

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 1 of 73

- [1- Dinger Photo](#)
- [2- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [3 - Dr. Holm's Column: A Redheaded Woman Experiences Life with Color](#)
- [4- Secretary encourages everyone to vote in primary election](#)
- [5- Locke/Karst Field lets it shine!](#)
- [6- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [8- May 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [10- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [11- Weather Pages](#)
- [14- Daily Devotional](#)
- [15- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [16- News from the Associated Press](#)

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.



"HOPE IS THE COMPANION OF POWER, AND MOTHER OF SUCCESS; FOR WHO SO HOPES STRONGLY HAS WITHIN HIM THE GIFT OF MIRACLES."  
-SAMUEL SMILES

**Ari Dinger was soooooo excited to zoom with her class! According to her mom, Emily, "I don't think I've ever seen her 'watch the clock' as much as she did today! Thank you Missi Smith for making this day extra special!!" Smith is the third grade teacher.** (Photo from Emily Dinger's Facebook Page)



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

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 2 of 73

Usually the second draft recap article is a simple one, with only a handful of draft picks and undrafted free agents to mention. This year, however, the Vikings moved back so many times they ended up with eleven draft picks on the third day alone. When you add in the dozen undrafted rookie free agents, that makes 23 players to recap. So without any further ado, let's get started.



By Jordan Wright

The Vikings started off day three of the draft by selecting DE D.J. Wonnum from South Carolina. He will likely be relegated to a backup position for the first two years, but should become a solid rotational defensive end.

Thirteen picks later, the Vikings got DT James Lynch from Baylor. His explosiveness will be a welcome addition to the defensive line, and he should be in contention for a starting role in a year or two.

With their third pick in the fourth round, the Vikings got LB Troy Dye from Oregon. This might be my favorite pick from day three, as Dye is an athletic linebacker who excels in coverage. He will be a special teams standout for year one, and could start alongside Barr and Kendricks by next season.

In the fifth round, the Vikings drafted CB Harrison Hand from Temple. With the secondary depleted, it makes sense the Vikings would take as many corners as possible, but there is a good chance Hand transitions to safety in the NFL.

Later in the fifth, the Vikings drafted WR K.J. Osborn from Miami. This was a puzzling pick to me, as I don't see Osborn being anything more than a punt and kick returner in the NFL.

In the sixth round, the Vikings made another questionable selection with OT Blake Brandel from Oregon State. He is an average athlete with below average strength. If he makes it in the league, it will be at guard.

With their second pick in the sixth round, the Vikings grabbed S Josh Metellus from Michigan. He is a great tackler but lacks the speed to keep up with NFL receivers.

The Vikings started the seventh round by taking DE Kenny Willekes from Michigan State. He isn't very athletic, but has a tremendous motor and work ethic which he'll need if he intends to stick in the NFL.

The Vikings' next pick was QB Nate Stanley from Iowa. His arm is good enough for the pros, but he will have to learn to diagnose defenses better to make up for his lack of mobility.

With their third pick in the seventh round, the Vikings grabbed S Brian Cole II from Mississippi State. He was a four star recruit as a WR coming out of college before making the transition to safety. He will need a year or two on the practice squad.

The Vikings' final draft pick was OL Kyle Hinton from Washburn. Hinton generally dominated his competition, but that was in Division II, so asking him to go from that to blocking NFL defensive linemen is a tall task.

Once the draft was over, the Vikings hit the phones to sign as many undrafted rookies as possible. These players have a high bust potential, but it's certainly possible to find some diamonds in the rough (Adam Thielen, John Randle etc.). This year's rookie free agents include: OT Brady Aillo from Oregon, FB Jake Bargas from North Carolina, WR Dan Chisena from Penn State, CB Nevelle Clarke from UCF, WR Quartney Davis from Texas A&M, S Myles Dorn from North Carolina, LB Jordan Fehr from Appalachian State, TE Nakia Griffin-Stewart from Pittsburgh, G Tyler Higby from Michigan State, C Jake Lacina from Augustana, LB Blake Lynch from Baylor, and DT David Moe from Boise State.

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

## A Redheaded Woman Experiences Life with Color

Mrs. R was a character. Her natural red hair had changed to gray years earlier, but thanks to the magic of her hairdresser, her hair was again flashy red, and she had a personality to match. She was a feisty, fun and full-blooded woman full of zest and pizzazz. She made me smile whenever I made rounds at the nursing home.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Through the years, Alzheimer's disease took its toll on her memory, but her spirit, brightness and spark didn't seem to fade much. Even near the end, as the family stopped the hair coloring, she gave me a charge of energy and vitality whenever we met. However, the neurodegenerative (ND) Alzheimer's condition didn't let up and eventually she slipped off this earthly existence gently while family surrounded her with love.

The image of my redheaded friend repeatedly came to me through the years as I cared for people with ND diseases. Neurodegenerative brain loss conditions include Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's disease. These heartbreaking conditions happen because of brain cell death but we don't know what kills the brain cells. We do know that in 2016, 5.4 million Americans were living with Alzheimer's and we estimate 930,000 people will be living with Parkinson's in 2020.

Presently a lot of research is being done to look for exposure to certain toxins as cause for ND diseases to include pesticides, fungicides, insecticides, metals like arsenic, lead and manganese, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other human-made and natural toxins in the environment including tobacco and some antioxidants. We simply do not know the cause or causes, but we're looking hard.

When a person has one of these largely untreatable conditions, we utilize tools called "Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)" to define when that person might need more help. The five ADLs include 1. personal hygiene (being able to bath, groom, brush hair and teeth), 2. continence management (being able to independently use the toilet), 3. dressing (selecting and wearing appropriate clothes), 4. feeding oneself, and 5. ambulating (being able to change position and to get around by oneself with or without an assistance device or wheel chair). Losing ability to do one or more ADLs certainly means that help is needed, if not now, around the corner.

Mrs. R had a great life, and although she struggled with an ND brain condition, she didn't lose her spirit and color until the very end. Miss you, Mrs. R.

Richard P. Holm, MD passed away in March 2020 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. Dr. Holm's legacy lives on through his Prairie Doc® organization. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 4 of 73

## Secretary encourages everyone to vote in primary election

Dear Editor:

As the people of our great country and state join together to navigate unprecedented times, I wanted to share information regarding South Dakota's upcoming elections. Our primary election will be held on June 2 and the primary election voter registration deadline is May 18.

To encourage absentee voting in our upcoming elections during these trying times, absentee ballot application forms were mailed to every registered voter in South Dakota. Only registered South Dakota voters are eligible to vote absentee-by-mail. If you didn't receive an application, please visit our website at [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov) to download a form or request a form from your local county auditor. To ensure the security and integrity of our elections, state law requires the verification of every completed absentee ballot application through notarization or by including a copy of an acceptable photo ID. Acceptable forms of photo ID include a South Dakota driver's license or non-driver ID card, passport or other picture ID issued by the United States government, tribal photo ID, or current student photo ID issued by a South Dakota high school or postsecondary education institution. Please complete the application as soon as you are able to help local government offices process these requests.

You will be mailed an absentee ballot by your county auditor once your application is received and verified. Voters will receive the ballot for their party of registration. A voter registered with the Republican Party will receive the Republican primary ballot and the same applies for members of the Democratic Party. As there are no primary elections for the Libertarian Party in the June 2 election, voters registered as Libertarian will receive a Non-Political ballot if non-political races are occurring in their jurisdiction. Independent or No-Party Affiliation voters may choose to receive a Non-Political, Democratic, or Libertarian ballot, as per state law.

Once a county auditor has received a returned absentee ballot, the voter is recorded in the statewide voter registration list as having submitted a ballot. This prevents a voter from casting an absentee ballot and voting on Election Day. Voter signatures on the absentee ballot return envelope are also verified against the signature on the absentee application to confirm the form was completed by the same individual. Absentee ballots are not opened until Election Day. Absentee ballots are removed from the return envelopes and immediately placed in a secure ballot box to ensure voter privacy. No results are printed or displayed until all polling places have closed in the state. These Election Day processes are open to the public to observe.

If you choose not to complete the application, please note that you still have the option to in-person absentee vote with your county auditor or vote in-person on Election Day at the polls. Prior to voting in-person absentee, please contact your county auditor for office hours. On Election Day, June 2, polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. As your polling location may have changed, I encourage you to verify your polling place by accessing the Voter Information Portal (VIP) page on our website or by contacting your county auditor. I also encourage you to contact your county auditor if you are interested in becoming a poll worker for Election Day. Poll workers are paid positions. Our office, along with your local election officials, continue working to keep our polling locations safe for our election workers and South Dakota citizens.

The goal of all election officials in our state is to ensure every South Dakota voter has access to exercise their right to vote. Citizens exercising their right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and I encourage everyone to participate.

Sincerely,

Steve Barnett

South Dakota Secretary of State





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 5 of 73



## Let it Shine!

**The lights on Locke/Karst Field were turned on Friday night as part of South Dakota's Let It Shine event. Lights throughout South Dakota were turned on in support of the state's effort in battling the COVID-19 virus.** (Photo from the Groton Baseball/Softball Facebook Page)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 6 of 73

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Things continue to move downward.

We're at 1,164,300 cases in the US. The increase, both in raw number and percentage, is well below yesterday, showing a second consecutive day of decline in growth. NY leads with 321,833 cases, well below yesterday's rate of growth. NJ, with 126,744 cases, is holding about steady in its rate of growth. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: MA – 68,087, IL – 61,499, CA – 54,947, PA – 52,079, MI – 43,736, FL – 36,070, TX – 32,284, and LA – 29,340. These ten states account for 71% of US cases. 4 more states have over 20,000 cases, 6 more have over 10,000, 15 more + DC over 5000, 10 more + PR, and GU over 1000, 5 more over 100, and VI + MP under 100.

Here's the latest on movement in new case reports. Those with substantial numbers of cases which are not showing much change include CA, LA, PA, GA, MI, CO, FL, and WA. States where new case reports are increasing include IL, VA, TX, TN, MD, NC, IN, and IA. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, OH, NJ, RI, MA, KY, CT, and AR. It is wonderful to see NY, NJ, and MA on the list of states decreasing and MI on the list of states hanging in there; this is an improvement. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 67,772 deaths in the US. The growth in percentage and raw number showed declines for the second consecutive day. I believe we've been seeing declines overall for long enough that this has worked its way through the time lag to the deaths total; I certainly hope so because each one of these lost lives was precious. I cannot help thinking about 67,000 families grieving someone they loved. NY has 24,576, NJ has 7871, MI has 4047, MA has 4004, PA has 2843, CT has 2436, IL has 2632, CA has 2235, and LA has 1969. There are 5 more states over 1000 deaths, 4 more over 500, 18 more + DC over 100, and 14 + PR, GU, VI, and MP under 100.

I've had a busy day with little time for reading, so I don't have any other news for you at the moment. I have a number of issues waiting for me to find time to address them; maybe tomorrow will be your lucky day. I never dreamed when I started this that someday I'd be writing, "#70 in a series" (or honestly, even "#2 in a series") and I can't say I am delighted that this has gone on that long. I also can't say I am surprised. Just a day or two into this thing, it became apparent to me that this was going to go on for the long haul, even if I didn't realize I would be chronicling it throughout. I don't know whether these updates still hold value for you or whether it's time to scale back to a couple of them per week. I am contemplating what direction to take, so if you have input on that, please let me know.

In the meantime, I'll mention that I've been thinking globally lately. One of the things I've been thinking about is the fact that there are only so many oxygen atoms on this planet. They keep getting recycled: Creatures inhale them, use them in their metabolism and excrete them as part of some other compound, which eventually breaks down so that other creatures can inhale them. The oxygen you just drew into your lungs this minute may have once graced the lungs of Muhammad, or Charlemagne, or Abraham Lincoln. Or Atilla the Hun. Hitler. Or Christ. I'll remind you that, in ways chemical and spiritual, we are all interconnected and that the loss of any one of us is an irreplaceable loss. The woman who died in New York today and the man who died in Mississippi yesterday are all part of us, of our society, of our humanity. They may have shared oxygen atoms with us at some point. While we each will face our time to die, seeing a life unnecessarily cut short is always tragic because each of us, however lowly in the scheme of things, has something of value to offer the rest of us and is a part of the rest of us; and once that person is gone, we all suffer an irremediable loss. Please look for opportunities to notice people who need you and to find a way to meet some part of that need. A word, attention, just acknowledging someone's presence in the world can be life-changing for them—and for you. Go forth and do good while there is still good to be done.

And take care. We'll talk tomorrow.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 7 of 73

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Apr. 18	Apr. 19	Apr. 20	Apr. 21	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27
Minnesota	2,213	2,356	2,470	2,567	2,721	2,942	3,185	3,446	3,602	3,816
Nebraska	1,287	1,474	1,648	1,722	1,813	2,124	2,421	2,732	3,028	3,358
Montana	426	433	433	437	439	442	444	445	448	449
Colorado	9,433	9,730	10,106	10,447	10,878	11,262	12,256	12,968	13,441	13,879
Wyoming	309	313	317	322	326	332	349	362	370	389
North Dakota	528	585	627	644	679	709	748	803	867	942
South Dakota	1542	1635	1685	1755	1858	1,956	2,040	2,147	2,212	2,245
United States	735,287	758,720	786,638	824,438	842,624	867,459	905,364	938,154	965,435	988,189
US Deaths	39,090	40,666	42,295	45,039	46,785	49,804	51,956	53,755	54,856	56,255

Minnesota	+142	+143	+114	+97	+154	+221	+243	+261	+156	+214
Nebraska	+149	+187	+174	+74	+91	+311	+297	+311	+296	+330
Montana	+4	+7	0	+4	+2	+3	+2	+1	+3	+1
Colorado	+379	+297	+376	+341	+431	+384	+994	+712	+473	+438
Wyoming	+7	+4	+4	+5	+4	+6	+7	+13	+8	+19
North Dakota	+89	+57	+42	+17	+35	+30	+39	+55	+64	+75
South Dakota	+131	+93	+50	+70	+103	+98	+84	+107	+65	+33
United States	+28,508	+23,433	+27,918	+37,800	+18,186	+24,835	+37,905	+32,790	+27,281	+22,754
US Deaths	+2,011	+1,576	+1,629	+2,744	+1,746	+3,019	+2,152	+1,799	+1,101	+1,399

	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
Minnesota	4,181	4,644	5,136	5,730	6,228	6,663
Nebraska	3,374	3,784	4,281	4,838	5,326	5,659
Montana	451	451	453	453	455	455
Colorado	14,316	14,758	15,284	15,768	16,225	16,635
Wyoming	396	404	415	420	429	435
North Dakota	991	1,033	1,067	1,107	1,153	1,191
South Dakota	2,313	2,373	2,449	2,525	2,588	2,631
United States	1,012,583	1,040,488	1,070,032	1,104,161	1,133,069	1,157,945
US Deaths	58,355	60,999	63,019	65,068	66,385	67,680

Minnesota	+365	+463	+492	+594	+498	+435
Nebraska	+16	+410	+497	+557	+488	+333
Montana	+2	0	+2	0	+2	0
Colorado	+437	+442	+526	+484	+457	+410
Wyoming	+7	+8	+11	+5	+9	+38
North Dakota	+49	+42	+34	+40	+46	+38
South Dakota	+68	+60	+76	+76	+63	+43
United States	+24,394	+27,905	+29,544	+34,129	+28,908	+24,876
US Deaths	+2,100	+2,644	+2,020	+2,049	+1,317	+1,295

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 8 of 73

## May 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from Dept. of Health Lab records

Brown County is now the second hottest spot in South Dakota with COVID-19 cases. Minnehaha had 19 positive while Brown had 8. After that, Lincoln had 6 and Union 4 with several others having 1 each. One big bright spot was Brookings County, now graduating to the all-clear with 13 of its 13 cases all now recovered. Clay and Fall River county each fell out of the fully recovered category.

The positive cases and fully recovered cases were nearly equal with 43 positives and 40 recovered. North Dakota registered its 25th death in the state. No new deaths in South Dakota.

### South Dakota:

Positive: +43 (2631 total) (20 less than yesterday)

Negative: +283 (15,786 total)

Hospitalized: +10 (197 total) - 71 currently hospitalized (no change from yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (21 total)

Recovered: +40 (1799 total)

Active Cases: 811 (3 more than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +1 (14), Brule +1 (59), Butte +3 (61), Campbell 9, Custer +2 (47), Edmunds +1 (26), Grant +1 (46), Gregory 34, Haakon 17, Hanson 30, Harding 1, Jackson +1 (10), Jones 5, Kingsburg +3 (73), Mellette 12, Perkins +2 (7), Potter 33, Tripp +1 (57), Ziebach +1 (6), unassigned +4 (927).

Brookings: +1 recovered (13 of 13 recovered)

Brown: +8 positive, +2 recovered (27 of 59 recovered)

Clay: +1 positive (7 total)

Fall River: +1 positive (2 total)

Lincoln: +6 positive, +4 recovered (106 of 162 recovered)

Minnehaha: +19 positive, +30 recovered (1476 of 2142 recovered)

Moody: +1 positive (6 total)

Pennington: +1 positive (14 total)

Roberts: +1 positive (10 total)

Turner: +2 recovered (13 of 17 recovered)

Union: +4 positive (31 total)

Yankton: +1 positive, +1 recovered (22 of 28 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Brookings, lost Clay, Fall River): Aurora, Bon Homme, Brookings, Buffalo, Clark, Corson, Deuel, Douglas, Faulk, Hamlin, Hutchinson, Hyde, Lawrence, Marshall, McPherson, Meade, Miner, Oglala Lakota, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, Walworth.

### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Active Cases	811
Currently Hospitalized	71
Recovered	1799
Total Positive Cases*	2631
Total Negative Cases*	15786
Ever Hospitalized**	197
Deaths***	21

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 1,806 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 38 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,191. NDDoH reports one new death (25 total)

State & private labs have reported 33,353 total tests & 32,162 negatives.

517 ND patients are recovered.



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 9 of 73

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	1	1	41
Beadle	21	19	194
Bennett	0	0	14
Bon Homme	4	4	106
Brookings	13	13	365
Brown	59	27	641
Brule	0	0	59
Buffalo	1	1	17
Butte	0	0	61
Campbell	0	0	9
Charles Mix	5	4	89
Clark	1	1	57
Clay	7	6	145
Codington	14	13	498
Corson	1	1	22
Custer	0	0	47
Davison	6	5	313
Day	8	1	58
Deuel	1	1	84
Dewey	1	0	37
Douglas	1	1	26
Edmunds	0	0	26
Fall River	2	1	53
Faulk	1	1	19
Grant	0	0	46
Gregory	0	0	34
Haakon	0	0	17
Hamlin	2	2	72
Hand	1	0	23
Hanson	0	0	30
Harding	0	0	1
Hughes	13	7	253
Hutchinson	3	3	99

Hyde	1	1	17
Jackson	0	0	10
Jerauld	6	5	38
Jones	0	0	5
Kingsbury	0	0	73
Lake	4	3	140
Lawrence	9	9	178
Lincoln	162	106	1504
Lyman	3	2	36
Marshall	1	1	45
McCook	4	3	98
McPherson	1	1	16
Meade	1	1	173
Mellette	0	0	12
Miner	1	1	22
Minnehaha	2142	1476	6679
Moody	6	1	95
Oglala Lakota	1	1	45
Pennington	14	10	787
Perkins	0	0	7
Potter	0	0	33
Roberts	10	4	116
Sanborn	3	3	40
Spink	3	3	99
Stanley	8	1	43
Sully	1	1	13
Todd	3	1	61
Tripp	0	0	57
Turner	17	13	154
Union	31	13	188
Walworth	5	5	49
Yankton	28	22	464
Ziebach	0	0	6
Unassigned****	0	0	927

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1250	6
Male	1381	15

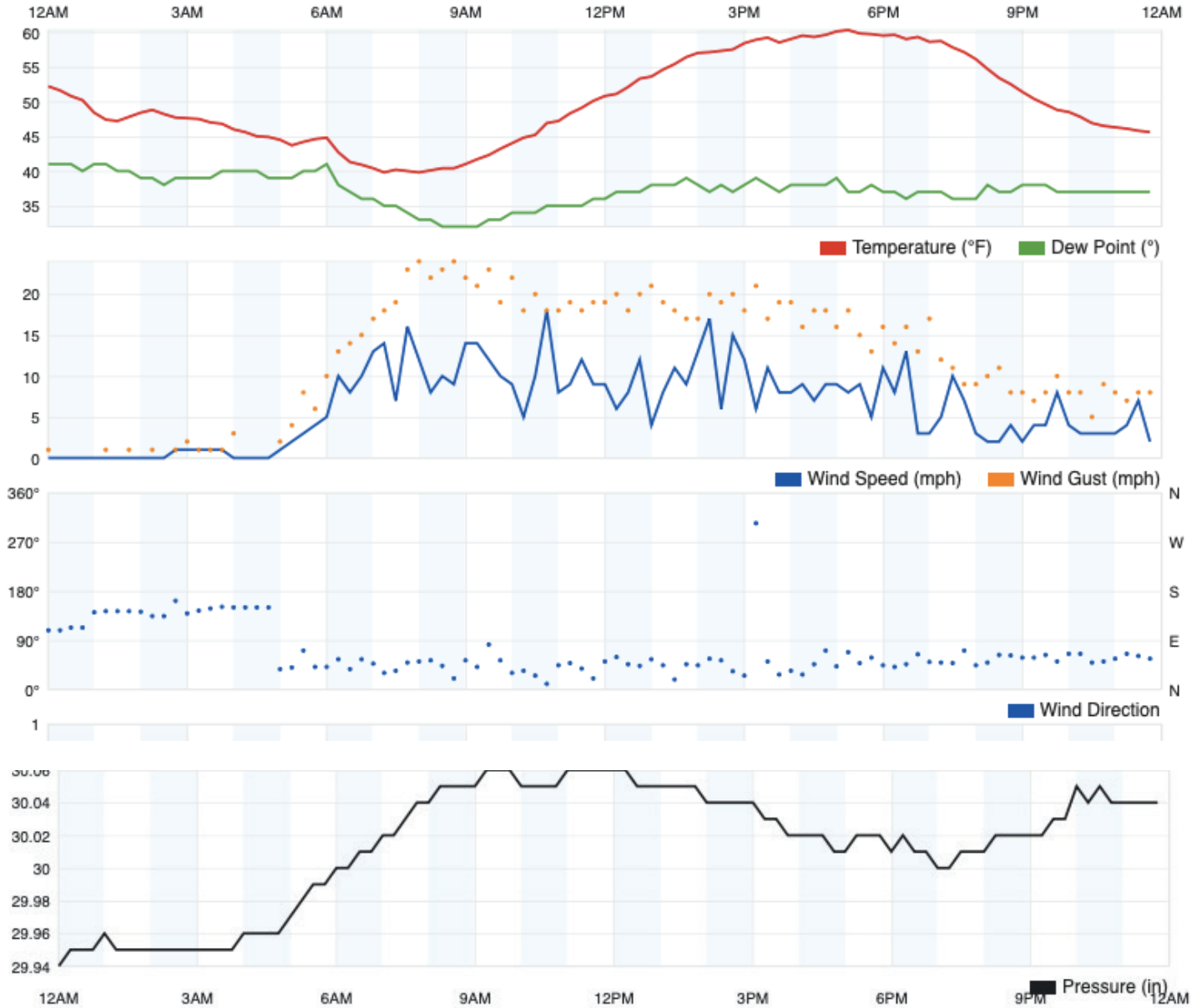
## COVID-19 DEATHS IN SOUTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	2
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	16
Pennington	1

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 10 of 73

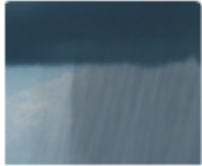
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 11 of 73

Today

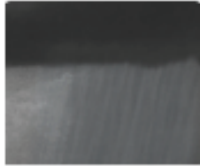


60% → 90%

Showers  
Likely then  
Showers and  
Patchy Fog

High: 53 °F

Tonight



90% → 20%

Showers and  
Patchy Fog

Low: 39 °F

Tuesday

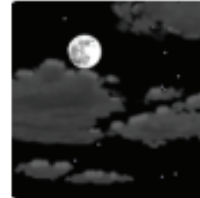


30%

Mostly Sunny  
then Chance  
Showers

High: 63 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 39 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 60 °F

**Rain Today!**  
Highs in the 50s

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
weather.gov/abr

**Tue**  
58-67°

**Wed**  
near 60°

**Thu**  
upper 50s

Created 5/4/2020 5:28 AM

Cool and wet weather will be the rule today! Expect rain to slowly end over central South Dakota this evening, and linger over northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota overnight. Showers and even a few thunderstorms will be possible Tuesday afternoon over northeastern South Dakota. The cool down gets into gear for the latter half of the work week, with highs in the mid 50s to low 60s. A few showers will return Thursday across mainly central South Dakota.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 12 of 73

## Today in Weather History

May 4, 1964: A tornado touched down southwest of Kadoka causing \$25,000 in damage.

1774: Snow was reported in the Williamsburg Gazette to have fallen in Dumfries, Virginia. George Washington's weather diary logged at Mount Vernon that it was a cold day with spits of snow and a hard wind from the northwest. Thomas Jefferson near Charlottesville recorded that the Blue Ridge Mountains was covered with snow. The late snow and frost killed most of the fruit crop in the northern part of the state. It also snowed north across Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

1922: The first of two tornadoes that formed over Austin, Texas was called the "western cloud." It was more visible, but caused much less damage than the "eastern cloud."

2003: The week of May 4th through the 10th was one of the busiest weeks for tornadoes in U.S. history. On this date through the 5th, the deadliest outbreak of severe weather since May 1999 produced 84 tornadoes, large hail and damaging winds across eight states. Several thunderstorms became tornadic with a total of five distinct tornado touchdowns in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Two of the tornadoes received a rating of F4, two a rating of F2, and the last was rated an F1. Total damage exceeded 144 million dollars. Several of the tornadoes tracked long distances ranging from 15 to 80 miles. More than 3000 homes and businesses were destroyed. At least 38 people were killed in Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee.

2007: A devastating EF5 twister demolishes nearly every structure in Greensburg around 9:30 pm (CDT) and kills ten. The mammoth wedge tornado cuts a swath 1.7 miles (2.7 km) wide and 22 miles (35 km) long across the Kansas landscape. It is the worst single tornado to touch down in the US in eight years.

1812 - A storm produced snow from Philadelphia to Maine. A foot of snow fell near Keene NH, and in Massachusetts, nine inches fell at Waltham, located near Boston. (David Ludlum)

1917 - A late season snowstorm in northwest Texas produced up to eight inches of snow in Potter County and Armstrong County. (David Ludlum)

1977 - A tornado 500 yards in width struck Pleasant Hill, MO, severely damaging the high school and grade school. Only minor injuries were reported among the more than 1000 teachers and students due to excellent warnings and prior tornado drills. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S., with South Carolina hardest hit. Thunderstorm winds toppled trees seventy feet high in Spartanburg County SC, and knocked homes off their foundations near Bishopville SC. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail in North Carolina, but brought welcome rains to much of the rest of the eastern U.S. Residents of New England finally saw sunshine after about a week of clouds and rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and the Lower Mississippi Valley. Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes, and there were 340 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter, and 9.39 inches of rain, resulted in more than 130 million dollars damage at Monroe LA. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 100 mph at Epps LA and Fort Worth TX. A thunderstorm north of Mineral Wells TX produced high winds which unroofed a nightclub, turning it into a "topless club." (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Lower Ohio Valley to Virginia and the Carolinas. A tornado at Augusta Springs VA killed two people and injured ten others, and another tornado caused 1.7 million dollars damage at Colonial Heights VA. Temperatures soared into the 90s in northern California. The high of 98 degrees in downtown Sacramento was their hottest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



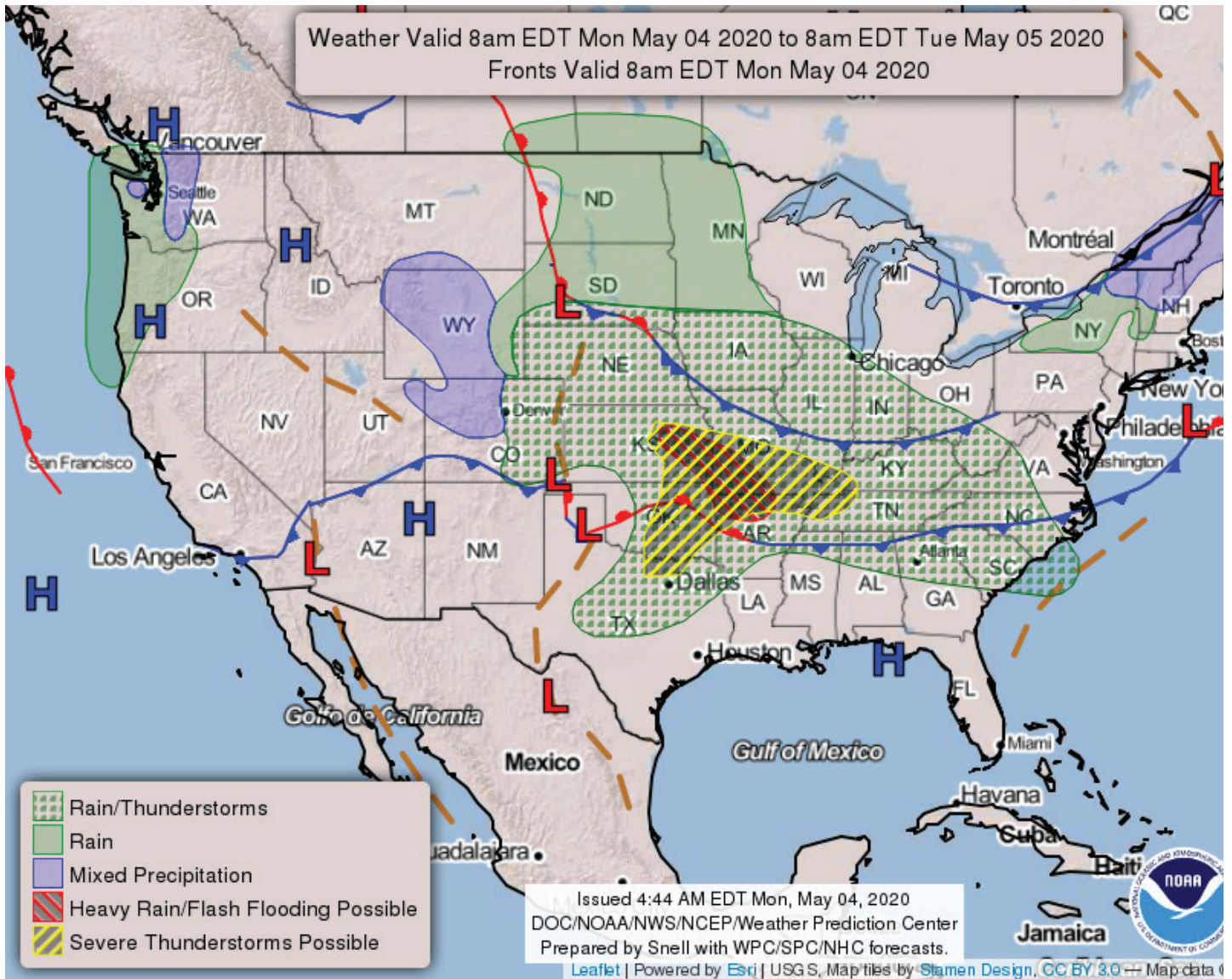
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 13 of 73

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 60 °F at 5:09 PM**  
**Low Temp: 40 °F at 7:18 AM**  
**Wind: 24 mph at 7:52 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 98° in 1926**  
**Record Low: 20° in 2005**  
**Average High: 66°F**  
**Average Low: 40°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 0.30**  
**Precip to date in May.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 4.33**  
**Precip Year to Date: 1.90**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:15 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 14 of 73



## I CAN'T HANDLE MUCH MORE!

Walter had recently been elected chairman of the deacons in his church. His pastor thought it would be beneficial to the church if the congregation knew him.

After introducing him, Rev. Simpson asked him to make a few remarks. He thought for a moment and then began by saying, "I am so grateful for the way God has blessed me. My business has grown tremendously in the last few years. It has provided me with enough money to purchase a new home with a lovely swimming pool. And I am planning on taking my family to Europe this summer. I am so blessed I can't handle much more. I don't know what more God could give me!"

"I do," replied an older and much wiser deacon sitting in the front row. "A good dose of humility."

Often when sharing God's blessings, people speak with arrogance rather than appreciation or sound greedy rather than grateful. We must always be mindful of God's mercy and without His loving kindness realize that we would be no one or have no-things. What we have, we have because of His grace - beginning with our salvation.

Every breath, every heartbeat, every thought, every step, every taste, every aroma we smell, every sound we hear, every arm we lift, every object we grasp, or sight we see is a gift from God. Whatever we have, we have because of His grace. Have you given Him enough thanks today?

Prayer: Lord, we only fool ourselves when we think we have earned what we have. Help us to be mindful that without You, we are no one and would have no-things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Micah 6:8 No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 15 of 73

## 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

### Addicts face 'perfect storm' amid coronavirus crisis

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It's in times like these that Megan Feiock normally would have reached for a drink.

Some of her income stream evaporated overnight. Her two kids are now learning from their living room. She's trying to entertain her boys, check on her friends, maintain a mortgage business and keep herself sane, all from the confines of their Sioux falls home.

She's grateful she's taking on the COVID-19 crisis while sober.

"I would be unmotivated, unfulfilled, bored, angry if I drank," said Feiock, 45, who referred to herself as a problem drinker. "I haven't felt the need to drink. I know what my triggers are. We can't control a lot right now, but what we can control is our reactions."

Addiction and mental illness are in themselves isolating. Add in the extended time cooped up at home brought by social distancing measures and school and business closures and the temptation to use may grow.

Recovery and counseling services across the nation have gone digital, offering video conference or phone calls as a replacement for regular one-on-one sessions or group meetings. While some accountability and community are still there, the lack of human interaction can leave a void that some may turn to a substance to fill.

"You have to find the glimmer," says Feiock of the road to recovery. "You have to find what you can."

The 45-year-old saw herself turning to alcohol to cope with stress and wanted to catch herself before it turned into a full-blown addiction. Last year, she reached out to Face It Together, a Sioux Falls-based organization that practices peer mentoring for people with addictions and their families.

Feiock's peer coach, Amber Thomas, told the Argus Leader she and her clients have been adjusting to Zoom meetings from their homes as opposed to the calming green walls and supportive surroundings of the Face It offices.

Some addicts are struggling to cope.

"The pandemic has physically isolated us even more than the emotional isolation we've already felt as addicts," Thomas said. "Addiction thrives on chaos, and that's what we find ourselves in."

'Connection is the main thing'

Kevin Bergheim misses going to the movies.

It was one of his favorite hobbies, one of the ways he passed time in the early stages of sobriety.

The 50-year-old Glory House resident is glad he's getting through the COVID-19 crisis sober but misses the in-person interactions of group and personal counseling and other activities.

"You have to keep your mind busy, so you don't go back to doing what you were doing," he said. "It's easy to go back to the way things were, to think, 'Oh, I'll have a drink.'"

All counseling and group sessions have been moved to online, and many clients have lost their jobs, said Glory House program coordinator Kelly Cleveringa, all of which is a loss of structure and some things to look forward to.

Clients have regular Glory House-required counseling and programming via phone or video conference. The facility was able to get its telehealth services up and running within 24 hours, Cleveringa said, something that's been a benefit.

Residents have been encouraged to exercise around the Glory House campus, but Cleveringa can tell they miss the regular human interaction and other activities.

"A big part of recovery is staying busy and staying active, and relearning, 'What are some things that I like to do and find things that make me happy without drugs or alcohol?'" Cleveringa said.

Bergheim sometimes takes each day by the hour. His work hours at Perkins were cut, but he managed



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 17 of 73

to pick up a few hours here and there for a private contractor. He tries to keep in touch with his elderly parents in Madison.

He's been trying to fill his time with television, puzzles, scrolling the internet. He picked up in-line skating and is working on the tricky art of stopping.

Glory House residents can still see each other and eat together in the dining room if they follow social distancing guidelines. Some are getting creative in how they pass the time, including a few male residents who created a drum group, Ho Pejuta.

They were even featured on a Facebook page called Social Distance Powwow, which has a following of over 160,000 nationwide.

Bergheim has been trying to keep his head up and think positively. He doesn't let himself consume too much news. Staying sober is hard enough, he said, and the constant barrage of negative news isn't good for his mental health.

"Our situation right now makes it uniquely simple for people to stay in their unhealthy comfort zone," said Thomas, the Face It Together peer coach. "Connection is the main thing for recovery. It's very difficult for people to find connection right now."

Breeding new addictions

Addiction and recovery bring other unique challenges during the pandemic.

People who have smoked or used alcohol or other substances for years may have weakened immune systems, compromised lungs, putting them at higher risk if they were to contract the virus, according to *Annals of Internal Medicine*, an academic medical journal published by the American College of Physicians.

But others around Sioux Falls are more worried about what the crisis could mean for the future. With reports nationally of increased drinking to deal with COVID-related stress, counselors are concerned about dangerous habits developing.

They worry the quick access to the liquor cabinet, lack of a structured schedule and staying at home might lead to more people developing an alcohol dependence.

"We're all staying at home, and a lot of us have anxiety," Thomas said. "The isolation and anxiety and the 'Oh why not, I fear, is going to breed newer addictions and new problem drinking. Be careful. Keep your mental and physical health at the forefront."

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is preparing for "increased substance use," said cabinet secretary Laurie Gill.

The department recently received an emergency grant to address mental and substance use disorders during COVID-19 from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The money will be made available to the 11 community mental health centers and 34 contracted substance use disorder treatment agencies across the state, Gill said.

Face It Together also provides coaching for family and friends of those with addictions, and that's one of the most difficult things right now, Thomas said.

"They're trapped in a house with them," she said. "It's kind of a nightmare (for them). They don't know where to go to get away from it. They can't stand the negativity and yelling anymore."

Thomas advised people to not engage with their loved one during the peak of their use, and to wait until they calm down to have a conversation.

"You're not losing if you walk out of the room," she said. "Recognize the addiction isn't that person, and it's not a reflection of their love for you."

'Perfect storm in front of me'

On an optimistic note, social distancing amid the pandemic has provided a few learning and growth opportunities.

Thomas said she's been able to better identify each client's different personality traits and how they deal with anxieties, giving her a new challenge as a coach.

"I can tell they appreciate the fact they're going through this in recovery rather than deep in addiction," Thomas said.

Feiock is taking each day as a new opportunity, focusing on an hour-a-day mantra. If she and her kids

can focus on one activity for one hour, they can look back and say they did something positive that day, a key ingredient to staying sober and mentally healthy.

"I've got the perfect storm in front of me," Feiock said. "Find ways to love yourself. We'll survive it. That's an opportunity I think people are missing. Instead of asking, 'How can I pass the time?' it should be about reconnecting."

Bergheim is grateful for his new part-time job and regular phone calls with his parents.

"I am very proud of myself," Bergheim said. "I think if I can get through all of this and stay sober, I can achieve pretty much anything I want to."

## Northern State's Malsam won't return for extra spring season

By JACQUE NILES Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Bryce Malsam had accomplished just about everything he set out to do when he arrived at Northern State. The Roscoe native was a standout hurdler at Edmunds Central, turning heads beginning with his sophomore season. Now here he was, an NCAA Division II national qualifier in the men's indoor heptathlon and set to compete in his first ever national championship meet.

Then came the coronavirus and all its side effects, physical, social, economic and otherwise. And sometime between the end of practice and the start of competition, sports became one of those side effects.

"It was pretty frustrating to make it the whole way there and not be able to compete," Malsam told the Aberdeen American News. "But it's one of those things, I can still tell myself I made it. ... They can't take that away."

Malsam didn't just make it to the meet. He came in ranked 10th and had a reasonable chance at ending his indoor career as an All-American. And that's not nothing to Malsam.

"My whole goal out of high school — in Class B, I was pretty dominant for a couple years," Malsam said. "I wanted to prove to myself and to others that just because I came from a school with a graduating class of six, you don't need to come from a massive school like a (Sioux Falls) Washington to compete at this level. Small town kids can be just as competitive as kids from bigger schools."

Mission, then, more than accomplished.

Malsam came in as a hurdle specialist, but soon leveraged his athleticism into the one event that can be used to measure athleticism — the multis. The heptathlon and decathlon events aren't just running events. They feature disciplines that can take years to master and where very technical adjustments can make massive differences, either good or, well, less good — pole vault, high jump, javelin. And, yes, the hurdles, where Malsam felt most comfortable.

So his venture to the pinnacle event of the indoor season was not for nothing. He had wanted to prove something to himself, as well.

"I was actually DII material," he said.

As the COVID-19 pandemic lingered into spring, the NCAA made the decision to grant spring sport athletes another year of eligibility. That meant Malsam was eligible to return to Northern in the fall and compete in the outdoor season next spring.

But having been home this spring and working with his family on the farm, Malsam realized that it was time to call it a career.

"I debated about whether an outdoor season was going to be worth it," he said. "I decided to move on from track. I had some injuries to deal with and it started to be less fun when you go to practice and have to take 500 milligrams of ibuprofen. It was time. Being a multi for track, it puts a lot on your body. I'm proud of how I competed through the years."

Malsam will head to Lake Area Tech in the fall to get a commodities degree, then will return home to work the family farm.

"Being able to come back home and seeing the help we need, I think it's just the right thing," he said.

## For 2nd day in row, South Dakota reports no new virus deaths

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — For the second day in a row, South Dakota has reported no new deaths from COVID-19, state health officials said Sunday.

South Dakota's death toll from the coronavirus remained at 21 on Sunday. The state had four confirmed deaths in each of the last two days before Saturday.

South Dakota reported 43 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, raising the state's total number of positive cases to 2,631. Minnehaha County, the state's most populous county, reported 19 new cases, bringing the county's total to 2,142. Lincoln County is second in South Dakota, with 162 after recording six new cases. Brown County reported eight more cases, for a total of 59.

The number of active COVID-19 cases reported in South Dakota dropped by seven, to 811. Seventy-one people remained hospitalized. Nearly 1,800 patients have recovered.

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

## American public space, rebooted: What might it feel like?

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

And the American people returned to the American streets, bit by bit, place by place. And in the spaces they shared, they found a world that appeared much the same but was, in many ways, different — and changing by the day.

And the people were at turns uncertain, fearful, angry, determined. As they looked to their institutions to set the tone, they wondered: What would this new world be like?

The choppy re-engagement of Americans with public life over the past week, with more to come as cries to "reopen the country" grow, means a return to a shared realm where institutions of all types form the shape of American life.

Yet can you reopen a society — particularly a republic built on openness and public interaction — without its physical institutions at full capacity, without public spaces available for congregation?

"Humans are just terrified of other humans right now. They just don't feel confident about each other," says Daniel Cusick, a New York architect who has worked on public spaces for three decades. "But people need a structure. They need to be told there's something greater."

Enter the "institution," a word with multiple personalities — some truly public, some partially public, some purely commercial. All figure in this mid-virus re-engagement. All are part of the web of public trust, and all have a tone to set.

"Institution" means government buildings — post offices and courthouses and DMVs. It means town squares and public parks, churches and nursing homes and college campuses and, of course, hospitals.

It can also mean skyscraper lobbies, shopping malls, hotels, big-box stores and supermarkets — the touch points of a consumer society whose open, public operation means a society is edging toward normal.

Eric Martin, a Bucknell University associate professor of management who studies disaster responses, cites an established place like Katz's, the crowded New York deli made famous in "When Harry Met Sally." How business like that act, he says, will speak volumes.

"It doesn't change quickly. It's been around forever. That's what it means to be an institution. And so we allow these places a legitimacy that we might not with other places," Martin says.

"We think those are legitimate organizations. So if they're doing it, if they're changing, we say, 'Oh, this is real,'" he says.

Something else unites these places. In each, the woman on the next bench, the man ahead in the checkout line, the family down the pew are suddenly potential vectors — or potential victims. So we're assessing the public realm in the way we assess a salad bar when we walk into a restaurant.

That can impede a free society's functions in ways not yet fathomed.

"Democracy depends to a surprising extent on the availability of physical, public space, even in our al-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 20 of 73

gedly digital world," John R. Parkinson writes in "Democracy and Public Space: The Physical Sites of Democratic Performance."

The digital world has kept many institutions going in the United States since mid-March. It has allowed an approximation of office life to continue. It has, along with a robust supply chain, brought to our doors some of the goods we usually go and get.

But those same functions, paired with unease, could work against the return to public spaces.

"Technology is reshaping what it means to be in a public place," says John R. Stilgoe, a historian and landscape expert at Harvard who has spent his career exploring and chronicling the landscapes where Americans move around.

"How do you define the 'public realm' when an enormous percentage of the American public spends the majority of its day in its pajamas?" Stilgoe says.

Already, there are hints of what institutions and the spaces they occupy could look like. If even some come to pass, they could alter Americans' relationship with the public realm.

— Vibrating pagers like those used at chains like Red Lobster. Already some hospitals are handing them out; instead of entering a lobby, wait in the car until you buzz.

— Arrows on the ground, and other physical markers to encourage and enforce distance. Imagine sidewalks with scoring every 6 feet (2 meters) so those walking could make sure they're the human equivalent of a few car lengths behind. Or large sculptures deployed to separate people.

— New designs for eating places. McDonald's is already prototyping a socially distanced version of its restaurant that could be a template for fast-food spaces around the world.

— Checkerboard grids on the grass in parks, with people allowed to occupy one square only if those surrounding it are empty. Or time-sharing of public places: If you don't show up for your 12:15 p.m. slot at the playground, you're out of luck.

— Churches holding services in shifts. Ballparks and movie theaters deliberately keeping seats empty, halving attendance.

A bit dystopian? Maybe. But there are warmer alternatives, too.

Nan Ellin, dean of the college of architecture and planning at the University of Colorado Denver, is working with her students and the city to close some restaurant-heavy blocks to traffic so the street can be used as outdoor cafes and "the tables can be farther apart from one another."

"We don't want to lose our public ground. But we want to have a safe public ground," says Ellin, editor of "Architecture of Fear" and author of "Good Urbanism: Six Steps to Creating Prosperous Places." She adds: "We need little hooks to get there so people can start to be with one another again in a way that feels safe."

Architecture has always dictated behavior. In China, where controlling people is a government priority, Beijing's avenues are lined with metal fences just high enough to keep people on sidewalks. The sprawling, segmented layout of Pakistan's capital city was designed in part to discourage mass gatherings.

But those are public spaces responding to visible threats. Retooling spaces to an invisible virus — the crux of what American institutions face today — is different.

Will we wear masks in banks, where a masked man means something different? Will the DMV, the butt of a thousand long-line jokes, suddenly lack lines? Will we retreat to our cars, bypassing public space entirely in what Cusick calls "people moving from bubble to bubble, like the Jetsons"?

In 1943, after a German bombing of the British Parliament, Winston Churchill advocated rebuilding the House of Commons chamber exactly as it had been. He invoked the importance of the physical institution in preserving national ideals. "We shape our buildings," he said, "and afterwards our buildings shape us."

As isolation ebbs, a similar question confronts Americans repopulating the public places they share. How will these places reshape society — and how will trepidations about a post-isolation world shape them in turn? We can only go so far.

"You cannot hold the air to yourself. The air is shared," says Marci J. Swede, dean of the school of education and health sciences at North Central College in Illinois.



"No man is an island" has no more truth than when we're talking about the air we're breathing," she says. "And it's hard to be around other people when you don't have that sense of trust."

## Lebanon restaurants partially reopen, face faltering economy

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — It's not just a lifestyle, it's a livelihood. That was the motto used by some of Lebanon's best-known nightclubs to raise money for thousands of bartenders, waiters and support staff who have been without a job since the country imposed a strict coronavirus lockdown in mid-March.

The club owners pulled together a three-day fundraising marathon: 150 DJs from around the world spun their records in five different virtual rooms over the weekend in a non-stop electronic music festival. By Sunday night, they had raised the equivalent of \$36,000.

The initiative is unlikely to make a dent. The hospitality industry has been hit particularly hard by the government-mandated closures which followed a series of bad seasons. The pandemic delivered just the latest blow to an economy already devastated by the worst financial crisis since the country's civil war days, which ended in 1990.

Lebanon is entering a new phase of the lockdown Monday, allowing restaurants to open at 30% capacity during the day. But many business owners say they won't reopen because they would be losing more money if they operate under such restrictions during a faltering economy.

Maarouf Asaad, a 32-year-old bartender who was paid for one of the two months he stayed home, was expecting to return to work Monday, where his bar would operate as a daytime cafe. Then new government regulations Sunday ordered cafes to stay shut until June, along with clubs and bars. There was no explanation for the distinction between restaurants and cafes.

Asaad said his basic salary won't keep up with new inflated prices while his customers will be feeling the pinch of the sudden severe currency depreciation. In recent weeks, the Lebanese pound lost nearly 60% of its value against the dollar and prices of basic goods soared.

"It won't end even when I go back. It is not just coronavirus, it is also a collapsing economy," Asaad said. "There will just be house parties like in Europe, and no one will be able to afford a drink at a bar," Asaad said.

At least 150,000 people are employed in Lebanon's hospitality industry. Some 25,000 of them already lost their jobs even before the pandemic. None are unionized and not all are insured or can even secure minimum wage.

The lockdown topped months of a spiraling economic crisis that already had a staggering impact on the hospitality industry, a resilient sector in this small Mediterranean country that survived political instability and contributed as much as 18% of the GDP in 2017, a peak year.

Around 800 small and medium businesses have folded between September and January, according to Maya Bekhazi, secretary general of the syndicate for owners of restaurants, cafe and bars.

Bekhazi said she expects losses for February and March to be "huge."

"Since this morning, we're getting messages: 'We are not opening; this place is going to shut down; this hotel is going to shut down for good.' It's really drastic," she said.

And those still in business are struggling. Supplies are priced at the pound-to-dollar black market rate while restaurants and bars are still expected to use the official set rate.

"Every item I sell today I sell at a loss," she said of her own business, a patisserie.

The International Monetary Fund projected that Lebanon's economy will shrink 12% in 2020, nearly double the contraction of the year before.

The government on Friday formally asked the IMF for a rescue plan for the difficult years ahead.

Amid the gloom, the three-day Electronic Labor Day festival, launched May 1 to commemorate the international labor day, offered a non-stop party as immersive as any real clubbing experience in Lebanon could be.

With DJs from over 30 countries — including Germany, the United States, France, Egypt and Lebanon

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 22 of 73

— the lineup rivaled Ibiza's popular opening May parties. DJs played over footage from previous parties, replicating the club vibe at home.

Many DJs displayed signs saying "We Got Your Back."

## DHS report: China hid virus' severity to hoard supplies

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials believe China covered up the extent of the coronavirus outbreak — and how contagious the disease is — to stock up on medical supplies needed to respond to it, intelligence documents show.

Chinese leaders "intentionally concealed the severity" of the pandemic from the world in early January, according to a four-page Department of Homeland Security intelligence report dated May 1 and obtained by The Associated Press. The revelation comes as the Trump administration has intensified its criticism of China, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying Sunday that that country was responsible for the spread of disease and must be held accountable.

The sharper rhetoric coincides with administration critics saying the government's response to the virus was slow and inadequate. President Donald Trump's political opponents have accused him of lashing out at China, a geopolitical foe but critical U.S. trade partner, in an attempt to deflect criticism at home.

Not classified but marked "for official use only," the DHS analysis states that, while downplaying the severity of the coronavirus, China increased imports and decreased exports of medical supplies. It attempted to cover up doing so by "denying there were export restrictions and obfuscating and delaying provision of its trade data," the analysis states.

The report also says China held off informing the World Health Organization that the coronavirus "was a contagion" for much of January so it could order medical supplies from abroad — and that its imports of face masks and surgical gowns and gloves increased sharply.

Those conclusions are based on the 95% probability that China's changes in imports and export behavior were not within normal range, according to the report.

China informed the WHO of the outbreak on Dec. 31. It contacted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control on Jan. 3 and publicly identified the pathogen as a novel coronavirus on Jan. 8.

Chinese officials muffled doctors who warned about the virus early on and repeatedly downplayed the threat of the outbreak. However, many of the Chinese government's missteps appear to have been due to bureaucratic hurdles, tight controls on information and officials hesitant to report bad news. There is no public evidence to suggest it was an intentional plot to buy up the world's medical supplies.

In a tweet on Sunday, the president appeared to blame U.S. intelligence officials for not making clearer sooner just how dangerous a potential coronavirus outbreak could be. Trump has been defensive over whether he failed to act after receiving early warnings from intelligence officials and others about the coronavirus and its potential impact.

"Intelligence has just reported to me that I was correct, and that they did NOT bring up the CoronaVirus subject matter until late into January, just prior to my banning China from the U.S.," Trump wrote without citing specifics. "Also, they only spoke of the Virus in a very non-threatening, or matter of fact, manner."

Trump had previously speculated that China may have unleashed the coronavirus due to some kind of horrible "mistake." His intelligence agencies say they are still examining a notion put forward by the president and aides that the pandemic may have resulted from an accident at a Chinese lab.

Speaking Sunday on ABC's "This Week," Pompeo said he had no reason to believe that the virus was deliberately spread. But he added, "Remember, China has a history of infecting the world, and they have a history of running substandard laboratories."

"These are not the first times that we've had a world exposed to viruses as a result of failures in a Chinese lab," Pompeo said. "And so, while the intelligence community continues to do its work, they should continue to do that, and verify so that we are certain, I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 23 of 73

The secretary of state appeared to be referring to previous outbreaks of respiratory viruses, like SARS, which started in China. His remark may be seen as offensive in China. Still, Pompeo repeated the same assertion hours later, via a tweet Sunday afternoon.

Experts say the virus arose naturally in bats, and make it clear that they believe it wasn't human-made. Many virologists say the chance that the outbreak was caused by a lab accident is very low, though scientists are still working to determine a point at which it may have jumped from animals to humans.

Beijing has repeatedly pushed back on U.S. accusations that the outbreak was China's fault, pointing to many missteps made by American officials in their own fight against the outbreak. China's public announcement on Jan. 20 that the virus was transmissible from person to person left the U.S. nearly two months to prepare for the pandemic, during which the U.S. government failed to bolster medical supplies and deployed flawed testing kits.

"The U.S. government has ignored the facts, diverted public attention and engaged in buck-passing in an attempt to shirk its responsibility for incompetence in the fight against the epidemic," Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Geng Shuang said Friday.

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

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **MLK'S TRAFFIC STOP A CATALYST FOR CHANGE** Martin Luther King Jr. was pulled over, with a white woman in the car, issued a citation and illegally sentenced to a chain gang. Georgia's segregationist politicians sought to silence King before he could mobilize great masses of people. But, it backfired.

2. **EX-GREEN BERET CLAIMS HE LED FOILED VENEZUELA RAID** Jordan Goudreau's comments capped a bizarre day that started with reports of a predawn amphibious raid near the South American country's heavily guarded capital aimed at overthrowing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

3. **JOE BIDEN WINS KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY** The former vice president had been expected to prevail in Saturday's vote, conducted exclusively by mail, and capture a majority of the state's delegates to the Democrats' national nominating commission.

4. **TOP 2 GEORGIA DEMOCRATS DEBATE VIRTUALLY** Ex-Columbus mayor Teresa Tomlinson and ex-congressional candidate Jon Ossoff are vying to take on Republican Sen. David Perdue in November.

5. **LAPD OFFICER CHARGED IN SHOOTING** A Los Angeles Police Department officer was arrested early Sunday on suspicion of shooting and wounding a fellow officer while they were off-duty at a Southern California recreation area.

## AP Explains: India lockdown slows virus, but gaps remain

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and EMILY SCHMALL ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's six-week coronavirus lockdown, which was supposed to end on Monday, has been extended for another two weeks, with a few relaxations such as construction resuming and self-employed people returning to work in New Delhi.

Here's a look at what India has been able to achieve during the lockdown of its 1.3 billion people, and what it hasn't:

### WORLD'S LARGEST LOCKDOWN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi locked India down on March 24, when the country had just 469 confirmed virus cases.

In mid-April, Modi extended the lockdown for two weeks. Then on Friday, it was extended for two more weeks, but with some relaxations.

The government has identified three zones: "red," or areas that have been coronavirus hotspots, "orange," where some cases have been found, and "green," or low-risk areas. Stricter measures will continue in red and orange zones, while some movement of people and most economic activities will be allowed

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 24 of 73

in green zones.

Although the number of red zones has dipped since the lockdown started, the number of green zones has also declined. Most of India's major cities, including New Delhi and Mumbai, remain red zones.

Locking down the country's 1.3 billion people has cost millions of jobs and upended lives, especially of India's poor.

But limited interactions between people did slow the contagion, pushing the peak into the future and buying India "time to prepare," said Ramanan Laxminarayan, an epidemiologist and economist who directs the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington, D.C.

India has avoided a major catastrophe, confirming about 42,500 virus cases, 11,706 recoveries and 1,373 deaths. Still, a lack of aggressive testing worries experts who warn that the virus has yet to peak.

## PREPARING HOSPITALS

India has designated more than 600 hospitals for COVID-19 patients only, comprising about 100,000 isolation beds and around 12,000 intensive care unit beds. It also has trained more than a million doctors and 1.7 million nurses to treat patients, according to government data.

Authorities have tried to ensure that only those who are very sick with the virus go to the designated hospitals. But this separation, aimed at preventing viral outbreaks in hospitals, hasn't always been successful.

It wasn't until Friday that the government said it would provide all health workers with personal protective equipment, or PPE. But several non-COVID-19 hospitals in large cities like Mumbai and New Delhi have already reported outbreaks. Experts suspect the outbreaks were caused by patients who were unaware they had the virus.

Combined with the government's reluctance to acknowledge that India had reached the stage of community transmission, this left the health care system unprotected, said Dr. T. Sundararaman, a community medicine expert.

"Even if a patient comes in with a fever, it will not be assumed to be COVID-19," he said. "Unless it's too late."

## PRODUCING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Faced with an unprecedented global demand for the same medical supplies, India has upped its capacity to manufacture ventilators, oxygen cylinders and PPE.

India is now building up a stockpile of 80,000 ventilators that it hopes will cover the 75,000 patients it expects will need them in the coming weeks, said PD Vaghela, secretary of the government's pharmaceuticals department.

Vaghela said India had almost no domestic manufacturing of PPE before the pandemic.

"Now we have 111 indigenous manufacturers," he said, adding that these domestic companies are expected to provide 70% of the 20 million pieces of PPE needed.

## SHORTFALLS IN TESTING

India's testing criteria remain restricted outside of hotspots, where those with minor symptoms, like a runny nose or cough, aren't being tested. But it has increased testing, with 70,000 samples tested daily.

Still, India "needs to be scaling up for a lot more," said Dr. Ashish Jha, the director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. He pointed out that while the lockdown had stopped the virus from spreading as quickly as it has in some countries, that doesn't mean that it won't spread faster when restrictions are lifted.

India's low testing rate is at least partly due to the unavailability of testing kits. After claiming that the rapid antibody tests it got from China were faulty, India awaited the arrival of 2.1 million standard testing kits, mostly from international companies. Officials said the country will need 3.5 million kits.

India's health ministry has denied that it is under-testing. But Jha warned that India can't afford to test in areas only after outbreaks are discovered.

"If they could freeze the world in time and not ever unlock and stay locked down forever, then no, you'll



not need to scale up testing anymore," he said. "But obviously that's not possible."

## Italy eases long lockdown, leaders push vaccine effort

By GEIR MOULSON and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Millions of people were allowed to return to work in Italy Monday as Europe's longest lockdown started to ease, while countries from Iceland to India took a patchwork of steps to loosen coronavirus restrictions. Businesses including hairdressers in Greece and restaurants in Lebanon were opening their doors under new conditions.

With pressure growing in many countries for more measures to restart the economy, politicians also were trying to boost funding for research into a vaccine for COVID-19. There are hopes that one could be available in months, but warnings that it could take much longer.

Italy, the first European country to be hit by the pandemic and a nation with one of the world's highest death tolls, started stirring after its two-month shutdown. In all, 4.4 million Italians were able to return to work, and restrictions on movement eased.

Traffic in downtown Rome picked up, construction sites and manufacturing operations resumed, and flower vendors returned to the Campo dei Fiori market for the first time since March 11.

"It's something that brings happiness and joy, and people have been missing that these days," vendor Stefano Fulvi said. Like many entrepreneurs, Fulvi had to calculate when it was worth returning to work, given the limited demand with clients stuck at home. He doesn't expect to break even anytime soon, "but you have to take the risk at some point."

As infection rates have fallen in large parts of Europe, tentative efforts to restart public life are gathering pace. But Europeans' new-found freedoms are limited as officials are wary of setting off a second wave of infections.

In Italy, mourners were able to attend funerals — but services were limited to 15 people and there was still no word on when Masses would resume. Restaurants scrubbed their floors in preparation for take-out service, but sit-down service is several weeks away.

Southern Italy braced for the return of students and workers who were trapped in the hard-hit north when the lockdown took effect. Some regional governors said they would require anyone arriving home to go into quarantine for two weeks.

"It's a new page that we must write together, with trust and responsibility," Premier Giuseppe Conte said in a message to Italians.

Belgium allowed some companies to open offices to employees, though remote work is still encouraged. Like Italians, Greeks, Spaniards and many others in Europe, Belgians are being told to wear masks on public transport.

Italians still have to carry certifications explaining why they are out. The list of acceptable reasons has now been expanded to include visits to family and lovers, but just who falls into that category is still unclear.

Greece, which gradually began lifting its seven-week lockdown Monday, dropped a similar requirement for people to send an SMS or carry a self-written permit justifying being outdoors.

Hair salons and some stores such as those selling books and sports goods reopened, albeit with strict hygiene and distancing measures.

Athens hairdresser Konstantina Harisiadi had installed plexiglass barriers at reception and at manicure stations. A new sign, "Silence is security," was meant to discourage chit-chat and limit the potential for virus transmission. On her first day open, all her clients were wearing masks.

Harisiadi was booked through the end of the month. But with her business forced to operate with far fewer clients than usual, making ends meet will be a struggle.

"We're going to try for the best," she said, adding she doesn't want to resort to firing any staff. "As the owner of a small business that has the nature of a family, I'm going to avoid it. And along with my co-workers I'm going to look for solutions to manage."

But she also lamented the way the atmosphere will inevitably change.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 26 of 73

"Things are different. There's no spontaneity — we can't greet each other, speak, laugh. We're entering a new era," she said.

People in hard-hit Spain ventured out for the first time for haircuts or food take-outs, but many small shops were still closed as owners worked on meeting strict health and hygiene guidelines. Neighboring Portugal also eased its confinement measures and allowed small stores to open.

On Europe's western edge, Iceland also reopened hair salons — along with high schools, dentists and other businesses — after six weeks in which the country has tamed its virus outbreak.

In the Middle East, Lebanon is allowing restaurants to open at 30% capacity during the day starting Monday. But many business owners say they won't reopen because they would be losing more money if they operate under such restrictions during a faltering economy, and cafes, clubs and bars have been ordered to stay shut through June.

India allowed some economic activities to resume after a five-week halt, even as the pace of infections has slightly accelerated. The lockdown has achieved a slowdown in the spread of the virus but has caused immense hardship for India's legions of poor people.

Russia reported a steady rise in the number of infections, an increase that has fueled concerns the nation's hospitals could be overwhelmed. Authorities say that broader testing has contributed to a surge. Russia's economy has been partially shut down since late March, and lockdown measures have been extended through May 11.

Governments around the world have reported 3.5 million infections and more than 247,000 deaths, including more than 67,000 dead in the United States, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. Deliberately concealed outbreaks, low testing rates and the severe strain the disease has placed on health care systems mean the true scale of the pandemic is undoubtedly much greater.

Developing a vaccine will be the key to returning to less restricted everyday life. On Monday, an alliance of world leaders was holding a virtual summit hoping to drum up around 4 billion euros (\$4.37 billion) for vaccine research, some 2 billion euros for treatments and 1.5 billion (\$1.64 billion) for testing. Officials say that amount is just the start.

In a statement, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Norway and top European Union officials said that the money raised will be channeled mostly through recognized global health organizations. The EU's executive Commission had hoped that the United States would take part, but it remained unclear what role, if any, Washington might play in the donor conference.

Germany's health minister said there are "promising" developments but warned that developing vaccines is one of the biggest challenges in medicine.

"I would be glad if we succeeded in a few months, but I think we must remain realistic," Jens Spahn told ARD television on Sunday. "It can also take years, because of course there can be setbacks — we have seen that with other vaccines."

## Hello, justice, do you hear me? Supreme Court meets by phone

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a morning of firsts for the Supreme Court, the first time audio of the court's arguments will be heard live by the world and the first arguments by telephone.

The changes are a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which has made holding courtroom sessions unsafe, especially with six justices aged 65 or older and at risk of getting seriously sick from the virus.

The experiment beginning Monday could propel the court to routinely livestream its arguments. Or the 10 cases over six days could just be extraordinary exceptions to the court's sustained opposition to broadening the audience that can hear, if not see, its work live.

Cases that will be heard over the next two weeks include President Donald Trump's effort to shield tax and other financial records and whether presidential electors have to cast their Electoral College ballots for the candidate who wins the popular vote in their state.

The session is set to begin Monday at the usual time of 10 a.m. EDT, when Marshal Pamela Talkin will call

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 27 of 73

the court to order and Chief Justice John Roberts will announce the day's case. Arguments are scheduled to last an hour as they would generally in the courtroom.

The court chose a somewhat obscure case about whether the travel website Booking.com can trademark its name for its first foray into remote arguments. The lawyers on both sides are well known to the justices and experienced in arguing before the nation's highest court.

Justice Department lawyer Erica Ross, who once served as a law clerk to Justice Elena Kagan, will be first up. She last argued at the court in late February. She's planning to deliver this Supreme Court argument, her sixth, from a Justice Department conference room.

She will be followed by Lisa Blatt, a onetime government lawyer who will be arguing her 40th Supreme Court case. Blatt will be at her Washington-area home, she told The Washington Post.

She is known for her colorful writing and speaking style and for her ability to engage in a healthy give and take with the justices. She was also a prominent liberal supporter of Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his contentious Senate confirmation hearings for the Supreme Court.

Each lawyer will get two uninterrupted minutes to make an opening statement, after which Roberts will kick off the questioning. After that, the justices will ask questions in order of seniority, although the longest-serving justice, Clarence Thomas, almost never questions lawyers. Kavanaugh, who joined the court in 2018, will go last.

The court sometimes issues opinions at the start of argument sessions, with the justice who wrote for the majority reading a summary of the opinion and, more rarely, a second justice summarizing a dissent. But in another change wrought by the virus outbreak, opinions are being posted online without any statements from justices. The court will next issue opinions on Thursday.

## National traumas familiar for virus-hit, unscathed countries

By TAMER FAKAHANY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — National traumas or major political convulsions have been familiar and bloodied territory in the latter 20th and early 21st centuries for some of the countries currently ravaged by the coronavirus.

Whether by long and brutal wars, invasions, civil wars, revolutions, terror attacks, assassinations of leaders and anti-mafia judges, or natural disasters, distress has often shaped nations psyches. So it is for — among others — the United States, China, Iran, Italy, Spain, France, Britain and India.

There are also nations that have suffered disproportionately in recent decades, with death tolls in the tens or hundreds of thousands, who have been relatively unscathed by the pandemic — such as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq or Bosnia.

Dealing with the aftermath of the human devastation wrought by the virus will be another seismic chapter in some painful national journeys. In many places, the numbers tell the story; in others, upheaval or single deaths altered national trajectories forever.

### WARS, CIVIL WARS, INVASIONS AND REVOLUTIONS

Perhaps nothing is quite as ruinous as war in all its forms. For the United States, the enduring wound of the Vietnam War tore apart the nation. The U.S.' coronavirus death toll last week surpassed the 58,220 American service members killed in Vietnam, which suffered over 1 million civilian and military deaths. Vietnam has reported no virus deaths and fewer than 300 infections.

Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s — an anti-intellectual purge — caused the deaths of up to 2 million and affected all parts of Chinese society, setting the nation back years. Today, Beijing has been both lauded for its initial lockdown and denounced for not acting quickly enough by not warning the public during the earliest days.

The Iran-Iraq war launched by Iraq's Saddam Hussein after the Iranian revolution resulted in around 500,000 dead and the decimation of a generation in both countries. The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and its spinoff internal conflicts, including the rise and fall of the murderous Islamic State group, have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives on all sides. Now, Iran is one of the nations hit hardest by the outbreak, with more than 6,200 reported dead. Iraq's woes are more focused on the loss of oil revenue.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 28 of 73

Such protests, against a corrupt political class and a financial inferno, have ignited again this week in Lebanon as lockdown restrictions loosen. A relatively low two dozen virus deaths means the country may have avoided cataclysm so far, but the greater fear is national meltdown. The tiny nation lived through a 1975-1990 civil war that killed more than 100,000 people and featured Israeli invasions, bombardment, political assassinations, and occupation during and after that period. Syria was also an occupying force, some years later imploding into a civil war of its own with around half a million killed. Damascus has reported few virus deaths. But there are concerns from the U.N. that "tragedy beckons," particularly in crowded, rebel-held Idlib.

## TERROR ATTACKS

Al-Qaida's 9/11 attacks took terror to a level previously unseen — in terms of deaths, shock value and the reverberations that followed in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and beyond. Just under 3,000 people perished in the attacks. New York City, one of the world's worst virus hotspots, has many thousands more deaths than those killed in and around the twin towers. Bali, Madrid, London, Paris, Brussels and Mumbai were all targeted in extremist attacks in the years that followed, not to mention countless attacks in Syrian, Iraqi, Pakistani and Afghan cities. The deaths in each attack, from scores to hundreds, left indelible marks.

## ASSASSINATIONS

The 1960s in America saw the lives of two Kennedys, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X snuffed out by assassins. In India, where infections are still rising daily and a lockdown has taken a punishing toll on the impoverished, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was slain in 1984; her son Rajiv, a former premier, met the same fate in 1991. In neighboring Pakistan, where the country this weekend reported its biggest one-day spikes in new infections, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in 2007 at a political rally as she sought a third term as premier after returning from exile.

Italy has the second-highest outbreak fatalities after the U.S., and failures unleashed a trail of death in Lombardy. The vulnerable generation suffering the worst of Italy's contagion has painful memories of the Marxist Red Brigade group kidnapping and killing former prime minister Aldo Moro during the "Years of Lead" in the 1970s. National trauma was palpable after the mafia assassinated two judges and prosecuting magistrates Giovanni Falcone and then Paolo Borsellino in Palermo, Sicily within two months of each other in 1992. Italy was shocked into confronting the mafia in all-out struggle. But the state never won that battle, and the mafia profits today in the time of the pandemic.

## Dubai Expo 2020 world's fair postponed to October 1, 2021

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai's Expo 2020 world's fair will be postponed to Oct. 1, 2021, over the new coronavirus pandemic, a Paris-based body behind the events said Monday.

The announcement by the Bureau International des Expositions came just hours after police in Kuwait dispersed what they described as a riot by stranded Egyptians unable to return home amid the coronavirus pandemic. The riot was the first reported sign of unrest from the region's vast population of foreign workers who have lost their jobs over the crisis.

Dubai, a sheikhdom in the United Arab Emirates, has bet billions of dollars on Expo 2020 to rejuvenate its troubled economy. Since the pandemic grounded flights by its long-haul carrier Emirates and disrupted its real estate market, Dubai has been seeking to delay the event until next year.

Countries belonging to the bureau had been voting on the requested delay for days, with a final tally expected by the end of May. On Monday, however, the bureau said a required two-thirds of the countries in the organization had voted to approve the delay, meaning it would be granted.

The bureau's executive committee voted unanimously in April to back the proposal, which will see the event run from Oct. 1, 2021, until March 31, 2022.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the chairman and CEO of Emirates who also serves on Dubai's Expo committee, welcomed the announcement in a statement.

"We are thankful to member states for their continued commitment to contributing to a World Expo



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 29 of 73

in Dubai that will play a pivotal role in shaping our post-pandemic world at a time when it will be most needed," Sheikh Ahmed said.

This skyscraper-studded city won the rights to host the event in 2014. That helped boost Dubai's crucial real-estate market and had officials hoping for more tourists in this city-state that is home to the world's busiest airport for international travel.

Now, the pandemic has jeopardized global tourism and caused further panic in a real-estate market already down by a third since the 2014 announcement.

Meanwhile Monday, Kuwait's state-run KUNA news agency reported on a confrontation it described a "riot" carried out by Egyptians corralled at a group shelter.

"Security officials intervened and took control, arresting a number of them" the KUNA report said.

It did not acknowledge what level of force police used to put down the unrest, nor how many people authorities ultimately arrested after the incident. Kuwait's Information Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Videos purported to show the Egyptians in a shelter, armed with pieces of furniture at one point of the confrontation. The shelter appeared to be in an industrial setting, surrounded by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire.

KUNA earlier quoted Egypt's ambassador to the oil-rich, tiny Kuwait as saying that Cairo planned repatriation flights for those stranded later this week. Kuwaiti officials also have said they would suspend fines and jail time for those who had overstayed visas in order to help those wanting to leave return to their home countries.

Kuwait, like many of the oil-rich Gulf Arab states, relies on a vast population of foreign workers for jobs ranging from domestic help, construction work to white-collar work. Long a lifeline for families back home, those migrant workers now find themselves trapped by the coronavirus pandemic, losing jobs, running out of money and desperate to return to their home countries as COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, stalks their labor camps.

Some 35 million laborers work in the six Arab Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as in Jordan and Lebanon, according to U.N. figures. Foreigners far outnumber locals in the Gulf states, accounting for over 80% of the population in some countries.

In Kuwait in particular, a growing sense of xenophobia has seen authorities push for more deportations of foreigners for everything, including traffic violations.

In all, countries in the Middle East have reported more than 342,000 cases of coronavirus, with at least 11,445 deaths, more than half of them in Iran. Iran's health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said Monday that the death toll from COVID-19 rose to 6,277 in Iran, after 74 more people died since the previous day. Iran has reported 98,647 virus cases.

In Sudan, the state minister for transportation and infrastructure, Hashim Ibn Auf, tested positive, the highest-ranking official to do so, the government said late Sunday. Sudan has reported 678 cases and 41 deaths from the virus.

## 'We don't know how it will end': Hunger stalks amid virus

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When all this started — when the coronavirus began stalking humanity like an animal hunting prey, when she and her husband lost their restaurant jobs overnight as the world shut down to hide, when she feared not being able to feed her family — Janeth went outside with a red kitchen towel.

It was Passover. Her pastor had told her about the roots of the Jewish holiday, about Israelites smearing a lamb's blood on their doors as a sign for the plagues to pass them by. So Janeth, an immigrant from Honduras, reached up to hang the red towel over the door of her family's apartment on the edge of the nation's capital. It was close enough, she figured, "to show the angel of death to pass over our home."

Pass us by, coronavirus.

And pass us by, hunger.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 30 of 73

At night now, it's the worry over food that keeps Janeth's mind racing, and her heart, she says, hurting. "I spend hours thinking, thinking, about what we will do the next day, where we will find food the next day," she says weeks into the coronavirus outbreak, her family's food and cash both dwindling.

Janeth and her husband, Roberto, are part of the greatest surge in unemployment in the U.S. since the Depression, setting off a wave of hunger that is swamping food programs nationwide. The couple and every adult member of their extended family in the U.S. have lost their jobs in the economic lockdown prompted by the pandemic.

They are among the tens of millions in America — more than 1 out of every 6 workers — abruptly cut off from paychecks.

The Associated Press is withholding the couple's full names because they are in the country illegally and could face deportation. Their immigration status, their problems with English and scanty access to the Internet all combine to block them from accessing the U.S. government benefit programs that millions more newly jobless citizens are able to turn to during the outbreak.

Before the pandemic, food policy experts say, roughly one out of every eight or nine Americans struggled to stay fed. Now as many as one out of every four are projected to join the ranks of the hungry, said Giridhar Mallya, senior policy officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for public health.

Immigrants, African Americans, Native Americans, households with young children and newly jobless gig workers are among those most at risk, said Joelle Johnson, senior policy associate at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"They're more vulnerable to begin with and this situation has just exacerbated that situation," she said.

When the global economy clamped down, Roberto, a cook in his mid-30s, and Janeth, who keeps water glasses filled at another restaurant and is in her mid-40s, spent \$450 out of their final paychecks to stock up. Weeks later, their diminished cache includes two half-full five-pound bags of rice, an assortment of ramen noodles, a half-eaten bag of pasta, two boxes of cornbread mix, four boxes of raisins and cans of beans, pineapple, tuna, corn and soup.

"Cookies?" Roberto and Janeth's 5-year-old, gap-toothed daughter Allison still asks them, always getting a gentle "no" back. "Ice cream?"

Janeth and Roberto have cut down to one meal a day themselves, skipping meals to keep their daughter fed.

On a good day recently, after Roberto landed four hours of work preparing take-home meals for a grocery store, they had enough for what constitutes a feast these days — a can of refried beans split three ways and two eggs each, scrambled. Janeth also made tortillas from their last half-bag of masa flour.

Janeth placed aluminum foil over two of the plates; she and Roberto would eat later. Tears sprang from her eyes as she watched her daughter wolf down the meal.

"Where can we get enough food? How can we pay our bills?" she asked. Then she repeated something she and her husband emphasized again and again over the course of several days: They are hard-working people.

"We have never had to ask for help before," she said.

Janeth and Roberto also have three adult children and, as the oldest of three sisters here, she and Roberto are trying to keep a half-dozen households in the United States and Honduras fed.

By day, they race in their second-hand pickup truck from food pantries and churches to relatives' houses. They chase tips about food giveaways or temporary jobs. They share their painstakingly acquired cartons of food with her two sisters, who themselves have a total of five young children to feed, and call their grown children with leads on food lines.

And they fight off despair. "We don't have help. We don't know how it will end," Janeth said.

On a recent day, Janet and Roberto's breakfast is coffee and a few crackers. Allison eats cereal, a favorite provided by a food bank.

Soon after, Roberto and Allison, who is sporting pink sparkly sneakers, are among the first in line outside a DC food pantry. In line with them: a young African American man newly unemployed and seeking aid

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 31 of 73

for the first time and two foreign-born nannies with their clients' children in tow. The women now are only intermittently used — and paid — by their employers and need help feeding their own children at home.

Roberto is happy to leave with a bag of bananas, some spaghetti, tomato sauce and other staples.

Another day, Roberto and Allison stay inside the truck while Janeth heads out in a cold drizzle to approach a church said to be providing food. She struggles to read the sign in English posted on the door, then calls the numbers listed. No one answers.

Later, loading their pickup truck to take food to Janeth's sisters, husband and wife dip into the pockets of their jeans to display the cash they have left — \$110 total.

That's gas money. Without that, living on the outskirts of town, there's no getting to food banks, to one-day cash jobs, to stranded relatives facing eviction and hoping for food.

On the drive to Janeth's sisters in Baltimore, Janeth hands Allison a small container of applesauce. The girl savors each taste, dipping in her finger, licking every last bit. "More?" she asks hopefully, tilting the container toward her mother.

Janeth answers regretfully, tenderly. No more.

## '60 Minutes' correspondent Stahl says she fought coronavirus

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News "60 Minutes" correspondent Lesley Stahl said Sunday that she's finally feeling well after a battle with COVID-19 that left her hospitalized for a week.

Stahl said she was "really scared" after fighting pneumonia caused by the coronavirus for two weeks at home before going to the hospital.

"One of the rules of journalism is 'don't become part of the story,'" Stahl said at the end of Sunday's broadcast. "But instead of covering the pandemic, I was one of the more-than-one-million Americans who did become part of it."

Stahl, 78, is the dean of correspondents at television's best-known newsmagazine. She joined "60 Minutes" in March 1991, and before that was moderator of the Sunday talk show "Face the Nation" and a Washington correspondent.

She landed the first television interview with Donald Trump after he was elected president, and the first with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi when she became speaker — both in 2007 and again in 2019.

Stahl said there was a cluster of "60 Minutes" employees with the virus. One "had almost no symptoms while others had almost every symptom you can imagine," she said. "Each case is different."

Stahl said she found an overworked and nearly overwhelmed staff when she was hospitalized but paid tribute to their care, and said she was wheeled out through a gauntlet of cheering medical workers when discharged.

"In the face of so much death, they celebrate their triumphs," she said.

60 Minutes declined to name the hospital involved.

"Thanks to them, like so many other patients, I am well now," she said. "Tonight, we all owe them our gratitude, our admiration and, in some cases, our lives."

Stahl is arguably the most prominent television journalist to disclose they had the disease. CNN hosts Chris Cuomo and Brooke Baldwin have tested positive, the former continuing his prime-time show while fighting symptoms. ABC "Good Morning America" host George Stephanopoulos had it, but like many infected, had only mild symptoms.

The virus has infected 3.5 million people and killed more than 246,000 worldwide, including more than 66,000 dead in the United States, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the numbers are likely larger.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 32 of 73

## As lockdowns ease, some countries report new infection peaks

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO, PABLO GORONDI and DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

ROME (AP) — While millions of people took advantage of easing coronavirus lockdowns to enjoy the outdoors, some of the world's most populous countries reported worrisome new peaks in infections Sunday, including India, which saw its biggest single-day jump yet.

Second in population only to China, India reported more than 2,600 new infections. In Russia, new cases exceeded 10,000 for the first time. The confirmed total death toll in Britain climbed near that of Italy, the epicenter of Europe's outbreak, even though the U.K. population is younger than Italy's and Britain had more time to prepare.

The United States continues to see tens of thousands of new infections each day, with more than 1,400 additional deaths reported Saturday.

Health experts have warned of a potential second wave of infections unless testing is expanded dramatically once the lockdowns are relaxed. But pressure to reopen keeps building after the weeklong shutdown of businesses plunged the global economy into its deepest slump since the 1930s and wiped out millions of jobs.

At a virtual town hall Sunday night, President Donald Trump acknowledged some Americans are worried about getting sick while others are concerned about losing jobs.

Though the administration's handling of the pandemic, particularly the ability to conduct widespread testing, has come under criticism, the president defended the response and said the nation was ready to begin reopening.

"We have to get it back open safely but as quickly as possible," Trump said.

China, which reported only two new cases, saw a surge in visitors to tourist spots newly reopened ahead of a five-day holiday that runs through Tuesday. Nearly 1.7 million people visited Beijing parks on the first two days of the holiday, and Shanghai's main tourist spots welcomed more than 1 million visitors, according to Chinese media. Many spots limited daily visitors to 30% of capacity.

On the eve of Italy's first steps toward easing restrictions, the Health Ministry reported 174 deaths in the 24-hour period ending Sunday evening — the lowest day-to-day number since the national lockdown began on March 10. Parks and public gardens were set to reopen on Monday.

In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is under pressure to reveal how the country will lift its lockdown. The restrictions are due to last through Thursday, but with hundreds of deaths still being reported daily, it's unclear how the country can safely loosen the restrictions.

The 55-year-old Johnson, who spent three nights in intensive care while being treated for COVID-19, told The Sun newspaper that he knew his doctors were preparing for the worst.

"It was a tough old moment, I won't deny it," he said. "They had a strategy to deal with a 'death of Stalin'-type scenario" if he succumbed to the virus.

Another potentially troubling sign emerged in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, where a third of 500 people tested randomly were positive.

In the U.S., New Jersey reopened state parks, though several had to turn people away after reaching a 50% limit in their parking lots. Margie Roebuck and her husband were among the first on the sand at Island Beach State Park.

"Forty-six days in the house was enough," she said.

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," White House coronavirus coordinator Deborah Birx expressed concern about protests by armed and mostly maskless crowds demanding an end to stay-at-home orders and a full reboot of the economy. Trump has encouraged people to "liberate" their states.

"It's devastatingly worrisome to me personally, because if they go home and infect their grandmother or their grandfather ... they will feel guilty for the rest of our lives," she said. "So we need to protect each other at the same time we're voicing our discontent."

If restrictions are lifted too soon, the virus could come back in "small waves in various places around the country," said Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 33 of 73

School of Public Health.

"Nothing has changed in the underlying dynamics of this virus," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Meanwhile, the divide in the United States between those who want lockdowns to end and those who want to move more cautiously extended to Congress.

The Republican-majority Senate will reopen Monday in Washington. The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives is staying shuttered. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's decision to convene 100 senators gives Trump, a Republican, the imagery he wants of America getting back to work, despite the risks.

Elsewhere, Russia's latest tally of infections was nearly double the new cases reported a week ago. More than half of Russia's new cases were in Moscow, where concern is rising about whether the capital's medical facilities will be overwhelmed.

Indian air force helicopters showered flower petals on hospitals in several cities to thank doctors, nurses and police at the forefront of the battle against the pandemic.

The country's confirmed cases neared 40,000 as the lockdown of its 1.3 billion people was extended two more weeks, but with some measures relaxed. The official death toll reached 1,323.

And in Mexico City, where authorities expect infections to peak next week, workers will turn the Hernandez Rodriguez Formula 1 racecourse into a temporary hospital for COVID-19 patients. The paddocks and suites along the front straightaway will have eight hospital modules with 24 beds each. The pits will be used as offices for consultations.

Governments have reported 3.5 million infections and more than 247,000 deaths, including more than 67,000 dead in the United States, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. Deliberately concealed outbreaks, low testing rates and the severe strain the disease has placed on health care systems mean the true scale of the pandemic is undoubtedly much greater.

## **Faced with 20,000 dead, care homes seek shield from lawsuits**

**By BERNARD CONDON, JIM MUSTIAN and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Faced with 20,000 coronavirus deaths and counting, the nation's nursing homes are pushing back against a potential flood of lawsuits with a sweeping lobbying effort to get states to grant them emergency protection from claims of inadequate care.

At least 15 states have enacted laws or governors' orders that explicitly or apparently provide nursing homes and long-term care facilities some protection from lawsuits arising from the crisis. And in the case of New York, which leads the nation in deaths in such facilities, a lobbying group wrote the first draft of a measure that apparently makes it the only state with specific protection from both civil lawsuits and criminal prosecution.

Now the industry is forging ahead with a campaign to get other states on board with a simple argument: This was an unprecedented crisis and nursing homes should not be liable for events beyond their control, such as shortages of protective equipment and testing, shifting directives from authorities, and sicknesses that have decimated staffs.

"As our care providers make these difficult decisions, they need to know they will not be prosecuted or persecuted," read a letter sent this month from several major hospital and nursing home groups to their next big goal, California, where Gov. Gavin Newsom has yet to make a decision. Other states in their sights include Florida, Pennsylvania and Missouri.

Watchdogs, patient advocates and lawyers argue that immunity orders are misguided. At a time when the crisis is laying bare such chronic industry problems as staffing shortages and poor infection control, they say legal liability is the last safety net to keep facilities accountable.

They also contend nursing homes are taking advantage of the crisis to protect their bottom lines. Almost 70% of the nation's more than 15,000 nursing homes are run by for-profit companies, and hundreds have been bought and sold in recent years by private-equity firms.

"What you're really looking at is an industry that always wanted immunity and now has the opportunity

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 34 of 73

to ask for it under the cloak of saying, 'Let's protect our heroes,'" said Mike Dark, an attorney for California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

"This has very little to do with the hard work being done by health care providers," he said, "and everything to do with protecting the financial interests of these big operators."

Nowhere have the industry's efforts played out more starkly than in New York, which has about a fifth of the nation's known nursing home and long-term care deaths and has had at least seven facilities with outbreaks of 40 deaths or more, including one home in Manhattan that reported 98.

New York's immunity law signed by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo was drafted by the Greater New York Hospital Association, an influential lobbying group for both hospitals and nursing homes that donated more than \$1 million to the state Democratic Party in 2018 and has pumped more than \$7 million into lobbying over the past three years.

While the law covering both hospital and nursing care workers doesn't cover intentional misconduct, gross negligence and other such acts, it makes clear those exceptions don't include "decisions resulting from a resource or staffing shortage."

Cuomo's administration said the measure was a necessary part of getting the state's entire health care apparatus to work together to respond to the crisis.

"It was a decision made on the merits to help ensure we had every available resource to save lives," said Rich Azzopardi, a senior advisor to Cuomo. "Suggesting any other motivation is simply grotesque."

Nationally, the lobbying effort is being led by the American Health Care Association, which represents nearly all of the nation's nursing homes and has spent \$23 million on lobbying efforts in the past six years.

Other states that have emergency immunity measures are Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts; Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, Nevada, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Their provisions vary but largely apply to injuries, deaths and care decisions, sometimes even to property damage. But there are limitations: Most make exceptions for gross negligence and willful misconduct, and they generally apply only during the emergency.

Toby Edelman of the Center for Medicare Advocacy is troubled that homes are getting legal protections while family members aren't being allowed to visit and routine government inspections have been scaled back.

"Nobody is looking at what's happening," she said, adding that immunity declarations could make even gross or willful negligence suits harder since homes could argue any deficiencies were somehow tied to the pandemic.

"Everything can't be blamed on COVID-19. Other things can happen that are terrible," she said. "Just to say we're in this pandemic so anything goes, that seems too far."

Among the situations for which lawyers say nursing homes should be held to account: Homes that flouted federal guidelines to screen workers, cut off visitations and end group activities; those that failed to inform residents and relatives of an outbreak; those that disregarded test results; and homes like one in California, where at least a dozen employees did not show up for work for two straight days, prompting residents to be evacuated.

"Just because you have a pandemic doesn't mean you give a pass on people exercising common sense," said Dr. Roderick Edmond, an Atlanta lawyer representing families suing over COVID-19 deaths in an assisted-living facility.

"If you take the power of suing away from the families, then anything goes," said Stella Kazantzias whose husband died in a Massachusetts nursing home with the same owners as the home hit by the nation's first such outbreak near Seattle, which killed 43 people.

"They already knew in Washington how quickly this would spread," she said. "They should have taken extreme measures, sensible measures. And they were not taken."

While the federal government has yet to release numbers on how the coronavirus has ravaged the industry, The Associated Press has been keeping its own tally based on state health departments and media

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 35 of 73

reports, finding 20,058 deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities nationwide.

All the new immunity laws notwithstanding, there is a potential wave of lawsuits coming. Illinois lawyer Steven Levin said he's received dozens of calls from people considering suing homes over the outbreak. Florida lawyer Michael Brevda said his firm gets 10 to 20 calls a day. And a lawyer in Massachusetts said he's gotten maybe 70 from families with relatives at homes struck by the virus.

"We're getting inundated," said David Hoey, whose practice near Boston has been suing homes for 25 years. "They're grieving and they're confused. ... 'My loved one just died from COVID. What can I do?'"

American Health Care Association CEO Mark Parkinson said the notion of lawyers gearing up for lawsuits in the "middle of a battle to save the elderly" is "pathetic" and doesn't consider the hardships nursing home workers have endured.

"The second-guessing of people after a tragedy, if those people did the best that they could under the circumstances, is just wrong," said Jim Cobb, the New Orleans attorney who successfully defended nursing home owners charged in the deaths of 35 residents who drowned in Hurricane Katrina.

"There's a lot to be said for someone acting in good faith in the face of a natural disaster and state of emergency, and they should have criminal immunity."

## In televised town hall, Trump pushes for economic reopening

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anxious to spur an economic recovery without risking lives, President Donald Trump on Sunday insisted that "you can satisfy both" — see states gradually lift lockdowns while also protecting people from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 60,000 Americans.

The president, fielding questions from Americans in a virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial, acknowledged valid fears on both sides of the issue. Some people are worried about getting sick; others are reeling from lost jobs and livelihoods.

But while Trump increased his projection for the total U.S. death total to 80,000 or 90,000 — up by more than 20,000 fatalities from what he had suggested just a few weeks ago — he struck a note of urgency to restart the nation's economy, declaring "we have to reopen our country."

"We have to get it back open safely but as quickly as possible," Trump said.

After more than a month of being cooped up at the White House, Trump returned from a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the virtual town hall hosted by Fox News Channel.

The president said of his monumental backdrop: "We never had a more beautiful set than this."

As concerns mount about his reelection bid, Trump stuck to his relentlessly optimistic view of the nation's ability to rebound soon.

"It is all working out," Trump said. "It is horrible to go through, but it is working out."

Many public health experts believe the nation cannot safely reopen fully until a vaccine is developed. Trump declared Sunday that he believed one could be available by year's end.

U.S. public health officials have said a vaccine is probably a year to 18 months away. But Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases and member of the White House coronavirus task force, said in late April that it is conceivable, if a vaccine is soon developed, that it could be in wide distribution as early as January.

Though the administration's handling of the pandemic, particularly its ability to conduct widespread testing, has come under fierce scrutiny, the president tried to shift the blame to China and said the U.S. was ready to begin reopening.

"I'll tell you one thing. We did the right thing and I really believe we saved a million and a half lives," the president said. But he also broke with the assessment of his senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, saying it was "too soon to say" the federal government had overseen a "success story."

Trump's impatience also flashed. While noting that states would go at their own pace in returning to normal, with ones harder hit by the coronavirus going slower, he said that "some states, frankly, I think

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 36 of 73

aren't going fast enough." He singled out Virginia, which has a Democratic governor and legislature. And he urged the nation's schools and universities to return to classes this fall.

Federal guidelines that encouraged people to stay at home and practice social distancing expired late last week.

Debate continued over moves by governors to start reopening state economies that tanked after shopping malls, salons and other nonessential businesses were ordered closed in attempt to slow a virus that has killed more than 66,000 Americans, according to a tally of reported deaths by Johns Hopkins University.

The U.S. economy has suffered, shrinking at a 4.8% annual rate from January through March, the government estimated last week. And roughly 30.3 million people have filed for unemployment aid in the six weeks since the outbreak forced employers to shut down and slash their workforces.

The president's advisers have nervously watched Trump's support slip in a number of battleground states and he was told last month that if the election were held that day, he would lose to Democrat Joe Biden. The president's aides believe restarting the economy, even with its health risks, is essential to a victory in November and are pushing for him to pivot away from discussions about the pandemic and onto an American comeback story.

To that end, Trump will begin traveling again, with a trip to a mask factory in Arizona planned for Tuesday. The president also is set to speak in June at commencement for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Returning to campus for commencement will require graduates to self-isolate for 14 days, but Trump insisted the event poses no risk to the cadets.

The town hall, which included an appearance by Vice President Mike Pence, included a rare mea culpa: The vice president said he should have worn a facemask during a visit last week to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic. Pence's failure to wear a mask violated the clinic's guidelines and drew significant criticism.

Elsewhere in Washington, the Senate planned to reopen Monday, despite the area's continued status as a virus hot spot and with the region still under stay-at-home orders. The House remains shuttered as debate continues on what the next stage of the economic recovery may look like.

State and local governments are seeking up to \$1 trillion in coronavirus costs, which has been met with some objections by congressional Republicans.

Trump said that while he thought common ground could be found with Democrats over an infrastructure package, "we're not doing anything unless we get a payroll tax cut. That is so important to the success of our country."

That proposal has been met with objections from both parties.

The leaders of California and Michigan are among governors under public pressure over lockdowns still in effect while states such as Florida, Georgia and Ohio are reopening.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, said Sunday that the armed protesters who demonstrated inside her state's Capitol "depicted some of the worst racism" and "awful parts" of U.S. history by showing up with Confederate flags, nooses and swastikas.

Trump on Sunday night singled out Whitmer and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, also a Democrat, for criticism even as he praised the federal coordination with most governors. He also complained that some Democrats would rather "people get sick" than given him any credit for pushing the use of a malaria drug for treating COVID-19, though it has not been proven to be safe and effective for that use.

## Trump wants to switch focus, push for economic reopening

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anxious to spur an economic recovery without risking lives, President Donald Trump insists that "you can satisfy both" — see states gradually lift lockdowns while also protecting people from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 66,000 Americans.

The president, fielding questions from Americans Sunday night in a virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial, acknowledged valid fears on both sides of the issue. Some people are worried about getting sick; others are reeling from lost jobs and livelihoods.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 37 of 73

But while Trump increased his projection for the total U.S. death total to 80,000 or 90,000 — up by more than 20,000 fatalities from what he had suggested just a few weeks ago — he struck a note of urgency to restart the nation's economy, declaring "we have to reopen our country."

"We have to get it back open safely but as quickly as possible," Trump said.

After more than a month of being cooped up at the White House, Trump returned from a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the virtual town hall hosted by Fox News Channel.

The president said of his monumental backdrop: "We never had a more beautiful set than this."

As concerns mount about his reelection bid, Trump stuck to his relentlessly optimistic view of the nation's ability to rebound soon.

"It is all working out," Trump said. "It is horrible to go through, but it is working out."

Many public health experts believe the nation cannot safely reopen fully until a vaccine is developed. Trump declared Sunday that he believed one could be available by year's end.

U.S. public health officials have said a vaccine is probably a year to 18 months away. But Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases and member of the White House coronavirus task force, said in late April that it is conceivable, if a vaccine is soon developed, that it could be in wide distribution as early as January.

Though the administration's handling of the pandemic, particularly its ability to conduct widespread testing, has come under fierce scrutiny, the president tried to shift the blame to China and said the U.S. was ready to begin reopening.

"I'll tell you one thing. We did the right thing and I really believe we saved a million and a half lives," the president said. But he also broke with the assessment of his senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, saying it was "too soon to say" the federal government had overseen a "success story."

Trump's impatience also flashed. While noting that states would go at their own pace in returning to normal, with ones harder hit by the coronavirus going slower, he said that "some states, frankly, I think aren't going fast enough." He singled out Virginia, which has a Democratic governor and legislature. And he urged the nation's schools and universities to return to classes this fall.

Federal guidelines that encouraged people to stay at home and practice social distancing expired late last week.

Debate continued over moves by governors to start reopening state economies that tanked after shopping malls, salons and other nonessential businesses were ordered closed in attempt to slow a virus that has killed more than 66,000 Americans, according to a tally of reported deaths by Johns Hopkins University.

The U.S. economy has suffered, shrinking at a 4.8% annual rate from January through March, the government estimated last week. And roughly 30.3 million people have filed for unemployment aid in the six weeks since the outbreak forced employers to shut down and slash their workforces.

The president's advisers have nervously watched Trump's support slip in a number of battleground states and he was told last month that if the election were held that day, he would lose to Democrat Joe Biden. The president's aides believe restarting the economy, even with its health risks, is essential to a victory in November and are pushing for him to pivot away from discussions about the pandemic and onto an American comeback story.

To that end, Trump will begin traveling again, with a trip to a mask factory in Arizona planned for Tuesday. The president also is set to speak in June at commencement for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Returning to campus for commencement will require graduates to self-isolate for 14 days, but Trump insisted the event poses no risk to the cadets.

The town hall, which included an appearance by Vice President Mike Pence, included a rare mea culpa: The vice president said he should have worn a facemask during a visit last week to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic. Pence's failure to wear a mask violated the clinic's guidelines and drew significant criticism.

Elsewhere in Washington, the Senate planned to reopen Monday, despite the area's continued status as a virus hot spot and with the region still under stay-at-home orders. The House remains shuttered as debate continues on what the next stage of the economic recovery may look like.

State and local governments are seeking up to \$1 trillion in coronavirus costs, which has been met with

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 38 of 73

some objections by congressional Republicans.

Trump said that while he thought common ground could be found with Democrats over an infrastructure package, "we're not doing anything unless we get a payroll tax cut. That is so important to the success of our country."

That proposal has been met with objections from both parties.

The leaders of California and Michigan are among governors under public pressure over lockdowns still in effect while states such as Florida, Georgia and Ohio are reopening.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, said Sunday that the armed protesters who demonstrated inside her state's Capitol "depicted some of the worst racism" and "awful parts" of U.S. history by showing up with Confederate flags, nooses and swastikas.

Trump on Sunday night singled out Whitmer and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, also a Democrat, for criticism even as he praised the federal coordination with most governors. He also complained that some Democrats would rather "people get sick" than given him any credit for pushing the use of a malaria drug for treating COVID-19, though it has not been proven to be safe and effective for that use.

## Unimpressed by online classes, college students seek refunds

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

They wanted the campus experience, but their colleges sent them home to learn online during the coronavirus pandemic. Now, students at more than 25 U.S. universities are filing lawsuits against their schools demanding partial refunds on tuition and campus fees, saying they're not getting the caliber of education they were promised.

The suits reflect students' growing frustration with online classes that schools scrambled to create as the coronavirus forced campuses across the nation to close last month. The suits say students should pay lower rates for the portion of the term that was offered online, arguing that the quality of instruction is far below the classroom experience.

Colleges, though, reject the idea that refunds are in order. Students are learning from the same professors who teach on campus, officials have said, and they're still earning credits toward their degrees. Schools insist that, after being forced to close by their states, they're still offering students a quality education.

Grainger Rickenbaker, a freshman who filed a class-action lawsuit against Drexel University in Philadelphia, said the online classes he's been taking are poor substitutes for classroom learning. There's little interaction with students or professors, he said, and some classes are being taught almost entirely through recorded videos, with no live lecture or discussion.

"You just feel a little bit diminished," said Rickenbaker, 21, of Charleston, South Carolina. "It's just not the same experience I would be getting if I was at the campus."

Other students report similar experiences elsewhere. A complaint against the University of California, Berkeley, says some professors are simply uploading assignments, with no video instruction at all. A case against Vanderbilt University says class discussion has been stymied and the "quality and academic rigor of courses has significantly decreased."

In a case against Purdue University, a senior engineering student said the closure has prevented him from finishing his senior project, building an airplane. "No online course can simulate the applicable, real-world experience" he hoped to gain from the project, the complaint says.

Class-action lawsuits demanding tuition refunds have been filed against at least 26 colleges, targeting prestigious private universities, including Brown, Columbia and Cornell, along with big public schools, including Michigan State, Purdue and the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Some of the suits draw attention to schools' large financial reserves, saying colleges are unfairly withholding refunds even while they rest on endowments that often surpass \$1 billion.

Several colleges declined to comment on the lawsuits, but some said students have continued to get what they paid for.

Ken McConnell, a spokesman for the University of Colorado, said it's disappointing that people have

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 39 of 73

been so quick to file lawsuits only weeks into the pandemic. He said the suits appear to be driven by a small number of "opportunistic" law firms.

"Our faculty have been working extremely hard to deliver an academic product that's got the same high standards, high-quality academic rigor as what they would deliver in the classroom," he said. "It's different, no doubt. And it's not ideal. We all would prefer to have students on our campuses, but at the same time, we're in the middle of a global pandemic here."

Officials at Michigan State said students are still taking classes taught by qualified faculty, and the school is still offering tutoring services, academic advising, faculty office hours and library services.

"We don't negate that this has been a difficult time for our university, especially for our students," Emily Guerrant, a Michigan State spokeswoman, said in a statement. The school has taken on new costs to move instruction online, she added, but "we have maintained our commitment to providing meaningful and robust learning experiences at no additional cost to our Spartans."

Officials at Drexel University said the school has continued to provide a "broad spectrum of academic offerings and support" while students learn remotely.

Lawyers representing students, however, say the refunds are a matter of fairness.

"You cannot keep money for services and access if you aren't actually providing it," said Roy Willey, a lawyer for the Anastopoulo Law Firm in South Carolina, which is representing students in more than a dozen cases. "If we're truly going to be all in this together, the universities have to tighten their belts and refund the money back to students and families who really need it."

Willey said his office has received hundreds of inquiries from students looking to file suits, and his firm is looking into dozens of possible cases. Other firms taking on similar cases say they're also seeing a wave of demand from students and parents who say they deserve refunds.

Along with tuition, the cases also seek refunds for fees that students paid to access gyms, libraries, labs and other buildings that are now closed. All told, the complaints seek refunds that could add up to several thousand dollars per student at some schools.

The lawsuits ask courts to answer a thorny question that has come to the fore as universities shift classes online: whether there's a difference in value between online instruction and the traditional classroom. Proponents of online education say it can be just as effective, and universities say they've done everything they can to create rigorous online classes in a matter of weeks.

But some of the complaints maintain that the college experience is about more than course credits. They say there's value to the personal interaction students get with faculty and classmates, both in the classroom and out. Willey adds that colleges themselves often charge lower rates for online classes, which he says is a reflection of their value.

"The tuition price speaks for itself," he said. "These students decided to go to in-person, on-campus universities. They could have chosen to go to online colleges and earn their degree that way, but they didn't."

Even before the first lawsuits were filed, demands for tuition refunds had been spreading. Students at dozens of schools have started petitions calling for refunds as online classes left them underwhelmed. Scores of schools have returned portions of housing and dining fees, but few if any have agreed to return any share of tuition.

At the University of Chicago, hundreds of students signed a letter saying they will refuse to pay this term's tuition, which was due April 29, unless the school reduces tuition by 50% and keeps it at that level during the crisis.

Colleges counter that the coronavirus has put them under sharp financial strain, too. Some estimate that they could lose up to \$1 billion this year as they brace for downturns in student enrollment, state funding and research grants. Some have already announced layoffs and furloughs as they work to offset losses.

But the lawsuits say it's not fair to pass those losses on to students. Jennifer Kraus-Czeisler, a lawyer for the New York firm Milberg Phillips Grossman, which is representing several students, said colleges have a duty to return fees for services they aren't providing.

"We're not disparaging the schools for closing. They did what was appropriate," she said. "But they're profiting at the expense of students. It just seems unconscionable."

## Ex-Green Beret claims he led foiled raid into Venezuela

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A former Green Beret has taken responsibility for what he claimed was a failed attack Sunday aimed at overthrowing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and that the socialist government said ended with eight dead.

Jordan Goudreau's comments in an interview with an exiled Venezuelan journalist capped a bizarre day that started with reports of a predawn amphibious raid near the South American country's heavily guarded capital.

An AP investigation published Friday found that Goudreau had been working with a retired Venezuelan army general now facing U.S. narcotics charges to train dozens of deserters from Venezuela's security forces at secret camps inside neighboring Colombia. The goal was to mount a cross-border raid that would end in Maduro's arrest.

But from the outset the ragtag army lacked funding and U.S. government support, all but guaranteeing defeat against Maduro's sizable-if-demoralized military. It also appears to have been penetrated by Maduro's extensive Cuban-backed intelligence network.

Both Goudreau and retired Venezuelan Capt. Javier Nieto declined to speak to the AP on Sunday when contacted after posting a video from an undisclosed location saying they had launched an anti-Maduro putsch called "Operation Gideon." Both men live in Florida.

"A daring amphibious raid was launched from the border of Colombia deep into the heart of Caracas," Goudreau, in a New York Yankees ball cap, said in the video standing next to Nieto who was dressed in armored vest with a rolled-up Venezuelan flag pinned to his shoulder. "Our units have been activated in the south, west and east of Venezuela."

Goudreau said 60 of his men were still on the ground and calls were being activated inside Venezuela, some of them fighting under the command of Venezuelan National Guardsman Capt. Antonio Sequea, who participated in a barracks revolt against Maduro a year ago.

None of their claims of an ongoing operation could be independently verified. But Goudreau said he hoped to join the rebels soon and invited Venezuelans and Maduro's troops to join the would-be insurgency although there was no sign of any fighting in the capital or elsewhere as night fell.

In an interview later with Miami-based journalist Patricia Poleo, he provided a contradictory account of his activities and the support he claims to have once had — and then lost — from Juan Guaidó, the opposition leader recognized as Venezuela's interim president by the U.S. and some 60 countries.

He provided to Poleo what he said was an 8-page contract signed by Guaidó and two political advisers in Miami in October for \$213 million. The alleged "general services" contract doesn't specify what work his company, Silvercorp USA, was to undertake.

He also released via Poleo a four-minute audio recording, made on a hidden cellphone, in the moment when he purportedly signed the contract as Guaidó participated via videoconference. In the recording, a person he claims is Guaidó can be heard giving vague encouragement in broken English but not discussing any military plans.

"Let's get to work!," said the man who is purportedly Guaidó.

The AP was unable to confirm the veracity of the recording.

There was no immediate comment from Guaidó on Goudreau's claim that the two had signed a contract. Previously, Guaidó has said he hadn't signed any contract for a military incursion.

Goudreau said he never received a penny from the Guaidó team and instead the Venezuelan soldiers he was advising had to scrounge for donations from Venezuelan migrants driving for car share service Uber in Colombia.

"It's almost like crowdfunding the liberating of a country," he said.

Goudreau said everything he did was legal but in any case he's prepared to pay the cost for anything he did if it saves the lives of Venezuelans trying to restore their democracy.

"I've been a freedom fighter my whole life. This is all I know," said Goudreau, who is a decorated three-time Bronze Star recipient for courage in deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan as a special forces medic.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 41 of 73

Asked about why his troops would land at one of Venezuela's most fortified coastlines — some 20 miles from Caracas next to the country's biggest airport — he cited the example set by Alexander the Great, who had "struck deep into the heart of the enemy" at the Battle of Guagamela.

The government's claims that it had foiled a beach landing Sunday triggered a frenzy of confusing claims and counterclaims about the alleged plot. While Maduro's allies said it had been backed by Guaidó, Colombia and the U.S., the opposition accused Maduro of fabricating the whole episode to distract attention from the country's ongoing humanitarian crisis.

"Those who assume they can attack the institutional framework in Venezuela will have to assume the consequences of their action," said socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello, adding that one of two captured insurgents claimed to be an agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Authorities said they found Peruvian documents, high-caliber weapons, satellite phones, uniforms and helmets adorned with the U.S. flag.

Both U.S. and Colombian officials dismissed the Venezuelan allegations.

"We have little reason to believe anything that comes out of the former regime," said a State Department spokesperson, referring to Maduro's government. "The Maduro regime has been consistent in its use of misinformation in order to shift focus from its mismanagement of Venezuela."

Venezuela has been in a deepening political and economic crisis under Maduro's rule. Crumbling public services such as running water, electricity and medical care have driven nearly 5 million to migrate.

The United States has led a campaign to oust Maduro, increasing pressure in recent weeks by indicting the socialist leader as a drug trafficker and offering a \$15 million reward for his arrest. The U.S. also has increased stiff sanctions.

In addition to U.S. economic and diplomatic pressure, Maduro's government has faced several small-scale military threats, including an attempt to assassinate Maduro with a drone in 2018 and Guaidó's call for a military uprising a year ago.

Cabello linked Sunday's attack to key players in the alleged plot led by Goudreau and Ret. Maj. Gen. Cliver Alcala, who is now in U.S. custody awaiting trial after being indicted alongside Maduro on narcoterrorist charges. One of the men he said was killed, nicknamed "the Panther," had been identified as involved in obtaining weapons for the covert force in Colombia.

Guaidó accused Maduro's government of seizing on the incident to draw the world's attention away from the country's problems.

"Of course, there are patriotic members of the military willing to fight for Venezuela," Guaidó said. "But it's clear that what happened in Vargas is another distraction ploy."

## COVID-19 vaccine hunt heats up globally, still no guarantee

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of people are rolling up their sleeves in countries across the world to be injected with experimental vaccines that might stop COVID-19, spurring hope — maybe unrealistic — that an end to the pandemic may arrive sooner than anticipated.

About 100 research groups are pursuing vaccines with nearly a dozen in early stages of human trials or poised to start. It's a crowded field, but researchers say that only increases the odds that a few might overcome the many obstacles that remain.

"We're not really in a competition against each other. We're in a race against a pandemic virus, and we really need as many players in that race as possible," Dr. Andrew Pollard, who is leading the University of Oxford's vaccine study, told The Associated Press.

The hard truth: There's no way to predict which — if any — vaccine will work safely, or even to name a front-runner.

As Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top expert, put it: "You need more shots on goal for a chance at getting a safe and effective vaccine."

The first cautious tests of March, when small numbers of volunteers got injections to check for side ef-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 42 of 73

fects, have turned into larger studies in China, the U.S. and Europe to look for hints that different vaccine candidates really protect.

Next: Finding out for sure if any of the vaccines work in the real world by testing large groups of people in areas where the virus is circulating — a tricky prospect when study participants may be in places where the virus is fading or they are told to stay home — and finding a way to quickly distribute lots of doses of any successful candidates.

Policymakers are devising plans to try to overcome both obstacles in an attempt to compress the years it usually takes to develop a vaccine. Asked if a vaccine by January was possible, Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus task force coordinator, told Fox News Sunday “on paper, it’s possible. It’s whether we can execute,” she said.

Fauci has cautioned that even if everything goes perfectly, 12 to 18 months to develop a vaccine would set a speed record — and January will mark a year since the National Institutes of Health began creating its own COVID-19 vaccine, now in trials with Moderna Inc.

## MULTIPLE SHOTS WORK IN MULTIPLE WAYS

Depending how you count, there are between eight and 11 vaccine candidates in early stages of testing in China, the U.S., Britain and Germany — a collaboration between Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech last week began a study in Germany that’s simultaneously testing four somewhat different shots. More study sites are about to open in still other countries — and between May and July another handful of different vaccines is set to begin first-in-human testing.

There’s no shortage of volunteers.

“This allows me to play a small role in fighting this thing,” said Anthony Campisi, 33, of Philadelphia, who received his first test dose of Inovio Pharmaceuticals’ DNA-based vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania last month. “I can be a guinea pig.”

The initial vaccine candidates work in a variety of ways. That’s important because if one type fails, maybe another won’t.

Different types of vaccines work better in some virus families than others. But for coronaviruses, there’s no blueprint. Back in 2003 when scientists attempted vaccines against SARS, a cousin of the new virus, animal studies hinted at safety problems but then SARS disappeared and vaccine funding dried up. Vaccines against another COVID-19 cousin named MERS have only reached first-step safety testing.

“In 20/20 hindsight, we should have worked harder on coronavirus vaccines back then,” said Dr. Sten Vermund, dean of the Yale School of Public Health. Now, “we’re obligated to try a variety of strategies if we want fast results.”

## PROS AND CONS

China’s Sinovac and SinoPharm are testing “inactivated” vaccines, made by growing the new coronavirus and killing it. The companies have revealed little information about how the shots differ. But the technology is tried-and-true — polio shots and some types of flu vaccine are inactivated virus — although it’s hard to scale up to rapidly produce millions of doses.

Most other vaccines in the pipeline aim to train the immune system to recognize a piece of the new coronavirus — mostly, the spiky protein that studs its outer surface.

One way: Use a harmless virus to carry the spike protein into the body. It’s easier to produce but determining which virus is the best “carrier” is a key question. China’s CanSino Biologics brewed its vaccine using a common cold-causing adenovirus, engineered so it won’t spread in the body. And in case people’s immune systems fight off the cold virus before the vaccine can do its job, Pollard’s Oxford team instead chose an adenovirus that normally infects chimpanzees.

Another way: Inject a piece of the coronavirus genetic code that instructs the body itself to produce spike protein that in turn primes the immune system to attack. It’s a new and unproven technology but one that promises even faster production. Vaccines made by NIH and Moderna, Inovio Pharmaceuticals, and that Pfizer-BioNTech collaboration use genetic code approaches.

Still more methods are next in line: Vaccine made of spike protein nanoparticles, and even a nasal spray

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 43 of 73

alternative to shots.

## PROVING THEY WORK

Most vaccine studies so far are tracking safety and whether volunteers' blood shows any immune reactions. Some have jumped to larger numbers quickly, but there's still concern about being able to prove real-world protection.

If study participants are holed up at home or live in areas where the virus has quit spreading rapidly, then too few may get sick for scientists to tell if the vaccine or social distancing was what protected them. The Oxford study, for example, will track about 1,000 people, half given the real vaccine. But the team plans a later-stage study with another 5,000 volunteers for a final answer and knows it might have to move to other countries.

"When you're chasing a pandemic, the place that looks like the right one to go to today will be the wrong place two weeks from now. And that makes it really difficult," Pollard said.

In the U.S., some lawmakers have urged a different and controversial experiment: Recruit young, healthy volunteers who agree to be deliberately infected with the new coronavirus to prove if a vaccine protects them. But some healthy adults do die from COVID-19 — and until doctors better understand why, that so-called "challenge study" makes for a risky proposition with serious ethical questions, Yale's Vermund noted.

The World Health Organization last week called for countries to offer to be test sites for an international project that will speed the timeline by admitting on a rolling basis promising vaccine candidates for further study in locations where COVID-19 remains widespread at the time.

In the U.S., the Trump administration is planning its own project dubbed Operation Warp Speed that will overlap studies of "different candidates that are made differently and act differently," Birx said.

If early evidence was strong enough and the virus is still widespread, the Food and Drug Administration might even consider emergency use of a vaccine before final test results were in, Dr. Peter Marks, who directs the FDA office that oversees vaccines, recently told reporters.

## SUPPLYING THE WORLD

Whenever the first useful vaccine is identified, there won't be enough for everyone. So a growing number of vaccine makers say they're already starting to brew tons of doses — wasting millions of dollars if they bet on the wrong candidate but shaving a few months off mass vaccinations if their choice pans out.

"We need to start building new manufacturing sites now," said Wellcome Trust vaccine chief Charlie Weller. "And we need to accept that some of these sites will be created for vaccines that will ultimately fail."

It's not just a gamble for shareholders. The U.S. government already has deals with Moderna and Johnson & Johnson that together total nearly \$1 billion and include scaling up production.

"The critical thing at the beginning is just to make as much stuff as we can," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, which is funding several COVID-19 vaccine attempts around the world.

Even if one works, expect rationing early on as policymakers determine who most needs the first doses — possibly health workers or the elderly — until there's enough for the world, rich and poor countries alike.

"I am concerned about what I call vaccine nationalism. That's the tension between obligations elected leaders will feel to protect the lives of their citizens" versus the imperative for equitable global sharing, Hatchett said.

And with billions who'll need a dose or maybe several, just one winner in this race won't cut it.

"It's not likely that one manufacturer or one candidate vaccine is going to be able to deal with the global need and supply that need," Pollard said.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump on Biden 'apology,' virus test myths

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is mischaracterizing Joe Biden's position on the U.S. pandemic response, stretching the facts on his own policies in the crisis and playing down the risk to meatpacking employees who are being called to work as infections run high.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 44 of 73

Trump capped the weekend by taking questions from Fox News anchors and viewers in an open-air evening session Sunday against the backdrop of the Lincoln Memorial. Over the previous week, Trump persisted in bragging about U.S. coronavirus testing despite the country's weak record on that front.

His comments were among many that fell short of reality in the past week as federal social distancing guidelines expired and some states took steps to reopen businesses. The nation's death toll continues to climb.

Trump's newest spokeswoman, Kayleigh McEnany, held the first White House briefing by a press secretary in over a year, pledging she will "never lie to you, you have my word on that." She then spread several misstatements.

Trump and his veterans affairs secretary, meanwhile, exaggerated progress in the testing of front-line health workers during the pandemic. Trump has repeatedly insisted that anyone who needs a test can get one, but that's not what the VA says about its employees.

A review:

ON BIDEN

TRUMP, claiming Biden called his travel restrictions on China xenophobic: "Biden has written a letter of apology." ... "He actually apologized (and said) I made the right move." — Fox News, Sunday night.

THE FACTS: There's no such letter in sight. Moreover, Biden supported Trump's restrictions on travel from China — yes, essentially calling them the right move.

Trump's Democratic presidential rival has accused him of having a record of xenophobia but not explicitly in the context of the president's decision to limit travel from China during the pandemic. Trump took to calling the virus the "China virus" and the "foreign virus" at one point, prompting Biden to urge the country not to take a turn toward xenophobia or racism in the pandemic.

MEAT PLANTS

TRUMP, on his emergency order to reopen meat plants after many closed because workers were sickened by COVID-19. "I think it's all working out. ... Those people are tending to get better quickly." — Fox News, Sunday night.

THE FACTS: He offered no support for the contention that workforces at meat plants are rapidly returning to health.

In a report Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said more than 4,900 workers at meat and poultry processing facilities have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, 20 of whom have died.

The illnesses occurred among 130,000 workers at 115 facilities in 19 states, according to the CDC. Some states didn't provide data, so the actual count is believed to be higher.

The CDC said plant workers may be at risk for a number of reasons, such as difficulties with physical distancing and hygiene and crowded living and transportation conditions. The researchers suggested that disinfection be enhanced and that workers get regular screening for the virus, more space from co-workers and training materials in their native languages.

PRESS SECRETARY

McENANY: "We have a handwritten FBI note that says, quote, 'We need to get (Flynn) to lie,' quote, and 'get him fired.' There was an unfair target on the back of General Michael Flynn." — news briefing Friday.

THE FACTS: She's misquoting and mischaracterizing the newly released FBI notes and emails related to Trump's former national security adviser.

The message, included on a page of handwritten notes that appeared to recap an internal FBI debate about how best to approach Flynn, reads: "What's our goal? Truth/admission or to get him to lie, so we can prosecute him or get him fired?"

The notes also say: "If we're seen as playing games, WH will be furious. Protect our institution by not playing games."

Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador to the



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 45 of 73

United States. His lawyers last week released internal correspondence obtained through a Justice Department review of the handling of the case. They contend the documents bolster their allegations that Flynn was set up to lie when he was questioned at the White House three years ago.

**McENANY:** "I've seen a whole lot of scant information about Michael Flynn, when there was a whole lot of speculation about 'Russia, Russia, Russia' culminating in ... the complete and total exoneration of President Trump." — news briefing Friday.

**THE FACTS:** False. Special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation did not result in a "complete and total exoneration" of Trump. Mueller explicitly stated that his report did not exonerate the president.

In the report, Mueller said his team declined to make a prosecutorial judgment on whether to charge Trump, partly because of a Justice Department legal opinion that said sitting presidents cannot be indicted.

The detailed report factually laid out instances in which Trump might have obstructed justice. On a potential conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign, Mueller said the investigation did not collect sufficient evidence to establish criminal charges on that front.

## TESTING

**TRUMP,** responding to a Harvard University study that 5 million tests would be needed to safely reopen the country: "It will increase, and it'll increase by much more than that in the very near future. We're way ahead of everyone on testing. ... We're going to be there very soon. If you look at the numbers, it could be that we're getting very close." — remarks Tuesday on aid for small businesses.

**THE FACTS:** Actually, Trump is nowhere close in his prediction of providing 5 million tests a day, according to his own federal "testing czar."

"There is absolutely no way on Earth, on this planet or any other planet, that we can do 20 million tests a day, or even 5 million tests a day," Dr. Brett Giroir, the federal health official overseeing U.S. testing, told Time magazine the same day.

Trump was addressing a Harvard study that said to ensure a safe reopening of the U.S., 5 million tests a day would be needed by June, and 20 million a day by late July.

Giroir told Time those numbers couldn't be supported by current technology. The U.S. recently tested as many as 300,000 a day, and Giroir said he plans to hit 8 million per month by next month.

Asked again about it the following day, Trump backtracked, saying the U.S. could hit 5 million tests perhaps eventually. He said "we are going to be there at a certain point."

**TRUMP:** "I've told you that we inherited a very broken test — a broken system and a broken test." — remarks Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** He's repeating a false assertion that he inherited a "broken" COVID-19 test from the Obama administration. The novel coronavirus did not exist until late last year, so there was no test to inherit.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention instead struggled to develop its own test for the coronavirus in January, later discovering problems in its kits sent to state and county public health labs in early February.

It took the CDC more than two weeks to come up with a fix to the test kits, leading to delays in diagnoses through February, a critical month when the virus took root in the U.S. Not until Feb. 29 did the Food and Drug Administration decide to allow labs to develop and use their own coronavirus diagnostic tests before the agency reviews them, speeding up the supply. Previously, the FDA had only authorized use of a government test developed by the CDC.

Meantime the U.S. bypassed a test that the World Health Organization quickly made available internationally. Trump has said that test was flawed; it wasn't. The U.S. has strikingly lagged a variety of countries in its ability to test people widely and quickly, despite increasing its capacity after a first chapter that public health officials acknowledged was a failure.

More than 6 million people have been tested in the U.S. More than 1 million have been sickened by the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 46 of 73

virus and more than 60,000 have died. The U.S. has experienced roughly 1 in 4 reported deaths from the virus worldwide.

## VETERANS

TRUMP, on the administration's health care efforts during the coronavirus outbreak: "We also acted swiftly to secure our veterans' health care facilities. ... And we're being helped very greatly by the passage of all the things that we got passed, Robert, especially Choice, so that people can go and see their doctor when they have to." —remarks Thursday, with Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie in attendance.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong on two fronts. He didn't pass the Veterans Choice program, and that program has had little impact during the virus outbreak. In fact, since March, the VA suspended the program's key provisions that granted veterans the option to see private doctors if they endured long waits for care at the government-run VA.

Congress first approved the program in 2014, and President Barack Obama signed it into law. Trump expanded it.

The program allows vets to see a private doctor for primary or mental health care if their VA wait is 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive is only 30 minutes or more.

But since the program's expansion in June 2018, the VA has not seen a major increase in veterans seeking care outside the VA, partly because wait times in the private sector are typically longer than at the VA.

The VA also took steps in late March to restrict veterans' access to private care, citing the added risks of coronavirus exposure and limited capacity at private hospitals.

Under the temporary restrictions, the VA is reviewing referrals for nonemergency care "on a case-by-case basis for immediate clinical need and with regard to the safety of the veteran when being seen in-person, regardless of wait time or drive time eligibility," said VA spokeswoman Christina Noel. She said the VA is expanding use of telehealth to address many of veterans' routine medical needs.

Republican lawmakers and conservatives such as Fox News host Pete Hegseth, a close ally of Trump's who was considered for the VA secretary job in 2018, have argued that the expanded Choice program has been rendered ineffective during the coronavirus outbreak — not excelled as a model of care.

"This is a time when the VA should do everything possible to expand health care choices for veterans, not arbitrarily restrict them," said Nate Anderson, executive director of Concerned Veterans for America.

WILKIE, when asked how many VA employees have been tested for the coronavirus: "Well, we've tested well over 60,000." — MSNBC interview on April 22.

THE FACTS: He overstated it by double. The VA actually has tested 32,155 out of 390,000 total employees, according to department figures provided Friday to Congress.

Wilkie was responding to concerns about shortages of personal protective equipment at VA medical centers, such as masks and gloves. He argued that VA staff is doing fine because of low infection rates, but VA nurses who spoke last month to The Associated Press said it's been difficult to get a test from the department to know if they have the virus.

According to the VA, employees who have been exposed to patients with COVID-19 and show symptoms may be tested "at a VA medical center, local health departments, or community resources, depending on what resources for testing are available." The department said Friday that all employees at its nursing homes had now been tested, and it would expand testing to other "vulnerable" employees this week.

To date, about 2,000 staff at VA facilities have tested positive for COVID-19, and an additional 3,500 have been quarantined and are unable to work out of concerns they are infected, according to agency documents. About 20 staff have died.

The VA has pointed in part to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for not supplying it with enough medical supplies. In its update Friday to Congress, the VA said it did not have enough tests for every staff member who wanted one, but it remained a goal for the department.

More than a dozen Democrats led by Sen. Jon Tester, the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 47 of 73

Committee, have called on Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to ensure that VA employees get an adequate supply of protective equipment.

## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "Lives were saved by my EARLY BAN of China into our Country." — tweet Sunday.

TRUMP: "I closed the country to China." — on Fox News, Sunday night.

TRUMP: "I did something that the experts thought I shouldn't have done: I closed down our country and our borders. I did a ban on China." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: This is one of Trump's most frequent exaggerations. Trump didn't "ban" all the people infected with coronavirus from entering the U.S. from China. There were in fact many gaps in containment and initial delays in testing, leading to the U.S. rising to No. 1 globally in the number of people infected by COVID-19. It hit the 1 million mark in infections this past week.

Nor did Trump decide on his own or against the advice of experts to impose travel restrictions on China. He followed a consensus recommendation by his public health advisers.

His order in late January temporarily barred entry by foreign nationals who had traveled in China within the previous 14 days, with exceptions for the immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents as well as American citizens.

TRUMP: "How do you keep American citizens — you say they're coming in from China, they want to come back to their country. There is a tremendous problem in China; they want to come back. Are we supposed to say to an American citizen, 'You can't come back into your country'? And we did do testing." — remarks Tuesday with Florida's governor.

TRUMP: "The people that we're allowed were heavily scrutinized and tested U.S. citizens." — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: He's incorrect that Americans returning from China were tested for the coronavirus as part of Trump's travel restrictions imposed in late January.

Americans returning from China were allowed back after enhanced screening at select ports of entry, which could include a temperature check and observations for symptoms.

That's not the same as getting a test, which was in short supply in February due to problems with the CDC diagnostic kits. U.S. scientists say screenings can miss people who don't yet show symptoms of COVID-19. While symptoms often appear within five or six days of exposure, the incubation period is 14 days.

## With testing, Iceland claims major success against COVID-19

By EGILL BJARNASON Associated Press

HVAMMSTANGI, Iceland (AP) — Winter storms isolated the northern village of Hvammstangi from the rest of Iceland. Then spring brought the coronavirus, isolating villagers from each other. Now, as summer approaches, residents hope life is getting back to some kind of normal.

High schools, hair salons, dentists and other businesses across Iceland are reopening Monday after six weeks of lockdown, after this North Atlantic nation managed to tame its coronavirus outbreak.

Iceland has confirmed 1,799 cases of the virus, but just 10 people have died. The number of new COVID-19 cases each day has fallen from 106 at the peak of the outbreak to single digits — even, on some days, zero.

"I didn't expect the recovery to be this fast," said Iceland's chief epidemiologist, Thorolfur Gudnason.

Iceland's success is partly testament to its tiny population — just 360,000 people. But it also reflects decisive action by authorities, who used a rigorous policy of testing and tracking to find and isolate infected people, even when they had no symptoms.

That has helped Iceland weather the pandemic without resorting to the near-total social and economic shutdowns enforced in many other European countries. Infected people and their contacts were quarantined, but the rest of the population was not forced to stay inside, only to be careful.

A volcanic island nudging the Arctic Circle, Iceland may be remote, but it is far from isolated. Its Kefla-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 48 of 73

vik Airport is a trans-Atlantic hub, and Icelanders are enthusiastic travelers. As in several other European countries, some of the first cases of the virus here were brought back from ski resorts in the Alps, including the Austrian village of Ischgl.

Early vigilance was key to Iceland's success. The country confirmed its first case of the virus on Feb. 28, and declared Ischgl a high-risk zone on March 5, two days before authorities there confirmed the first case.

Gudnason said Iceland had been updating and testing its response to a global pandemic since 2004. Hospitals had been testing people arriving from abroad for a month before the first confirmed case, and a media campaign urged hand washing and social distancing.

"Each institution involved in the response knew its role from the start," he said.

Iceland quarantined everyone returning from virus hotspots and began test-and-trace measures to locate and isolate every case. Bigger countries such as Britain took the same approach, at first. But the U.K. abandoned test-and-trace in March as the number of cases overwhelmed the country's testing capacity. More than a month later and with almost 30,000 Britons dead, the U.K. is scrambling to resume testing and tracing as part of its route out of national lockdown.

Iceland's testing capacity was helped by the presence of Reykjavik-based biopharmaceutical company deCODE Genetics, which early in the outbreak teamed up with health authorities to ramp up public testing.

Over six weeks, Iceland managed to test almost 50,000 people, more than 13 percent of the population, the biggest chunk of any country in the world.

DeCODE did not test people already feeling sick or in quarantine, who were tested in hospitals. The company used its facilities to test a cross-section of the population, and identified scores of new cases, including people with mild or no symptoms.

Kari Stefansson, deCODE's ebullient CEO, said the approach showed that "with the use of modern science, even an epidemic like this one can be contained."

Iceland's testing yielded new leads for scientists about how the virus behaves. Early results suggested 0.6 percent of the population were "silent carriers" of the disease with no symptoms or only a mild cough and runny nose.

Preliminary research suggests one-third of those who tested positive at deCODE infected someone around them, providing evidence that silent carriers do transmit the disease but much less than symptomatic patients.

In a random sample of 848 children under the age of 10 none of them tested positive, which guided Icelandic authorities' decision to keep schools open for children under 16.

Alongside the testing, civil defense authorities set up a Contact Tracing Team, including police officers and university students, which used legwork and phone calls to identify people who had come into contact with infected individuals. A mobile phone tracing app was up and running a few weeks later.

Gudnason said the approach's success is shown by the fact that about 60% of people who tested positive were already in quarantine after being contacted by the tracing team.

Altogether, 19,000 people were ordered into two-week quarantine. Everyone else carried on with a semblance of normality. Primary schools remained open, and some cafes and restaurants kept operating, following social distancing rules: no more than 20 people gathered at once and everyone 2 meters (6.5 feet) apart.

Starting Monday, gatherings of up to 50 will be permitted, high schools and colleges can resume classes and all businesses except bars, gyms and swimming pools can reopen.

The entire country, however, must self-isolate from the rest of the world for the time being. Everyone arriving from abroad faces a 14-day quarantine.

That means a bleak economic outlook for a country that depends on tourism. On Road Number One, the "Ring Road" looping through Iceland's coastal towns and villages, the Associated Press passed empty vista points and few cars.

"Business can only go up from here," said Margrét Guðjónsdóttir, 28, working alone at the roadstop in Hvammstangi.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 49 of 73

The village, population 600, was hit badly early on. The town ended up having 26 confirmed cases of the virus, and was put under lockdown for a week while the transmission was being mapped out.

The local grocery store created "shifts" for customers so they could shop while socially isolating. In an April snowstorm, local search and rescue volunteers used their super-jeps to drive hospital staff to and from work and shuttled warm meals to elderly residents around town.

"Making each other's lockdown a little more pleasant became people's mission," Guðjónsdóttir said. "It really showed me the benefit of living in a small community."

## Battered global tourism industry makes reopening plans

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Six months ago, the global tourism industry was celebrating a record year for travel. Now, it's decimated and facing a recovery that could take years.

Tourism Economics, a data and consulting firm, predicts global travel demand won't resume its normal pace until 2023.

When tourists do finally return, they will face a changed landscape that incorporates social distancing and other measures to calm residual fears over COVID-19, the disease that has so far killed more than 244,000 people worldwide and infected millions more.

"It takes time to shake fear from the hearts of people, not to mention the economy," said Mahmoud Hadhoud, founder of Egypt Knight Tours, who doesn't expect foreign tourists to start trickling back into Egypt until September.

Last week, Hilton, Marriott and Airbnb all announced enhanced cleaning procedures worldwide to ease travelers' minds. In Egypt, Hadhoud is removing cruises and hot air balloon rides from his packages and replacing them with tours of Egypt's vast western deserts, where travelers can keep their distance from one another.

At Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, multiple teams are working on scenarios, including putting more space between riders on roller coasters, said John Sprouls, the resort's chief administrative officer, at a recent virtual event for tourism officials.

Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox said his company may sanitize dice between users, put fewer seats at blackjack tables and idle slot machines between players at its casinos in Las Vegas, Boston and Macau.

Gary Thulander, managing director of Chatham Bars Inn, a 106-year-old resort on Cape Cod, said the resort is planning many changes when it reopens this summer, including checking in guests via cell phones, letting them opt out of room service and lengthening dining hours so fewer guests will be eating at the same time.

The road to recovery will be long and hard for the tourism industry. The United Nations World Tourism Organization predicts global tourist arrivals — or visits from tourists who come to their destinations and stay at least one night — will fall 30% this year from the record 1.5 billion in 2019. Airlines have grounded nearly two-thirds of their planes as passengers vanish. Cruise ships are docked; some won't sail again until November.

Millions of people who depend on tourism are laid off or furloughed. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 8 million tourism-related workers are jobless right now, or about one-third of total U.S. unemployment, said Roger Dow, the president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association.

Alexandre de Juniac, CEO of the International Air Transport Association, the leading airline trade group, said carriers need to fill at least 70% of seats to break even on most flights. If they're required to block or remove many seats, they will either stop flying or raise prices 50%, he said.

That will delay recovery for places like Israel, which sees almost all of its tourists arrive by air. Diklah Cohen Sheinfeld, chief of staff of the Israeli Tourism Ministry's director general's office, said the tourism industry — which employs 250,000 Israelis — was the first to be impacted and will likely be the last to recover.

"There are no tourists and no entry to the country for tourists. The gates are totally closed," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 50 of 73

In some places, governments are stepping in to help the sector. Serge Cachan, president of the Astotel hotel chain in Paris, closed his 17 properties in March and expects to lose 70% of his business this year. But the French government will help the chain get through it, he said. The government is paying around 80% of furloughed hotel workers' salaries.

Many destinations anticipate travelers' behavior will change in the virus's wake. Pornthip Hirunkate, vice president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, thinks more people will come in small groups or seek personalized tours.

Ander Fuentes, who works as a tour guide in Spain's Granada province, thinks travelers will shift away from crowded beaches to the quieter interior mountains.

"It could be an opportunity to develop a new kind of tourism, which is going to be good for Spain, because in the last 10 years, the tourism boom has been in quantity but not in quality," Fuentes said. He hopes tourism there picks back up by mid-August.

But not everyone is comfortable with reopening. Marco Michielli, who owns the 67-room San Marco Hotel in Bibione, a beach resort east of Venice, Italy, said many hoteliers worry their businesses will be ruined if the virus spreads on their properties. Some would rather reopen next year than serve guests this summer with desk staff and bartenders wearing masks.

"If we have rules approved by the ministry, some hotel owners would be convinced to start to open. But if the hotel must look like a COVID ward, many will refuse to open to guests," he said.

Others say they need reassurance from science — not just tourist sites — before they travel.

Ema Barnes visited a dozen countries last year, including Serbia, Vietnam and Chile. This year, she had planned trips to Jordan and South Korea.

But right now, Barnes is working remotely in a tiny town in her native New Zealand. Airports near her are closed, so she's not sure when she'll get back to New York, where she works in publishing.

Barnes said she needs some peace of mind — a COVID-19 vaccine, or testing to make sure she isn't a carrier — before she resumes her travels.

"I don't think my desire to travel and explore other places is worth my risking the health of people in those places," Barnes said.

Others remain optimistic. Dedy Sulistiyanto, the owner of a tour and adventure provider in Bali, Indonesia, has been promoting his business on social media while it's closed. He has received so many positive responses that he thinks tourism will resume quickly when restrictions are lifted. Most of his clients are domestic tourists from Indonesia.

"There are so many people out there very eager to do traveling," Sulistiyanto said.

## North and South Korean troops exchange fire along border

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North and South Korean troops exchanged fire along their tense border on Sunday, the South's military said, the first such incident since the rivals took unprecedented steps to lower front-line animosities in late 2018.

Violent confrontations have occasionally occurred along the border, the world's most heavily fortified. While Sunday's incident is a reminder of persistent tensions, it didn't cause any known casualties on either side and is unlikely to escalate, observers said.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said in a statement that North Korean troops fired several bullets at a South Korean guard post inside the border zone. South Korea responded with a total of 20 rounds of warning shots on two occasions before issuing a warning broadcast, it said.

South Korea suffered no casualties, the military said. Defense officials said it's also unlikely that North Korea had any casualties, since the South Korean warning shots were fired at uninhabited North Korean territory. The North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, did not immediately report about the incident.

A preliminary South Korean analysis showed that North Korea's firing was probably not a calculated

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 51 of 73

provocation, though Seoul will continue examining whether there was any motivation for the action, a South Korean defense official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also said it was believed that North Korea's firing was not intentional. "We think those are accidental," Pompeo said on ABC's "This Week." "South Koreans did return fire. So far as we can tell, there was no loss of life on either side."

Farming activities around the North Korean area where the firing occurred continued throughout Sunday and North Korea's military didn't display any other suspicious activities after the gunfire, the South Korean defense official said. He said there was thick fog in the area at the time of the incident.

Later Sunday, South Korea sent a message to North Korea to try to avoid an escalation, but the North did not immediately reply, according to South Korea's military.

The exchange of fire came a day after North Korea broadcast video of its leader, Kim Jong Un, reappearing in public after a 20-day absence amid intense speculation about his health.

KCNA said Kim attended Friday's ceremony marking the completion of a fertilizer factory near Pyongyang along with senior officials. State TV showed Kim smiling and walking around factory facilities.

Kim earlier vanished from the public eye after presiding over a Politburo meeting of the ruling Workers' Party on April 11 to discuss the coronavirus. Speculation about his health began swirling after he missed an April 15 event commemorating the birthday of his grandfather and state founder, Kim Il Sung, something he had never done since inheriting power upon his father Kim Jong Il's death in late 2011.

The Korean Peninsula remains split along the 248-kilometer (155-mile) -long, 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) -wide border called the Demilitarized Zone. It was originally created as a buffer after the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But unlike its name, an estimated 2 million mines are peppered inside and near the DMZ, which is also guarded by barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides.

Under a set of agreements to reduce border tensions reached in September 2018, the two Koreas destroyed some of their front-line guard posts and began removing mines from the DMZ later that year. But the efforts stalled amid a deadlock in negotiations between Kim and President Donald Trump meant to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear arsenal. The diplomacy hasn't made any headway since the second Kim-Trump summit in Vietnam in early 2019 broke down due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea.

Earlier this year, North Korea carried out a slew of missile and other weapons tests, but they were short-range and none posed a direct threat to the U.S. mainland.

The last time there was gunfire along the Korea border was in November 2017, when North Korean soldiers sprayed bullets at a colleague fleeing to South Korea. The defector was hit five times, but survived and is now living in South Korea. South Korea didn't return fire.

Previously, the two Koreas traded gunfire along the DMZ numerous times, but no deadly clashes have occurred in recent years. A 2015 land mine blast that maimed two South Korean soldiers pushed the Koreas to the brink of an armed conflict. South Korea blamed North Korea for the explosion.

## **Sidelined by pandemic, Trump campaign turns to digital shows**

**By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The streaming video began and, within minutes, the president's eldest son was musing that Osama bin Laden had endorsed Joe Biden.

Subtle, it was not. Welcome to the Trump campaign, digital edition.

Seven nights a week, President Donald Trump's reelection team is airing live programming online to replace his trademark rallies made impossible for now by the coronavirus pandemic. Hosted by top campaign officials, prominent Republicans and "Make America Great Again" luminaries, the freewheeling shows offer reality according to Trump. The shows are an effort to stay connected with core supporters and maintain enthusiasm for a suspended campaign that has had to rewire itself on the fly. Trump himself has not yet appeared in his campaign's shows.

A review of one week's worth of the 8 p.m. broadcasts, ending on the final day of April, reveals a con-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 52 of 73

certed effort to test attacks on Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee. But the inherently limited effort also raises questions as to whether the campaign can replace the gold mines of potentially new voter data that the rallies delivered as it attempts to reverse a recent slide in a number of battleground states.

The shows are a proxy for the "Trump TV" network the president considered launching had he lost the 2016 election, and they create an echo chamber for true believers. Akin to actors in a beloved sitcom well into its run, the Trump officials warmly speak in shorthand, trusting that their audience knows the plot and its characters and are tuning in to see programs that, at times, made the president's infamously off-the-cuff rallies look tightly scripted.

"Joe Biden had the coveted Osama bin Laden endorsement! That's sort of a big deal!" exclaimed Donald Trump Jr. on April 24, hosting that night's broadcast deemed "Triggered" after his new book.

Trump Jr. had seized upon an oddly timed recent Fox News story, which in itself was drawn from 2012 reporting that bin Laden, the late al-Qaida leader, had once proposed assassinating President Barack Obama because doing so would thrust Biden into power and the then-vice president was "totally unprepared for that post," in bin Laden's estimation. Trump cackled while sitting on the couch next to his girlfriend, former Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle, and looked into his Skype camera to declare that even bin Laden knew that Biden "would destroy America."

After Guilfoyle went to cook dinner — it was the couple's second anniversary that night — the president's son, joined by Republican National Committee official Chris Carr and GOP operative David Bossie, continued to make politically incorrect observations that would draw more scrutiny if they were made anywhere other than a fans-only online broadcast.

"China basically screwed the whole world with their lies" about the origin of the coronavirus, Trump Jr. said, before addressing the theory that the pandemic began in a live-animal "wet market" in Wuhan, the epicenter of the Chinese outbreak. "The world would be a better place if China cared a little more about feeding their own people so they don't have to eat bats. I don't know, just a casual observation."

Since the Trump campaign went fully virtual on March 13, each video has received at least 1 million hits, according to campaign spokeswoman Erin Perrine. She added that the shows drew more than 300 million combined views in April across all of its platforms: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Twitch, Mixr, and the campaign's own website, with Facebook by far the biggest source of traffic.

Tuesday's installment, which featured House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California, had received 10,943 views on YouTube as of mid-Friday morning. The campaign declined to release any information as to what it could glean in terms of the identity or demographics or hometown of its viewers, all of which was mined from rally sign-ups.

"Given the current dynamic, there are a lot of things up in the air," said Republican strategist David Winston. "Maybe this works, maybe it doesn't. But you have to be creative as you try to address the issue of how are you going to go about reaching voters."

A sense of irreverence, inspired by the president's lack of filter, permeates the proceedings. On a Saturday night, campaign manager Brad Parscale and Lara Trump, a senior campaign adviser who is married to the president's son Eric, traded observations about Biden, reinforcing a campaign narrative that the former Delaware senator was not up to the job.

After Lara Trump said Biden cannot "form a coherent sentence," Parscale went on to add, "I feel bad for him. I wish his wife would pull him out of this" and take him to a beach in Delaware.

Parscale said the Trump team moved seamlessly into virtual campaigning after COVID-19 took hold in America and that even after the ground game returns, the campaign will leave its bolstered virtual apparatus in place. He later said his favorite item in his Florida home office was the Hillary Clinton toilet paper that someone gave him in 2016.

"I have boxes of it," he said, "and I take it into the bathroom and it's just enjoyable since she said so many mean things about me and our campaign and our president." Clinton was the Democratic nominee in 2016.

The Biden campaign has said that, since mid-March, more than 63 million people have engaged with their online content, including livestreams, speeches, press briefings and replays of televised interviews. The candidate has done more online events since a makeshift television studio was set up in his Delaware



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 53 of 73

home.

The Trump surrogates were all sent lights and laptops but the proceedings have a do-it-yourself feel, as the talking heads appear on their couches or in front of campaign signs plastered to home office walls. There are different themes nightly: one show during the week was centered around "Veterans for Trump," another was "Women for Trump" and a third was "Black Voices for Trump."

All were meant to be an answer to what was being shown at that moment on MSNBC and CNN.

"We hope you like it, it's an unconventional format, basically me hopped up on caffeine doing a rant," said Trump Jr. "But if you like it, we'll do a lot more of them."

## **NRA cutting staff and salaries amid coronavirus pandemic**

**By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press**

The National Rifle Association has laid off dozens of employees, canceled its national convention and scuttled fundraising, membership and shooting events that normally would be key to rallying its base in an election year.

The coronavirus pandemic has upended the gun-rights organization during what should be heady times for the group, in the middle of presidential election and with gun owners riled up over what they see as an effort by authorities to trample on their Second Amendment rights.

The NRA, which boasts about 5 million members, in recent weeks laid off or furloughed dozens of employees, imposed a four-day workweek for some employees and cut salaries across the board, including for CEO Wayne LaPierre. The financial issues, combined with the cancellation of fundraisers and the national convention, which would have surely drawn a visit from President Donald Trump, have complicated its ability to influence the 2020 election.

In a memo to staff, LaPierre said 20% salary cuts were across the board while some senior staffers "voluntarily" reduced their wages even more. He said the staffing reductions and other changes were intended to be temporary.

"The cancellation of the annual meeting had a significant financial impact but, beyond that, the health crisis has caused us to postpone countless fundraising and membership events along with competitions, training seminars and other revenue streams — those disruptions are the primary drivers of our decision-making process," said Andrew Arulanandam, spokesman for the NRA. "Like every other business and nonprofit, we are forced to make tough choices in this new economic environment."

The coronavirus has exacerbated financial woes that were already serving as a drag on the NRA as it wages legal fights with regulators and its once-loyal marketing firm and faces anger from rank-and-file members over stewardship of the gun group. It's also facing rising public frustration over gun laws in the wake of mass shootings.

"Everybody's in the same boat as the NRA. The NRA's real problem is they had real existing financial problems before this happened," said Robert J. Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and a longtime watcher of the NRA. "It simply does not bode well for their impact on the upcoming election."

The cutbacks have coincided with the NRA finding a new platform for its message during the pandemic.

With the world panicked over the coronavirus, Americans bought record numbers of guns in March, based on background check data that is the best barometer of firearms sales in the U.S.

The NRA and other gun-rights groups have been aggressively filing lawsuits challenging authorities in places across the U.S. that have declared gun shops and ranges as not being "essential" businesses and therefore allowed to remain open during stay-at-home directives. Gun owners have been flocking to state capitols to protest the restrictions, most prominently in Michigan.

The immediate hope is that such legal challenges will persuade authorities to back down. But the NRA is also hoping the legal fights over "essential" activity will strengthen their hand in the courts and make it harder to restrict gun rights in the future.

All of this comes against a backdrop of a rough couple of years, with legal fights, public and corporate

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 54 of 73

backlash over guns and criticism of LaPierre's salary, leadership and extravagant spending habits.

LaPierre earned about \$2 million in compensation, according to the group's most-recent tax filings. The NRA would not say how much of a pay cut he's taking.

"Defending freedom has never been easy. Over the years, we've weathered more tough times than most," LaPierre said in an email to NRA employees, obtained by The Associated Press. "But we will rise from this stronger and well positioned to lead the fight to protect our Second Amendment, the First Amendment, and all our constitutional freedoms during the crucial upcoming elections and for years to come."

The 2018 massacre at a high school in Parkland, Florida, led to a groundswell of opposition to the NRA, driven by student-led protests over gun violence. Corporate America began pushing back, with some major retailers stopping gun sales and banks dropping discounts or certain services for NRA members and gunmakers.

Just this week, the CEO of Wells Fargo, a bank known for its past willingness to be the go-to bank for the firearms industry, said its relationship with the NRA was "declining."

The NRA also faces regulatory pressures in New York, where the group's charter was created in New York. The state attorney general there has launched legal actions along with her counterpart in Washington, D.C., that threaten the NRA's nonprofit status.

After spending \$30 million in 2016 toward efforts to elect Trump, the NRA saw its political influence wane in 2018 when it got outspent by several gun-control groups.

Save the Second, a group of NRA members seeking changes to the organization, called the recent cut-backs the result of poor choices for years not the coronavirus.

In a recent email to its followers, the group disputed putting blame on the pandemic: "Mr. LaPierre, if your organization was squeaky clean and ethically ran, we wouldn't be in this mess in the first place."

Gun-control groups are mobilizing to influence the 2020 election and contend the NRA's financial troubles will leave it incapable of playing a significant role in Trump's campaign.

"I would be shocked if the NRA were able to sustain the investment in support of Trump in 2020 that it made in 2016," said Peter Ambler, executive director of the Giffords group, named after former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was seriously wounded after being shot in 2011.

Spitzer said the NRA's base — many of whom are Trump supporters — are still active and still loyal. "That hasn't really changed," he said.

But the money challenges are likely to mean a more-muted voice.

"You need to have an open checkbook to have a seat at the table," he said.

## Hard-to-count Arab Americans urged to prioritize census

By **JEFF KAROUB** and **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER** Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — At a Michigan gas station, the message is obvious — at least to Arabic speakers: Be counted in the 2020 census.

"Provide your community with more/additional opportunities," the ad on the pump handle reads in Arabic. In the fine print, next to "United States Census 2020," it adds: "To shape your future with your own hands, start here."

As state officials and nonprofit groups target hard-to-count groups like immigrants, people of color and those in poverty, many Arab Americans say the undercount is even more pronounced for them. That means one of the largest and most concentrated Arab populations outside the Middle East — those in the Detroit area — could be missing out on federal funding for education, health care, crime prevention and other programs that the census determines how to divvy up.

That also includes money to help states address the fallout from the coronavirus.

"We are trying to encourage people not just to fill it out because of all the reasons we had given before, where there's education and health care and all of that, but also because it is essential for the federal government to know who is in Michigan at this point more than ever before," said Rima Meroueh, director of policy and advocacy with Dearborn-based ACCESS, one of the largest Arab American advocacy

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 55 of 73

nonprofits in the country.

The Arab American community checks many boxes that census and nonprofit officials say are hallmarks of the hardest-to-count communities: large numbers of young children, non-English speakers, recent immigrants and those who often live in multifamily or rental housing.

Arabs arrived en masse to the U.S. as the auto industry ramped up and worker demand grew. By the time those jobs began to decline in more recent decades, communities with strong Middle Eastern cultural roots had been firmly established in the Detroit area. It has remained a destination for people from across the Middle East fleeing conflict, reconnecting with family or simply seeking a better life. Even those who resettle elsewhere often first make their way to Detroit and surrounding cities.

Advocates have pressed ahead with "get out the count" campaigns despite restrictions designed to curb COVID-19. The pandemic has forced the Census Bureau to push back its deadline for finishing the 2020 count from the end of July to the end of October. It's also asking Congress for permission to delay deadlines next year for giving census data to the states so they can draw new voting maps.

With the changes, ACCESS is stepping up its social media effort, mirroring it to focus as much on the once-a-decade count as their offices, which had been plastered with census posters, Meroueh said.

"If you check out our social media, it's very census-heavy," she said.

But groups face a hurdle after the Trump administration decided not to include a category that counts people from the Middle East or North Africa as their own group. The Census Bureau recommended the so-called MENA box in 2017 after years of research and decades of advocacy.

The decision to scrap the choice angers many Arab Americans, who say it hinders representation and needed funding. Democratic U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, an Arab American representing part of Detroit and several suburbs, expressed her displeasure while questioning Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham on Capitol Hill in February.

"The community did it right — they went through the process," she said. "You're making us invisible."

Dillingham said the form would have a write-in box, allowing people to describe their ethnicity. It falls short for Tlaib, but Matthew Jaber Stiffler, a University of Michigan lecturer and research and content manager at the Arab American National Museum, said it's better than nothing. Advocates will have to push harder to get people counted, he said.

"The onus is on community organizations, and local and state governments to get the people to complete the form, because it doesn't say, 'Are you Middle Eastern or North African?'" Stiffler said. "We'll get really good data if enough people fill it out."

Even though the MENA option isn't there, Stiffler says census officials did preparatory work for it. If someone writes "Syrian" on their form, for instance, Stiffler has been told that the census will code that within the larger MENA ancestry group.

That's precisely what Abdullah Haydar did when he filled out his census form electronically, which he said took five minutes.

"I definitely filled it out as soon as I got it. I believe in representation," said Haydar, a 44-year-old from Canton Township, Michigan, who works in LinkedIn's software engineering department.

But support for the census isn't unanimous. Some in the Arab community have raised concerns about government questions over their citizenship status if they participate, though that is not part of the form. Many have reported extra scrutiny since the Trump administration issued a ban on travelers from several predominantly Muslim countries in 2017 — creating an overall chilling effect when it comes to interacting with the government.

"They don't trust the current administration. They don't trust what they're going to do with the information. And when you look at the the so-called Muslim ban that was put in, people don't want to be on the government's radar," said Haydar, who assisted some elderly relatives in filling out their forms.

"I just told them, 'Look, yes, there may be abuses. There's always a risk of that. This administration seems to be pushing boundaries. But at the end of the day, this is the basis of our system of government, for people to count,'" he said.

## Desert or sea: Virus traps migrants in mid-route danger zone

By LORI HINNANT and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

Thousands of desperate migrants are trapped in limbo and even at risk of death without food, water or shelter in scorching deserts and at sea, as governments close off borders and ports amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Migrants have been dropped by the truckload in the Sahara Desert or bused to Mexico's desolate border with Guatemala and beyond. They are drifting in the Mediterranean Sea after European and Libyan authorities declared their ports unsafe. And about 100 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are believed to have died in the Bay of Bengal, as country after country pushes them back out to sea.

Many governments have declared emergencies, saying a public health crisis like the coronavirus pandemic requires extraordinary measures. However, these measures are just the latest efforts by governments to clamp down on migrants, despite human rights laws.

"They just dumped us," said Fanny Jacqueline Ortiz, a 37-year-old Honduran travelling with her two daughters, aged 3 and 12.

Ortiz reached the U.S., but American authorities expelled her to Mexico. The Mexican government in turn abandoned the family on March 26 at the lonely El Ceibo border crossing with Guatemala. Ortiz and other migrants on the two-bus convoy were told to avoid the Guatemalan soldiers guarding the border, which was closed due to the pandemic.

"They told us to go around through the mountains, and we slept in the woods," she recalled.

Over the next few weeks, an activist helped Ortiz and others in her group of 20 find a ride to the next border, in Honduras.

\_\_\_ This story was produced with the support of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Since the aftermath of World War II, international and some national laws have protected refugees and asylum-seekers. Even if states have the right to close themselves off for national security, they cannot forcibly return migrants to countries where they will face violence and other dangers, according to Dr. Violeta Moreno-Lax, professor of migration law at Queen Mary University of London.

Yet that is exactly what is happening.

"This is blatantly discriminatory and never justified," said Moreno-Lax. "The pandemic provides the perfect excuse."

The desert deportations have been happening for years in North Africa and beyond, and Europe has been deadlocked on how to handle migration on the Mediterranean since the 2015 migration crisis. In the United States, President Donald Trump made migration a central issue of his winning 2016 campaign and has unsuccessfully promised to put an end to border crossings from Mexico ever since taking office.

But this year, coronavirus has shifted the dynamic and allowed governments to crack down even harder, even as the desperation of those on the move remains unchanged.

In the United States, Trump is using a little-known 1944 public health law to set aside decades-old American immigration law. For the first time since the U.S. asylum system was created in 1980, Mexicans and Central Americans who cross the border illegally no longer even get the chance to apply for asylum. Instead, they are whisked to the nearest border crossing and returned to Mexico within hours; asylum-seekers at official crossings are also blocked.

Nearly 10,000 Mexicans and Central Americans were "expelled" to Mexico less than three weeks after the new rules took effect March 21, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. U.S. authorities say the decision was not about immigration but about public health.

Mexico then pushes the migrants further south. Mexico denies that it leaves migrants to fend for themselves, saying it coordinates with their home governments.

The very day Ortiz left El Ceibo, Mexico's secretary for foreign affairs, Marcelo Ebrard, told The Associated Press: "No Central American is put anywhere in southern Mexico.... We are helping them return to their countries, when their countries and the migrant accept return."



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 57 of 73

But the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights last week cited a cascade of borders from Mexico to Panama where thousands of migrants are caught out "in improvised camps, on the streets, or in shelters that have not always implemented health protocols to protect them."

Migrants have also been left stranded in similarly makeshift conditions in the Sahara, after being expelled without warning from detention centers in Algeria and Libya. The expulsions aren't new but have risen sharply as borders closed with the coronavirus.

Groups of dozens are walking 10 to 15 kilometers (6 to 10 miles) through the desert from a desolate no-man's-land called Point Zero to the dusty frontier village of Assamaka in neighboring Niger. There, new arrivals must remain in makeshift quarantine for 14 days. After the quarantine, those from Niger can go home but foreigners are taken to U.N. transit centers in Niger, where they are stuck because air travel is suspended in and out of the country.

At the end of March, more than 800 people arrived in Niger in a single expulsion. Even after Algeria announced expulsions would be suspended because the border was closed, more people kept arriving every day under the punishing sun, including 100 earlier last week, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. More than 2,300 migrants are now stranded in Niger, unable to return home or anywhere else.

In Libya, the migrant detention center in Kufra expelled nearly 900 men and women from April 11 to 15, taking them by truck or bus across hundreds of miles of sand and leaving them either in a remote town in Chad or at a Sahara border post in Sudan, according to Lt. Mohamed Ali al-Fadil, the center's director. Hundreds more came the following week.

Al-Fadil said the center is expediting operations, "deporting more people faster than ever before." He said the expulsions are an attempt to shield migrants from the coronavirus, including those at the shelter. It's not clear if there have been any virus outbreaks at the shelter. Libya, which is embroiled in internal warfare, has limited testing capacity.

"We fear for the migrants inside these shelters," he said. "We must protect them."

Yet the large groups of migrants forced out are in danger not only of the coronavirus but of midday temperatures that can rise to 50 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) this time of year.

Al-Fadil said the center coordinates with authorities in Chad and Sudan so the migrants aren't abandoned in the desert. But the IOM has said those in Chad lack enough food, water and shelter and must quarantine in an open lot in Ounianga Kébir, a town in northern Chad hardly equipped for mass arrivals.

Tayeb Saleh, a 26-year-old migrant, was expelled from the Kufra detention center in Libya back home to Sudan. He said he and hundreds of other African migrants had languished for weeks at Kufra without clean water or food, awaiting deportation in the desert.

"The situation was unbearable," he said. "I kept thinking if one of us had coronavirus, we would all die."

Saleh was forced in late March into the back of a crowded truck, which then got stuck in the soft sand that swallowed its axle. After three to four days, he arrived in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, where he recently emerged from quarantine in a jam-packed camp. He said he saw a dozen people left in the empty desert zone in Sudan.

Even for migrants who agree to go home and can reach their own borders, there's no guarantee their home countries will accept them. Dozens of Egyptians deported from Libya were abandoned in the desolate border zone because they lacked identity papers, according to Ibrahim Larbid, the director of the Department for Combating Irregular Migration in the eastern Libyan city of Tobruk.

"The Egyptians won't take them back in," he said. "They must be left in neutral territory until they can retrieve their papers." As far as he knows, they're still there, awaiting paperwork that may not come for weeks, if ever.

Tunisia also blocked its own citizens from coming back from coastal Libya, leaving around 900 stranded and sleeping outside near an arid frontier post for weeks until they finally stormed the gates. Red Crescent officials said they expect the issue to flare again as more Tunisians try to return home for the Muslim holiday of Ramadan.

Hundreds of migrants are stuck not only in the desert but also at sea in the Mediterranean and the Bay

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 58 of 73

of Bengal.

As of last week, the Mediterranean is going unpatrolled by rescue boats operated by aid groups. The last two such vessels are lashed together off the coast of Italy along with a ferry holding 180 migrants rescued in April, all of them in a 14-day waterborne quarantine within sight of the Italian town of Palermo.

The boats will ultimately dock. But no country has agreed to take in the migrants, who will stay on the ferry until their fate is decided.

"We've never seen states committing crimes of non-assistance in such a blatant light," said Lorenzo Pezzani, a researcher for Forensic Oceanography, which investigates abuses in migrant rescues. "They've done it before but in a more covert way. But now there's a total disrespect of any kind of humanitarian or legal framework. ... It's really worrying and troubling."

The Libyan coast guard and the Maltese navy both suspended rescues in their own maritime zones, and Italy and Libya this month declared their own ports unsafe — meaning any commercial ship that picks up migrants at sea has few places to take them. The best hope for thousands of migrants trying to leave Libya's squalid detention centers or cramped smuggler's warehouses for Europe now lies with commercial vessels that are likely to be reluctant to risk their profits during a global economic crisis.

"Libya is a slow death," said Mohamed Abdullah, a 16-year-old from the war-ravaged Sudanese province of Darfur who lives in a one-room apartment in Tripoli after three years in detention centers. "It's a gradual death of waiting. Yes, there are dangers at sea and then the virus in Europe....but at least death by sea is quick."

That calculation may be wrong for migrants trapped in the Mediterranean with no shelter or hope of rescue, said Marco Martinez, captain of the quarantined Aita Mari rescue ship.

"In winter, in 48 hours you are dead," he said. Now, with gentle winds and warmer weather, "you can make it 4 or 5 days, and you will not have water, no food."

Half a world away, hundreds of Rohingya refugees are also stuck at sea in the Bay of Bengal. Weeks ago, they boarded at least two fishing trawlers, and are now stranded off the coast of Bangladesh.

Fishermen spotted the boats on April 20, and the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, said they may have been at sea for weeks without enough food and water. But the Bangladeshi government said it cannot sustain more refugees and still keep a handle on the coronavirus crisis.

Bangladesh's foreign minister, A.K. Abdul Momen, said Bangladesh has already taken in 1.2 million Rohingya and won't take any more.

"The countries whose coasts touch the sea where these boats are have equal responsibility to take care of them, since this is a humanitarian disaster," he said last week. "They only ask Bangladesh, not anyone else, to take the responsibility."

A group of at least 29 managed to land on an island in southern Bangladesh, officials said Sunday. The survivors who made it to Bhasan Char island on Saturday included 15 women and six children, said Tonmoy Das, local chief government official in Noakhali district.

Malaysia has also denied entry to several other boats, each with dozens on board. Survivors of another drifting boat that ultimately made it to shore told the aid group Médecins Sans Frontières that around 100 people died waiting.

In her tiny bamboo home in the giant Rohingya refugee camp at Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, Rahima Khatun has been sleepless since her daughter left with her grandchildren on an arduous boat journey more than 50 days ago to join her son-in-law in Malaysia. The 60-year-old has not had any contact with her daughter, Nur Begum, since.

"I don't even know whether they're dead or alive," said Khatun, who fled violence in Myanmar.

Though Khatun is not sure which boat her daughter and grandchildren are on, she has heard about the stranded trawlers who were turned back by Malaysia and are being refused entry into Bangladesh.

"If I had wings I would fly and go see where they are," Khatun said, weeping on the phone. "They are not being allowed to enter either Bangladesh or Malaysia — just floating in the middle with no one to help them out."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 59 of 73

## Unlike 2008 crisis, pandemic has no leader, no global plan

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — When financial markets collapsed and the world faced its last great crisis in 2008, major powers worked together to restore the global economy, but the COVID-19 pandemic has been striking for the opposite response: no leader, no united action to stop the spread of the new coronavirus, which has killed over 200,000 people.

The financial crisis gave birth to the leaders' summit of the Group of 20, the world's richest countries responsible for 80% of the global economy. But when U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres proposed ahead of their summit in late March that G-20 leaders adopt a "wartime" plan and cooperate on the global response to suppress the virus, there was no response.

In an April 6 letter to the G-20 following the summit, former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and 164 other current and former presidents, prime ministers, scientists and global figures urged the group's leaders to coordinate action "within the next few days" and agree on measures to address the deepening global health and economic crises from COVID-19. Again, no response.

A clearly frustrated Guterres told reporters Thursday that instead of "solid leadership" to fight the pandemic, each country went ahead with a different strategy, increasing the risk that the virus would not disappear, but rather spread and then return.

"It is obvious that there is a lack of leadership," he said. "It is obvious the international community is divided in a moment where it would be more important than ever to be united."

Guterres said what is key is leadership combined with power.

"We see remarkable examples of leadership, but they are usually not associated with power," he said. "And where we see power, we sometimes do not see the necessary leadership. I hope this will be overcome sooner rather than later."

But the 21st century has seen increasing fractures in global unity and cooperation.

In his state of the world speech last September, Guterres warned of the risk of the world dividing between the United States and China at a time of rising populism, increasing xenophobia, spreading terrorism, "exploding" inequality and a lingering climate crisis. He said there is a severe erosion in multilateralism — the foundation on which the United Nations was founded 75 years ago after the devastation of World War II.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put that warning into sharp focus, both in the world's inability to come together in tackling the coronavirus and in the difference in health care, treatment and testing in G-20 nations compared with what exists in developing countries.

The failure has been playing out in the U.N. Security Council, the U.N.'s most powerful body, which has been impotent in addressing the pandemic — a crisis that Germany's U.N. ambassador, Christoph Heusgen, calls "the biggest challenge that civilization has faced since the Second World War."

The council has been unable to adopt a resolution that would endorse the secretary-general's call for pandemic cease-fires in conflicts including Syria, Yemen, Libya and Afghanistan because of a dispute between the United States and China over including a reference to the World Health Organization.

After weeks of praising Chinese President Xi Jinping for his handling of the initial outbreak of the coronavirus, U.S. President Donald Trump is now accusing China of not acting quickly to inform the world of what was happening. He has also suspended U.S. funding to the WHO, accusing the U.N. health agency of parroting Beijing.

Security Council diplomats say China is insisting on a reference to the WHO in any resolution while the U.S. wants no mention of the agency and instead wants the text to demand "transparency" about COVID-19.

When the council discussed the pandemic on April 9, Germany's Heusgen criticized its "deafening silence" and reminded members that during the 2008 financial crisis the G-20 displayed "both the leadership and the power" to deal with it.

"Here we do not have it," Heusgen said. "We do not have leadership and power coming together."

Estonian Ambassador Sven Jürgenson, the council president for May, told reporters Friday, "I think it's a shame that we have not been able to take the leadership."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 60 of 73

Since mid-March, Guterres has been speaking out, warning of the global threat posed by the pandemic, especially in the developing world. He launched a \$2 billion appeal to help vulnerable and conflict-torn countries on March 25 which has received about \$1 billion.

David Beasley, head of the U.N. World Food Program, has warned of "a hunger pandemic" that could push 265 million people "to the brink of starvation by the end of 2020."

U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said most experts agree the pandemic may not peak in the poorest parts of the world for three to six months. He said \$90 billion could provide income support, food and a health response for 700 million of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in 30 to 40 countries — a price tag just 1% of the \$8 trillion stimulus package that the G-20 countries put in place for helping the global economy.

Robert Malley, president and CEO of the International Crisis Group think tank, said at a recent briefing, "It's clear that we're facing a crisis of international leadership" and it's unclear who can take over — the G-20 now led by Saudi Arabia, the Group of Seven major industrialized countries led by the United States, the United Nations or anyone else. That's because the powers are all looking inward, and are less interested in being generous when their own citizens are facing crises, he said.

Malley said there shouldn't be nostalgia for the past "when there was virtually a unilateral or Western or U.S. domination" of global power which many countries resented.

"But," he warned, "it's one thing to have a different kind of leadership, it's another thing to have no leadership at all."

## Israeli high court could determine Netanyahu's future

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With the fate of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the line, Israel's Supreme Court began discussions Sunday on the question of whether the embattled leader can form a new government while facing criminal indictments.

The court's decision, expected later this week, is shaping up as a watershed moment in Israeli history.

A ruling preventing Netanyahu from returning for another term would almost certainly trigger an unprecedented fourth consecutive election in just over a year and draw angry, perhaps violent, reactions from Netanyahu's supporters accusing the court of inappropriate political meddling. A ruling in favor will be seen by critics as further weakening the country's fragile democratic institutions and a victory for a prime minister bent on escaping prosecution.

"The High Court of Justice is facing its most important verdict ever," former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, a staunch critic of Netanyahu's, wrote in the Haaretz daily.

"The High Court can make its name for generations in one moment's brave decision," he wrote. "On the other hand, should the court opt for legalistic niceties, irrespective under what intricate pretexts, it too will be crushed further down the road."

The court challenge comes in the wake of Netanyahu's agreement last month to form an "emergency" government with his rival, Benny Gantz.

After battling each other in three inconclusive elections over the past year, the two men cited the country's coronavirus outbreak for their power-sharing agreement. But the deal includes a number of provisions — including the creation of the new office of "designated prime minister" — that appear to have little to do with the pandemic. Critics say they are meant to allow Netanyahu to remain in office throughout his upcoming trial.

Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals in which he is accused of offering favors to media moguls in exchange for favorable press coverage. Netanyahu denies the accusations and says he is the victim of a witch hunt. His trial was postponed in March due to restrictions his hand-picked interim justice minister placed on the courts after the coronavirus crisis erupted and is scheduled to commence later this month.

In Sunday's proceedings, the court heard arguments on whether an indicted politician like Netanyahu



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 61 of 73

can be given authority to form a new government. On Monday, the justices will look at whether the coalition agreement violated the law.

Under the deal, Netanyahu and Gantz would be sworn in together, with Netanyahu serving first as prime minister and Gantz as the designated premier. After 18 months, the two will swap positions. The new position will enjoy all the trappings of the prime minister, including an official residence and, key for Netanyahu, an exemption from a law that requires public officials who are not prime minister to resign if charged with a crime.

Netanyahu is eager to remain in office throughout his trial, using his position to lash out at the judicial system and rally support among his base. The coalition deal also gives him influence over key judicial appointments, creating a potential conflict of interest during an appeals process if he is convicted.

In a reflection of the case's importance, a panel of 11 justices are hearing the case — a much larger number than the usual three- or five-judge panels. In another rarity, the hearings were broadcast live on national television and on the court's website. Due to the outbreak, the judges, attorneys and clerks wore face masks, and plastic barriers separated each of the 11 justices on the bench.

The high court has become a lightning rod for criticism by Netanyahu and his political allies, who accuse it of overreach and political interference. The long-time leader's opponents consider it a bastion of democracy under dangerous assault.

Michael Rabello, an attorney representing Netanyahu's Likud party, said that over 1 million Israelis had voted for him with the knowledge he could be prime minister. "How can you say that this panel can replace the voters?" he asked the court.

Pro-democracy demonstrators have been taking to the streets weekly to protest Netanyahu's continued rule, keeping their distance from one another in line with social-distancing rules. On Sunday, several dozen demonstrators gathered outside the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in support of the court and watched a screening of the hearing.

Eliad Shraga, head of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the groups petitioning the court, said it was "unconscionable that a man like this will go in the morning to court to sit in the dock and in the evening will manage the Security Cabinet and send us and our children to battle."

The justices have little time. They need to rule by Thursday, the deadline for parliament to choose a new prime minister. If that deadline is missed, a new election would be triggered.

Eli Salzberger, a law professor at the University of Haifa, said the panel consisted of the court's 11 most senior justices and it was impossible to predict which way the diverse group would lean. "We cannot really map the court ideologically," he said.

Last week, Israel's attorney general, Avichai Mandelblit, said in an opinion to the court that while Netanyahu's indictments "raise significant problems," there was no legal basis for barring him from serving while facing criminal charges.

Salzberger said Mandelblit's recommendation gave a boost to Netanyahu's side, but noted the court has disagreed with the attorney general in the past. "It's not a final decision," he said.

## Americans without bank accounts must wait for federal checks

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As the coronavirus crisis took hold, Akeil Smith's employer slashed her work as a home health aide to 25 hours per week. Her \$15-an-hour salary no longer provided enough to pay her \$700 monthly rent, and she had to visit food pantries for groceries.

While millions of U.S. workers have already received a quick relief payment from the federal treasury through direct deposit, Smith is among millions of others without traditional bank accounts who must wait weeks for paper checks. When the checks finally arrive, this disproportionately black and Hispanic population often has little choice but to use expensive check-cashing services to access the money.

"I live check to check, and right now I need more groceries," Smith, 35, told The Associated Press as she stood inside Payomatic, a small check-cashing store in a predominantly black Brooklyn neighborhood.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 62 of 73

In the six weeks since the pandemic shut down much of the U.S. economy, more than 30 million American workers have filed for unemployment insurance. Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package.

The government in April began sending \$1,200 for each individual, \$2,400 for each married couple and another \$500 for each dependent child to poor and middle-class families across the United States. Wealthier families get either a reduced payout or nothing depending on their income.

To help smooth the delivery of the payments, the government launched an online portal for people to provide their banking information for direct deposit. But that system offered nothing to people without savings or checking accounts.

A House Ways and Means Committee memo obtained by AP estimated about 5 million paper checks will be issued each week, meaning those most in need could wait many weeks for their payments.

In Houston, Ta'Mar Bethune, a 41-year-old mother of four grown children who is raising a grandchild, is likely to wait a while. As a younger woman, she struggled for years with affording bank account fees until her account was closed. In the 1990s, she also was a victim of identity theft and never fully recovered.

More than 20 years later, Bethune still cannot pass a standard background check to open a checking account because the banking system views her as too risky, she said. To get by, she transfers the money she makes as a professional hairdresser and babysitter onto a non-bank debit card.

"They charge you an arm and a leg," she said, citing a monthly fee and a charge for every swipe or withdrawal. "You never get your full money. It's bad, but I have no other choice."

Bethune receives financial coaching from the Houston Area Urban League, a nonprofit organization helping low- to moderate-income families examine their behaviors around spending and saving. The organization says many families are reluctant to open bank accounts, especially if they have been burned by the system.

"Nobody wants to be exploited," said Carmela Walker, a financial coach for the group.

Approximately 8.4 million U.S. households were considered "unbanked" in 2017, meaning that no one in the household had an account, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Another 24.2 million households were "underbanked," meaning they might have a bank account but members of the household also used an alternative financial service for money orders, check cashing, international remittances, payday loans and pawn shop loans, often at high costs.

Some of those services have been criticized for being predatory and marketing to black and Hispanic communities, which are disproportionately unbanked. Roughly 17% of black households and 14% of Hispanic households were without a bank account in 2017, compared with just 3% of white households and 2.5% of Asian American households, the FDIC said.

Banking is a social justice issue with the potential to widen America's racial wealth gap, said Cy Richardson, vice president of the National Urban League.

"Black America's economic destiny exists on a razor's edge right now," Richardson said.

Advocates say the federal government should use the pandemic payments as an opportunity to bring more people into the banking system via Bank On accounts, which are FDIC insured, cost \$5 or less a month and do not allow overdrafts or charge insufficient-fund fees. The accounts can be used for direct deposit, purchases and paying bills.

Otherwise, long lines at check-cashing stores could stretch into the fall and pose dangers to public health.

"There's now a health component to being unbanked — people are going to have to take literal risks with their health, in order to receive and then spend these dollars," said Jonathan Mintz, CEO of the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, which aims to get underserved Americans set up with affordable bank accounts.

The opportunity to attract customers with relief payments is not lost on check cashing and payday loan businesses, an \$11.2 billion network of storefront locations in cities big and small.

In Brooklyn, B&H Check Cashing, in the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood of Bushwick, posts its rates for cashing checks on a wall. A \$1,200 check, for example, would cost \$26.76 to cash.

Essence Gandy, 26, stood in a line of two dozen people that snaked outside a PLS Check Cashers in Brooklyn to cash in loose change at a Coinstar kiosk. Her checking account was closed months ago because she had insufficient funds and was unable to get back in good standing.

"I've got bills on top of bills," said Gandy, who also has credit card debts and is behind on payments to a mattress store. She said she hopes to use the federal relief payment to catch up on bills and will likely cash the paper check at PLS.

A representative of PLS, which has 300 locations in 12 states, said it has been informing regular customers that stimulus checks can be cashed at their lowest rates.

## Nebraska will open voting sites for primary despite concerns

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska is forging ahead with plans to hold the nation's first in-person election in more than a month, despite health concerns about the coronavirus pandemic and allegations that political motivations are fueling opposition to an all-mail approach.

Barring an unexpected change, Nebraska's primary will take place on May 12 — five weeks after Wisconsin held the last in-person balloting when courts sided with Republican legislators who pushed for that election to go forward.

Republicans who hold all statewide offices and control the Legislature have encouraged people to cast early, absentee ballots. However, they argue state law requires polling sites to be open and that it's important for voters to have a choice for how they vote, even amid health concerns.

As Secretary of State Bob Evnen put it last month, "I don't think Nebraskans are going to stay away from the polls or not vote because of a microbe."

Gov. Pete Ricketts agreed, arguing that to do otherwise would "disenfranchise voters who want to go to the polls," and noting that elections were previously held despite wars and pandemics.

Others, however, questioned the motives behind the decision to hold the first statewide election since Wisconsin's much-criticized April 7 primary and expressed doubt voting could safely take place. Wisconsin health officials say more than 50 people who voted in person or worked the polls during the election have tested positive for COVID-19.

The primary will decide a Democratic contest to pick a nominee to face Republican Rep. Don Bacon in the Omaha area's 2nd Congressional District, traditionally the only U.S. House seat in Nebraska where Democrats are competitive. Voters will also pick candidates in dozens of ostensibly nonpartisan legislative races, which could help determine whether Republicans gain a super-majority in the Legislature.

Nebraska Democrats have asserted for weeks that Republican leaders don't want to hold an all-mail election because of concern it would help Democrats, especially in the urban areas of Omaha and Lincoln. Republicans have dismissed such claims, but Democrats point to statements by President Donald Trump who has said "you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again" if all states switched to vote-by-mail.

Jane Kleeb, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said Ricketts and the state GOP are concerned about any change that might boost Democratic turnout.

"The only reason I can see the governor not doing it is for political reasons," she said. "The Republican playbook is always to suppress the vote. They know that when fewer people vote, they win elections."

Sen. Steve Lathrop, an Omaha Democrat, also criticized the decision to hold a polling place election but said that with the primary only a couple of weeks away, it's too late to change course now.

"Given the seriousness of the pandemic, we should have turned this into a vote-by-mail election," Lathrop said.

Officials plan to provide all poll workers with gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and wipes, and the state has purchased 50 additional ballot drop-off boxes for counties.

Still, the planned election concerns some public health officials who watched what happened in Wisconsin, where public health departments reported at least 19 people who voted or worked at the polls have tested positive for the coronavirus.

"If you're asking me as a public health official whether this increases the risk of transmission, the answer is definitive — yes," said Dr. Patrick Remington, director of the University of Wisconsin Madison's Preven-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 64 of 73

tative Medicine Residency Program. "That is a scientific fact, no matter how much protective equipment people wear."

Still, even some voting-rights advocates say they understand the difficulty of shifting to all-mail voting.

State Sen. Adam Morfeld, a Democrat from Lincoln, said Nebraska "doesn't have the mechanisms in place" for vote-by-mail.

And Westin Miller, public policy director of Civic Nebraska, a group that advocates for statewide voting-by-mail, said the state doesn't have notification or tracking technology to let voters know whether their ballot has been sent, received or counted. That could lead to ballots getting rejected without voters realizing it and undermining public confidence in voting by mail, he said.

"As a vote-by-mail advocate, the worst thing that could happen is for our first vote-by-mail election not to go well," Miller said. "I want it to go as smoothly as possible."

More than 300,000 Nebraskans have requested absentee ballots, a level Evnen described as "unprecedented." Given that, officials are predicting among the highest turnouts ever for a Nebraska primary.

What's less clear is whether enough workers will show up to operate voting sites.

Nebraska has 1,240 precincts statewide but some will be merged into one location to protect vulnerable residents, said Cindi Allen, a spokeswoman for Evnen. For instance, a polling site normally located in an assisted living facility will likely get moved to another voting site with adequate space, such as a high school gym. Allen said counties will decide.

Janice Walker, 73, of Lincoln, said she still plans to work at the polls but hopes for low in-person turnout and that people "use their heads and vote by mail."

"If we have a nice, slow, boring day, that will be good for me," she said. "It's not a good situation for the workers."

Martha Brown, 83, of Lincoln, said she hasn't yet decided whether to work at the polls as she has done for more than a decade, partly out of concern for her health and partly because she doesn't want to end up having to enforce social-distancing requirements.

"I'm not going to police the place," she said. "What am I, the voter cop? I don't think so."

## Violent arrest raises concerns about NYPD distancing patrols

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer who was caught on video Saturday pointing a stun gun at a man and violently taking him to the ground over an alleged social distancing violation has been stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty pending an internal investigation.

Bystander video showed the plainclothes officer, who was not wearing a protective face mask, slapping 33-year-old Donni Wright in the face, punching him in the shoulder and dragging him to a sidewalk after leveling him in a crosswalk in Manhattan's East Village.

"The behavior I saw in that video is simply not acceptable," Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted Sunday. He said earlier in the day that there will be a careful look into what happened.

Police spokeswoman Sgt. Mary Frances O'Donnell said Wright "took a fighting stance against the officer" when he was ordered to disperse and was arrested on charges including assault on a police officer and resisting arrest.

The charges have been deferred pending further investigation, a Manhattan District Attorney's Office spokesperson said.

A message seeking comment was left with the police officers union.

Wright's arrest and that of two other people minutes earlier on the same block across from a public housing complex raised new questions about the police department's use of force, the role of officers in enforcing social distancing measures and inconsistency in how they're applied.

The manner of Wright's arrest appeared to echo that of 20-year-old Fitzroy Gayle, who was seen on bystander video pleading for help as several officers wrestled him into submission on a Brooklyn sidewalk in early March.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 65 of 73

Jennvine Wong, a lawyer with the Legal Aid Society's Cop Accountability Project, said footage of the arrests Saturday stood in sharp contrast to photos and video — including some tweeted out by the police department — showing officers in crowded city parks handing out face masks and gently reminding people to stay 6 feet apart.

"This certainly isn't the first time and this isn't even the first time in this pandemic that we've seen evidence of discriminatory policing by the NYPD," Wong said.

Carolyn Martinez-Class, of the police watchdog Communities United for Police Reform, said: "This incident illustrates why public health professions and community partners should be responsible for social distancing education and creating norms — not police."

The police department assigned 1,000 officers to social distancing patrols over the weekend as temperatures reached the high 70s (about 25 degrees Celsius). On Saturday, they issued 51 summonses, including 43 in city parks. At a news conference Sunday, Shea said he was aware of just three arrests.

Minutes before the confrontation with Wright, video from a nearby security camera showed officers used force in arresting a couple for allegedly failing to comply when asked to disperse. O'Donnell said officers saw that one of them, a 31-year-old man, had a "bag of alleged marijuana in plain view."

The bystander video of Wright's arrest showed the plainclothes officer, Francisco Garcia, helping take one of those people to the ground before turning his attention to Wright, who was moving toward the area of that arrest from about 10 to 15 feet away.

Garcia — in a black T-shirt, jeans and a Yankees cap — turned toward Wright and cursed at him to "(get) back right now," according to the video. At the same time, the officer pulls up his Taser and points it toward Wright, possibly triggering the device.

Garcia continued toward Wright and eventually holstered his Taser. It wasn't clear what Wright was doing because he wasn't in the frame the entire time, though just before Garcia tackled him, he was seen stopping and standing in front of the officer with what appeared to be a clenched fist at his side.

"What you flexing for? Don't flex," Garcia said, before grabbing Wright and wrestling him to the ground, slapping and punching him in the process. The officer then took Wright's arm and dragged him from the crosswalk where he landed back onto the sidewalk and pushed him onto his stomach.

The video then showed another officer stepping in and helping handcuff Wright.

Kneeling on the top of Wright's back or neck to keep him down, the plainclothes officer started jawing and cursing at bystanders.

One of them yelled back: "he didn't even do nothing."

## Power of the needle: 4 women help UK docs needing scrubs

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — They just wanted to help. But they created a movement.

Four women from London's Hackney Wick neighborhood responded to the coronavirus pandemic by organizing volunteers who so far have churned out more than 3,800 sets of scrubs for health care workers after Britain's National Health Service was unable to provide enough of the pajama-like garments.

More importantly, they helped organize a nation, putting together a template for making basic personal protection equipment, or PPE, with organizational ideas and a pattern for the scrubs so others could do the same. Now some 70 "Scrub Hubs" with more than 2,200 volunteers are busily sewing away from Scotland to Wales.

"Very quickly, we discovered that Hackney was not just the (only) place where PPE was needed," said one organizer, Brooke Dennis, 33. "It was needed all across the land."

The story of how four women used social media to create and deliver desperately needed medical supplies around the U.K. began with a request from a single doctor: I need scrubs to do my job. Can anyone help?

That surprised charity worker Maya Ilany, 29. The idea that the NHS might not have enough of something so basic startled her. She googled the doctor. "I thought: It's a joke," she recalled.

It wasn't.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 66 of 73

Medical staff across the world have struggled to obtain enough personal protective equipment, including face shields, gloves and masks, to protect themselves from the virus as they work to save lives. As the crisis deepened, the situation only got worse, even as the British government insisted it had done all it could amid international shortages and disrupted supply lines.

Simple cotton scrubs are in short supply as COVID-19 patients stretch hospital resources and doctors who don't normally wear scrubs don the baggy garments because it's easier to toss them into laundry bags before heading home on public transport to their families.

Scrub Hub responded. A decade of government austerity measures following the global financial crisis led to cutbacks at Britain's NHS, hurting its ability to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. In addition, when warnings about the pending pandemic hit Britain early this year, the government's top policy planners were focused instead on preparations for the country's historic Jan. 31 exit from the European Union.

"I think they had their blinkers on," said Mark Johnson, an expert on the NHS and supply chains at Warwick Business School.

Scrub Hub, on the other hand, could focus on a single thing: making scrubs.

"Small is beautiful because you don't have to coordinate a bunch of different departments and a bunch of different trusts and a bunch of different people," Johnson said. "And it's far, far easier to coordinate on that scale locally."

Scrub Hub's founders, none of whom knew each other five weeks ago, made contact during the early days of the crisis by using WhatsApp message groups to see if anyone in Hackney Wick needed help.

Many of the requests were random. Can anyone deliver groceries? Does anyone have a skateboard? And then there was the request for scrubs.

Ilany, who knew how to organize campaigns, teamed up with Annabel Maguire, 31, who had expertise in buying fabric in bulk. The group soon included Rebecca Zehr, 47, a creative pattern cutter, and Dennis, who runs Make Town, a textiles and craft studio in east London that has morphed into the beating heart of Scrub Hub.

Designers, costume assistants and other creative types with time on their hands after the government ordered non-essential workers to stay home stepped forward to help. Crowdfunding paid for the materials.

Scrub Hub went a step further, putting all this organization into an easy-to-follow open source document that showed others how to do what they had done. Word spread. Scrub Hub figured the government would step in and take responsibility.

They are still waiting.

"The one little group spawned into many, many, many others, and it's created a fantastic little community," Maguire said. "But it's really, really bad news that we were ever in a situation where the NHS ... didn't have the supplies it needed at such a critical time."

The volunteers are glad to help, but they are frustrated.

Ilany said just one request from a local hospital could use up the Hackney Wick group's entire production capacity of about 100 sets of scrubs a week. But then what about the individual doctors or hospice workers who ask for help?

"How do you decide?" Ilany said. "Do you prioritize a hospital that wants to have 100 scrubs or do you go for a doctor who writes you a single email saying, 'I'm really desperate. Can you help me?'"

## UK PM: At low point, doctors prepared my death announcement

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson has offered more insight into his hospitalization for coronavirus, telling a British newspaper that he knew doctors were preparing for the worst.

The 55-year-old Johnson, who spent three nights in intensive care during his week of treatment in a London hospital after falling ill with COVID-19, told The Sun newspaper he was aware that doctors were discussing his fate.

"It was a tough old moment, I won't deny it," he said. "They had a strategy to deal with a 'death of

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 67 of 73

Stalin'-type scenario."

Johnson couldn't believe how quickly his health had deteriorated and had difficulty understanding why he wasn't getting better. Medical workers gave him "liters and liters of oxygen" but he said the "indicators kept going in the wrong direction."

"But the bad moment came when it was 50-50 whether they were going to have to put a tube down my windpipe," he told the newspaper. "That was when it got a bit... they were starting to think about how to handle it presentationally."

The remarks were Johnson's most candid yet on his brush with death, though he acknowledged when he left the hospital that his fight to survive "could have gone either way," as he paid tribute to the two nurses who never left his bedside for 48 hours.

Jenny McGee from New Zealand and Luis Pitarma from Portugal, he said, embodied the caring and sacrifice of National Health Service staff on the front lines of the pandemic, which has already killed 28,131 people in Britain.

Johnson's close call is reflected in the name that he and fiancée Carrie Symonds gave to their newborn son. Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson was named after Johnson and Symonds' grandfathers and after Dr. Nick Price and Dr. Nick Hart — the two doctors who saved the prime minister's life.

Johnson's actions since leaving the hospital suggest the NHS has a powerful new advocate as it seeks to reverse a decade of austerity that has left Britain's doctors and nurses struggling to treat the flood of coronavirus patients with inadequate supplies of protective gear. Dozens of NHS workers have died in the outbreak.

The interview follows an emotional video made by Johnson after being released from the hospital on April 12.

Johnson called the NHS "unconquerable" and "the beating heart of this country" after seeing its response to the outbreak first-hand. He also lauded the courage of everyone from doctors to cooks.

The prime minister returned to work on April 27.

## Black robes or bathrobes? Virus alters high court traditions

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic is forcing big changes at the tradition-bound Supreme Court.

Beginning this coming week, the justices will hear arguments by telephone for the first time since Alexander Graham Bell patented his invention in 1876.

Audio of the arguments will be broadcast live by the news media, another first. This will be just the second time that the justices will meet outside the court since the Supreme Court building opened in 1935. (The discovery of anthrax in a court mailroom in 2001 forced a temporary relocation to another federal courthouse less than a mile away.)

The first argument is scheduled for Monday, and the court will hear a total of 10 cases over six days. Among the cases to be argued: President Donald Trump's bid to keep certain financial records private and whether presidential electors are required to cast their Electoral College ballots for the candidate who won their state.

A few things to know before the arguments are heard:

### SENIORITY RULES

Supreme Court arguments are generally freewheeling affairs, with rapid-fire questions coming at advocates. That often means the justices trip over each other trying to get in a question. This time, the justices will ask questions in order of seniority, with Chief Justice John Roberts going first and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the last to speak.

Doing things in seniority order is routine at the court. The justices sit according to the length of their court service both at the bench and when they meet for private conferences, where discussion also proceeds in seniority order. One justice you probably won't hear much from is Clarence Thomas, the longest-serving

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 68 of 73

member of the court. He almost never asks questions, and he's said he thinks his colleagues interrupt the lawyers before them too much.

## DRESS CODE: ROBES OPTIONAL

Before taking the bench, the justices gather just behind the courtroom to put on their black robes and shake hands, another tradition upended by the virus outbreak. But with no one to see them, they could just as easily wear their bathrobes.

The same goes for lawyers who argue before the Supreme Court. Appropriate court attire for lawyers, the court says, is "conservative business dress in traditional dark colors." Think navy blue or charcoal gray. Sweatpants come in those colors, don't they?

Meanwhile, the Justice Department says the government's lawyers will wear their traditional long-tailed formal morning coats and present their arguments from the conference room of the solicitor general, the government's top Supreme Court lawyer.

## NO BUZZER, NO LIGHTS

Five minutes before the justices take the bench, a buzzer sounds in the courtroom. It sounds again right before they emerge from behind the courtroom's red velvet curtains.

No warnings are likely over the phone, the court said, and it's not as though the lawyers need any. They'll get a call at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, 30 minutes before arguments begin. Right at 10, the court's marshal, Pamela Talkin, will call the court to order. It's possible there will be some variation on her usual cry that begins with the phrase "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!"

Another courtroom cue will be missing. Typically lawyers arguing before the court get a warning that their time is about to expire: a white light that goes on at the podium where they are arguing. A red light goes on when it's time to stop talking. "Arguing counsel have been encouraged to keep their own time for argument, so that they can independently determine how much time is remaining," court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist used to cut lawyers off mid-sentence when the red light went on. Roberts is more lenient, and this month, he will thank lawyers when their time is up, "signaling that they should wrap up with a sentence or two," Arberg said.

## EVERYONE GETS A SEAT

If you're a member of the public, getting a ticket to watch a Supreme Court argument is like winning the lottery. The tickets are free, but there are fewer than 100 seats typically available to the public, and to get one you have to line up before dawn. And that's just for cases that are snoozers.

Watching a real blockbuster can mean spending days in line, or paying someone to do it on your behalf. People waited through a rainy night and falling temperatures for arguments in November over legal protections for young immigrants.

This time, with arguments beginning at the traditional 10 a.m. in Washington, even West Coasters can stay in bed past dawn and still have time to tune in to C-SPAN to hear the proceedings.

## STILL NO CAMERAS

Many state Supreme Courts and one federal appeals court, in San Francisco, regularly have live video of their courtroom sessions, and have continued to do so even as they have moved to remote hearings because of the coronavirus. But that's a bridge too far for the Supreme Court. The justices won't even have any internal video link that would allow them to see each other during the arguments, Arberg said.



## In a time of COVID-19, 'Obamacare' still part of the action

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — COVID-19 could have stamped a person "uninsurable" if not for the Affordable Care Act. The ban on insurers using preexisting conditions to deny coverage is a key part of the Obama-era law that the Trump administration still seeks to overturn.

Without the law, people who recovered from COVID-19 and tried to purchase an individual health insurance policy could be turned down, charged higher premiums or have follow-up care excluded from coverage. Those considered vulnerable because of conditions such as respiratory problems or early-stage diabetes would have run into a wall of insurer suspicion.

Yet as defenders of the ACA submit written arguments to the Supreme Court next week countering the latest challenge to its existence, the Trump administration remains adamant that former President Barack Obama's health law, known as "Obamacare," must go.

"A global pandemic does not change what Americans know: Obamacare has been an unlawful failure and further illustrates the need to focus on patient care," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.

Deere asserted that the law limits patient choice, has premiums that are too expensive and restricts patients with high-risk conditions from going to the doctors and hospitals they need. Trump has said he would protect people with preexisting conditions, as have other Republicans, but he hasn't spelled out a plan.

Some GOP lawmakers in contested races this fall are unnerved by the prospect of Trump administration lawyers asking the Supreme Court during the coronavirus outbreak to toss out a law that provides coverage to at least 20 million Americans.

"The ACA remains the law of the land, and it is the Department of Justice's duty to defend it," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "That is especially true during the current public health crisis our country is facing due to COVID-19."

She is among those urging the administration not to get rid of the law but instead make broader use of it to cover uninsured people during the pandemic. Collins is considered among the most endangered incumbents as Republicans try to keep their Senate majority.

It's unclear whether the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments before the November election. A group of GOP-led states contends that because Congress repealed an ACA tax penalty, the law's requirement for individuals to carry health insurance is unconstitutional. If the insurance mandate is unconstitutional, their argument goes, then the rest of the law must collapse like a house of cards.

The administration agrees, but has also suggested that federal judges could decide to keep some parts of the law. The Supreme Court took the case after a federal appeals court in New Orleans said the ACA's insurance mandate is unconstitutional, but did not rule on the rest of the law.

From nearly 12 million people to 35 million could lose their workplace coverage due to layoffs in the coronavirus shutdown, according to an estimate by the consulting firm Health Management Associates. They have more options because of the Obama-era law.

They are entitled to a special sign-up opportunity for coverage through HealthCare.gov or their state insurance market, and may qualify for financial assistance with premiums and other costs. They cannot be asked about health problems. In states that expanded Medicaid, some may qualify for that program, usually at little or no cost.

Before the law, people who lost their jobs and wanted to keep their employer health insurance could do so under a law known as COBRA. It's still on the books, but it requires them to pay the full premium, plus an administrative fee. That's often cost-prohibitive.

Karen Pollitz of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation said people seeking an individual health insurance policy "would have been very much at risk in today's pandemic" were it not for the health law.

"The conditions associated with a more complicated case of COVID-19 would have been especially radioactive," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 70 of 73

For Republicans, the Supreme Court case "has to be the ultimate in 'be careful you don't get what you wish for,'" said health industry consultant Robert Laszewski.

Part of the reason Trump failed to repeal and replace the law in 2017 was that Republicans didn't have a plan they could agree on, he said.

"Before COVID, if they won the suit, then what?" asked Laszewski. "And now with COVID ... in the face of a major medical crisis, and depression-level unemployment, and people losing their health insurance? Yikes!"

Last week the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and some 30 health groups called on Congress to help maintain health insurance coverage during the economic shutdown caused by the pandemic. They urged a broad approach that includes subsidies for COBRA, opening up the ACA to more people and allowing those with tax-sheltered health accounts to use that money for premiums.

But the White House is resisting anything that includes "Obamacare." Instead the administration is using a health system relief fund created by Congress to reimburse hospitals for treating uninsured patients with COVID-19.

That "is way less than adequate," said Richard Pollack, president of the American Hospital Association. "What we need to do is provide coverage in a more comprehensive way for people."

## Virus restrictions stymie signature-gathering campaigns

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH** and **ANDREW DeMILLO** Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Primary election day in Ohio was supposed to be big for Raise the Wage Ohio. Volunteers and activists armed with petitions were gearing up to visit packed voting locations across the state to collect signatures in support of putting a minimum wage increase on the fall ballot.

Then came the coronavirus.

"The easiest way to go get the most signatures is to go to places where there's a lot of people — festivals, fairs, outside of grocery stores, libraries," said James Hayes, acting spokesman for the wage campaign. "You know, a lot of the institutions that are empty right now."

Restrictions on mass gatherings and stay-at-home orders aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 have cleared out most of the places so vital to the signature-gathering component of American politics. Social distancing rules also are precluding traditional canvassing in neighborhoods, which means knocking on doors.

That has stymied ballot campaigns in Ohio, Arizona, Arkansas, Montana and Oregon, a gubernatorial candidate in Utah, a congressional campaign in Michigan, a U.S. Senate contender and two congressional candidates in Massachusetts. It has prompted some candidates and ballot initiative advocates to turn to state officials or the courts for help, with mixed results.

Lawsuits have sought various forms of relief, including a one-time waiver from signature requirements, a reduction in the number of names needed, deadline extensions or the ability to submit signatures digitally.

A spokeswoman for the National Association of State Election Directors said election officials across the country are doing the best they can to be flexible within the bounds of current laws, including in some cases accepting signatures submitted digitally. But governors or election officials in some states have been reluctant to bend the rules.

In Utah, developer Jan Garbett sued Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox, who acts as the state elections chief, after she was rejected from the primary ballot for having too few valid signatures. The would-be Republican candidate for governor said the names were impossible to collect because of the virus restrictions. The suit contends Cox and Gov. Gary Herbert refused her requests for accommodation.

Last week, a judge lowered the signature threshold from 28,000 to 19,040, but Garbett appealed, saying the number remains too high. A second candidate, businessman Jeff Burningham, also has now sued after declaring a halt to his signature-gathering efforts because of the virus-related shutdowns and shelter orders.

"I tried to tell them, hey, the virus hit me," Garbett said. "I would have achieved this, but I couldn't go door-to-door. The governor's issued a stay-at-home order and we have mayors that have shut down their

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 71 of 73

city, and I cannot collect signatures. But they wouldn't listen to me."

In Massachusetts, two Democratic congressional candidates and a Republican successfully sued seeking relief from a signature requirement they said was insurmountable during the pandemic.

A Michigan judge last month ordered the state to extend its April 21 deadline for making August ballots. The decision came in a lawsuit in which Republican congressional candidate Eric Esshaki argued that the state's stay-at-home order was preventing him from gathering the remaining 300 signatures he needed to qualify.

Michael Li, senior counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program, said courts have less at stake giving leeway to individual candidates than loosening signature requirements on ballot issues.

"With a candidate, even if you waive the signature requirement, you still have an election and people get to vote," he said. "With ballot issues, signature requirements can be quite onerous. They play an important gate-keeping function. Courts will want to keep that in place without making things unduly hard to get things onto the ballot that are very important to people."

Among proposals caught up in the signature conflict are the minimum wage increase in Ohio and a second Ohio measure seeking to expand voter access, marijuana legalization questions in Montana and Arizona, and a redistricting plan in Arkansas.

In Oregon, an initiative that seeks to legalize the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms for therapy is just 15,000 signatures short of the 145,000 needed to qualify for the November ballot. Organizers of the Psilocybin Therapy Initiative are trying to close the gap and promote their cause with both mail-in and online petitions, texting networks and phone calls.

Last week, an Ohio judge rejected the minimum wage campaign's request for an extended deadline involving fewer signatures. The judge said because Ohio's signature requirements appear in the state Constitution, the ability to change them "is reserved only to the people." An appeal is possible.

In Montana, a judge rejected a request by New Approach Montana to collect electronic signatures in an effort to qualify its two recreational marijuana issues for the 2020 ballot as well as a request to extend the July 17 deadline.

Other legal skirmishes are still playing out.

Arkansas Voters First, the group trying to get a redistricting initiative on the November ballot, asked a federal judge last month to ease some of the state's canvassing rules. Its lawsuit seeks a one-month extension of the state's July 3 signature deadline, a waiver of the rule that signatures be witnessed in person and an allowance to submit signatures electronically.

The initiative campaign was launched March 5, less than a week before Arkansas announced its first coronavirus case. Bonnie Miller, the group's chairwoman and a local representative for the League of Women Voters, said it had planned a series of canvassing efforts that included town halls and farmers markets as well as going door-to-door.

Arkansas' coronavirus restrictions, including a ban on gatherings of more than 10 people, effectively ended that. The group said in its lawsuit that it has collected only about 100 of the more than 89,000 signatures it needs.

Even with Gov. Asa Hutchinson hoping to lift some of the state's social gathering restrictions on Monday, the group said collecting the thousands of signatures needed will be nearly impossible.

"There's no safe way," Miller said. "People shouldn't have to choose between their health and participating in direct democracy."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 4, the 125th day of 2020. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State Univer-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 72 of 73

sity, killing four students and wounding nine others.

On this date:

In 1626, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on present-day Manhattan Island.

In 1864, Swarthmore College in suburban Philadelphia was chartered.

In 1916, responding to a demand from President Woodrow Wilson, Germany agreed to limit its submarine warfare. (However, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare the following year.)

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In 1945, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and northwest Germany agreed to surrender.

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C. to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1968, the Oroville Dam in Northern California was dedicated by Gov. Ronald Reagan; the 770-foot-tall earth-filled structure, a pet project of Reagan's predecessor, Pat Brown, remains the tallest dam in the United States, but was also the scene of a near disaster in February 2017 when two spillways collapsed, threatening for a time to flood parts of three counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

In 1975, comedy performer Moe Howard of "Three Stooges" fame died in Los Angeles at age 77.

In 1998, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

In 2006, a federal judge sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) to life in prison for his role in the 9/11 attacks, telling the convicted terrorist, "You will die with a whimper."

Ten years ago: A Pakistani-born U.S. citizen was charged with terrorism and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in the botched Times Square bombing. (Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD') later pleaded guilty to plotting to set off the propane-and-gasoline bomb in an SUV and was sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: Former technology executive Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson joined the rapidly expanding 2016 Republican presidential class, casting themselves as political outsiders in underdog campaigns, eager to challenge the elite of both parties. Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors was named winner of the NBA Most Valuable Player award. Ellen Albertini Dow, a feisty character actress best known for her salty rendition of "Rapper's Delight" in "The Wedding Singer," died in Los Angeles at age 101.

One year ago: Maximum Security became the first Kentucky Derby winner ever to be disqualified for interference; the decision by stewards at Churchill Downs made 65-1 longshot Country House the official winner. Palestinian militants fired more than 250 rockets into Israel, drawing dozens of retaliatory airstrikes on targets across the Gaza Strip; the round of heavy fighting broke a month-long lull.

Today's Birthdays: Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 90. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 83. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 79. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 76. Actor Richard Jenkins is 73. Country singer Stella Parton is 71. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 70. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 70. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 69. Singer-actress Pia Zadora is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Oleta Adams is 67. Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., is 66. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 63. Country singer Randy Travis is 61. Actress Mary McDonough is 59. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 53. Actor Will Arnett is 50. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 48. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 45. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 43. Sports reporter



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, May 04, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 296 ~ 73 of 73**

Erin Andrews is 42. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 41. Actress Ruth Negga is 39. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 35. Actor Alexander Gould is 26. Country singer RaeLynn is 26. Actress Amara (uh-MAH'-ruh) Miller is 20. Actress Brooklynn Prince (Film: "The Florida Project") is ten.

Thought for Today: "Goodness, armed with power, is corrupted; and pure love without power is destroyed." — Reinhold Niebuhr, American theologian (1892-1971).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.