 5, 2020, photo, an ambulance carrying a passenger onboard cruise ship Diamond Princess arrives at a hospital in Yokohama, near Tokyo. Hospitals in Japan are increasingly turning away sick people in ambulances as the country braces for a surge in coronavirus infections. The Japanese Association for Acute Medicine and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine say emergency medicine has already collapsed with many hospitals refusing to treat people including those suffering strokes, heart attacks and external injuries.** (Kyodo News via AP)(Sadayuki Goto/Kyodo News via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 50 of 78

were under tests to determine whether they contracted the virus.

South Korea's caseload has been waning in recent weeks since it recorded hundreds of new cases every day between late February and early March, mostly in the southeastern city of Daegu and nearby areas.

Despite the recent downward trend, South Korean officials have warned about the possibility of a broader "quiet spread" with people easing up on social distancing.

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** -- South Carolina retail stores and public beach access points that had been closed to halt the spread of the coronavirus will be allowed to reopen next week, The Post and Courier reported Saturday.

Gov. Henry McMaster will issue orders Monday to allow for the reopenings to take place on Tuesday, the governor's chief of staff, Trey Walker, told the newspaper.

The order will apply to numerous nonessential stores, including department stores, flea markets, florists, bookstores and music shops. Grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores and medical facilities have been allowed to stay open during the pandemic.

Occupancy in each store will be limited to five customers per 1,000 square feet of retail space or 20% occupancy, whichever is less, the newspaper said.

Local governments will still be allowed to make their own rules about waterway access.

The governor's stay-at-home order will remain in place, as will the ban on eating inside restaurants, Walker said.

**RIO DE JANEIRO** -- Hundreds of people denouncing pandemic lockdown measures opposed by President Jair Bolsonaro snarled traffic in major Brazilian cities on Saturday.

Protesters in trucks, cars and on motorcycles honked horns on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and the capital of Brasilia, calling for governors to resign over measures that have forced most businesses to close for weeks.

Bolsonaro has been a fierce critic of the states' stay-at-home measures, arguing that the economic harm could be more damaging than the illness. The protests took place a day after Bolsonaro fired his health minister, who had been promoting isolation measures.

In Rio de Janeiro, about 100 vehicles took part in the gridlock and temporarily shut down Copacabana Beach.

In Brasilia, Bolsonaro reiterated his intention to start reopening the economy.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** -- The Navajo Nation is ordering all people on the tribe's sprawling reservation to wear protective masks when out in public to help fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Tribal officials announced Friday night that the Navajo Department of Health issued an emergency health order for the reservation, which includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

The Navajo Nation has been hit harder by the coronavirus than any other Native American tribe.

The tribe and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service said the number of positive coronavirus tests reached 1,127 as of Friday with 44 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- California is on its way to acquiring 15,000 hotel rooms to house the homeless during the pandemic, said Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday as he reminded people to stay indoors while outbreaks continue to crop up throughout the state.

Standing in front of a Motel 6 outside the city of San Jose, Newsom said more than 4,000 people have been moved out of shelters and off the streets and into motel rooms. He took the opportunity to scold leaders of unnamed cities for blocking efforts to house the homeless, asking them to "please consider the morality" of their decisions.

His announcement came a day after the state reported another 87 deaths from the coronavirus. Meanwhile, California's death toll from the virus rose above 1,050 on Saturday, according to a tally by John

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 51 of 78

Hopkins University.

**INDIANAPOLIS** — More than 200 people upset over restrictions on Indiana residents because of the coronavirus protested outside the state mansion of Gov. Eric Holcomb, urging him to back off and restart the economy.

Holcomb, a Republican, said a stay-at-home order that expires Monday will be extended to May 1 while he works on a plan to reopen businesses.

In Austin, Texas, a few hundred people rallied at the state Capitol in another protest over stay-at-home orders. The demonstration came a day after Republican Gov. Greg Abbott announced that next week Texas will begin reopening state parks and letting retailers sell items curbside.

Abbott says more restrictions will be lifted before the end of April.

**TIRANA**, Albania — About 2,400 Kosovo citizens stranded abroad due to the new coronavirus will begin returning home.

A Foreign Ministry statement Saturday said the first two flights from Switzerland and Turkey would be next week.

Kosovo has been in a total lockdown for more than a month. The Kosovar Foreign Ministry selected the first 600 people based on criteria set by the Health Ministry. More citizens will be allowed to return once quarantines are lifted.

**ATHENS**, Greece — There have been two new fatalities from COVID-19 in Greece since Friday, raising the total to 110.

The country's health ministry also announced Saturday the number of confirmed cases rose by 11, to 2,235. There are 68 people hooked to ventilators in intensive care units, down from 71 on Friday, and 39 patients have exited ICUs.

The average age of the victims is 74, the ministry said.

**MADRID** — Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez says the government will seek to extend the country's state of emergency by two weeks to fight the new coronavirus outbreak but will start easing the total confinement of children.

Spain imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe in mid-March that brought economic activity to a near standstill. The government, which has been under pressure from regional governments, parents and some educators to ease the lockdown for children, will begin to do so in nine days.

Sánchez said Saturday that children will be allowed "to get out of their houses for a period on a daily basis" but the specifics need to be ironed out with experts. He says rolling back the national lockdown will only come when the country's embattled health system is ready for possible rebounds. The state of emergency extension until May 9 needs to be approved by parliament.

**PARIS** -- France's national health agency says the number of virus patients in intensive care dropped for the 10th straight day, while the number of overall virus hospitalizations has fallen for three consecutive days.

Health officials say confinement is "stopping the viral spread."

The total number of deaths in France from COVID-19 reached 19,323, and nursing home deaths amount to more than one third of the total.

**DETROIT** — A Michigan prisoner who declined to be paroled earlier this year after decades behind bars has died from COVID-19 complications.

William Garrison died at a hospital after nearly 44 years in prison. The coronavirus outbreak has infected more than 500 inmates in Michigan prisons and killed 17.

The 60-year-old Garrison was sentenced to life in prison for killing a man during a 1976 robbery when Garrison was 16 years old. He could have been paroled two weeks ago but decided to wait until Sep-

tember, when he would be eligible for a complete release without the rigors of parole supervision, the Detroit Free Press reported.

The parole board approved his application in March.

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

## US, UK condemn Hong Kong arrests of democracy advocates

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The United States condemned the arrests of at least 14 veteran pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong on charges of joining massive anti-government protests last year, saying the police action jeopardizes a high degree of autonomy guaranteed the southern Chinese city.

Among those arrested Saturday were 81-year-old activist and former lawmaker Martin Lee and democracy advocates Albert Ho, Lee Cheuk-yan and Au Nok-hin. Police also arrested media tycoon Jimmy Lai, who founded the local newspaper Apple Daily.

The sweeping crackdown amid a coronavirus pandemic is based on charges of unlawful assembly stemming from huge rallies against proposed China extradition legislation that exposed deep divisions between democracy-minded Hong Kongers and the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing.

The bill — which would have allowed the residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to be sent to mainland to stand trial — has been withdrawn, but the protests continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

While the protests began peacefully, they increasingly descended into violence after demonstrators became frustrated with the government's response. They feel that Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has ignored their demands and used the police to suppress them.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement condemned the arrests.

"Beijing and its representatives in Hong Kong continue to take actions inconsistent with commitments made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration that include transparency, the rule of law, and guarantees that Hong Kong will continue to 'enjoy a high degree of autonomy,'" Pompeo said. He was referring to the 1997 handover of the former British colony to China, which promised the city would enjoy political freedoms not afforded mainland China.

Attorney General William Barr also weighed in with a statement saying these events show how "antithetical the values of the Chinese Communist Party are to those we share in Western liberal democracies. These actions — along with its malign influence activity and industrial espionage here in the United States



**Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, center, who founded local newspaper Apple Daily, is arrested by police officers at his home in Hong Kong, Saturday, April 18, 2020. Hong Kong police arrested at least 14 pro-democracy lawmakers and activists on Saturday on charges of joining unlawful protests last year calling for reforms.** (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 53 of 78

— demonstrate once again that the Chinese Communist Party cannot be trusted.”

Britain’s Foreign Office also criticized the arrests, saying “the right to peaceful protest is fundamental to Hong Kong’s way of life and as such is protected in both the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.”

Beijing has accused the U.S. and other Western countries of instigating the protests and insists they’re China’s internal affairs.

The Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong said police were enforcing the law against those suspected of organizing and participating in unauthorized assemblies, and foreign countries have no right to interfere, China’s official Xinhua News Agency reported.

“It is completely wrong that the U.K. Foreign Office spokesperson has distorted the truth by painting unauthorized assemblies as ‘peaceful protests,’ in a bid to whitewash, condone and exonerate the anti-China troublemakers in Hong Kong,” the statement said.

Lai, Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeung Sum — a former lawmaker from the Democratic Party who was also arrested — were charged in February over their involvement in a rally on Aug. 31 last year.

The Hong Kong authorities had denied permission for most of the rallies and police increasingly used tear gas and pepper spray against demonstrators, arresting hundreds.

The League of Social Democrats wrote in a Facebook post on Saturday that its leaders were among those arrested, including chairman Raphael Wong. They were accused of participating in two unauthorized protests on Aug. 18 and Oct. 1 last year.

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

By The Associated Press

Countries worldwide are wrestling with when and how to ease the restrictions meant to slow the spread of the coronavirus amid rising unemployment. Spain, which imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe in mid-March, announced it will start easing restrictions on children.

In the U.S., 17 governors whose states are home to about half the country’s population have joined one of three regional pacts meant to smooth the eventual reopening of their economies. Adding to the pressure are protests against stay-at-home orders organized by small-government groups and Trump supporters. And in a symbolic nod to normalcy, Vice President Mike Pence delivered a commencement address at the U.S. Air Force Academy, a trip aimed at showing the country is on course to gradually reopen after weeks of shutdowns.

Meanwhile, a new wave of infections is threatening to overwhelm hospitals in Japan.

Here are some of The Associated Press’ top stories Saturday on the coronavirus pandemic. Follow APNews.com/VirusOutbreak for updates through the day and APNews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak for stories explaining some of its complexities.

WHAT’S HAPPENING TODAY:

— African Americans and Native American communities are being hit hard by the virus. In New Mexico, Native Americans account for nearly 37% of the state’s 1,484 confirmed cases and about 11% of the state’s population. The Navajo Nation ordered all people on the tribe’s sprawling reservation to wear protective masks when out in public.

— New York’s daily toll of coronavirus deaths hit its lowest point in more than two weeks.

— Global “brain drain” of medical professionals to richer countries has left developing nations without tens of thousands of highly skilled workers.

— Frustration boiled over into anger during a private call between Pence and Democratic senators over coronavirus testing plans.

— An all-star streaming and TV special aimed at fighting the pandemic featured the likes of Lady Gaga, The Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Oprah Winfrey and Billie Eilish.

— Youth and amateur athletics in the U.S. are bracing for financial and membership downturns because of the pandemic.

— The U.S. and Canada say they will keep their common border closed to nonessential traffic for 30

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 54 of 78

more days.

## 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. 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 the spread of the virus is through frequent hand-washing 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.

Phones should also be washed. 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:

— 20,000: Africa surpasses 20,000 COVID-19 cases and more than 1,000 deaths.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

— **TEACHER TV:** Lessons are given over the airwaves to students stuck at home.

— **A RARE GOODBYE:** Israeli hospital takes the unusual step of allowing patients dying of COVID-19 to be visited by their loved ones.

— **SKI RESORT HELP:** Young workers from Latin America who are stranded at U.S. ski resorts get food and lodging assistance.

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



**Four F-35A fighter jets fly over the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Friday, April 17, 2020, to honor the Class of 2020 who will graduate early in a closed ceremony Saturday on the terrazzo at the center of campus rather than Falcon Stadium. The early graduation on the terrazzo will allow them to stay 8 feet apart during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President Mike Pence will speak in person, but the cadets won't march up to receive diplomas and high fives and hugs are banned. The Thunderbirds will fly over at the conclusion of the ceremony that will be streamed online for families and friends. In the foreground is a Republic F-105D Thunderchief, the first supersonic tactical fighter-bomber developed from scratch. The first F-105D Thunderchief flew in 1959 and played a major role in the Vietnam War.** (Christian Murdock/The Gazette via AP)

## Beyoncé, Gaga offer hope at all-star event fighting COVID-19

By MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga, Stevie Wonder, Lizzo, Shawn Mendes and others sang classic songs brimmed with messages of hope and change during a TV special aimed at fighting the coronavirus, while Beyoncé and Alicia Keys spoke passionately about how the virus has disproportionately affected black Americans.

Beyoncé made a surprise appearance on Saturday's TV special "One World: Together At Home," thanking "delivery workers, mail carriers and sanitation employees" for their hard work during the pandemic.

"Black Americans disproportionately belong to these essential parts of the workforce that do not have the luxury of working from home. And African American communities at large have been severely affected in this crisis. Those with pre-existing conditions are at an even higher risk. This virus is killing black people at an alarmingly high rate here in America," Beyoncé said.

African Americans account for more than one-third of COVID-19 deaths in the United States where the race of victims has been made public. Data from states, cities and counties show black people are regularly overrepresented compared to their share of the population.

"Please protect yourselves," Beyoncé continued. "We are one family. We need you. We need your voices, your abilities and your strength all over this world. I know it's very hard but please be patient, stay encouraged, keep the faith, stay positive and continue to pray for our heroes."

An Associated Press analysis, based on data through Thursday, found that of the more than 21,500 victims whose demographic data was known and disclosed by officials, more than 6,350 were black, a rate of nearly 30%. African Americans account for 14.2% of the 241 million people who live in the areas covered by the analysis. The nation had recorded more than 33,000 deaths as of Thursday.

Keys presented similar data when she spoke during the special, ending with: "Keep your frequency high and I'm sending you all my love."

Gaga, who curated the all-star TV event, kicked off it off by urging people weathering the coronavirus pandemic to find a way to smile through the pain with a performance of Nat King Cole's version of the song "Smile."

She performed during the second part of an eight-hour event supporting the World Health Organization alongside advocacy organization Global Citizen.

"I care so much about the medical workers that are putting their lives at risk for us," Gaga said.

Wonder performed "Lean On Me" by Bill Withers — who died on March 30 — while playing piano. He told viewers: "During hardships like this we have to lean on each other for help." John Legend and Sam Smith, each from their own homes, duetted on "Stand by Me"; Lizzo sang "A Change Is Gonna Come" with passion; and Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello, sitting together, performed "What a Wonderful World."



**FILE - This July 14, 2019 file photo shows Beyonce at the "Lion King" premiere in London. Beyonce, along with Timothy McKenzie and Ilya Salmanzadeh, failed to get an Oscar nomination for best original song for "Spirit," from the film "The Lion King."** (Photo by Joel C Ryan/Invision/AP, File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 56 of 78

Paul McCartney sang the Beatles' "Lady Madonna" and talked about the work his mother did as a nurse. The members of the Rolling Stones — from four different locations — joined forces to perform "You Can't Always Get What You Want." And Taylor Swift sang "Soon You'll Get Better" while playing piano.

Former first ladies Michelle Obama and Laura Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Bill and Melinda Gates, Ellen DeGeneres, Pharrell Williams, Kerry Washington, Lupita Nyong'o and Henry Golding offered positive words while photos of health care workers and everyday people were shown on the screen. Reggaeton star J Balvin even offered tips on handwashing, while doctors and other medical workers spoke about social distancing and relief efforts.

"One World: Together At Home" featured stars appearing in intimate settings, beamed virtually to the world. It aired simultaneously on ABC, NBC, CBS, iHeartMedia and Bell Media networks and was hosted by Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel.

Colbert told viewers to "take out their wallets and put them away." Kimmel added that over \$50 million had already been raised to help those during the worldly crisis.

Performers included Billie Eilish and her producer-brother Finneas, Elton John, Jennifer Lopez, Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong, Kacey Musgraves, Maluma and Keith Urban. Gaga, Legend, Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli and Lang Lang closed the special with a collaborative performance of "The Prayer."

Earlier in the day, a six-hour streaming event featuring Andra Day, Niall Horan, Kesha, Jack Black, Matthew McConaughey, Heidi Klum and Jason Segel aired on digital platforms as part of the "One World: Together At Home" event.

"It's Kesha from quarantine day 500. I miss my fans so much," Kesha said, sitting in front of her fireplace as her cat made noises in the background. "I know that there's so many people working and not sleeping and sacrificing so much to help figure this out for everyone and I just think the vulnerability of us all as human beings right now is really showing a really beautiful side to humanity."

Country singer Maren Morris, rock performer Hozier, British star Rita Ora and Emirati singer Hussain Al Jassmi also performed during the early part of the special, which included videos focused on health care workers on the front lines fighting the spreading coronavirus. It also aired a package of people getting married — some in front of their homes, others inside — during the pandemic.

## US governors feel heat to reopen from protesters, president

By PAUL WEBER and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Stores in Texas can soon begin selling merchandise with curbside service, and hospitals can resume nonessential surgeries. In Florida, people are returning to a few beaches and parks. And protesters are clamoring for more.

Governors eager to rescue their economies and feeling heat from President Donald Trump are moving to ease restrictions meant to control the spread of the coronavirus, even as new hot spots emerge and experts warn that moving too fast could prove disastrous.

Adding to the pressure are protests against stay-at-home orders organized by small-government groups and Trump supporters. They staged demonstrations Saturday in several cities after the president urged them to "liberate" three states led by Democratic governors.

Protests happened in Republican-led states, too, including at the Texas Capitol and in front of the Indiana governor's home. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott already said that restrictions will begin easing next week. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb — who signed an agreement with six other Midwestern states to coordinate reopening — said he would extend his stay-at-home order until May 1.

For the first time in weeks, people were able to visit some Florida beaches, but they were still subject to restrictions on hours and activities. Beaches in big cities stayed closed.

Meanwhile, infections kept surging in the Northeast.

Rhode Island, between the hot spots of Massachusetts and New York, has seen a steady daily increase in infections and deaths, with nursing home residents accounting for more than 90 of the state's 118 deaths. The state's death rate of around 10 people per 100,000 is among the nation's highest per capita,



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 57 of 78

according to data compiled by the COVID Tracking Project.

Massachusetts had its highest number of deaths in a single day on Friday, with 159. Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, citing health experts' advice, said states should wait until infection rates and hospitalizations decline for about two weeks before acting.

Trump, whose administration waited months to bolster stockpiles of key medical supplies and equipment, appeared to back protesters.

"LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!" "LIBERATE VIRGINIA," Trump said in a tweet-storm in which he also lashed out at New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, for criticizing the federal response. Cuomo "should spend more time 'doing' and less time 'complaining,'" the president said.

At his Saturday briefing with reporters, Cuomo cited more progress. The state's daily increase in deaths fell below 550 for the first time in more than two weeks as hospitalizations continued to decline.

But the crisis is far from over: Hospitals are still reporting nearly 2,000 new COVID-19 patients per day, and nursing homes remain a "feeding frenzy for this virus," he said.

"We are not at a point when we are going to be reopening anything immediately," Cuomo said.

Several hundred people rallied in Texas' capital, chanting "Let us work!" Many clamored for an immediate lifting of restrictions in a state where more than 1 million have filed for unemployment since the crisis began.

The rally was organized by a host of Infowars, owned by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, who joined protesters on the Capitol steps. Jones is being sued in Austin over using his show to promote falsehoods that the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre in Connecticut was a hoax.

In Indianapolis, more than 200 people stood close together outside the governor's mansion, carrying American flags and signs demanding that Gov. Holcomb lift restrictions. Indiana's state health department reported 529 new cases between April 7 and midday Friday, raising the total to more than 10,600. The number of deaths rose by 26, to 545.

Elsewhere, a few hundred demonstrators waved signs outside the Statehouse in New Hampshire, which has had nearly 1,300 cases of the virus and more than three dozen deaths.

"Even if the virus were 10 times as dangerous as it is, I still wouldn't stay inside my home. I'd rather take the risk and be a free person," said one of the protesters, talk show host Ian Freeman.

Trump is pushing to relax the U.S. lockdown by May 1, a plan that hinges partly on more testing.

Public health officials said the ability to test enough people and trace contacts of the infected is crucial before easing restrictions, and that infections could surge anew unless people continue to take precautions.

Vice President Mike Pence delivered a commencement address at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, a trip aimed at showing the country is on course to gradually reopen.

Major cities in Brazil also saw protests Saturday by hundreds of people denouncing pandemic lockdown measures also opposed by President Jair Bolsonaro, a fierce critic of stay-at-home measures imposed by



**Members of the Boogaloo Movement, attend a demonstration against the lockdown over concern about COVID-19 at the State House, Saturday, April 18, 2020, in Concord, N.H. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 58 of 78

state governments.

In Asia, some nations that until recently appeared to have the outbreak under control reported fresh flareups.

Singapore reported a sharp, one-day spike of 942 infections, the highest in Southeast Asia, mostly among foreign workers staying in crowded dormitories. That brought the total to almost 6,000 in the city-state of 6 million.

Total cases topped 10,000 in Japan, where Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said he's concerned that people are not observing social distancing and announced a 100,000-yen (\$930) cash handout to each resident as an incentive to stay home.

There have been tentative signs that measures to curb the outbreak are working, with the rate of new infections slowing across Europe.

France and Spain started dismantling some field hospitals, while the number of active cases in Germany has slowly declined over the past week as people recover.

France's national health agency said Saturday that the number of virus patients in intensive care dropped for the 10th straight day, and overall virus hospitalizations have fallen for three consecutive days. The country has seen almost 20,000 virus deaths.

The agency urged the French public to stick to strict confinement measures, which have been extended until at least May 11: "Don't relax our efforts at the moment when confinement is bearing fruit."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said his government will seek to extend the state of emergency to May 9 but begin easing the total confinement of children beginning April 27.

Children are thought to be a major source of transmission even if they rarely fall ill from the virus. They've been confined to their homes for five weeks, prompting parents to ask that they be allowed to at least take a daily walk.

Sánchez announced in a televised news conference late Saturday that kids would be able "to get out of their houses for a period on a daily basis," but the specifics needed to be ironed out with experts.

The national lockdown would be rolled back only when Spain's embattled health system is ready for a possible rebound of infections, he said.

The virus is believed to have infected more than 2.3 million people worldwide. While most recover, the outbreak has killed at least 155,000 people, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally based on figures supplied by health authorities around the globe.

The number almost certainly underestimates the actual toll. Nearly everywhere, thousands have died with COVID-19 symptoms — many in nursing homes — without being tested for the virus, and have thus gone uncounted.

---

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

---

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

## Reinstate? Reassign? Navy to decide fate of fired captain

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** and **ROBERT BURNS** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy's top admiral will soon decide the fate of the ship captain who was fired after pleading for commanders to move faster to safeguard his coronavirus-infected crew on the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

In the glare of a public spotlight, Adm. Mike Gilday will decide whether Navy Capt. Brett Crozier stepped out of line when he went around his chain of command and sent an email pushing for action to stem the outbreak. As of Friday, 660 sailors on the aircraft carrier, now docked at Guam, had tested positive for the virus and seven were hospitalized. One sailor, who was from Arkansas, has died, and more than 4,000 of the ship's 5,000 crew members have been moved onto the island for quarantine.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 59 of 78

Gilday's review won't be limited to Crozier. It will also look at the command climate on the ship and higher up within the Pacific-based fleet, to determine if there are broader leadership problems in a region critical to America's national security interests.

Gilday has many options as he reviews what was an extraordinarily rapid investigation by Adm. Robert Burke, the vice chief of naval operations. Burke and his staff finished the review in about a week, conducting interviews almost entirely online and by phone between Washington and Guam.

A look at some of Gilday's options, and their benefits and pitfalls.

## REINSTATEMENT:

Gilday could decide that Crozier acted in the best interests of his crew and was unfairly removed. He could reinstate him as captain of the Roosevelt.

That could generate a lot of support.

In a widely viewed video, Roosevelt crew members applauded and chanted Crozier's name as he walked off the ship after being fired. When Thomas Modly, the acting Navy secretary who fired Crozier, traveled to the ship and criticized him in a speech to the crew, he came under fire and had to resign.

President Donald Trump even suggested that while Crozier shouldn't have sent the memo, he shouldn't be destroyed for having a "bad day."

But reinstating Crozier has its problems.

It would put him back on a ship with Rear Adm. Stuart Baker, commander of the carrier strike group of which the Roosevelt is the lead ship. Officials say they did not have a good relationship and that was among the problems that triggered Crozier's memo. Gilday may worry that putting them back together would exacerbate the ship's toxic command climate.

## FORGIVE AND MOVE ON:

Rather than return Crozier to the Roosevelt, Gilday could absolve him of wrongdoing and recommend he move on to another job. Crozier could retain his rank and standing and perhaps command another ship, leaving open the possibility that he could gain promotion and continue his Navy career.

This would avoid sending him back into the chain of command that likely felt betrayed by his memo. But it doesn't provide the emotional lift of seeing a popular captain stride back onto the ship for which he risked his career.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

Gilday could fault Crozier for doing the right thing the wrong way. He could determine that Crozier was unfairly fired, but that he acted rashly and went outside his chain of command and therefore did not exhibit good leadership.



**In this image provided by the U.S. Navy, Capt. Brett Crozier, then-commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), addresses the crew on Jan. 17, 2020, in San Diego, Calif. The Navy's top admiral will soon decide the fate of the ship captain who was fired after pleading for his superiors to move faster to safeguard his coronavirus-infected crew on the USS Theodore Roosevelt.**

(Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Alexander Williams/U.S. Navy via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 60 of 78

He could put a letter in Crozier's personnel file, which usually is a career-ender. Crozier could stay in the Navy and might move on to other jobs, but would probably not be promoted.

## FIRE ONE, FIRE ALL:

Gilday could determine that firing Crozier was appropriate. Unless that's overturned in an appeal process, that would end Crozier's Navy career. In most cases, senior officers simply retire after being relieved of command for cause.

But Gilday could also decide that the ship's problems extended beyond Crozier. He could recommend that Baker be fired or punished for not being receptive to Crozier's concerns.

Gilday's review could also dole out criticism for leaders who may have taken too long to recognize the Roosevelt's outbreak as the deadly problem it became. Those would include the 7th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. William R. Merz; the Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. John C. Aquilino, or the most senior admiral in the Pacific, Adm. Phil Davidson, head of Indo-Pacific Command.

William Fallon, a retired four-star admiral and former commander of U.S. Pacific Command, says Gilday's decision is important to American interests in the Asia-Pacific region, where an aircraft carrier presence is central to U.S. strategy.

"He's making an administrative decision back here, but it has profound operational implications," Fallon said.

## AND THEN THERE'S THE POLITICS:

The backdrop to Gilday's decision is a fraught political environment in Washington that has taken a toll on the Navy.

Modly became acting secretary last November when his predecessor, Richard Spencer, was forced out in a clash with the White House over Trump's intervention in the war crimes case of former Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher. And Gilday had abruptly become chief when Spencer pushed out the admiral who was in line for the job.

Gilday, known as an honest, straight shooter, is expected to make a decision based on the facts and his judgment of what is best for the ship's crew and the Navy. But the decision expected early next week can't be separated entirely from politics.

When Gilday reaches a decision, he will relay recommendations to acting Navy Secretary James McPherson. They will also go to Defense Secretary Mark Esper. More importantly, the Navy will alert members of Congress and the White House.

Any of those could weigh in on the matter. Or, in Trump's case, he could reverse it.

Trump has expressed seemingly contradictory views on Crozier.

On April 4, he publicly blasted the captain, saying Crozier's letter pleading for more urgent action was "terrible." Trump also criticized Crozier for the ship's port visit in Vietnam, where crew members may have picked up the coronavirus, even though the Navy says that decision was made by Davidson.

Two days later, Trump took a more empathetic tack, saying, "I'm not looking to destroy a person's life, who's had an otherwise stellar career, as I understand it." Trump said that as far as he could tell, Crozier had simply "had a bad day."

## Orthodox churches empty for Easter amid pandemic

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Orthodox priests in much of Europe held Easter services in churches empty of parishioners because of restrictions imposed to block the spread of coronavirus.

In Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kyiv, priests at the services that began late Saturday night wore the elaborate robes that characterize Orthodoxy's most important holy day and choirs sang, but worshipers could only see them on TV or online broadcasts.

Police were deployed outside hundreds of churches in Ukraine to ensure that anyone who came to stand

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 61 of 78



**A priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Nazariy, wearing a face mask to protect against coronavirus, blesses family members on the Easter eve near their house in the village of Nove close to capital Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April, 18, 2020. All the Ukrainian churches have been closed for people because of COVID-19 outbreak, and believers wait for the priest right near their houses. For Orthodox Christians, this is normally a time of reflection, communal mourning and joyful release, of centuries-old ceremonies steeped in symbolism and tradition. But this year, Easter - by far the most significant religious holiday for the world's roughly 300 million Orthodox - has essentially been cancelled.** (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

outside a service observed regulations calling for social distancing and banning large gatherings.

A small exception was made at the Pechersk monastery in Kyiv, where police allowed worshipers to enter the church one at a time, with the next person going inside when another left. About 100 people stood outside the monastery waiting to be let in.

The monastery, a major tourist attraction because of its extensive system of caves and catacombs, was closed under quarantine; more than 90 of its monks have been identified as infected with coronavirus and at least two have died.

The monastery belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is loyal to the Russian Orthodox Church and is one of two rival Orthodox denominations in Ukraine. The church's leader drew criticism after suggesting that worshipers could gather outside while services were conducted rather than staying at home.

That statement increased tensions with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which last year was granted autocephaly by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Orthodoxy's prime

authority, displacing the Russia-affiliated church.

In Georgia, some churches were open to worshipers, but only if they committed themselves to arriving before the country's 9 p.m. curfew started and remaining there until the curfew lifts at 6 a.m. About 100 people showed up to do that the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the capital Tbilisi, where marks were placed on the floor so that people would observe distancing.

All churches in greater Moscow, St. Petersburg and many Russian regions have been closed since Monday, although some churches in remote regions were expected to have services with parishioners attending.

Russian Orthodox leader Patriarch Kirill led the church's main service at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral. In an Easter epistle, he called on his flock not to be discouraged by being unable to attend services.

"We Orthodox Christians should not lose heart or despair in these difficult circumstances, let alone panic. We are called upon to preserve the inner world," he said.

In Cyprus, many Orthodox faithful stood on their balconies or front porches with lighted candles as clergymen officiating midnight Easter Service in empty churches chanted "Christ is Risen." Cypriots observed Easter services from their televisions at home following a government-imposed ban on worshippers attending church services that's part of a strict stay-at-home order.

—=—  
Jim Heintz in Moscow, Sophiko Megrelidze in Tbilisi and Menelaos Hadjicostis in Nicosia, Cyprus, contributed to this story.

## In nod to normalcy, Pence celebrates Air Force Academy grads

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — In a symbolic nod to normalcy, Vice President Mike Pence delivered a commencement address to the U.S. Air Force Academy's graduating class on Saturday, telling the cadets that by setting off on their mission to defend the nation they "inspire confidence that we will prevail against the invisible enemy in our time as well."

Pence's trip, only his second outside Washington in the last six weeks, was aimed at showing that the country is on course to gradually reopening after weeks of the coronavirus shutdown.

He spoke at a scaled-down ceremony at the academy outside Colorado Springs, where hundreds of graduating cadets in blue and white dress uniforms sat eight feet apart, taking up an area nearly as large as a football field.

"I know we gather at a time of great challenge in the life of our nation," Pence said as he began his remarks. "And while we don't quite look like the usual graduation at the Air Force Academy, let me tell you, this is an awesome sight. And I wouldn't be anywhere else but with the 62nd class of the Air Force Academy, the class of 2020."

The event usually attracts a big crowd to Falcon Stadium, which has a maximum capacity of more than 46,000. President Donald Trump spoke last year. But this year, the pandemic forced the academy to close the ceremony to visitors, including friends and family of the nearly 1,000 graduates.

Still, the ceremony featured its signature dramatic flyover by the Air Force Thunderbirds, which thundered overhead as the graduates threw their hats into the air and burst into cheers. But instead of being able to embrace their fellow graduates, the cadets remained several feet apart and then proceeded to tie on white face masks.

"You knew your graduation day would be memorable. But did you imagine that your commencement would take place in mid-April? Or that each of us would have a face mask at the ready? Or that you would march a COVID-compliant eight feet apart to the terrazzo?" asked Barbara Barrett, secretary of the Air Force.

As the ceremony began, graduates lined up outside and silently saluted the vice president's motorcade as he arrived on a near-empty campus shortly after 11 a.m. local time. They later filed into a stadium that was absolutely silent but for the drum roll and the rustling of starched pants marching in place.

At one point Pence asked the graduates to applaud the friends and family who "couldn't be here because of the extraordinary times in which we live." The cadets quickly rose to their feet, cheering and waving to those watching from home.

While much of the ceremony focused on the graduates, many of whom will be joining the new Space Force, Pence also spoke about the government's response to the coronavirus.



**The class of 2020 toss their caps into the air as the Thunderbirds fly over Saturday, April 18, 2020, at the conclusion of the Air Force Academy graduation in Colorado Springs, Colo. Nearly 1,000 cadets graduated in a scaled-down ceremony due to the coronavirus pandemic. Saturday's commencement was attended by Vice President Mike Pence and capped a difficult final semester in which the cadets attended virtual classes and ate their meals alone in dorm rooms.** (Christian Murdock/The Gazette via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 63 of 78

Still, he said, for "Americans looking on from around the country at this very hour, seeing you brave men and women setting off on your mission to defend this nation" would "inspire confidence that we will prevail against the invisible enemy in our time as well."

He later greeted graduates at a distance and met with small groups, including cadets from his home state of Indiana, who had their temperatures taken before meeting with the vice president.

Despite the starkly different visuals from previous years, Pence's day trip was meant as a signal to the nation that the pandemic response has entered a new phase.

It's hardly "Mission Accomplished." Hundreds of Americans continue to die every day from a virus that has upended life across the country and across the globe. But White House aides believe that with the release on Thursday of federal guidelines outlining how states should reopen and an effort Friday to publicly address testing shortages, what had been an urgent crisis is now transitioning to a period of sustained containment.

Pence was initially meant to speak to the academy's graduates via recorded video, as military officials, who moved up the commencement by six weeks because of the pandemic, doubted he would want to travel. But White House aides said Pence on Monday made the call himself to make the trip as the White House was finalizing its guidelines for reopening America again.

He planned to continue his travels with a trip to Wisconsin on Tuesday.

Saturday's scaled-down ceremony capped a trying semester for the Air Force Academy's 967 graduates, whose last months consisted of virtual classes and solitary meals in dorm rooms to try to keep them safe.

Academy underclassmen were sent home earlier this semester because of the pandemic. The graduating class stayed, but remained isolated from one another to prevent the spread of the virus.

Two cadets died in March from what were thought to be suicides, The Gazette of Colorado Springs reported.

Colvin reported from Washington.

## Racial toll of virus grows even starker as more data emerges

By KAT STAFFORD, MEGHAN HOYER and AARON MORRISON Associated Press

As a clearer picture emerges of COVID-19's decidedly deadly toll on black Americans, leaders are demanding a reckoning of the systemic policies they say have made many African Americans far more vulnerable to the virus, including inequity in access to health care and economic opportunity.

A growing chorus of medical professionals, activists and political figures is pressuring the federal government to not just release comprehensive racial demographic data of the country's coronavirus victims, but also to outline clear strategies to blunt the devastation on African Americans and other communities of color.

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its first breakdown of COVID-19 case data by race, showing that 30% of patients whose race was known were black. The federal data was missing racial information for 75% of all cases, however, and did not include any demographic breakdown of deaths.

The latest Associated Press analysis of available state and local data shows that nearly one-third of those who have died are African American, with black people representing about 14% of the population in the areas covered in the analysis.

Roughly half the states, representing less than a fifth of the nation's COVID-19 deaths, have yet to release demographic data on fatalities. In states that have, about a quarter of the death records are missing racial details.

Health conditions that exist at higher rates in the black community -- obesity, diabetes and asthma -- make African Americans more susceptible to the virus. They also are more likely to be uninsured, and often report that medical professionals take their ailments less seriously when they seek treatment.

"It's America's unfinished business -- we're free, but not equal," civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson told

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 64 of 78

the AP. "There's a reality check that has been brought by the coronavirus, that exposes the weakness and the opportunity."

This week, Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the National Medical Association, a group representing African American physicians and patients, released a joint public health strategy calling for better COVID-19 testing and treatment data. The groups also urged officials to provide better protections for incarcerated populations and to recruit more African Americans to the medical field.

Jackson also expressed support for a national commission to study the black COVID-19 toll modeled after the Kerner Commission, which studied the root causes of race riots in African American communities in the 1960s and made policy recommendations to prevent future unrest.

Daniel Dawes, director of Morehouse College's School of Medicine's Satcher Health Leadership Institute, said America's history of segregation and policies led to the racial health disparities that exist today.

"If we do not take an appreciation for the historical context and the political determinants, then we're only merely going to nibble around the edges of the problem of inequities," he said.

The release of demographic data for the country's coronavirus victims remains a priority for many civil rights and public health advocates, who say the numbers are needed to address disparities in the national response to the pandemic.

The AP analysis, based on data through Thursday, found that of the more than 21,500 victims whose demographic data was known and disclosed by officials, more than 6,350 were black, a rate of nearly 30%. African Americans account for 14.2% of the 241 million people who live in the areas covered by the analysis, which encompasses 24 states and the cities of Washington D.C., Houston, Memphis, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia — places where statewide data was unavailable.

The nation had recorded more than 33,000 deaths as of Thursday.

In some areas, Native American communities also have been hit hard. In New Mexico, Native Americans account for nearly 37% of the state's 1,484 cases and about 11% of the state's population. Of the 112 deaths where race is known in Arizona, 30 were Native Americans.

After Democratic lawmakers introduced legislation this week to try to compel federal health officials to post daily data breaking down cases and deaths by race, ethnicity and other demographics, the CDC released only caseload data that — similar to the AP's analysis of deaths — show 30% of 111,633 infected patients whose race is known were black. African American patients in the 45-to-64 and 65-to-74 age



**People wait for a distribution of masks and food from the Rev. Al Sharpton in the Harlem neighborhood of New York, after a new state mandate was issued requiring residents to wear face coverings in public due to COVID-19, Saturday, April 18, 2020. "Inner-city residents must follow this mandate to ensure public health and safety," said Sharpton. The latest Associated Press analysis of available data shows that nearly one-third of those who have died from the coronavirus are African American, even though blacks are only about 14% of the population.** (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 65 of 78

groups represented an even larger share of the national caseload.

The lawmakers sent a letter last month to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar urging federal release of the demographic data. And Joe Biden, the former vice president and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, also called for its release.

Meanwhile, some black leaders have described the Trump administration's response to COVID-19 as inadequate, after what they said was a hastily organized call with Vice President Mike Pence and CDC Director Robert Redfield last week.

According to a recording of the call obtained by the AP, Redfield said the CDC has been collecting demographic data from death certificates but that the comprehensiveness of the data depends on state and local health departments, many of which are overburdened by virus response. No plan was offered to help health officials in hard-hit communities collect the data, leaders who were on the call said.

Kristen Clarke, president of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which took part in the call, said African Americans "have every reason to be alarmed at the administration's anemic response to the disproportionate impact that this crisis is having on communities of color."

Mistrust runs deep among residents in many communities.

St. Louis resident Randy Barnes is grappling not just with the emotional toll of losing his brother to the coronavirus, but also with the feeling that his brother's case was not taken seriously.

Barnes said the hospital where his brother sought treatment initially sent him home without testing him and suggested he self-quarantine for 14 days. Five days later, his brother was back in the hospital, where he was placed on a ventilator for two weeks. He died April 13. Barnes' brother and his wife also were caring for an 88-year-old man in the same apartment, who died from the virus around the same time.

"Those people are not being tested. They're not being cared for," Barnes said.

Eugene Rush lives in one of the areas outside large urban cities that have been hit hard with coronavirus cases. He is a sergeant for the sheriff's department in Michigan's Washtenaw County, west of Detroit, where black residents account for 46% of the COVID-19 cases but represent only 12% of the county's population.

Rush, whose job includes community engagement, was diagnosed with COVID-19 near the end of March after what he initially thought was just a sinus infection. He had to be hospitalized twice, but is now on the mend at home, along with his 16-year-old son, who also was diagnosed with COVID-19.

"I had a former lieutenant for the city of Ypsilanti who passed while I was in the hospital and I had some fraternity brothers who caught the virus and were sick at the hospital," Rush said. "At that point, I said, 'Well, this is really, really affecting a lot of people' and they were mostly African American. That's how I knew that it was really taking a toll a little bit deeper in the African American community than I realized."

Stafford and Morrison are members of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Stafford reported from Detroit, Morrison from New York and Hoyer from Washington. Associated Press writers Noreen Nasir in Chicago, Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia, Regina Garcia Cano in Washington, Chris Grygiel in Seattle and Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed.

## The week that was: Stories from the coronavirus saga

By The Associated Press undefined

The pressure is on to reopen America for business — even as the hardest hit areas in the United States and around the world are still struggling mightily to contain the coronavirus.

The debate over easing lockdowns has taken on partisan tones in the United States, with Republican President Donald Trump urging supporters to "liberate" three states led by Democratic governors.

But the crisis is still surging.

In Africa, lockdowns to slow the spread of the coronavirus may be having an unintended effect — choking the continent's already vulnerable food supply. In Spain, where the virus has killed nearly 19,000 people, the AP followed how one funeral home is coping with the disaster.

And China, where the pandemic originated, provides something of a case study for how hard it may be to

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 66 of 78

get economies going again even when things do start to reopen. Worries about losing jobs or getting sick have left workers there wary of spending much or even going out at all.

Associated Press journalists are chronicling a rapidly changing world — including how parts of it have become devoid of humans. In New York City, the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States, AP photographer Wong Maye-E and photo editor Enric Marti chronicled the ghostly city from a motorbike.

In the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, the sprawling Hayarkon Park is usually alive with joggers, children playing on jungle gyms, young families and 20-somethings picnicking and sunbathing. But these days, virtually the only sign of life is the jackals.

Here is a guide to some of AP's best work this week from around the globe:

## HEALTH AND SCIENCE

As shortages of critical masks, gloves and other protective gear persisted, hundreds of doctors, nurses and hospital workers complained to the U.S. Department of Labor about unsafe working conditions. Ten nurses at a California hospital were suspended for refusing to care for COVID-19 patients without proper gear.

Tests to diagnose the disease were also in short supply, even as the White House offered a plan to reopen parts of the U.S. economy that depends on widespread testing.

## THE ECONOMY

Millions more people around the world lost their jobs this week. Others are risking infection on the front lines in essential jobs or going to work sick because they have no paid leave. The coronavirus has laid bare the human cost of an ever-widening wealth gap. But will there be any lasting policy reforms?

In the United States, 22 million people have applied for unemployment benefits in the month since the virus all but shut down the economy, the worst run of job losses on record. Increasingly, white collar workers found themselves dealing with layoffs and pay cuts, joining the service workers who bore the initial brunt of shutdowns.

For some, the \$1,200 government relief checks that started going out this week provide a cushion. For others, they're a lifeline. And no, the online reports that millions of Americans will have to repay the money are not true.

## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Governments worldwide are reckoning with early missteps that may have hurt the response to the coronavirus. AP revealed that China didn't warn the public of the likely pandemic for six key days in January. It was neither the first mistake made by Chinese officials at all levels, nor the longest lag, as governments around the world have dragged their feet for weeks or even months in addressing the virus. But the delay came at a critical time — the outbreak's beginning.

Meanwhile, as countries edge toward ending lockdowns, citizens are starting to face a stark question:



**A vendor wearing a protective face mask looks out of her store selling sugar-coated haws on a stick in Beijing, 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/Andy Wong)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 67 of 78

Will they be willing to give up personal health and location data to get back to some semblance of normal life? People worldwide are being more closely monitored in nations rich and poor, authoritarian and free.

## INEQUALITY

Across the developing world, nations struggled in their fight against the coronavirus and wondered how they could end their lockdowns without the testing capacities and health services of wealthier countries.

India's premier gave 1.3 billion citizens just four hours to prepare for a nationwide lockdown. Weeks later, many of the country's poorest have plunged deeper into suffering.

Many in the United States as well were searching for sustenance, as food pantries found themselves overwhelmed by swelling demand even as donations plummeted.

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT

The virus is having knock-on effects the world over, sometimes in surprising and subtle ways.

The notion of decision fatigue has been around for a long time — well before the virus. But during the pandemic there are way too many decisions to make, and each with high stakes.

The virus could also be sparking a resurgent respect for expertise. The public increasingly is turning to experts in academia and government, the educated, experienced "elites" that many Americans had tuned out.

And the pandemic is forcing Americans to journey through hardship without some of the reliable comforts of hard times. One of them is that old standby — the movies.

## ONE GOOD THING

We can't focus only on the bad news. A month ago, the AP started its daily series "One Good Thing" to reflect the unheralded sacrifices made to benefit others that normally wouldn't make a story, but maybe always deserved one.

A sedated, 65-year-old man in a Missouri hospital was gravely ill with COVID-19, and nurses arranged for his family to wish him well, perhaps for the last time. Daughter Erin Muth is convinced those calls gave her dad strength, and days later he was off the ventilator and weak but recovering.

## VIRUS DIARY

AP correspondents around the world are sharing their vantage points in the coronavirus saga — this week ranged from Rome to Seoul to Berkeley, California. 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.

---

## Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill dies at age 84

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER** and **RON TODT** Associated Press

Paul O'Neill, a former Treasury secretary who broke with George W. Bush over tax policy and then produced a book critical of the administration, died Saturday. He was 84.

O'Neill's son, Paul O'Neill Jr. confirmed that his father died at his home in Pittsburgh after battling lung cancer for the last couple of years. After a few surgeries and chemotherapy, he decided against any further intervention four or five months ago, he said.

"There was some family here and he died peacefully," the son said. "Based on his situation, it was a good exit."

A former head of aluminum giant Alcoa, O'Neill served as Treasury secretary from 2001 to late 2002. He was forced to resign after he objected to a second round of tax cuts because of their impact on deficits.

O'Neill's blunt speaking style more than once got him in trouble as Treasury secretary. He sent the dollar into a tailspin briefly in his early days at Treasury when his comments about foreign exchange rates surprised markets. In the spring of 2001, O'Neill jolted markets again when during Wall Street's worst week in 11 years, he blandly declared "markets go up and markets go down."

He was more focused on the traditional Treasury secretary's job of instilling confidence during times of

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 68 of 78

turbulence later that year when he helped get Wall Street re-opened after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. O'Neill was also instrumental following the attacks in beefing up the government's programs to disrupt financing to terrorist groups.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Saturday on Twitter, "Saddened to hear of the passing of the former 72nd Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neill. He served @USTreasury and America with distinction during challenging times. My condolences to his family."

Tony Fratto, who served as O'Neill's Treasury spokesman, described O'Neill as a "working class guy" who "cared about how things impacted real people."

Fratto, currently a partner with Hamilton Place Strategies in Washington, said that one of O'Neill's passions was workplace safety, and that he would tour the Treasury building looking for safety issues that needed to be fixed.

After leaving the administration, O'Neill worked with author Ron Suskind on an explosive book covering his two years in the administration. O'Neill contended that the administration began planning the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein right after Bush took office, eight months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

O'Neill depicted Bush as a disengaged president who didn't encourage debate either at Cabinet meetings or in one-on-one discussions with Cabinet members. He said the lack of discussion in Cabinet meetings gave him the feeling that Bush "was like a blind man in a roomful of deaf people."

He said major decisions were often made by Bush's political team and Vice President Dick Cheney. O'Neill had been recruited to join the Cabinet by Cheney, his old friend from the Gerald Ford administration. But it was Cheney who told O'Neill that the president wanted his resignation. It was part of a move by Bush to shake up his economic team and find a better salesman for a new round of tax cuts the president hoped would stimulate a sluggish economy.

When the book, "The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House and the Education of Paul O'Neill" came out in early 2004, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan discounted O'Neill's descriptions of White House decision-making and said the president was "someone that leads and acts decisively on our biggest priorities."

After leaving the Cabinet, O'Neill returned to Pittsburgh, where he had headed Alcoa from 1987 to 1999. He resumed working with the Pittsburgh Regional Health Care Initiative, a consortium of hospitals, medical societies and businesses studying ways to improve health care delivery in Western Pennsylvania. The subject had interested him since his days as a budget analyst in Washington with the Office of Management and Budget.

He also devoted time in retirement to projects that would deliver clean drinking water to Africa. As Treasury secretary, O'Neill had focused attention on poverty and combating diseases such as AIDS in Africa,



**FILE - In this March 20, 2002 file photo, U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill holds a news conference at the U.N. Conference for Financing of Development in Monterrey, Mexico. O'Neill, a former Treasury secretary who broke with Bush over tax policy and then produced a book critical of the administration, died Saturday, April 18, 2020. He was 84.** (AP Photo/John Moore)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 69 of 78

touring the continent with Irish rock star Bono.

While at Alcoa, O'Neill lifted the company out of the doldrums during his 12-year stint as the Pittsburgh company's CEO. Shortly after he took the job in April 1987, he began emphasizing factory safety and employee dignity as a top priority.

His ideas weren't initially well received by profit-driven investors, who cared more about Alcoa's financial performance. After hearing one of O'Neill's first presentations as Alcoa's CEO, one money manager decided the company had put a "crazy hippie in charge" and advised his 20 largest clients to sell its stock, according to the book, "The Power of Habit" by Charles Duhigg.

That investor later called it one of his worst decisions. By the time, O'Neill stepped down as CEO in 1999, Alcoa's accident rate had plunged and its stock had soared more than seven-fold at a time it was part of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Before joining Alcoa, O'Neill had been president from 1985 to 1987 of International Paper Co., a firm he had joined in 1977 after leaving OMB.

After graduating with an economics degree from California State University in Fresno in 1961, O'Neill joined the Veterans Administration in Washington, working as a computer systems analyst. He later moved to OMB and rose to become deputy director of the budget agency from 1974 to 1977, providing budget guidance to then-President Gerald Ford.

In June 2019, O'Neill received the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service, according to a piece in his hometown paper, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Cheney and Alan Greenspan, who headed the Federal Reserve when O'Neill was Treasury secretary, are among the past recipients of the award.

O'Neill is survived by his wife, four children, 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Martin Crutsinger in Washington contributed.

## Fear meets fortitude in Peru hospital hard hit by COVID-19

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Seated in a wheelchair at one of Peru's oldest hospitals, 84-year-old Emma Salvador struggled for each breath, aided by an oxygen mask pinching her face. Her son fanned her with folded sheets of paper, wishing he could do more.

"Seeing her in such pain is what overwhelms me," said José Gonzalez, 57, who confessed fearing that the worst outcome awaited his mother, while encouraging her to drink some water.

This scene Friday at the Dos de Mayo Hospital in Lima depicts just one of the 13,489 new coronavirus cases in the South American country, which faces a growing number of patients desperate for emergency attention.

Doctors say they're doing all they can to treat patients throughout the country that's reporting the second largest number of coronavirus cases in Latin America following Brazil, which has more than double the number. Decades of economic growth in Peru did not include extensive investments in the health system.

Founded in 1875, the Dos de Mayo hospital has long been the preferred choice of medical students eager to gain experience treating a wide spectrum of illnesses. It's no different now, with tents recently set up on a patio to care for roughly 100 patients a day — including criminals hospitalized under police supervision.

On this day, doctors and nurses treated more than 50 patients. The six most severe in the intensive care area were put into a sedative-induced coma and put on mechanical ventilation.

They are being monitored with cameras connected to large screens that show some of the patients' lungs filled with white spots due to the injuries and inflammations brought on by the virus.

In the tents, patients silently cling to life on medical beds while some nearby sit on benches. These men and women are hunched over, panting and lonely, despair in their eyes.

Doctors fear that despite their best efforts and a strict government-ordered quarantine, the hospital will struggle to help an increasing number of patients, including those needing scarce medical ventilators. The situation will only become more difficult in the coming days when the infections peak, according to the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 70 of 78

epidemiological forecasts.

"We have already reached a state of collapse," Dr. William Torres said Thursday while protesting with colleagues who demanded N95 face masks and medical grade equipment needed to protect themselves.

At least 237 doctors have been infected with the new coronavirus in the country's hospitals, and the government has summoned foreign health workers to fill the gaps. The urgent need has opened up the possibility for trained Venezuelans who recently migrated to escape their own troubled country.

"We are having to give priority to those who are younger, to those who do not have high-risk factors," Torres told reporters. "That should not be the case, but we have to do it since there are no more mechanical ventilators."

It's a problem that has begun hitting medical centers across the South American nation. A new hospital dedicated to the coronavirus that opened last week only has been staffed by 34 health workers, when it requires 320. It has just 20 intensive care beds, and many of the 35 ventilators are inactive because they are missing parts, the comptroller's office reported.

At a smaller hospital a few blocks away, and eight dead had to be placed in an improvised morgue built to hold two corpses, officials said.

Despite the lack of personnel, mechanical ventilators and adequate protective equipment, the doctors, nurses and technicians at Dos de Mayo Hospital say they continue to fight the pandemic.

A reported 300 people in Peru have died so far from the COVID-19 disease, officials report.

President Martín Vizcarra said this week that Peru has a "poor" and "disjointed" health system.

Faced with the global shortage of ventilators, the government took the initiative to begin manufacturing 500 devices. They will be called "Samay," which means "to breathe" in Quechua, the Incan language spoken in the Andean nation.

In Peru, as the sick are brought into the emergency room desperate for breath, health workers of the Dos de Mayo Hospital say they're doing all they can with inadequate resources.

"We are stressed, but we are doing our best to get patients through this," said Raquel Chávez, chief of the intensive care unit's nursing staff.

A glimmer of hope emerged this week, resonating among medical staff throughout the old halls of Dos de Mayo: A 90-year-old man, Valerio Santa Cruz, recovered from the coronavirus and was sent home.

Hearing about the man's recovery raised the spirits of José González, the son of 84-year-old Emma Salvador, who struggled to breathe in the treatment tent.

"If the old man could pull through," Gonzalez said, "my mother can be saved."



**A nurse places an oxygen mask on a patient inside the intensive care unit for people infected with the new coronavirus, at the 2 de Mayo Hospital, in Lima, Peru, Friday, April 17, 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/Rodrigo Abd)

## 10 years after BP spill: Oil drilled deeper; rules relaxed

By KEVIN MCGILL and MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ten years after an oil rig explosion killed 11 workers and unleashed an environmental nightmare in the Gulf of Mexico, companies are drilling into deeper and deeper waters, where the payoffs can be huge but the risks are greater than ever.

Industry leaders and government officials say they're determined to prevent a repeat of BP's Deepwater Horizon disaster. It spilled 134 million gallons of oil that fouled beaches from Louisiana to Florida, killed hundreds of thousands of marine animals and devastated the region's tourist economy.

Yet safety rules adopted in the spill's aftermath have been eased as part of President Donald Trump's drive to boost U.S. oil production. And government data reviewed by The Associated Press shows the number of safety inspection visits has declined in recent years, although officials say checks of electronic records, safety systems and individual oil rig components have increased.

Today companies are increasingly reliant on production from deeper and inherently more dangerous oil reserves, where drill crews can grapple with ultra-high pressures and oil temperatures that can top 350 degrees (177 degrees Celsius).

Despite almost \$2 billion in spending by the industry on equipment to respond to an oil well blowout like BP's, some scientists, former government officials and environmentalists say safety practices appear to be eroding. And there are worries that cleanup tactics have changed little in decades and are likely to prove as ineffective as they were in 2010.

"I'm concerned that in the industry, the lessons aren't fully learned — that we're tending to backslide," said Donald Boesch, a marine science professor at the University of Maryland who was on a federal commission that determined the BP blowout was preventable.

Regulators and industry leaders say they've employed lessons from the April 20, 2010, disaster to make deep-water drilling safer by setting tougher construction and enforcement standards.

"I think the event 10 years ago really initiated kind of a new day in offshore safety," said Debra Phillips, of the American Petroleum Institute, a standards-setting trade association.

Companies have a financial interest in preventing a repeat of the 2010 disaster, which cost BP more than \$69 billion in cleanup, fines, fees and settlements. Questions over environmental effects linger, and litigation continues over health problems suffered by cleanup workers.

Competing oil giants joined in the disaster's wake to create the Marine Well Containment Co., which has



**FILE - This April 21, 2010 file photo shows oil in the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, as the Deepwater Horizon oil rig burns. Ten years after an oil rig explosion killed 11 workers and unleashed an environmental nightmare in the Gulf of Mexico, companies are drilling into deeper and deeper waters where the payoffs can be huge but the risks are greater than ever.**

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 72 of 78

equipment and vessels positioned regionwide to quickly corral oil if another major spill occurs.

"All of (the) industry wanted to make sure that nothing like it could ever happen again," said CEO David Nickerson, at the company's complex near Corpus Christi on Texas' coast.

He was dwarfed by "capping stacks" — multistory structures of piping, valves and gauges designed to be lowered to halt a major high-pressure blowout.

The hope is that such equipment won't be needed. Yet the Trump administration has relaxed rules adopted in 2016, including the frequency of drilling rig safety tests. That's projected to save energy companies roughly \$1.7 billion in compliance costs over a decade.

An AP review found the number of safety inspection visits by the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement — created after the spill — went down more than 20% over the past six years in the Gulf.

Industry advocates say inspection figures reflect greater emphasis on complex systems that influence safety rather than minor technical matters, and note there are fewer, if bigger, active oil platforms. They say the administration's rule changes allow companies to deviate from "one-size-fits-all" standards not always suited to water pressure and other conditions at individual wells.

"Sometimes, when the regulations are quite prescriptive, it can actually inadvertently deteriorate safety," said Phillips, of the American Petroleum Institute.

Environmentalists and critics say the changes appear to be eroding safety practices adopted after the spill.

"The industry itself is in the lead in trying to reduce its risk and protect its workers," said Bob Deans of the National Resources Defense Council, one of several environmental groups suing over Trump administration changes. "The problem comes when you're behind schedule, over budget and pressure comes from on top to get the job done and move on to the next project. That was the problem on Deepwater Horizon."

The federal commission that studied the accident and the federal judge who oversaw myriad lawsuits put the blame on BP for poor management. In a key court ruling, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said "profit-driven decisions" on the rig were made in "conscious disregard of known risks."

Debate over the strength of regulation and industry safety consciousness goes on as wells close to shore run dry and companies drill in deeper waters farther offshore.

The average depth of deep water drilling steadily increased, from about 3,500 feet (1,070 meters) beneath the surface in 1999 to more than 4,600 feet (1,400 meters) in 2019, according to an AP analysis of data from the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

That's an increase of about 32%.

Drilling deeper makes well sites harder to reach in a blowout or other accident.

---

In the past year, the industry began producing crude for the first time from ultra-high pressure crude reserves in the Gulf. Overall production hit a record 2 million barrels a day before the coronavirus pandemic caused demand to plummet.

Pressures in those wells can approach 20,000 pounds per square inch, compared with almost 12,000 pounds for Deepwater Horizon.

"Higher risk, higher pressure, higher temperatures, more reliance on technology — it's just a tougher environment to operate in," said Lois Epstein, a civil engineer at the Wilderness Society who served on a government advisory committee post-spill.

Trump administration changes have intensified debate over how tightly the government should regulate, and what decisions should be left to industry professionals.

Much of the discussion centers on rules intended to keep wells under control, such as requirements for blowout preventers that failed in the spill.

The 2016 rule required companies to test the blowout preventers every 14 days. The Trump administration allows companies to test every 21 days, saying more frequent testing would risk equipment failure.

As deep-water activity has expanded, the number of inspections carried out by the government's safety bureau has declined.

Inspections fell from 4,712 in 2013 to 3,717 in 2019, according to government data reviewed by AP.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 73 of 78

Bureau spokesman Sandy Day said the inspection figures reflect visits by inspectors to rigs, platforms and other facilities. Day said the data doesn't reflect electronic records reviewed remotely or the increased time spent at each facility and all inspection tasks performed. Those, he said, have increased from 9,287 in 2017 to 12,489 last year. The agency didn't provide a breakdown.

"While on the facility we did numerous inspections of different items," Day said, including equipment for preventing blowouts, fires, spills, or other major accidents. He said electronic records allow more work to be done from shore, rather than digging through paperwork on site.

The number of warnings and citations issued to companies for safety or environmental violations peaked in 2012 and has since fallen even faster than inspections. The decline accelerated under the current administration, agency documents show.

Fewer inspection visits and fewer citations suggests the safety improvements that took hold after the 2010 spill are unraveling, said Matt Lee-Ashley, former deputy chief of staff at the Interior Department.

"There is a value in having inspectors on board frequently. You have to establish a culture of enforcement," said Lee-Ashley, now with the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning advocacy group.

Industry representatives maintain that inspection numbers don't automatically translate to less effective oversight. Inspectors are less interested than in the past in technical violations and are focused on making sure comprehensive safety systems are in place to prevent major accidents, said Erik Milito, of industry trade group the National Ocean Industries Association.

"If you think about going out with a checklist and see if there are enough eyewash bottles, everybody has steel-toed shoes — you can do that, and bounce around from facility to facility," he said. "But there's got to be an emphasis on your more significant potential incidents, potential blowouts."

---

At the center of the debate is the agency formed to enforce offshore safety after Deepwater Horizon, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and its director under Trump, Scott Angelle.

Angelle, a former Louisiana official who was a paid board member for an oil logistics company, has faced criticism from Democratic lawmakers and environmentalists for pushing through the relaxed safety rules against agency staff advice.

During a hearing last month before the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Mike Levin, D-Calif., accused Angelle of trying to hide information that didn't support the administration's goal of loosening regulations for petroleum companies.

Angelle said initial staff recommendations to keep the two-week testing frequency for blowout preventers "were not ready and ripe." His office later released an Argonne National Laboratory study that concluded relaxing the testing regimen would have cost benefits and could improve safety, since frequent equipment testing can cause wear and tear that results in accidents.

Michael Bromwich, the safety agency's director under Obama, credited the industry for taking action after the spill to overhaul drilling. But as time passed, Bromwich said companies became complacent and are now overseen by a man he calls an industry booster.

"You need to have somebody who believes in the regulatory mission and who doesn't view themselves and doesn't view their agency as a cheerleader for the industry," Bromwich said.

Requests over several weeks to interview Angelle were declined. Spokesman Day said the director wants to make the bureau a "do-it-all" agency that can protect safety and the environment while advancing Trump's goal of U.S. "energy dominance" globally.

Even if companies are prepared for another Deepwater Horizon, they could be overwhelmed by other accidents, such as one of the Gulf's frequent underwater mudslides wiping out a cluster of wellheads on the seafloor, said Florida State University oceanographer Ian MacDonald.

That could trigger a blowout that would be harder to stop due to the damaged wellheads being possibly hundreds of feet deep in muddy debris, said MacDonald, who helped determine the magnitude of the 2010 spill.

In addition to having ships and barges standing by to capture oil that escapes from accidents, the industry has stockpiled chemical dispersants to break up oil and it can mobilize thousands of workers to clean up

crude that reaches the shore.

But the heavy use of dispersants during Deepwater Horizon stirred controversy both over its effectiveness and biological effects. And scientists say the technology applied to shore cleanups remains as rudimentary as it was 10 years ago.

Crews relied heavily on hand tools such as shovels and absorbent paper towels sometimes called "oil diapers." Much of the crude was deemed unrecoverable and left to break down over time.

"It's something you could have done 100 years ago," said Louisiana State University engineering professor John Pardue. "We're still moving oil around with minimum wage workers with their hands."

Brown reported from Billings, Montana. Janet McConnaughey contributed to this story from New Orleans.

Follow Kevin McGill on Twitter: @mcgill56 and Matthew Brown on Twitter: @matthewbrownap

## With no school, calls drop but child abuse hasn't amid virus

By AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — With schools closed and teachers unable to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect, child welfare agencies have lost some of their best eyes and ears during a stressful time for families who have lost jobs and are locked down together during the coronavirus pandemic.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and across the country, states are reporting fewer calls to child abuse hotlines, not because officials believe there are fewer cases but because they're going unreported.

"When there are large-scale job losses in communities, child maltreatment rates go up," said Anna Gassman-Pines, a Duke University public policy professor whose expertise includes the effect of unemployment on children. "So we all need to be thinking about, during this time of stay-at-home orders and widespread economic strain, that those are the conditions under which families with preexisting vulnerabilities might be under — a lot of increased strain and stress."

Calls to Washington state's child abuse hotline are down about 50%, while Montana, Oklahoma and Louisiana are reporting about a 45% reduction since schools closed last month to slow the spread of the virus. Arizona's calls are down a third compared with previous weeks, and Nevada



**FILE - In this April 10, 2020 file photo, Adams Elementary School third-grade teacher Lisel Corneil, left, and fifth-grade teacher Allie Campbell are among educators who constructed from plastic drinking cups a "We Miss You All-Stars" message to their students in a fence in Spokane, Wash. With schools closed and teachers unable to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect, child welfare agencies have lost some of their best eyes and ears during a highly stressful time for families who have lost jobs and are locked down together at home. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, but across the country, states are reporting fewer calls to child abuse hotlines, worrying child welfare officials that abuse is going unreported during the coronavirus pandemic.** (Dan Pelle/The Spokesman-Review via AP, File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 75 of 78

has seen a 14% drop compared with March 2019.

"That means many children are suffering in silence," said Darren DaRonco, spokesman for the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Agencies are now asking others to fill in the reporting gaps that have emerged with school closures.

"Everyone, whether you're a store clerk, a mailman, a neighbor or a relative, everyone has the responsibility of reporting child abuse," said New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, whose state has seen calls drop by half in recent weeks. "While calls have gone down, that doesn't mean abuse has stopped."

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine recently echoed that sentiment, saying "we do not have enough eyes on these children" and asking "everyone else to try to be more vigilant."

Moira O'Neill, director of New Hampshire's Office of the Child Advocate, said people being stuck at home and losing their routines likely has increased stresses that contribute to child abuse, such as economic insecurity and limited access to medical and mental health care.

Calls are increasing to domestic violence hotlines, an indication that some children may be trapped in unsafe homes, said Jill Cook, assistant director of the American School Counselor Association in Virginia.

"My concern is children for whom school was a safe space are now perhaps in environments where they really don't have a lot of leverage to move or go outside or leave — that they're in unsafe environments," Cook said.

The organization is encouraging school counselors to make sure school websites list community and national crisis hotlines.

In New Mexico, the Children, Youth and Families Department said it "is increasing communication with domestic violence shelters, youth shelters, hospitals, police, the Department of Health and other partners involved in keeping children safe."

The decrease in calls is more than the typical drop seen during the summer break, when agencies still receive reports from day care providers or other community members who interact with children.

Now, "not only are they out of school, but they are isolated from everybody else," said Nikki Grossberg, deputy administrator of Montana's Child and Family Services Division.

States are encouraging people to reach out to their extended families or others in their community if they are facing challenges that put children at higher risk of abuse and neglect, said Marti Vining, the Montana agency's administrator.

Vining said families that are overwhelmed can call state hotlines to get referred for help with public assistance, possible child care and a plan to help them deal with stress.

"The message that we want to get out is that the challenges that our families face, they're not going to stop just because there's a pandemic," Vining said. "It's just really important that we all step up and do what we can to help support families that are maybe facing challenges."

---

Associated Press reporters Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bob Christie in Phoenix and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed to this story.

## Lacking US coordination, states team up on when to reopen

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

President Donald Trump, in a roller-coaster week of reversals and contradictions, told governors to "call your own shots" on lifting stay-at-home orders once the coronavirus threat subsides. But then he took to Twitter to push some to reopen their economies quickly and tell them it was their job to ramp up testing.

"This is mayhem," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday. "We need a coordinated approach between the federal government and the states."

In the absence of one, Cuomo and sixteen other governors representing half the nation's population have organized three separate clusters of states each committed to working together on the details of relaunching businesses, schools and events while avoiding a resurgence of infections.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 76 of 78

The pacts have formed among states mostly with Democratic governors on the West Coast, around the Great Lakes and in the densely populated Northeast, covering several big metropolitan areas that cross state lines, including New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

With commuters using interconnected trains in the Northeast and family connections, vacation travel and tech hubs linking the West Coast states, California Gov. Gavin Newsom says the teamwork recognizes "that this pandemic virus knows no boundaries, knows no borders, you can't build walls around it, and you can't deny basic fundamental facts."

Others are going their own way, including the second most populous state — Texas — where Gov. Greg Abbott said Friday that he would ease some pandemic-related restrictions next week. Florida, another state with a huge population, is also not in an alliance.

California, Oregon and Washington state have teamed up, and pacts have formed among Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island as well as Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Their efforts are starting in the shadows of high-profile disputes between some governors and Trump, whose message has changed frequently during the pandemic. The partnerships were announced as Trump asserted "total authority" over when states lift restrictions.

He then deferred to governors as he issued broad guidelines for reopening economies over time in places with extensive testing and decreasing cases of the virus. But by Friday, he was tweeting support for those protesting stay-at-home orders in Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia and arguing that "States have to step up their TESTING!"

Republican and Democratic governors said they would be cautious on reopening and warned they won't be able to expand testing without help from the Trump administration.

Addisu Demissie, a Democratic strategist who managed Newsom's 2018 campaign, said the alliances are "largely an acknowledgement that the federal government is not going to get done what the states need to get done."

Richard Besser, a former interim director of the U.S. Centers on Disease Control and Prevention, said the federal guidelines had many good points. But "there are some other components that aren't there, such as the availability of widespread testing capacity," said Besser, CEO of the health-focused nonprofit the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a New Jersey representative in the Northeast partnership.

David Postman, chief of staff for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, said cooperating with California and Oregon — which also coordinate during wildfire season — would probably happen regardless of the Trump



**FILE - In this file photo taken Tuesday April 14, 2020, California Gov. Gavin Newsom discusses an outline for what it will take to lift coronavirus restrictions during a news conference at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in Rancho Cordova, Calif. President Donald Trump declared that states could "call your own shots" in determining how and when to loosen restrictions on businesses and social gatherings. Clusters of states representing the vast majority of Americans have decided cooperation in dealing with the coronavirus is the better option.** (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli,File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 77 of 78

administration's approach.

"It just seemed that working together more closely would be more helpful to us," he said.

While there are key differences between the states, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said people "work in Oregon and live in Washington and obviously the reverse. And the same is true with California." She also said it would be "extremely useful" to coordinate instead of compete for protective equipment.

The alliances could prevent difficult situations: For example, Ohio allowing nonessential employees back into Cincinnati while schools and day cares in suburban northern Kentucky remained closed. They could prevent issues such as commuters riding on New Jersey Transit trains without masks but finding they're required to get on subways that take them the rest of the way to work in New York City.

The efforts are just getting started, so it's not yet clear how coordinated state action ultimately will be.

The West Coast states say it's important to coordinate the metrics used to determine when it will be safe to start reopening. The Northeast alliance is expected to draft a report.

Not everyone praises the teamwork.

In Connecticut, Republicans have criticized Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont for not having his own reopening plan.

"If governors want to consult with one another, that can be helpful, but Connecticut cannot wait on six other states, including states that do not even share a border with us, to agree on a path forward," state Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano said in a statement.

Pennsylvania's GOP lawmakers have criticized Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf for stay-at-home orders and working with other governors. They even advanced a measure to strip him of some power to determine which business sectors can remain open, which he's promised to veto.

Governors emphasize they have the final decision on reopening their states.

"We're each going to do what we do. The Pennsylvania plan will be the Pennsylvania plan, New York's going to do what it's going to do, and each has to recognize the uniqueness of each state," Wolf said.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, a Republican, described the pact as a way for state leaders to know what the others are doing.

"We're all thinking about that smart restart — opening of our states in a very gradual, methodical way if the numbers continue to hold and the trends continue to hold," he said.

\_\_\_ Mulvihill reported from New Jersey.

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Tom Davies in Indianapolis; Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California; Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon; and Marina Villeneuve in Albany, New York, contributed to this article.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 19, the 110th day of 2020. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

On this date:

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1912, a special subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee opened hearings in New York into the Titanic disaster.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 281 ~ 78 of 78

In 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opened on Broadway.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1994, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$3.8 million to beaten motorist Rodney King.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said had planned the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police.

Ten years ago: The U.S. and Iraq claimed a major victory against al-Qaida, saying their forces had killed the terror group's two top figures in an air and ground assault on their safe house near former President Saddam Hussein's hometown. Kenya's Robert Kiprono Cheruiyot (CHEHR'-ee-aht) won the Boston Marathon and broke the course record with a time of 2:05:52; Ethiopia's Teyba Erkesso won the women's race in a time of 2:26:11.

Five years ago: Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man, died a week after suffering a spinal cord injury in the back of a Baltimore police van while he was handcuffed and shackled. (Six police officers were charged; three were acquitted and the city's top prosecutor eventually dropped the three remaining cases.) At the Academy of Country Music Awards, Miranda Lambert won four awards, including album and song of the year, but lost the night's top prize, Entertainer of the Year, to Luke Bryan.

One year ago: The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Democrat Jerrold Nadler of New York, issued a subpoena for the full report from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe and the underlying materials. President Donald Trump rejected claims from former administration officials cited in the Mueller report that he had tried numerous times to stop or influence the probe. A fire service official in Paris said architects and construction workers had stabilized the damaged structure of Notre Dame cathedral, four days after a fire ravaged the iconic building. A Southern California couple who had pleaded guilty to locking up and abusing 12 of their 13 children for years were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elinor Donahue is 83. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 78. Actor Tim Curry is 74. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 73. Actor Tony Plana is 68. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 64. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 58. Actor Tom Wood is 57. Recording executive Suge Knight is 55. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 53. Actress Kim Hawthorne (TV: "Greenleaf") is 52. Actress Ashley Judd is 52. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 52. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 50. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 48. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 48. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 46. Actor James Franco is 42. Actress Kate Hudson is 41. Actor Hayden Christensen is 39. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 39. Actress-comedian Ali Wong is 38. Actress Victoria Yeates is 37. Actress Kelen Coleman is 36. Actor Zack Conroy is 35. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 35. Actor Courtland Mead is 33. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 33. NHL forward Patrik Laine is 32.

Thought for Today: "The crisis you have to worry about most is the one you don't see coming." — Mike Mansfield, American statesman (1903-2001).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.