

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

"THERE IS A  
CALMNESS TO  
A LIFE LIVED  
IN GRATITUDE,  
A QUIET JOY."

-RALPH H. BLUM

## Parks are reopened, first reading approved for allowing chickens in town

The Groton City Council voted Tuesday evening to reopen the city park. There was a lengthy discussion on how to follow the CDC guidelines. Various other parks around the state are opening and efforts are being made as best as possible to keep the equipment clean.

On a 4-1 vote with Councilman David Blackmun voting no, the council gave first reading to an ordinance to allow up to five chickens per family within the city of Groton. A second reading will be held at the next council meeting.

Kami Lipp, Karla Pasteur and Tricia Keith, Groton pool managers, came before the council to discuss the opening of the swimming pool. They presented guidelines set by the CDC and the S.D. Dept. of Health in following all the necessary guidelines. The council may decide at the next meeting of a possible opening date for the pool.

The Groton Cemetery Caretaker received a 75 cent an hour raise to make his wage at \$14 an hour.

**The South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation presented a check for \$150,000 to Feeding South Dakota. Pictured are Ryan Eichler, President of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation and Matt Gassen, CEO of Feeding South Dakota. See related article on Page 5.**

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

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

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## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Most of the numbers continue to show a decline in growth rate.

We're at 1,210,300 cases in the US. The increase, both in raw number and percentage, is fairly steady since yesterday following three consecutive days of decline in growth. NY leads with 326,659 cases, the third consecutive day of decline in growth rate. NJ, with 130,593 cases, shows a slight bump in its rate of growth. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: MA – 70,271, IL – 65,889, CA – 58,652, PA – 53,907, MI – 44,333, FL – 37,431, TX – 34,220, and CT – 30,621. These ten states account for 70% of US cases. 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 5 more have over 10,000, 14 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, IN, FL, and AL. States where new case reports are increasing include IL, VA, TX, WA, MD, TN, OH, and NC. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, CO, NJ, RI, MA, DE, CT, and AR. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 71,071 deaths in the US. Today showed an increase in rate of growth; we're over 2000 new deaths reported again. Remembering that this is generally a reflection of new case reports a couple of weeks or more ago, this doesn't tell us much about where we are today; still, we'd like to see this decline too. NY has 25,028, NJ has 8244, MA has 4212, MI has 4179, PA has 3206, IL has 2843, CT has 2633, CA has 2386, and LA has 2042. 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.

There is some troubling news from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, which has been doing modeling throughout; it should be noted that scientists working with our pandemic task force have consulted reports of IHME modeling. The Institute revised upward its projections for deaths in the next few months (by August 1), writing that these revisions reflect "rising mobility in most US states as well as the easing of social distancing measures expected in 31 states by May 11, indicating that growing contacts among people will promote transmission of the coronavirus." They are currently projecting something in the neighborhood of 135,000 deaths in the US from this virus by August; this is nearly double the current death count, which means we have a rough few months ahead of us. Because states have begun reopening without having met any of the government's recommended guidelines for declining number of cases, adequate testing, and careful contact tracing, there is good reason to expect to see many, many more deaths.

It should be noted that a story about enormous projected case and death counts by FEMA's modeling experts was based on preliminary work by the modelers which did not include all of the scenarios modeled. As a result, it is too soon to make the case for those numbers as accurate. We will have to see what turns up as that work is finished if the federal government releases those projections as it should. And all of the projections will continue to move as we see how things develop—whether the loosening restrictions result in spikes, how high those are, and what the response to those spikes will be. Projections are based on prevailing conditions and assumptions about what sorts of things we're doing; they will adjust as time goes along if the model's worth a damn. That's why they're called projections, not predictions. One of these days when we have some time, we'll talk about modeling, a complicated, but interesting subject.

This increase in the projected deaths is a matter for great concern. In addition to the pain each death causes, I would think these kinds of numbers might put us in a situation where hospital admissions of

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severely ill patients will outpace capacity and staffing in many places across the country, just the sort of thing we imposed these serious economic consequences to prevent and also the sort of thing that can drive up mortality rates if capacity is exceeded or even strained. I do hope states are prepared to adjust their policies to accommodate changing conditions as we see how things play out.

Another matter for concern is a trend popping up, the Covid party. Officials in Washington state are seeing outbreaks where contact tracing reveals the infections were acquired by someone who had attended a gathering whose intent was to deliberately put susceptible individuals in contact with infected ones. We had this conversation a few weeks ago when an irresponsible person suggested this parallel to the chicken pox parties of yore on Twitter, but to repeat, this is a terrible idea. These folks risk serious disease, even death, for themselves; and in case you're thinking they have a perfect right to take these risks for themselves, consider that they also risk serious disease, even death, for non-consenting folks with whom they come in contact, from household members and co-workers to grocery store cashiers and health care workers. No one has the right to impose those risks upon others.

I've fielded questions about asymptomatic people who are infected. Today, someone asked me whether other viruses exhibit this tendency too and what proportion of infected people don't get sick. Here's my best answer:

Yes, it is common for asymptomatic infections to occur with other viruses, and these cases can act as a source of infection to others. The proportion of cases that is asymptomatic varies from virus to virus, probably depending on the particular virus's virulence (ability to establish disease in humans). For example, 77% of influenza cases are thought to be asymptomatic, along with one-third of norovirus and a whopping 90-95% of polio cases--which is one of the factors that made epidemic polio such a dangerous thing before the vaccines were developed.

We still have a lot to learn about Covid-19, but we do have some data. Iceland has tested a larger share of its population than any other country, and they found around 43% of cases were asymptomatic when tested (although some may have later developed symptoms). In a NYC hospital, they tested 99% of pregnant women who came in to deliver their babies and found 88% of positive testing--individuals were asymptomatic; again, there was no follow-up to know how many later developed symptoms. At one point, when everyone aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, that Navy ship currently on Guam, was tested, 50% of those who tested positive had symptoms. I have not seen follow-up on how many of those might have later developed them, but I'm guessing the Navy has that figure. Any data from that ship will need to be interpreted with caution; the sailors on a ship tend to be young, healthy, and mostly male, so they're not exactly typical of the overall population. The one case of which I am aware where follow-up was done was a cruise ship, the Diamond Princess. Everyone on the ship was tested and followed up for some time; eventually all but around 18% developed symptoms. Of course, this was a somewhat older group than the general population, so generalizing from them is complicated too.

From all of this, the WHO's current estimate (subject to change as we gather more data) is that around 25% of infected people never develop symptoms. The current thinking is that these people are, indeed, able to act as a source of infection to others, but we don't know yet how efficient they are at spreading infection. It is likely sick people will do so more efficiently.

Additionally, among those who do eventually develop symptoms, it appears they are most infectious in the day or two before symptoms make their appearance. So even if truly asymptomatic people are not a significant source, people who don't at the moment have symptoms would still be a fair concern.

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Even though things appear to be going well at the moment, there are some troubling clouds on the horizon. I am hoping these latest projections turn out to miss the mark, but I wouldn't bet on it. This is a good time to watch as they are revised, which they surely will be as more data comes in. Even now, but especially if things get uglier, we are going to need to call upon our best selves to get everyone through this in good order.

In a country where a store security person is shot dead simply for doing his job of enforcing the store's mask requirement, we are in deep trouble—from far more than a virus. In a society where someone would actually prefer to directly take a life over doing a simple act to protect his fellow human beings, there is a sickness that isn't caused by a virus. In an environment where well-funded agitators can stir people up to gather in angry and threatening mobs to protest the need to care for others, even including those they love, we have a great deal of work to do on ourselves. In difficult times, I am reminded of FDR's words as he campaigned for his first term of office as President in 1932 in the depths of the Great Depression: "Out of every crisis, every tribulation, every disaster, mankind rises with some share of greater knowledge, of higher decency, of purer purpose. . . . Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence and of courage." Hear his call. We will all be needed to pitch in—and soon. Actually, now. Find a way to promote knowledge, decency, and purpose, to act with competence and courage. And find a way to be kind. It is sorely needed in these troubled times. Decency lies within: It cannot be legislated or mandated or coerced. It comes from making a commitment inside yourself to those around you. All of them. Even the ones that aren't like you. Look within, find yours, and spill it out on the world, so to draw it out in others. We need all of it we can find.

Take care. We'll talk again.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
Minnesota	4,181	4,644	5,136	5,730	6,228	6,663	7,234
Nebraska	3,374	3,784	4,281	4,838	5,326	5,659	6,083
Montana	451	451	453	453	455	455	457
Colorado	14,316	14,758	15,284	15,768	16,225	16,635	16,907
Wyoming	396	404	415	420	429	435	444
North Dakota	991	1,033	1,067	1,107	1,153	1,191	1,225
South Dakota	2,313	2,373	2,449	2,525	2,588	2,631	2,668
United States	1,012,583	1,040,488	1,070,032	1,104,161	1,133,069	1,157,945	1,180,634
US Deaths	58,355	60,999	63,019	65,068	66,385	67,680	68,934

Minnesota	+365	+463	+492	+594	+498	+435	+571
Nebraska	+16	+410	+497	+557	+488	+333	+424
Montana	+2	0	+2	0	+2	0	+2
Colorado	+437	+442	+526	+484	+457	+410	+272
Wyoming	+7	+8	+11	+5	+9	+6	+9
North Dakota	+49	+42	+34	+40	+46	+38	+34
South Dakota	+68	+60	+76	+76	+63	+43	+37
United States	+24,394	+27,905	+29,544	+34,129	+28,908	+24,876	+22,689
US Deaths	+2,100	+2,644	+2,020	+2,049	+1,317	+1,295	+1,254

	May 5
Minnesota	7,851
Nebraska	6,438
Montana	456
Colorado	17,364
Wyoming	452
North Dakota	1266
South Dakota	2,721
United States	1,204,475
US Deaths	71,078

Minnesota	+617
Nebraska	+355
Montana	+8
Colorado	+457
Wyoming	+8
North Dakota	+41
South Dakota	+53
United States	+23,841
US Deaths	+2,144

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## May 5th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from Dept. of Health Lab records

Union County is seeing a number of positive cases from the Tyson Plant in Nebraska. Brown County recorded six new positive cases. Three more deaths in Minnehaha County have been recorded.

Changes on the Community Impact Map: Brookings changed from substantial spread to minimal to moderate spread and Clark and Marshall counties have changed from minimal spread to no community spread.

### South Dakota:

Positive: +54 (2721 total) (16 more than yesterday)

Negative: +256 (16,301 total)

Hospitalized: +9 (220 total) - 75 currently hospitalized (6 more than yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (All from Minnehaha County) (24 total)

Recovered: +31 (1830 total)

Active Cases: 802 (14 less than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett 14, Brule +1 (60), Butte +5 (67), Campbell 9, Custer +3 (53), Edmunds 26, Grant -1 (52), Gregory 34, Haakon +1 (18), Hanson 31, Harding 1, Jackson 10, Jones 5, Kingsburg 74, Mellette +2 (14), Perkins +1 (8), Potter +1 (34), Tripp +2 (59), Ziebach 6, unassigned -67 (897).

Brown: +6 positive, +3 recovered (30 of 71 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive (7 total)

Lake: +1 recovered (4 of 4 recovered)

Lincoln: +1 positive, +3 recovered (112 of 164 recovered)

Meade: +1 positive (2 total)

Minnehaha: +25 positive, +26 recovered (1549 of 2195 recovered)

Moody: +2 recovered (4 of 6 recovered)

Pennington: +2 positive (16 total)

Stanley: +1 recovered (2 of 8 recovered)

Todd: +3 positive (6 total)

Union: +14 positive, +3 recovered (19 of 46 recovered) The cases in Union County are related to the Tyson plant in Nebraska.

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

### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Active Cases	802
Currently Hospitalized	75
Recovered	1895
Total Positive Cases*	2721
Total Negative Cases*	16301
Ever Hospitalized**	220
Deaths***	24

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 1,667 total completed tests today for COVID-19, with 41 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,266.

State & private labs have conducted 36,421 total tests with 35,155 negative results.

559 ND patients are considered recovered.

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	1	1	42
Beadle	21	19	195
Bennett	0	0	14
Bon Homme	4	4	111
Brookings	13	13	376
Brown	71	30	662
Brule	0	0	60
Buffalo	1	1	17
Butte	0	0	67
Campbell	0	0	9
Charles Mix	5	4	93
Clark	1	1	58
Clay	7	6	151
Codington	15	13	513
Corson	1	1	22
Custer	0	0	53
Davison	7	5	323
Day	8	1	60
Deuel	1	1	86
Dewey	1	0	42
Douglas	1	1	27
Edmunds	0	0	26
Fall River	2	1	64
Faulk	1	1	20
Grant	0	0	52
Gregory	0	0	34
Haakon	0	0	18
Hamlin	2	2	74
Hand	1	1	25
Hanson	0	0	31
Harding	0	0	1
Hughes	13	7	261
Hutchinson	3	3	99

Hyde	1	1	17
Jackson	0	0	10
Jerauld	6	5	38
Jones	0	0	5
Kingsbury	0	0	74
Lake	4	4	150
Lawrence	9	9	186
Lincoln	164	112	1547
Lyman	3	2	39
Marshall	1	1	48
McCook	4	3	105
McPherson	1	1	16
Meade	2	1	182
Mellette	0	0	14
Miner	1	1	23
Minnehaha	2195	1549	6853
Moody	6	4	100
Oglala Lakota	1	1	49
Pennington	16	10	858
Perkins	0	0	8
Potter	0	0	34
Roberts	10	4	122
Sanborn	3	3	41
Spink	3	3	101
Stanley	8	2	43
Sully	1	1	14
Todd	6	1	71
Tripp	0	0	59
Turner	17	14	155
Union	46	19	226
Walworth	5	5	49
Yankton	28	23	475
Ziebach	0	0	6
Unassigned****	0	0	897

## RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	308	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	507	19%
Hispanic	493	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	148	5%
Other	364	13%
White, Non-Hispanic	901	33%

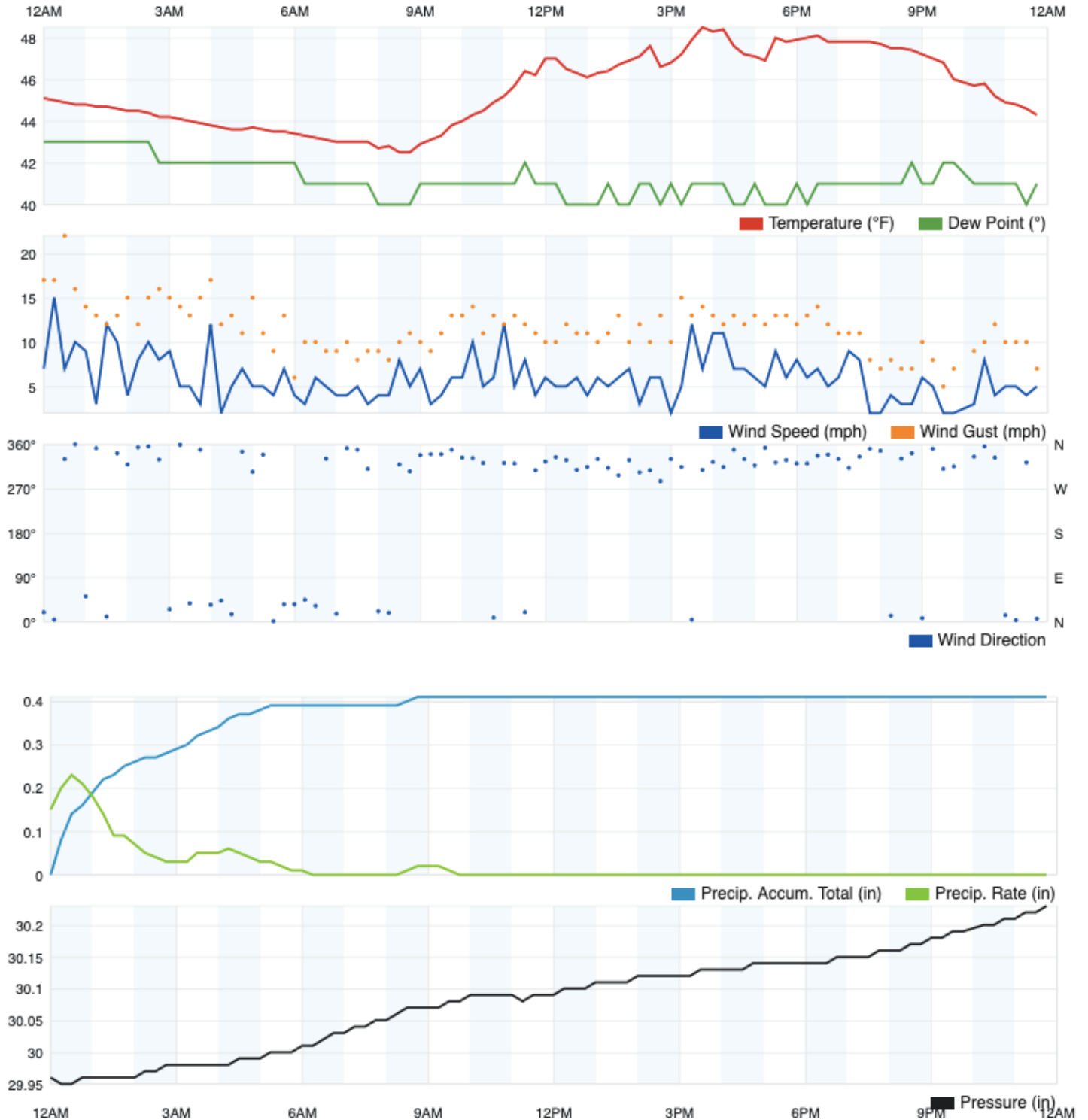
## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1287	9
Male	1434	15

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today



Sunny then  
Slight Chance  
Showers

High: 63 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance  
Showers then  
Partly Cloudy

Low: 34 °F

Thursday



Increasing  
Clouds

High: 56 °F

Thursday  
Night



Gradual  
Clearing

Low: 30 °F

Friday



Sunny

High: 55 °F

**Today**

- Partly Sunny, Few Afternoon Showers East.
- Highs 58-67°F

**Thursday**

- Mostly Cloudy, Good Chance of Rain Missouri valley.
- Highs 51-58°F

**Friday**

- Mostly Sunny and Cool.
- Highs 47-62°F

Updated: 5/6/2020 2:22 AM Central

A few afternoon showers are possible east this afternoon, otherwise it should be dry over the region. A good chance of rain is expected for the Missouri River valley Thursday and Thursday evening, but it should remain dry in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Friday looks dry. #sdwx #mnwx

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## Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one-half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg, and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor-trailer injuring a man in Okaton.

May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. A fishing tournament at Lake Oahe had to be postponed as a result of the high winds.

1876: A tornado, estimated at F3 intensity, tracked four miles across Chicago, Illinois. The damaged buildings included a candy factory, a hospital, a freight depot, and a church. The tornado moved out over Lake Michigan and was observed to have multiple vortices by a reporter. Further south in Illinois, a tornado blew a moving passenger train off the tracks near Neoga, injuring all 19 people aboard.

1933 - Charleston, SC, was deluged with 10.57 inches of rain, an all-time 24 hour record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1937: The German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. Of the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), there were 35 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen). One worker on the ground was also killed, making a total of 36 deaths. The Hindenburg was delayed two hours from docking due to thunderstorms in the area.

1975 - A massive tornado hit Omaha, NE, killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Eighteen cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 91 degrees at Portland OR, 101 degrees at Medford OR, and 104 degrees at Sacramento CA, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A major storm brought high winds to the western half of the country. A wind gust of 74 mph at Pueblo CO broke their May record established just four days earlier, and winds in the Arapahoe Ski Basin area of Colorado reached 85 mph. In North Dakota, the high winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust closing many roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Sixteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 17 at Bismarck ND and 26 at Minneapolis MN were the coldest of record for so late in the season. A reading of 43 degrees at the start of the Kentucky Derby was the coldest in 115 years of records. Light snow was reported in the Upper Midwest, with an inch reported at Chicago IL. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow and high winds prevailed behind a Pacific cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. Wind gusts above 50 mph were reported in southeastern Idaho, and heavy snow blanketed the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, with twelve inches reported at Stampede Pass. (The National Weather Summary)

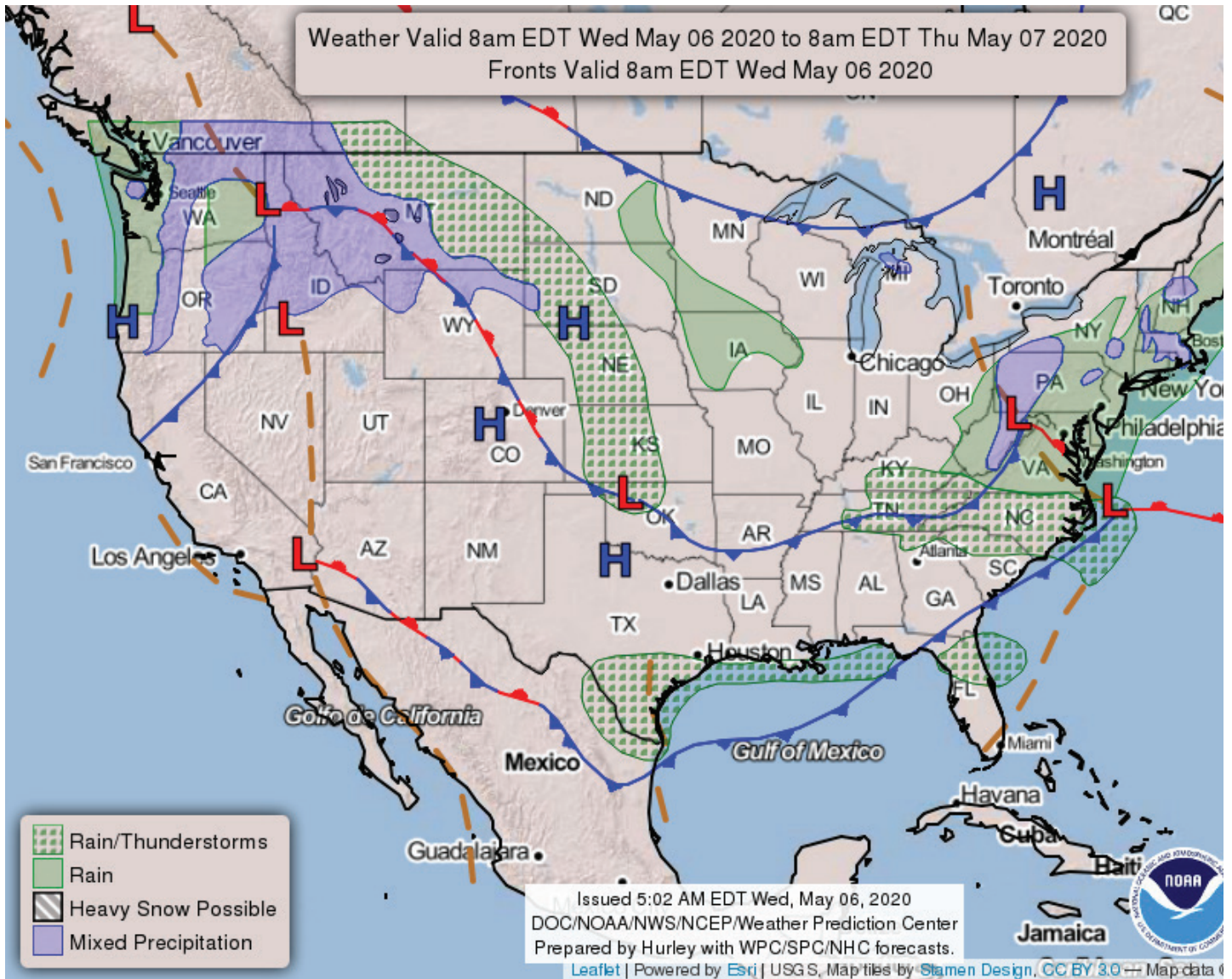
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 49 °F at 3:42 PM**  
**Low Temp: 42 °F at 8:35 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 12:26 AM**  
**Precip: 0.02**

**Record High: 93° in 2016**  
**Record Low: 23° in 1931**  
**Average High: 66°F**  
**Average Low: 40°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 0.51**  
**Precip to date in May.: 2.25**  
**Average Precip to date: 4.54**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.15**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:47 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:13 a.m.**



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## **ASK AND ASK AND ASK AGAIN!**

As she tucked little Lynn into bed, her Mom asked, "Have you said your prayers yet?"

"Well, not really," she answered. "I started to say them. I got down on my knees and when I started saying them I remembered that they were the same ones that I said last night. Since I didn't want to bore God, I told Him the story of the Three Bears. I hope He liked it."

Our prayers never bore God. Jesus said just the opposite. On one occasion when He was teaching people to pray, He advised them to "Continue to ask until you get what you want; continue to search until you find what you are looking for, and continue to knock on the door that is closed until it is opened." There is a most important lesson for us to accept and believe.

God will always answer our prayers, but He will answer them in His time and in the way that reveals His perfect wisdom and unconditional love for us. If He were to answer our requests without applying His wisdom and love, it might be the worst possible thing for us. Often we ask for things that, if our prayers were granted without His insight and love, it could be our ruin and bring about our destruction!

Jesus assures us that God will answer our prayers if we insist and persist. Not only will He answer them at the right time but that we will eventually and ultimately understand His wisdom, love and plan He has for us. It's often hard to believe that He knows what is best for us.

Prayer: Lord, we ask for determination to keep on asking, seeking and knocking. Give us patience to wait, believing that Your answer will be what we need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Matthew 7:7-11 Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

07-13-17-21-45, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 2

(seven, thirteen, seventeen, twenty-one, forty-five; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$215 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$59 million

### Treasury to begin distributing virus relief money to tribes

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department said Tuesday that it will begin doling out billions to help tribes respond and recover from the coronavirus more than a week after a congressional deadline and after being sued over who is eligible for the money.

The \$2.2 trillion federal rescue package approved in late March set aside \$8 billion for tribal governments. The money was supposed to be distributed by April 26, but the Treasury Department said it was grappling with how to do it.

Tribes sued the agency to keep the money from going to Alaska Native corporations, which own most Native lands in the state under a 1971 settlement but are not tribal governments. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C., gave the tribes a victory last week by limiting the funding to the country's 574 federally recognized tribes while he settles the question of eligibility.

The Treasury Department said it will withhold an undisclosed amount calculated for the corporations until the case is resolved.

President Donald Trump, who met with tribal leaders Tuesday during a trip to Arizona, called the funding the "single largest investment in Indian Country in our history."

Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis thanked Trump but said the money is "woefully inadequate to meet our overall needs."

Tribes had sought \$20 billion to stay afloat, respond to the pandemic and recover after having to shut down casinos, tourism operations and other businesses that serve as their main moneymakers.

Payments totaling \$4.8 billion will go to tribes over the next several days, based on population. Further payments based on the number of tribal employees and money that tribes have spent responding to the coronavirus will go out later, the Treasury Department said.

"Our approach is based on the fair balancing of tribal needs," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

The smallest tribes, with a population of less than 37, will receive a minimum of \$100,000, the department said. The Navajo Nation, one of the country's largest tribes with about 350,000 citizens, will receive \$600 million, Trump said.

The virus has hit the Navajo Nation harder than any other tribe. As of Tuesday, the tribe reported 2,559 confirmed cases and 79 deaths on a reservation that extends into Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

States, cities and counties already have received funding under the relief package. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said tribes have suffered crippling economic effects from the pandemic.

"Tribal leaders will continue to seek justice, speak out and request funding until tribal governments are made whole with COVID-19 response and recovery funding," he said in a statement Tuesday.

Another lawsuit filed last week by several tribes in Arizona, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Cali-

fornia, argues that the Treasury Department cannot hold back any of the \$8 billion for tribal governments. "It's as though the federal government has thrown us a lifeline, but continues to keep it just out of reach," said Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Arizona. "We need fast resolution so we are able to keep tribal members and those from surrounding communities employed and avoid the loss of essential public safety and other services our community relies upon."

## Here come COVID-19 tracing apps - and privacy trade-offs

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and **CHRISTINA LARSON** Associated Press

As governments around the world consider how to monitor new coronavirus outbreaks while reopening their societies, many are starting to bet on smartphone apps to help stanch the pandemic.

But their decisions on which technologies to use — and how far those allow authorities to peer into private lives — are highlighting some uncomfortable trade-offs between protecting privacy and public health.

"There are conflicting interests," said Tina White, a Stanford University researcher who first introduced a privacy-protecting approach in February. "Governments and public health (agencies) want to be able to track people" to minimize the spread of COVID-19, but people are less likely to download a voluntary app if it is intrusive, she said.

Containing infectious disease outbreaks boils down to a simple mantra: test, trace and isolate. Today, that means identifying people who test positive for the novel coronavirus, tracking down others they might have infected, and preventing further spread by quarantining everyone who might be contagious.

That second step requires an army of healthcare workers to question coronavirus carriers about recent contacts so those people can be tested and potentially isolated.

Smartphone apps could speed up that process by collecting data about your movements and alerting you if you've spent time near a confirmed coronavirus carrier. The more detailed that data, the more it could help regional governments identify and contain emerging disease "hot spots." But data collected by governments can also be abused by governments — or their private-sector partners.

Some countries and local governments are issuing voluntary government-designed apps that make information directly available to public health authorities.

In Australia, more than 3 million people have downloaded COVIDSafe, an app touted by the prime minister, who compared it to the ease of applying sunscreen and said more app downloads would bring about a "more liberated economy and society." Utah is the first U.S. state to embrace a similar approach with an app called Healthy Together, developed by a social media startup previously focused on helping young people hang out with nearby friends.

Both these apps record a digital trail of the strangers an individual encountered. Utah's goes even further, using a device's location to help track which restaurants or stores a user has visited.

The app is "a tool to help jog the memory of the person who is positive so we can more readily identify where they've been, who they've been in contact with, if they choose to allow that," said Angela Dunn, Utah's state epidemiologist.

A competing approach under development by tech giants Apple and Google limits the information collected and anonymizes what it pulls in so that such personalized tracking isn't possible.

Apple and Google have pushed for public health agencies to adopt their privacy-oriented model, offering an app-building interface they say will work smoothly on billions of phones when the software rolls out sometime in May. Germany and a growing number of European countries have aligned with that approach, while others, such as France and the UK, have argued for more government access to app data.

Most coronavirus-tracking apps rely on Bluetooth, a decades-old short-range wireless technology, to locate other phones nearby that are running the same app.

The Bluetooth apps keep a temporary record of the signals they encounter. If one person using the app is later confirmed to have COVID-19, public health authorities can use that stored data to identify and notify other people who may have been exposed.

Apple and Google say that apps built to their specifications will work across most iPhones and Android

devices, eliminating compatibility problems. They have also forbidden governments to make their apps compulsory and are building in privacy protections to keep stored data out of government and corporate hands and ease concerns about surveillance.

For instance, these apps rely on encrypted "peer to peer" signals sent from phone to phone; these aren't stored in government databases and are designed to conceal individual identities and connections. Public-health officials aren't even in the loop; these apps would notify users directly of their possible exposure and urge them to get tested.

In the U.S., developers are pitching their apps directly to state and local governments. In Utah, the social media company Twenty sold state officials on an approach combining Bluetooth with satellite-based GPS signals. That would let trained health workers help connect the dots and discover previously hidden clusters of infection.

"It's unlikely that automated alerts are going to be enough," said Jared Allgood, Twenty's chief strategy officer and a Utah resident, citing estimates that the peer-to-peer models would need most people participating to be effective.

North and South Dakota are pursuing a similar model after a local startup repurposed its existing Bison Tracker app, originally designed to connect fans of North Dakota State University's athletic teams.

Regardless of the approach, none of these apps will be effective at breaking chains of viral infections unless countries like the U.S. can ramp up coronavirus testing and hire more health workers to do manual outreach.

Another big limitation: many people, particularly in vulnerable populations, don't carry smartphones.

In Singapore, for instance, a large migrant worker population lives in cramped dorms, makes about \$15 a day, and powers the city's previously booming construction industry — but smartphone usage in this group is low. When the Southeast Asian city-state launched its app TraceTogether in March, total confirmed COVID-19 cases were well under 1,000. Then in early April, a rash of new infections in worker dormitories pushed that number to more than 18,000, triggering new lockdown policies.

"If we can find a way to automate some of the detective work with technology, I think that would be a significant help," said Nadia Abuelezam, a disease researcher at Boston College. "It won't be all we need."

## 11 attorneys general seek probe into meatpacking industry

By ROXANA HEGEMAN Associated Press

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. (AP) — The attorneys general for 11 Midwestern states urged the Justice Department on Tuesday to pursue a federal investigation into market concentration and potential price fixing by meatpackers in the cattle industry during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr, the state attorneys general noted that the domestic beef processing market is highly concentrated, with the four largest beef processors controlling 80 percent of the industry.

"Given the concentrated market structure of the beef industry, it may be particularly susceptible to market manipulation, particularly during times of food insecurity, such as the current COVID-19 crisis," they wrote.

Although their letter does not name them, the nation's largest processors are Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill, and National Beef. The companies did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Mark Watne, the president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, said in a statement that in all the years they have called for stronger antitrust enforcement, they have rarely seen such obvious market abuses by the meatpacking industry.

"They're posting record profits, while ranchers are suffering significant market price losses," Watne said. "The situation definitely smells rotten, and it not only hurts ranchers, but consumers, too."

The state officials criticized the disparity in the price of live cattle and the retail cost of boxed beef that is sold to consumers, arguing that it shows the market lacks fair competition. Live cattle futures recently hit 18-year lows, while both the price of boxed beef and consumer demand remain healthy as consumers stockpile meat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The letter was signed by attorneys general in North Dakota, Missouri, Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The state attorneys general said they are eager to work with Barr on an examination of the competitive dynamics of the industry.

"Antitrust concerns about the cattle market are nothing new. Competition issues arising from agricultural markets existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic and will persist long after we defeat our current crisis," they wrote.

Although most enforcement actions are civil, federal antitrust law is also criminal law and individuals and businesses that violate it may be prosecuted by the Justice Department, according the Federal Trade Commission.

Criminal penalties can reach up to \$100 million for a corporation, along with up to 10 years in prison. The maximum fine may be increased to twice the amount the conspirators gained from the illegal acts or twice the money lost by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is over \$100 million.

The state attorneys general wrote that if, after an investigation, there is no appropriate enforcement action that can be pursued, regulatory strategies should be explored to promote competition and protect consumers.

## Noem: Nearly 1,500 showed up for Smithfield COVID-19 testing

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said Tuesday that nearly 1,500 people linked to a coronavirus outbreak at a Smithfield pork processing plant have been tested for the disease this week.

The state helped set up a mass testing event in Sioux Falls where employees and their family members could get tested. The Republican governor said according to the Avera Health team that conducted the testing, about 10% of people who showed up had symptoms of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

So far, more than 1,000 people, including Smithfield employees and their close contacts, have contracted the disease — a figure that is expected to rise as more people linked to the plant get tested.

"We expect to have those results back in 48 hours," Noem said of this week's tests.

The Smithfield plant resumed some operations this week, opening two departments. The union that represents employees at the plant said it does not expect more departments to open this week. Smithfield has not shared its reopening plan and did not require employees to get tested.

Smithfield Foods said in a statement that it would share its reopening plans with the governor when they are available, but "at this time, we do not have a timeline to share."

Noem has said the mass testing is an important step in getting the plant back up and running. She said she also plans to have a teleconferencing meeting with Smithfield employees to hear their concerns as the plant reopens, but she didn't say when that would happen.

The closure of many meatpacking plants across the Midwest has sparked concern among farmers that they will soon have to euthanize and take a loss on hundreds of thousands of animals that were supposed to go to market.

Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden, who will be stepping into the role of agriculture secretary after Kim Vanneman resigned Tuesday, said he will be lobbying the federal government to allow South Dakota slaughterhouses to sell meat over state lines without Department of Agriculture inspection. The meat would be inspected by the state instead.

Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg also joined 10 other attorneys general in asking the Department of Justice to look into alleged price fixing by beef meatpackers during the coronavirus crisis.

Health officials on Tuesday reported three new South Dakota deaths from COVID-19 and 53 new confirmed cases. All three deaths were in Minnehaha County, which has had most of the state's confirmed cases. A total of 24 people have died of COVID-19 statewide.

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.

Many of the deaths have come from virus outbreaks in nursing homes. One Sioux Falls facility has reported 13 deaths of people who tested positive for COVID-19.

Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said health officials are trying to limit the damage done to nursing home residents through "aggressive" testing and separating people who test positive. Health officials have also increased visits to facilities to check what they are doing to prevent infections.

South Dakota has had 2,721 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the outbreak began, but the actual number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people haven't been tested and people can carry the virus without feeling sick.

## **The second virus wave: How bad will it be as lockdowns ease?**

**By NICOLE WINFIELD, ANGELA CHARLTON and CHRIS BLAKE Associated Press**

ROME (AP) — From the marbled halls of Italy to the wheat fields of Kansas, health authorities are increasingly warning that the question isn't whether a second wave of coronavirus infections and deaths will hit, but when — and how badly.

As more countries and U.S. states chaotically re-open for business — including some where infection rates are still rising — managing future cases is as important as preventing them.

In India, which partly eased its virus lockdown this week, health authorities scrambled Wednesday to contain an outbreak at a massive market. Experts in hard-hit Italy, which just began easing some restrictions, warned lawmakers that a new wave of virus infections and deaths is coming. They urged intensified efforts to identify possible new victims, monitor their symptoms and trace their contacts.

Germany warned of a second and even a third wave, and threatened to re-impose virus restrictions if new cases can't be contained. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was meeting Wednesday with the country's 16 governors to discuss further loosening restrictions that have crippled Europe's largest economy.

"There will be a second wave, but the problem is to which extent. Is it a small wave or a big wave? It's too early to say," said Olivier Schwartz, head of the virus and immunity unit at France's Pasteur Institute.

Many areas are still struggling with the first wave of this pandemic. Brazil for the first time locked down a large city, the capital of Maranhão state. Across the ocean, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa has shot up 42% in the past week and infections are expected to surpass 50,000 on Wednesday.

An Associated Press analysis, meanwhile, found that U.S. infection rates outside the New York City area are in fact rising, notably in rural areas. It found New York's progress against the virus was overshadowing increasing infections elsewhere.

"Make no mistakes: This virus is still circulating in our community, perhaps even more now than in previous weeks," said Linda Ochs, director of the Health Department in Shawnee County, Kansas.

The virus is known to have infected more than 3.6 million and killed more than 251,000 people, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins that all experts agree is an undercount due to limited testing, uneven victim criteria and deliberate concealment by some governments.

The U.S. has seen over 71,000 deaths amid its 1.2 million infections, and Europe has endured over 144,000 reported coronavirus deaths. Behind each of those vast numbers is a family in pain.

"Burying both parents at the same time? It's hard," said Desmond Tolbert, who lost his mother and father in rural southwest Georgia. Because they had the virus, he couldn't be with them when they died.

U.S. President Donald Trump, with his eye on being reelected in November, is pushing hard to ease state stay-at-home orders and resuscitate the U.S. economy, which has seen over 30 million workers lose their jobs in less than two months. Trump is expected to wind down the country's coronavirus task force, possibly within weeks, despite concerns that states aren't being careful enough as they reopen.

A century ago, the Spanish flu epidemic's second wave was far deadlier than its first, in part because authorities allowed mass gatherings from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

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As Italy's lockdown eased this week, Dr. Silvio Brusaferrò, president of the Superior Institute of Health, urged "a huge investment" of resources to train medical personnel to monitor possible new cases. He said tracing apps — which are being built by dozens of countries and companies and touted as a possible technological solution — aren't enough to manage future waves of infection.

"We are not out of the epidemic. We are still in it. I don't want people to think there's no more risk and we go back to normal," said Dr. Giovanni Rezza, the head of the institute's infectious disease department.

In Germany, authorities may reimpose restrictions on any county that reports 50 new cases for every 100,000 inhabitants within the past week.

Lothar Wieler, head of Germany's national disease control center, said scientists "know with great certainty that there will be a second wave" of infections but said Germany is well-prepared to deal with it. The country has been hailed for testing widely and has suffered four times fewer deaths than Italy or Britain, which both have smaller populations.

Britain has begun recruiting 18,000 people to trace contacts of people infected. British officials acknowledge that they should have done more testing and tracing earlier and could learn from South Korea, which brought its outbreak under control by rigorously testing, tracing and isolating infected people.

South Africa, which has years of experience tracking HIV and other infections, is already testing and tracing widely. Turkey has an army of 5,800 teams of contact tracers who have tracked down and tested nearly half a million people linked to infected cases. Israel plans to conduct 100,000 antibody tests to determine how widespread the coronavirus outbreak has been and prevent a second wave.

India was concentrated on the immediate drama around the market in the southern city of Chennai, which is now tied to at least 1,000 virus cases. Another 7,000 people connected to the now-shuttered Koyambedu market are being traced and quarantined. Experts are worried about a health catastrophe in a country of 1.3 billion people with an already stressed medical system.

New confirmed daily infections in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are well over 1,000, according to the Johns Hopkins tally. And public health officials warn that the failure to lower the infection rate could lead to many more deaths — perhaps tens of thousands — as people venture out and businesses reopen.

"The faster we reopen, the lower the economic cost — but the higher the human cost, because the more lives lost," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "That, my friends, is the decision we are really making."

Trump acknowledged the toll but argued that keeping the U.S. economy closed carries deadly costs of its own, such as drug abuse and suicides.

"I'm not saying anything is perfect, and yes, will some people be affected? Yes. Will some people be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open and we have to get it open soon," he said during a visit to Arizona in which he did not don a face mask.

## 2 Russian doctors dead, 1 in ICU after mysterious accidents

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Russian doctors have died and one remains in the intensive care unit in serious condition after falling out of windows in hospitals under mysterious circumstances.

The tragic incidents last week made national headlines, with media reports saying all three have come under pressure from their superiors over working conditions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In recent weeks, medical workers all over Russia have decried shortages of protective equipment and questionable infection control procedures that turned dozens of hospitals into virus hotbeds, with hundreds of doctors and nurses contracting the virus. Many said they have been threatened with dismissal or even prosecution for going public with their grievances.

Dr. Alexander Shulepov, an ambulance doctor from the Voronezh region, 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Moscow, fell out of a window in a hospital early Saturday where he was being treated for COVID-19, breaking several ribs and sustaining a skull fracture.

Shulepov, 37, was admitted to the hospital more than a week before the accident after testing positive

for coronavirus. That day, colleague Alexander Kosyakin posted a video on social media of himself and Shulepov complaining about protective equipment shortages. In the video, Shulepov said he was being forced to finish his ambulance shift despite being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Five days later, local health officials shared another video of Shulepov on social media in which he retracted his earlier complaints, saying he was just being emotional.

Five days later, Shulepov fell out of a two-story hospital building. The cause of the accident remains unknown. Some local media suggested he was merely attempting to smoke on a window sill, while others reported that Shulepov was under a lot of pressure for publicly complaining.

Another doctor's window fall occurred in Siberia on April 25. Dr. Yelena Nepomnyashchaya, acting head of a hospital in Krasnoyarsk, a city in western Siberia, fell out of a window of her office on the fifth floor. Local media reported, citing anonymous sources, that the tragedy took place right after she had a conference call with regional health officials.

Media reports alleged that Nepomnyashchaya was arguing against re-purposing a ward in her hospital for coronavirus patients because of severe shortages of protective equipment and trained medical personnel, but she failed to convince the officials. Krasnoyarsk health officials denied that the conference call took place. On Friday, Nepomnyashchaya died in intensive care.

Just the day before Nepomnyashchaya's fall, on April 24, another doctor sustained deadly injuries after falling out of a window in a hospital in Moscow. Dr. Natalya Lebedeva ran an ambulance station in the Star City, Russia's spaceflight training facility just outside Moscow, which reported several dozen coronavirus cases in late April. She was admitted to a hospital in southeast Moscow with suspected COVID-19.

Lebedeva died immediately after the fall, with health officials insisting it was just a tragic accident. Some Russian media, however, claim Lebedeva was accused of not protecting her staff from becoming infected and committed suicide because of it.

Russia has reported 166,000 infections and 1,537 virus deaths, but health officials in the West have described those numbers as laughably low.

There is no official data on how many Russian health workers have died working on the front lines of the pandemic and Russia's Health Ministry did not respond to numerous requests for comment by The Associated Press.

Last week, a group of Russian doctors compiled an online Memory List of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who died during the outbreak. The list currently has 111 names.

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

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at nonvirus stories in the news:

1. SUPREME COURT TAKES UP OBAMACARE CASE The justices are hearing a dispute about Trump administration rules that would allow more employers who cite a religious or moral objection to opt out of providing no-cost birth control to women.

2. RUTH BADER GINSBURG HOSPITALIZED The 87-year-old justice underwent a non-surgical treatment for an infection caused by a gallstone but has no plans to miss the court's arguments by telephone.

3. WHAT TRUMP PICK FOR DNI POST SAYS Texas congressman John Ratcliffe tells a Senate panel that he won't allow politics to color intelligence he takes to the president.

4. CHINA PLANS TO COMPLETE SPACE STATION BY 2022 The announcement further cements China's aspirations to rival the United States, Europe, Russia and private companies in outer space exploration.

5. WHO'S CLOSING IN ON SHULA'S HALLOWED MARK New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, who with 304 wins needs 44 more to break the NFL record set by the Miami Dolphins icon, who died this week at age 90.

## EU forecasts 'recession of historic proportions' this year

By LORNE COOK undefined

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union predicted Wednesday "a recession of historic proportions this year" due to the impact of the coronavirus as it released its first official estimates of the damage the pandemic is inflicting on the bloc's economy.

The 27-nation EU economy is predicted to contract by 7.5% this year, before growing by about 6% in 2021. The group of 19 nations using the euro as their currency will see a record decline of 7.75% this year, and grow by 6.25% in 2021, the European Commission said in its Spring economic forecast.

"It is now quite clear that the EU has entered the deepest economic recession in its history," EU Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni told reporters in Brussels. As the virus hit, "economic activity in the EU dropped by around one third practically overnight," he said.

More than 1.1 million people have contracted the virus across Europe and over 137,000 have died, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Unclear outbreak data, low testing rates and the strain on health care systems mean the true scale of the pandemic is much greater.

With the spread slowing in most European countries, people are cautiously venturing out from confinement and gradually returning to work, but strict health measures remain in place amid concern of a second wave of outbreaks and any return to something like normal life is at least months away.

The pandemic has hurt consumer spending, industrial output, investment, trade, capital flows and supply chains. It has also hit jobs. The unemployment rate across the 27-nation EU is forecast to rise from 6.7% in 2019 to 9% in 2020 but then fall to around 8% in 2021, the commission said. Beyond that, Gentiloni said, "we will have a massive drop in hours worked."

Inflation is also set to be significantly weaker as consumer prices fall amid a sharp weakening of demand and drop in oil prices. Investment too is likely to contract, with firms expected to postpone or cancel their investment plans amid the uncertainty. Exporters will not be spared, with continued disruption to movements of people, goods and services likely.

Italy and Spain - two of the countries hardest hit by the virus - and to a lesser extent France are among the economies that will suffer most. Greece, which largely escaped the disease but whose economy was ravaged previously by its debt crisis and which relies heavily on tourism, is also high on the economic hit list.

France's economy is expected to shrink by about 8.2%, while Germany will endure a more moderate contraction than most and recover better. Still, it is set to experience this year its worst recession since World War II, with exports notably hit, with a drop in output of 6.5%.

While the virus hit every member country, the extent of the damage it ultimately inflicts will depend on the evolution of the disease in each of them, the resilience of their economies and what policies they put in place to respond.

Gentiloni said that the depth of the recession and the strength of recovery will be uneven across the world's biggest trading bloc.

Much will depend, he said, on "the speed at which lockdowns can be lifted, the importance of services like tourism in each economy and by each country's financial resources. Such divergence poses a threat to the single market and the euro area - yet it can be mitigated through decisive, joint European action."

How quickly things can change. On Feb. 13, the commission had predicted "a path of steady, moderate growth" this year and next of 1.2%. At that time, uncertainty over U.S. trade policy and a Brexit trade deal plus tensions in Latin America and the Middle East were the main threats.

The coronavirus outbreak in China was noted at the time as "a new downside risk" but the commission's assumption less than three months ago was "that the outbreak peaks in the first quarter, with relatively limited global spillovers."

## Trump tours, touts mask factory — but no mask for him

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Making himself Exhibit A for reopening the country, President Donald Trump visited an Arizona face mask factory, using the trip to demonstrate his determination to see an easing of stay-at-home orders even as the coronavirus remains a dire threat. Trump did not wear a mask despite guidelines saying they should be worn inside the factory at all times.

"The people of our country should think of themselves as warriors. We have to open," Trump declared Tuesday as he left Washington on a trip that was more about the journey than the destination.

In Arizona, Trump acknowledged the human cost of returning to normalcy.

"I'm not saying anything is perfect, and yes, will some people be affected? Yes. Will some people be affected badly? Yes. But we have to get our country open and we have to get it open soon," he said.

Trump had said he would don a face mask if the factory was "a mask environment," but in the end he wore only safety goggles during a tour of the Honeywell facility. Nearly all factory workers and members of the press as well as some White House staff and Secret Service agents wore masks. Senior White House staff and Honeywell executives did not.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that all Americans wear cloth masks when they can't socially distance, such as in supermarkets, especially in places with high transmission rates. In the area where Trump spoke, a large video monitor listed safety guidelines, one of which said, "Please wear your mask at all times."

Vice President Mike Pence created a stir recently when photos showed him maskless in a visit to the Mayo Clinic surrounded by hospital officials and doctors all wearing masks. He said that he hadn't known it was a requirement and that he is tested for the virus frequently. He wore a mask at an event a few days later.

Trump's visit came as the White House said it hopes to wind down its coronavirus task force in the coming month as the president shifts his focus from battling an "invisible enemy" to rebooting the economy.

The president spent about three hours in Phoenix, touring the Honeywell factory and holding a roundtable on Native American issues. Aides said the trip would be worth the nearly eight hours of flight time as a symbolic show that the nation is taking steps back to normalcy. The trip was also expected to be a marker of Trump's return to a regular travel schedule, as he hopes the nation, too, will begin to emerge from seven weeks of virus-imposed isolation.

After weeks cooped up in Washington, with little exposure to how the virus has been affecting Americans' day-to-day lives, Trump got a first-hand view of one big impact. At the airport, Air Force One parked next to dozens of grounded commercial airliners with covered engines and taped-over probes and vents.

Trump's first stop was a meeting with Native American leaders during which he distributed 1,000 Abbott quick virus tests.

"Native Americans have been hit hard by the terrible pandemic," Trump said. "Hopefully, that will be helpful to you."

Trump sees economic revival as a political imperative, as his allies have noted an erosion in support for the president in recent weeks. Republicans believe Trump's path to a second term depends on the public's perception of how quickly the economy rebounds from shutdowns meant to slow the spread of the virus.

That includes in Arizona, a key swing state, which Trump carried by less than 4 percentage points in 2016.

"I love Arizona. I have a lot of friends in Arizona. I've had great success over the years in Arizona," Trump boasted as he left.

But even as many Americans have adhered to strict social distancing guidelines, the numbers of new infections and deaths from the virus have not decreased as quickly as hoped. Indeed, when the New York metropolitan area's progress against the virus is taken out of the equation, numbers for the rest of the U.S. are moving in the wrong direction. The infection rate is rising even as states move to lift their lockdowns, an Associated Press analysis found Tuesday.

Nonetheless, the White House has begun discussions about winding down its coronavirus task force, which has already been meeting less frequently, Pence said. Its members have become fixtures on televi-

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sion sets across the nation, with Americans hungrier for information and marooned at home.

"I think we're having conversations about that and about what the proper time is for the task force to complete its work and for the ongoing efforts to take place on an agency by agency level," Pence said at the White House. He said the group could wind down its work by early June.

"We're now looking at a little bit of a different form, and that form is safety and opening," Trump said in Arizona, "and we'll have a different group, probably, set up for that."

Asked about his statements in February playing down the threat of the virus, Trump told ABC in an interview that medical experts also had underestimated the risk and added: "I want to be optimistic. I don't want to be Mr. Doom and Gloom. It's a very bad subject. I'm not looking to tell the American people when nobody really knows what is happening yet, 'Oh this is going to be so tragic.'"

Trump is seeking to pivot his focus away from the virus's spread and toward more familiar — and, aides hope, politically safer — ground: talking up the economy. As more states have begun to ease closure orders, despite warnings that that could lead to spikes in new cases, Trump has been trying to highlight his administration's work in helping businesses and employees rebound.

To that point, aides said the president would hold more frequent roundtables with CEOs, business owners and beneficiaries of the trillions of dollars in federal aid already approved by Congress, and begin to outline what he hopes to see in a future "phase four" recovery package.

Pence told reporters at a White House briefing Tuesday that the U.S. could be "in a very different place" come late May and early June "as we continue to practice social distancing and states engage in safe and responsible reopening plans." The administration is beginning to eye that window as the appropriate time for federal agencies to begin managing the pandemic response "in a more traditional way," he said.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force coordinator, said the federal government would still keep a close eye on the data if the task force disbands.

"It took us a while to build that capacity and we'll make sure that we're watching that at a federal level," she said.

Trump and his White House team have been operating in a virus-safe bubble, thanks to the rapid coronavirus tests provided to senior staff and anyone who meets with the president.

Trump has been repeatedly talking up the administration's response to the virus, despite persistent criticism that he dragged his feet and failed to adequately increase production of personal protective equipment and testing supplies.

"We did everything right. Now it's time to get back to work," he said. He added that the country has "the best testing," with more than 7 million now completed, even as some experts say millions more people must be tested every week for the country to safely reopen.

## 'It's gone haywire': When COVID arrived in rural America

By CLAIRE GALOFARO Associated Press

DAWSON, Ga. (AP) — The reverend approached the makeshift pulpit and asked the Lord to help him make some sense of the scene before him: two caskets, side by side, in a small-town cemetery busier now than ever before.

Rev. Willard O. Weston had already eulogized other neighbors lost to COVID-19, and he would do more. But this one stood as a symbol to him of all they had lost. The pair of caskets, one powder blue, one white and gold, contained a couple married 30 years who died two days apart, at separate hospitals hours from each other, unaware of the other's fate.

The day was dark. There was no wind, not even a breeze. It felt to some like the earth had paused for this.

As the world's attention was fixated on the horrors in Italy and New York City, the per capita death rates in counties in the impoverished southwest corner of Georgia climbed to among the worst in the country. The devastation here is a cautionary tale of what happens when the virus seeps into communities that have for generations remained on the losing end of the nation's most intractable inequalities: these coun-

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ties are rural, mostly African American and poor.

This story was produced with the support of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

More than a quarter of people in Terrell County live in poverty, the local hospital shuttered decades ago, and businesses have been closing for years, sending many young and able fleeing for cities. Those left behind are sicker and more vulnerable; even before the virus arrived, the life expectancy for men here was six years shorter than the American average.

Rural people, African Americans and the poor are more likely to work in jobs not conducive to social distancing, like the food processing plant in nearby Mitchell County where four employees died of COVID. They have less access to health care and so more often delay treatment for chronic conditions; in southwest Georgia, the diabetes rate of 16 percent is twice as high as in Atlanta. Transportation alone can be a challenge, so that by the time they make it to the hospital, they're harder to save.

At least 21 people have died from COVID in this county, and dozens more in the neighboring rural communities. For weeks, Weston's phone would not stop ringing: another person in the hospital, another person dead. An hour before this funeral, Weston's phone rang again, and this time it was news that another had succumbed to the virus—his own first cousin, as close to him as a brother.

Some here had thought that their isolation might spare them, but instead it made the pandemic particularly cruel. In Terrell County, population 8,500, everyone knows everyone and every death is personal. As the mourners arrived at the cemetery, just the handful allowed, each knew others suffering and dying.

The couple's son, Desmond Tolbert, sat stunned. After caring for his parents, he'd also rushed his aunt, his mother's sister, to a hospital an hour away, and there she remained on a ventilator. Her daughter, Latasha Taylor, wept thinking that if her mother survived, she would have to find a way to tell her that her sister was dead and buried.

"It's just gone haywire, I mean haywire," thought Eddie Keith, a 65-year-old funeral home attendant standing in the back who was familiar with all the faces on the funeral programs piling up. "People dying left and right."

Usually, on hard days like this, he would call his friend of 30 years, who was a pastor at a country church and could always convince him that God would not give more than he could endure.

But a couple weeks earlier, that pastor had started coughing, too.

As Georgia and other states rush to reopen, some out-of-the-way places might believe that the virus won't find them. Many here thought that, too. But it arrived, quietly at first then with breathtaking savagery.

The cemetery on the edge of town staggered graveside services, one an hour, all day. The county coroner typically works between 38 and 50 deaths a year; they reached No. 41 by mid-April. They ordered an emergency morgue.

Of the 10 counties with the highest death rate per capita in America, half are in rural southwest Georgia, where there are no packed skyscraper apartment buildings or subways. Ambulances rush along country roads, just fields and farms in either direction, carrying COVID patients to the nearest hospital, for some an hour away. The small county seats are mostly quiet, the storefronts shuttered, some long ago because of the struggling economy, and some only now because owners are too afraid to reopen.

These counties circle the city of Albany, which is where authorities believe the outbreak began at a pair of funerals in February. Albany is also home to the main hospital in the region, Phoebe Putney Memorial, which serves an area of 800,000 people spanning more than 50 miles in every direction, many of them with little other access to care.

The hospital saw its first known coronavirus patient on March 10; within a few days, it had 60 and the ICU was full. Two weeks later, patients began flooding in from farther-flung rural communities. Helicopters buzzed from the top of the parking garage, flying patients to other hospitals that still had room to take them. They burned through six months of masks and gowns in six days, said Phoebe Putney president



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Scott Steiner. Then they were competing for supplies against wealthier, more politically powerful places; they paid \$1 each for surgical masks that typically cost a nickel and were losing about \$1 million each day.

The patients were very sick. Some died within hours. Some died on the way, in the back of ambulances. The region is predominantly black, but still African Americans died disproportionately, Steiner said. African Americans accounted for about 80% of the hospital's deaths.

Black people have been dying at alarming rates across the country: the latest Associated Press analysis of available data shows that African Americans represent about 14% of the population in the areas covered but nearly one-third of those who have died.

By nearly every measure, coronavirus patients are faring worse in rural Georgia than almost anywhere else in America, according to researchers at Emory University in Atlanta. Although New York City had thousands more deaths, the per capita death rate in these Georgia counties is just as high.

"They are vulnerable people living in vulnerable places, people who are marginalized on a variety of measures, whether we're talking about race, whether we're talking about education or employment, in places that have fewer resources," said Shivani Patel, an epidemiologist at Emory. Then COVID arrived: "It's like our worst nightmare coming true."

Dr. James Black, the medical director of emergency services at Phoebe Putney, was born in this hospital, grew up in this region and is proud of how they've managed with the odds stacked against them. He hasn't had a day off in two months. The question now, he believes, is whether society decides, in the wake of the virus, to continue neglecting its most vulnerable people and places.

"I think that history is going to judge us not only on how well we prepared, it's not going to just judge us on how well we responded," he said, "but what we learned from it, and what we change."

Georgia has lost seven rural hospitals in the last decade. Nine counties in rural Georgia don't even have a doctor, according to the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals; 18 have no family practitioner, 60 have no pediatrician, 77 without a psychiatrist.

Ezekiel Holley, the longtime leader of Terrell County's NAACP, said health care is what has left him "banging his head against a wall."

At first Holley thought a virus would be one thing that did not discriminate. He opened the newspaper, scanned the faces in the obituaries and knew every one of them.

"Then I thought, why are low income people and people of color dying more than anyone else? This is the richest nation in the world, why doesn't it have a level playing field?" he said. "Tell me that."

At first, Benjamin Tolbert just felt a malaise; he had no appetite. Within a couple days, he could barely stand.

His son, Desmond, took him to the hospital in Albany. By then it was full, and he was sent to another hospital an hour south. Benjamin's wife, Nellie Mae, who everyone called Pollye Ann, got sick the next day. She was routed from the Albany hospital to another an hour north.

Everyone in town knew Benjamin, 58, as a hard worker. He had worked for 28 years at a Tyson Foods plant, and yet he always found more work to do, washing his car, tending the lawn. He and his wife had been together 30 years. He was mild-mannered, but she found a joke in everything. She was a minister, she played the organ, sang gospel and danced, wildly, joyfully.

"Oh my goodness, she was a dancer, and the dances were so hilarious, you would just fall out laughing watching her dance and laugh at herself," said their niece, Latasha Taylor, whom they loved like a daughter. Benjamin would hang back, but Pollye Ann would pull him up and he'd dance along with her.

Both were diabetic, Pollye Ann had had heart valve surgery, Benjamin had been on dialysis. Pollye Ann's sister, Katherine Taylor Peters, often got dialysis treatments with him. They were a close-knit family: Peters lived just blocks away.

Shortly after the Tolberts got sick, Peters called her daughter and said she too had an incessant cough and was struggling to breathe. Latasha was working hours away, so she called her cousin, Desmond, and asked him to check on her.

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He put her in his car and drove her to another hospital an hour from home. They soon sedated her and put her on a ventilator.

Much of the rest is a blur for Desmond and Latasha: calls from doctors and nurses, driving hours among three hospitals, begging to see their parents but being told it was far too dangerous.

"I couldn't see them, I couldn't talk to them," said Desmond, 29, who had lived with his parents all this life. Suddenly he was alone.

And all around them, neighbors were getting sick.

"So many people, it's a feeling you can't even explain. It's like a churning in your stomach," said Taylor. "People you're normally waving at, speaking to in passing, at the pharmacy, you're never going to see them again."

Desmond was on the phone with a nurse as his mother took her last breath. Two days later, the call came from his father's caregivers. Benjamin never knew that his wife got sick. She didn't know her husband was on his death bed. They were apart, far from home, without their son at their sides.

The only solace he can find is imagining them meeting again on the other side, and that neither had to live without the other one.

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Eddie Keith had known this couple all his life, he knew their phone number by heart, where they lived, where they worked, their mothers and fathers.

"They knew me real well," he said, "as well as I knew them."

He has worked for the funeral home for 35 years, and part of his job is to pick up the bodies. He got a call about Pollye Ann's passing, and when a hometown person dies someplace else, he considers it his duty to bring them home to Dawson.

Sometimes he talks to them as he drives, sometimes he sings.

When the second call came about her husband, two days later, he wondered if what was happening in his city might be too much to bear. He's used to death. But now people were dying one right after the next, too quickly to reckon with each in real time.

Keith is a deacon at a country church down a dirt road just outside of town. His pastor, Rev. Alfred Starling, always told him that God doesn't make mistakes, and Keith wanted to be reminded of that now, because Dawson's people kept dying, and Keith kept retrieving them. But the next morning he was picking up a body in Tallahassee when the pastor's wife called. He'd gone to the hospital with a bad cough, and he hadn't made it.

They'd known each other 30 years. Once, years ago, he'd complimented his pastor's necktie. After that, every time the pastor bought himself a tie, he bought Keith one too. It became a symbol of their love for each other. "He would always look out for me," he said.

Keith pulled off the road and sat there a half an hour.

"Why God? Why God? Why God?" he thought, and he caught himself. He was always taught not to question God, so he asked for forgiveness.

There were three funerals the next day, and he left just after to pick up his pastor's body.

He talked to him: "I didn't think you'd leave me so early; I thought we were going to grow old together."

He thought of his pastor's favorite spiritual. "Good news, good news," the pastor would sing and walk from behind the pulpit, a little strut in his step. "I'm going to lay down my burden, store up my cross. And I'm going home to live with Jesus, ain't that good news."

He sang it to his pastor as he drove him home.

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By time the Tolberts' funeral arrived, so many had been lost to COVID-19 that Rev. Willard Weston had gotten used to delivering his eulogies through a mask. Gloves. Hand sanitizer. Don't touch, don't embrace, no matter how much you want to.

"At this pace, you don't get a chance to really take a deep breath from the previous death, and then you're getting a call about another," he said. He'd found himself on his knees in his bathroom, trying to

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scream out the sadness so he could keep going.

He put on his suit and tie.

He walked outside, looked up to the sky and pleaded with God to find the strength to deliver a double funeral.

"Lord, how can I go and do this?"

In normal times, the Tolbert family's funeral would have drawn a packed house. Pollye Ann was a minister at Weston's church. She could deliver testimony like no one he'd ever seen: she was like a freight train, he recalled, slow at first then faster, faster, faster. People were drawn to her.

Instead it was just him and a handful of mourners in the cemetery, staring at the two caskets. He read from scripture and told their son, Desmond, that he'd never walk alone.

He worried his instinct to comfort with an embrace would overtake his knowledge that he couldn't, so he walked away and got in his car. He felt guilty. He prayed for God to take that guilt away. Because there was more to do. The next Saturday, he would have three funerals, back to back.

A couple weeks later, on a Friday afternoon, he was preparing to leave his empty church and head home for the weekend without a single funeral planned for the first time in weeks. It felt hopeful. Then his phone rang again.

"Man, no. Oh, wow," he said, and his shoulders slumped.

"Some more bad news. Somebody else has passed."

There was some good news too.

Pollye Ann Tolbert's sister survived weeks on a ventilator. She still tested positive for coronavirus and remained in isolation, so her daughter Latasha could only talk to her by phone.

The first thing she asked when she woke was how her sister and brother-in-law were doing. Latasha paused. Her mother repeated the question. It felt unreal. Mail still arrived in the mailbox for them. Their house was just as it was the day they left for the hospital. She and her cousin had washed the linens and wiped the surfaces to rid it of virus, but were otherwise too paralyzed to move a thing.

"I had to tell her that while she was sleeping, her sister and brother-in-law left us forever," Latasha said. "They're already buried, they're in the ground."

Peters told her daughter that the last thing she remembered was a doctor on the phone, telling her that her sister wasn't going to make it. She thought she would die too, if not from COVID, then from grief.

She had hoped it was all a bad dream.

Then she woke up.

## Israeli billionaire hopes to bring water to parched Gaza

By FARES AKRAM and ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A Georgian-Israeli billionaire believes he has found a solution to the Gaza Strip's chronic water crisis.

Michael Mirilashvili wants to deliver hundreds of generators that produce drinking water out of thin air. His company, Watergen, sent a machine to a Gaza hospital last week in a rare case of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the Hamas-ruled enclave.

Gaza's water situation is dire. Since the 2007 Hamas takeover of the crowded Palestinian territory, Gaza's 2 million people have endured a crippling border blockade by Israel and Egypt that froze virtually all trade and most travel.

The 13-year-old lockdown, along with three Israel-Hamas wars, has produced chronic power cuts and damaged Gaza's infrastructure, contributing to water contamination.

Electricity shortages prevent proper sewage treatment, forcing the strip to spew over 100,000 cubic meters (3.5 million cubic feet) of poorly treated sewage into the Mediterranean each day, according to U.N. estimates.

Gaza relies on an aquifer as its main source of potable water. But over-extraction has allowed sea water

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to seep in, rendering 97% of the area's water undrinkable.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mirilashvili said he wants to send more water generators to Gaza "because they are our neighbors and it's a great pity to look at them suffering from such severe water shortages."

He spoke days after one of his machines was installed on the roof of the Al-Rantisi Medical Center in Gaza City. Just a day after delivery, the generator, a large blue cube roughly the size of a vending machine, began producing cold, clean water for the hospital's pediatric cancer ward.

Most of Gaza's households buy water from private vendors who desalinate water at small-scale stations. But experts warn this water is impure. UNICEF estimates two-thirds of this water is already contaminated by the time it is delivered.

The children undergoing cancer treatment at the Gaza hospital need clean food and water because their immune system has been compromised, said Nima Ashour of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a U.S.-based charity that runs the pediatric department.

The dire shortage of clean water makes the Watergen machine "very important" for the hospital, she said.

The Watergen device runs on electricity. But because of frequent power outages, the machine will soon be connected to solar panels. In the winter, the device can be hooked up to conventional power supplies.

Functioning like a dehumidifier, the machine extracts moisture from the air and converts it into drinking water. The machine sent to the Gaza hospital is a medium-sized model and generates about 800 liters, or over 200 gallons, a day. Watergen says its largest generators can provide clean drinking water to thousands of people. The company has also developed a new consumer version for home use.

Watergen's technology was initially developed for military use in 2009, but it shifted gears to civilian markets after Mirilashvili bought the company in 2017.

Even the billionaire has had to wrestle with Israel's military bureaucracy, which tightly controls access to Gaza. Mirilashvili said that it took him over a year to receive permission to transfer a first Watergen machine to Gaza. It was delivered to a southern town last December for a separate project.

Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Hamas from arming, and it closely inspects all incoming cargo to make sure it is not used for military purposes.

After winning swift permission for the hospital project, Mirilashvili believes the procedure will now get easier and that he could deliver enough water generators to meet the territory's daily drinking water needs within a year. The generators can cost tens of thousands of dollars apiece. Watergen, which donated the new machine to the hospital, said it is prepared to sell additional devices to Gaza at a "substantial discount."

Mirilashvili, who was born in Georgia, controls a vast business empire that has included casinos, hotels, oil, real estate and Russia's largest social network.

In the 2000s, he spent eight years behind bars in Russia on kidnapping charges he dismissed as fabricated. The European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2008 that he didn't receive a fair trial, and he was subsequently released. He now spends much of his time in Israel, where he is a prominent philanthropist.

Watergen has deployed its machines in over 60 countries, both developing countries lacking water infrastructure, such as India and Uzbekistan, and in areas of developed countries suffering from drought, such as California.

Mirilashvili donated the generator to the hospital after he was approached by Jerusalem-based Palestinian businessman Fayez Hussein, a former chief executive of Palestinian mobile phone company Wataniya. Hussein now owns a small firm that promotes water and solar projects in Gaza.

Hussein said he learned about the hospital's critical situation in February while working on another project with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. He said he looked at various options and concluded the Watergen machine provided the fastest and simplest solution.

"It doesn't need pipes. It doesn't need concrete," he said.

Hussein said for this project, Israeli authorities gave quick approval to move the generator across the border. Although there were no dealings with Hamas authorities in Gaza, he said he did not expect any trouble there either.

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"I think both sides need to take electricity and drinking water off the table," he said. "This should not be part of politics."

## **AP Was There: Nazis surrender, ending World War II in Europe** **Associated Press undefined**

REIMS, France (AP) — Nazi commanders signed their surrender to Allied forces in a French schoolhouse 75 years ago this week, ending World War II in Europe and the Holocaust. Unlike the mass street celebrations that greeted this momentous news in 1945, surviving veterans are marking V-E Day this year in coronavirus confinement, sharing memories with loved ones in private, instead of in the company of comrades on public parade.

Associated Press reporters and photographers covered the war around the world, at great risk. Five AP journalists were killed, including correspondent Joe Morton, who was executed by the Nazis. On May 7, 1945, AP witnessed the Nazi surrender, and was the first to announce it to the Allied public, defying authorities who wanted to delay the momentous announcement.

Here are excerpts of AP news reports that day:

**FLASH: ALLIES OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED GERMANS SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY**

**BULLETIN:** Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia at 2:41 a.m. French time today.

**REIMS, France:** Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union at 2:41 a.m. French time today. (This was at 8:41 p.m. Eastern War Time, Sunday May 6, 1945).

The surrender took place at a little red schoolhouse that is the headquarters of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The surrender was signed for Germany by Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl. Gen. Jodl is the new chief of staff of the German Army.

The surrender was signed for the Supreme Allied Command by Lt. Gen. Walter Beddel Smith, chief of staff for Gen. Eisenhower. It was also signed by Gen. Ivan Susloparov of the Soviet Union and by Gen. Francois Sevez for France.

Joy at the news was tempered only by the realization that the war against Japan remains to be resolved.

The end of the European warfare, the greatest, bloodiest and costliest war in human history — it has claimed at least 40 million casualties on both sides in killed, wounded and captured — came after five years, eight months and six days of strife that overspread the globe.

Hitler's army invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, beginning the agony that convulsed the world for 2,319 days.

Gen. Eisenhower was not present at the signing, but immediately afterward Gen. Jodl and his fellow delegate Gen. Adm. Hans Georg Friedeburg were received by the supreme commander.

They were asked sternly if they understood the surrender terms imposed upon Germany, and if they would be carried out by Germany.

They answered yes.

Germany, which began the war with a ruthless attack upon Poland, followed by successive aggressions and brutality in concentration camps, surrendered with an appeal to the victors for mercy toward the German people and armed forces.

After having signed the full surrender, Gen. Jodl said he wanted to speak, and received leave to do so.

"With this signature," he said in soft-spoken German, "The German people and armed forces are for better or worse delivered into the victors' hands.

"In this war, which has lasted more than five years, both have achieved and suffered more than perhaps any other people in the world."

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The great bells of St. Peter's Basilica rang out over Rome soon after the Associated Press report that peace had come to Europe, while several Allied capitals proclaimed V-E holidays for today, and Tokyo announced continuation of "The Sacred War."

Many of the world's cities went wild at the news, and even neutral capitals were bedecked and filled with celebrating crowds. Masses of people gathered in front of loudspeakers and newspaper offices, which were frantically answering inquiries and rolling out extras.

Only in the unnatural calm of the European fronts was the news reported to have been taken soberly, by soldiers who had seen the fighting taper off in one sector after another for the past two weeks.

War-scarred London burst into jubilant celebration of the end of the war in Europe today, its millions of citizens unable to wait for the government's official V-E Day proclamation tomorrow.

Millions surged into the streets, from Buckingham Palace to the sedate East End.

The Picadilly Circus, Whitehall and Westminster areas filled with a laughing, shouting throng. Some old-timers said the scene eclipsed those of the 1918 armistice.

Pubs were jammed, Champagne was brought up from deep cellars and long-hoarded whisky and gin came out from hiding.

The great bells of Big Ben tolled the hours of the historic day.

In Paris, which lived through four years of German occupation to become a base for Supreme Allied Headquarters, the French government announced a two-day holiday. France had special cause for satisfaction in having staged a comeback and won the right to share in accepting Germany's surrender.

In Washington, crowds gathered in Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House in anticipation of an announcement by President Truman to proclaim Allied V-E Day.

A dispatch from the United States 9th Army front said withdrawal of American troops toward a previously established line of demarcation between them and the Russians had begun, with the first-move evacuation of the Yanks from their bridgehead of the banks of the Elbe River. The Elbe became the temporary line between the Allied armies.

EDITORS NOTE: Edward Kennedy, then AP's chief of bureau in Paris, was present at the surrender and was the first to report the end of the war in Europe to the United States and the world, bypassing the Allied political embargo.

The news was broadcast unofficially over German radio, but U.S. President Harry Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill had agreed to suppress news of the capitulation for a day, in order to allow Russian dictator Josef Stalin to stage a second surrender ceremony in Berlin.

Kennedy published anyway, angering U.S. authorities. The military suspended AP's ability temporarily to dispatch any news from the European theater, and Kennedy was called home by AP and later fired.

AP issued a public apology in 2012, saying Kennedy "did everything just right," because the embargo was for political reasons, not to protect the troops.

"The world needed to know," AP's then-President and CEO Tom Curley said. Kennedy "stood up to power."

## Liberian girl's song about COVID-19 being played on radio

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The voice is strong, and the words are resolute: "Let's protect ourselves to save our family and our country; let's stop the public gatherings."

The singer? She's 9 years old.

Joselia Kollie's song has been getting airplay on Liberian radio, and praise from health officials. She said she wanted to do her part to stop the spread of COVID-19 because "whenever bad things happen, we, the children, will always suffer."

At least 16 people have died since Liberia's first confirmed case on March 16, and the West African country

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is still rebuilding its public health sector after the Ebola epidemic killed 4,810 people between 2014 and 2016.

"I believe this song will help fight the virus because the song says prevention. We need to prevent ourselves from coronavirus by washing our hands, not shaking hands and not sneezing on one another," she said by phone from her home in Gbarnga, 180 kilometers (112 miles) from the capital.

Joselia began singing at the age of 3, and recently told her mother she wanted to do a song about fighting coronavirus.

"God called her to certain things and she wants to fulfill her destiny," said Amanda T. Kollie, herself a popular gospel singer.

Her mother helped her write the song, which was recorded in a local studio and then sent out to radio stations.

The song reminds Liberians of how much the country has been through.

"Some years back, we suffered from a civil war, we suffered from Ebola that took away many lives," she sings. "This time around, it's coronavirus --- coronavirus is so terrible."

Joselia already has accomplished more than many adults: She was just 6 when her parents helped her set up a charity to allow friends to stay in school when their families faced financial difficulties. The charity, Build My Future Foundation, or BUFF, currently is helping five girls and two boys in rural Liberia.

Dr. Francis Kateh, Liberia's chief medical officer and one of those on the front lines against COVID-19, said he was "overwhelmed with gratitude" for Joselia's effort. And veteran DJ and radio entertainment journalist Patrick Okai offered high praise for the girl's song.

"The message is powerful" he said, "especially with the chorus line that says 'prevention is better than cure.'"

Lives Lost: Generous Egyptian grandma was family 'jewel'

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

BAHTIM, Egypt (AP) — Gold and silver streamers fluttered in the breeze, hung from house to house down the alley, a festive sign of the holy month of Ramadan.

Usually, Ghaliya Abdel-Wahab would be giving out food to her neighbors for the holiday — big platters of stuffed cabbage leaves or cakes or buttermilk flatbreads. There wasn't a family on the street who hadn't enjoyed her food.

But the alley in Bahtim, just outside Cairo, was silent. Abdel-Wahab, 73, and two of her sons were dead. The novel coronavirus struck her family, infecting 45 relatives. It forced the lockdown of some 2,000 neighbors to their homes for weeks.

Fear of the virus left the beloved grandmother's relatives scrambling to find a way to bury her — after some in the district she'd lived in all her adult life barred her body from the local cemetery.

"All my memories with her were sweet ... She was always helping us, always looking after the whole street's people as her children," said one of her neighbors, Umm Gouda, fighting back her tears.

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

Umm Gouda was Abdel-Wahab's best friend for 40 years, ever since Umm Gouda moved in across the alley. From the start, Abdel-Wahab opened her home, letting Umm Gouda's kids come over to take baths as her friend finished building her house.

For the next four decades, they lived together across a street so narrow one of them could practically lean out her window and arrange the other's laundry dangling on the line. They watched each other's children grow up. They cooked and shopped at the nearby street market together.

The daughter of a farming family in the Nile Delta, Abdel-Wahab came to Bahtim in the 1960s with her husband not long after they married. The government was turning the area — a stretch of small towns amid green fields and canals from the Nile just north of Cairo — into an industrial hub. The young couple were among the rural villagers who flowed in to work in the new state-run fabric, metal and ceramics factories.

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Her husband found a job as a worker at Industrial Projects and Engineering, a government steel conglomerate. Abdel-Wahab raised chickens at home as a second income. They had eight children — four sons, most of whom also found jobs in the nearby factories, and four daughters who were married off and soon had families of their own.

Over the decades, the factories declined, neglected as the state moved from socialism to privatization. The area became poorer, and more migrants from the impoverished countryside flooded in. Abdel-Wahab found her district transformed into a decrepit sprawl of densely populated, illegally built concrete towers stretching for miles, the sewage systems decaying, the canals paved over or choked with garbage.

The grandmother's generosity always shined through. When the husband of another neighbor, Zeinab Ismail, was sent to prison a while back, Abdel-Wahab stepped in to help, giving her money to pay school fees for her daughters.

"She helped without being asked," Ismail said. "Hajja Ghaliya did everything, gave me money, food and anything I needed."

Her husband died in 2018, but Abdel-Wahab had her family close by — her sons and their families all lived in the same building with her. One of her grandchildren, Sayed Naser, called her "the jewel of the family."

"My grandma was very kind, unbelievable kindness with all people, relatives or non-relatives," he said.

The virus first hit her son, Abdel-Raouf, in March. At the hospital, the doctor said his fever was just a common flu and sent him home. Within days, he'd worsened and was rushed to a fever hospital.

But it was too late. The virus was racing through the family.

Abdel-Wahab got a fever and had trouble breathing. On April 4, one of her neighbors, Atif Ghoneim, rushed her to the hospital in his car. The whole way, she prayed and recited the Quran "as if she was aware that this was the end," he said.

Once her test results came back, the doctors ordered her taken to quarantine. She never made it. In the early hours of April 6, she died in the ambulance on route.

When health workers and two of her grandchildren took her for burial, they found a group of Bahtim residents blocking the entrance to the cemetery.

"They were waiting for us," Naser said. "They said, 'You will not bury anyone here. Do you want to get us sick?'"

They took her to her ancestral village, Kafr Kala al-Bab, in the Delta. There, too, residents initially tried to block the burial. Her body waited in the ambulance for more than 15 hours as police got involved and finally allowed her to be buried.

The next day, her son Abdel-Fattah died, followed later by her eldest son, 54-year-old Hisham. They were buried in unmarked graves in a charity cemetery. At least 45 family members were infected. Naser's 21-year-old sister, Yasmine, was pregnant with her first child when she was infected and gave birth in quarantine. They named the boy Yamen — and nicknamed him "Corona."

"Our family is in war with the coronavirus," said Naser. "This is a test, a test from God."

Back in Abdel-Wahab's alley, the thought stung that someone blocked the burial of the woman they all knew for her generosity. Once the family is out of quarantine and isolation, the neighbors want to do right by them and give their grandmother the farewell she deserved, said one neighbor, Sally Ahmed.

"We will hold a funeral service and receive them in the best way," she said.

## **Palestinians fear outbreak in Jerusalem's 'no man's land'**

**By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — As the coronavirus pandemic gathered strength last month, community leaders in a Palestinian neighborhood on the outskirts of Jerusalem tried to impose lockdown and quarantine measures to protect residents.

The problem: there were no police to enforce the measures.

Kufr Aqab is within the Israeli-drawn municipal boundary of Jerusalem, which Israel views as its unified capital. It is therefore off-limits to the Palestinian Authority, which is headquartered in the nearby city of



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Ramallah and governs parts of the occupied West Bank.

But the neighborhood is on the opposite side of the separation barrier Israel built in the mid-2000s, so the Israeli police don't go there either.

"This is no man's land," said Mayor Raed Hamdan.

When the neighborhood council set up checkpoints to restrict movement in or out, it had to rely on local volunteers. When it ordered businesses to close and people to stay home, they refused.

Now the town has at least 21 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to Sameh Abu Rumaila, the head of a local health committee that, like everything else, is run by volunteers. The committee estimates that another 500 people in the densely populated neighborhood have been in contact with those who were infected, but is powerless to isolate them.

"No one can control those people and put them into quarantine," he said. Most have Jerusalem residency, allowing them to travel more or less freely in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Israel. Rumaila says the town is a "ticking bomb."

The virus causes mild to moderate flu-like symptoms in most patients, who recover within a few weeks. But it is highly contagious and can cause severe illness or death, particularly in older individuals or those with underlying health problems.

Israel has reported more than 16,200 cases and at least 235 deaths, while the Palestinian Authority has reported more than 330 cases and two fatalities. Both imposed heavy restrictions several weeks ago to contain the outbreak, and are now starting to lift them as the rate of new infections slows.

But an estimated 120,000 people live in Kufr Aqab and other similarly ungoverned areas on the outskirts of the city. That could give rise to new outbreaks.

Nadav Matzner, the deputy spokesman for Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency service, said it set up a testing center at a checkpoint near Kufr Aqab on April 23 and has carried out more than 160 tests. He said it normally does not operate beyond the barrier but has sent medics who are from those neighborhoods inside to conduct testing.

Officials from the Jerusalem municipality did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Haneen, an 18-year-old resident, tested positive on April 19, along with her mother and four sisters. Her mother and one of her sisters have been hospitalized, while the others were quarantined in a hotel in Ramallah. She declined to give her last name out of privacy concerns.

Haneen and the sister who is hospitalized work inside Israel, but they were home during the two-week-long Passover holiday in early April, when much of Israel was shut down. They believe they were infected in Kufr Aqab.

"The town is open, all the shops are open, and we all go out and buy from the shops and contact other people," she said. "There are no police to impose law and order, only local volunteers blocking the roads to Ramallah and Jerusalem."

"They let you pass if you argue with them," she said.

The volunteers have reason to be wary. In March, an argument at a checkpoint near Kufr Aqab led to an exchange of gunfire. Israel allowed Palestinian security forces to enter and restore order, but then they had to withdraw.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. It unilaterally expanded the city's borders to take in large tracts of land — where it later built Jewish settlements — as well as areas like Kufr Aqab, which at the time were small Palestinian villages.

The Palestinians, who want east Jerusalem to be the capital of their future state, view the separation barrier as part of a larger plan to cut them off from the city and change its demographics.

Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher for Ir Amim, an Israeli rights group focused on Jerusalem, said Israel appears to be planning to redraw the city's boundaries to exclude Kufr Aqab and other peripheral communities. That would reduce Jerusalem's Palestinian population by more than a third, from around 330,000 to just 200,000.

President Donald Trump's Middle East plan, which Israel has eagerly embraced and the Palestinians have

rejected, would also remove those neighborhoods from Jerusalem.

"Israel built the separation barrier in a way that disconnects Kufr Aqab, with an explicit intention to get rid of Palestinians from Jerusalem," he said.

Israel says the barrier was built in response to a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings and other attacks during the 2000-2005 uprising and that it's essential for Israel's security.

Kufr Aqab and other nearby neighborhoods have been plagued by a lack of law and order since the barrier went up. Criminal gangs enjoy free reign, and the lax enforcement of building codes has led to the rapid construction of apartment towers — some up to 18 stories high — that many fear are unsafe.

"We live in great anxiety here," Naela Namour, a housewife and mother of two, said. People in the apartment towers pack into elevators, their children play together in small vacant lots and the local markets are as busy as ever.

"There are no rules," she said. "People move, work, buy and sell without any restrictions."

## UK's 'Captain Tom' inspires campaign by 97-year-old Russian

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Inspired by 99-year-old Briton Tom Moore's multi-million pound charity walk, a Russian fellow World War II veteran has launched her own effort to gather contributions for the families of doctors and nurses who have died of COVID-19.

Zinaida Korneva, 97, isn't walking laps in her garden as Moore did in the days up to his 100th birthday last month. Instead, she's launched a website with videos telling of her trials as a Red Army soldier in the Stalingrad region.

In one of the videos she credits Moore, who served in the British army during WWII and rose to the rank of captain, as her inspiration.

"Hello Tom. I learned about your story. You are a strong person and a real soldier," she says, displaying a chestful of medals. "We defeated fascism together in 1945. And now, together, we're fighting against this virus."

The efforts by Moore, who became widely known as "Captain Tom," became a worldwide sensation and raised more than 30 million pounds (\$37 million) for charities affiliated with Britain's National Health Service.

And he's also getting a special gift from Korneva -- she knitted him a pair of socks.

"Let them keep you warm with love from Russia," she said.

As of Tuesday, Korneva's campaign had raised over \$26,000 in five days and she hopes to accumulate \$40,000.

Senior scientist says administration ignored virus warnings

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus, then sought a quick fix by trying to rush an unproven drug to patients, a senior government scientist alleged in a whistleblower complaint.

Dr. Rick Bright, former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, alleges he was reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug pushed by President Donald Trump. He said the Trump administration wanted to "flood" hot spots in New York and New Jersey with the drug.

"I witnessed government leadership rushing blindly into a potentially dangerous situation by bringing in a non-FDA approved chloroquine from Pakistan and India, from facilities that had never been approved by the FDA," Bright said Tuesday on a call with reporters. "Their eagerness to push blindly forward without sufficient data to put this drug into the hands of Americans was alarming to me and my fellow scientists."

Bright filed the complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, a government agency that investigates retaliation against federal employees who uncover problems. He wants his job back and a full investigation.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a terse statement saying that Bright was transferred to the National Institutes of Health to work on coronavirus testing, a crucial assignment. "We are

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deeply disappointed that he has not shown up to work on behalf of the American people and lead on this critical endeavor," HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley said.

According HHS, Bright has not reported to his new post. But his spokeswoman said that Bright is on sick leave, following his doctor's orders, and that HHS has provided him no details on his new role.

Bright's complaint comes as the Trump administration faces criticism over its response to the pandemic, including testing and supplies of ventilators, masks and other equipment to stem the spread. There have been nearly 1.2 million confirmed cases in the United States and more than 70,000 deaths.

Bright said his superiors repeatedly rejected his warnings that the virus would spread in the U.S., missing an early opportunity to stock up on protective masks for first responders. He said he "acted with urgency" to address the growing spread of COVID-19 — the disease the virus causes — after the World Health Organization issued a warning in January.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health, said she plans to hold a hearing into his complaint next week, and Bright's lawyers said he would testify. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, appearing on MSNBC, called the complaint "very damaging."

In his complaint, Bright said he "encountered resistance from HHS leadership, including Secretary (Alex) Azar, who appeared intent on downplaying this catastrophic event."

During a Feb. 23 meeting, Azar, as well as Bright's boss, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec, "responded with surprise at (Bright's) dire predictions and urgency, and asserted that the United States would be able to contain the virus and keep it out," the whistleblower complaint said.

Bright said White House trade adviser Peter Navarro was a rare exception among administration officials, extremely concerned about the potential consequences of an outbreak. He described working with Navarro to break a bureaucratic logjam and set up military transport from Italy for swabs needed in the U.S.

Navarro was the author of several urgent memos within the White House. Bright said Navarro asked for his help, saying the trade adviser told him the memos were needed to "save lives."

Navarro's memos to top officials raised alarms even as Trump was publicly assuring Americans that the outbreak was under control.

Bright's allegation that he was removed over his resistance to widespread use of the malaria drug was already public, but his whistleblower complaint added details from emails and internal communications while bringing to light his early attempts to acquire N95 respirator masks, which he said were ignored by superiors.

In late January, Bright said he was contacted by an official of a leading mask manufacturer about ramping up production. It was estimated that as many as 3.5 billion would be needed, while the national stockpile had about 300 million.

The complaint said that when Bright tried to press the issue about masks with superiors at HHS, he was ignored or rebuffed. "HHS publicly represented not only that COVID-19 was not an imminent threat, but also that HHS already had all the masks it would need," the complaint said.

As the epidemic spread in the U.S. and engulfed the New York metropolitan area, Bright alleges that political appointees at HHS tried to promote hydroxychloroquine "as a panacea." The officials also "demanded that New York and New Jersey be 'flooded' with these drugs, which were imported from factories in Pakistan and India that had not been inspected by the FDA," the complaint says.

Last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned doctors against prescribing the drug except in hospitals and research studies. In an alert, regulators flagged reports of sometimes fatal heart side effects among coronavirus patients taking hydroxychloroquine or the related drug chloroquine.

Bright felt officials had "refused to listen or take appropriate action to accurately inform the public" and spoke to a reporter about the drug. He said he had to tell the public about the lack of science backing up its use, despite the drug being pushed by the president at press briefings.

"As the death toll mounted exponentially each day, Dr. Bright concluded that he had a moral obligation to the American public, including those vulnerable as a result of illness from COVID-19, to protect it from drugs which he believed constituted a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety," the complaint says.

On Jan. 20, according to the complaint, the WHO held an emergency call that was attended by many HHS officials, and WHO officials advised that "the outbreak is a big problem."

Trump has accused the U.N. agency of mismanaging and covering up the spread of the virus after it emerged in China. He has also said he wants to cut the WHO's funding.

Bright's agency works to guard against pandemics and emergent infectious diseases and is working to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Top officials also pressured him to steer contracts to a client of a lobbyist, he reported.

"Time after time I was pressured to ignore or dismiss expert scientific recommendations and instead to award lucrative contracts based on political connections," Bright said in the call with reporters. "In other words, I was pressured to let politics and cronyism drive decisions over the opinions of the best scientists we have in government."

Zachary Kurz, a spokesman for the agency where Bright filed his complaint, said the office couldn't comment or confirm the status of open investigations.

## US infection rate rising outside New York as states open up

By NICKY FORSTER, CARLA K. JOHNSON and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

Take the New York metropolitan area's progress against the coronavirus out of the equation and the numbers show the rest of the U.S. is moving in the wrong direction, with the known infection rate rising even as states move to lift their lockdowns, an Associated Press analysis found Tuesday.

New confirmed infections per day in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are well over 1,000, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University. And public health officials warn that the failure to flatten the curve and drive down the infection rate in places could lead to many more deaths — perhaps tens of thousands — as people are allowed to venture out and businesses reopen.

"Make no mistakes: This virus is still circulating in our community, perhaps even more now than in previous weeks" said Linda Ochs, director of the Health Department in Shawnee County, Kansas.

Elsewhere around the world, Britain's official coronavirus death toll, at more than 29,000, topped that of Italy to become the highest in Europe and second-highest in the world behind the United States. The official number of dead worldwide surpassed a quarter-million, by Johns Hopkins' count, though the true toll is believed to be much higher.

The densely packed New York metropolitan area, consisting of about 20 million people across a region that encompasses the city's northern suburbs, Long Island and northern New Jersey, has been the hardest-hit corner of the country, accounting for at least one-third of the nation's 70,000 deaths.

When the still locked-down area is included, new infections in the U.S. appear to be declining, according to the AP analysis. It found that the five-day rolling average for new cases has decreased from 9.3 per 100,000 people three weeks ago on April 13 to 8.6 on Monday.

But subtracting the New York area from the analysis changes the story. Without it, the rate of new cases in the U.S. increased over the same period from 6.2 per 100,000 people to 7.5.

While the daily number of new deaths in the New York area has declined markedly in recent weeks, it has essentially plateaued in the rest of the U.S. Without greater New York, the rolling five-day average for new deaths per 500,000 people dropped slightly from 1.86 on April 20th to 1.82 on Monday.

U.S. testing for the virus has been expanded, and that has probably contributed to the increasing rate of confirmed infections. But it doesn't explain the entire increase, said Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang, a public health researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"This increase is not because of testing. It's a real increase," he said.

Pockets of America far from New York City are seeing ominous trends.

Deaths in Iowa surged to a new daily high of 19 on Tuesday, and 730 workers at a single Tyson Foods pork plant tested positive. On Monday, Shawnee County, home to Topeka, Kansas, reported a doubling of cases from last week on the same day that business restrictions began to ease.

Gallup, New Mexico, is under a strict lockdown until Thursday because of an outbreak, with guarded

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roadblocks to prevent travel in and out and a ban on more than two people in a vehicle. Authorities have deployed water tankers, hospital space is running short, and a high school gym is now a recuperation center with 60 oxygen-supplied beds.

On Monday, a model from the University of Washington nearly doubled its projection of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. to around 134,000 through early August, with a range of 95,000 to nearly 243,000.

Dr. Christopher Murray, director of the institute that created the projections, said the increase is largely because most states are expected to ease restrictions by next week.

Without stay-at-home orders and similar measures, Murray said, "we would have had exponential growth, much larger epidemics and deaths in staggering numbers." But cooperation is waning, with cellphone location data showing people are getting out more, even before their states reopen, he said.

President Donald Trump, asked about the projections before traveling to Arizona to visit a mask factory, disputed the accuracy of models in general and said keeping the economy closed carries deadly costs of its own, such as drug abuse and suicide.

"We have to get our country open," Trump said.

A senior U.S. government scientist alleged in a whistleblower complaint Tuesday that the administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus. Dr. Rick Bright also said he was reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug unproven for treating COVID-19, that was being pushed by Trump.

The Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement that he was transferred to the National Institutes of Health to work on coronavirus testing, a crucial assignment.

Zhang, the UCLA researcher, said it's worrying that the rate of new cases is increasing at the same time some states are easing up: "We're one country. If we're not moving in the same step, we're going to have a problem."

He said he is particularly concerned about Florida and Texas, where cases have been rising steadily and the potential for explosions seems high.

While death rates in some places have been trending down, that could change and hospitals could become overwhelmed, he said.

Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, said she and colleagues keep warning governors against "skipping phases" in federal guidelines recommending that business and other institutions, like schools, be reopened in phases.

"We don't want to see serious illness and mortality increase," Birx said.

In Europe, meanwhile, Britain said about 29,400 people with COVID-19 have died in its hospitals, nursing homes and other settings, while Italy reported just over 29,300 confirmed fatalities.

Both counts are probably underestimates because they do not include suspected cases. Britain reported more than 32,000 deaths in which COVID-19 was either confirmed or suspected; a comparable figure for Italy was not available.

Even so, the rate of deaths and hospitalizations in Britain was on the decline, and the government prepared to begin loosening its lockdown.

A trial began of a mobile phone app that U.K. authorities hope will help contain the outbreak by warning people if they have been near an infected individual; it could be rolled out later this month.

Many European countries that have relaxed strict lockdowns after new infections tapered off were watching their virus numbers warily.

"We know with great certainty that there will be a second wave — the majority of scientists are sure of that. And many also assume that there will be a third wave," said Lothar Wieler, head of Germany's national disease control center.

South Korea reported two new cases Wednesday, its lowest daily total since February, and the country's baseball season began the previous day with no spectators allowed.

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

By The Associated Press undefined

President Donald Trump visited a Honeywell mask factory in Arizona, but ignored guidelines to wear a mask. So did senior White House staff and Honeywell executives. Trump's visit, meant to promote his message that it's time to reopen the economy, came amid ominous signs for the country's battle against the coronavirus.

An Associated Press analysis found that if the New York metropolitan area's progress against the virus is removed from the equation, the rest of the U.S. is moving in the wrong direction, with the infection rate rising. Trump acknowledged that some people will "be affected badly" by the lifting of stay-at-home orders and other restrictions.

Elsewhere, Britain on Tuesday became the first country in Europe to confirm more than 30,000 coronavirus deaths, and infections rose sharply again in Russia. China and South Korea each reported only two fresh coronavirus cases.

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

### WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— A senior U.S. government scientist alleged in a whistleblower complaint Tuesday that the Trump administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus. Dr. Rick Bright also alleges he was reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug pushed by Trump as a treatment for COVID-19. The drug has not been proven to be effective and regulators have warned doctors not to prescribe it.

— America's least-populated states are scoring big when it comes to getting federal aid. Alaska, Hawaii, Montana and Wyoming got an outsized proportion of the \$150 billion that was supposed to address coronavirus-related expenses. When measured by the number of positive COVID-19 tests, Alaska got nearly \$3.4 million per test, according to an Associated Press analysis. New York, the hardest-hit state, received about \$24,000 per positive test.

— In Brazil, the capital of tropical Maranhão state and three neighboring cities ground largely to a halt Tuesday, becoming the first major Brazilian areas to enter a lockdown. Some 1.5 million people are confined to their homes under a decree from Gov. Flávio Dino that will last 10 days and comes despite President Jair Bolsonaro's insistence that only the elderly and other high-risk populations should stay home.

— Major U.S. automakers are planning to reopen North American factories within two weeks, potentially putting thousands of workers back on the assembly line. Fiat Chrysler said it plans to start reopening factories May 18, though that depends on an easing of government restrictions. The United Auto Workers union appears to be on board.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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

Here are the symptoms of the virus compared with the common flu.

One of the best ways to prevent spread of the virus is washing your hands with soap and water. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends first washing with warm or cold water and then lathering soap for 20 seconds to get it on the backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails before rinsing off.

You should wash your phone, too. Here's how.

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

### ONE NUMBER:

— 2: The number of hits given up by former Detroit Tigers pitcher Warwick Saupold in his complete-game shutout for the Hanwha Eagles as baseball returned to empty stadiums in South Korea.

#### IN OTHER NEWS:

— DON'T FORGET MOM: Mother's Day this year is a mix of love and extra imagination as families do without their usual brunches and huggy meet-ups. As the pandemic persists in keeping families indoors or a safe social distance apart, online searches have increased for creative ways to still make moms feel special.

— CINEMA MACHINE: The coronavirus has brought back something unseen in Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution: a drive-in movie theater. Once decried by revolutionaries for allowing too much privacy for unmarried young couples, a drive-in theater now operates from a parking lot right under Tehran's iconic Milad tower, showing a film in line with the views of hard-liners.

## Judge restores New York Democratic presidential primary

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER, MARINA VILLENEUVE and BILL BARROW** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Democratic presidential primary must take place June 23 because canceling it would be unconstitutional and deprive withdrawn presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Andrew Yang of proper representation at the Democratic convention, a judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres in Manhattan ruled after lawyers for Sanders and Yang argued Monday that they otherwise would be harmed irreparably.

The judge said there was enough time before the primary to plan how to carry it out safely. She acknowledged that the reason it was canceled — to prevent the spread of COVID-19 — was an important state interest but said she was unconvinced it justified infringing rights, especially since every voter can use an absentee ballot. She noted that no other state had canceled its primary.

Torres wrote that removing presidential contenders from the primary ballot deprived them of votes for the Democratic Party's nomination. She said it also diminished the delegates' influence on the party's platform and their ability to react to unexpected convention developments.

It also "deprived Democratic voters of the opportunity to elect delegates who could push their point of view in that forum," she said. "The loss of these First Amendment rights is a heavy hardship."

The Democratic members of the State's Board of Elections voted last week to cancel the presidential primary even though New York still planned to hold its congressional and state-level primaries June 23.

They cited fears the coronavirus could spread among an extra 1.5 million voters who would show up for an election in which former Vice President Joe Biden already has been endorsed by the major candidates he had faced.

The fact that the primary was going to occur on June 23 anyway because of other contested races, including a number of congressional primaries, led Torres to question on Monday why the primary wasn't canceled entirely if safety was such a concern.

Asked for reaction, New York state Democratic party chair Jay Jacobs said: "We are reviewing it."

Jacobs had called holding the primary "unnecessary" with the suspension of Sanders' campaign and said reduced turnout could reduce the need for many poll workers.

State board of elections spokesman John Conklin said: "No comment at this time. Our lawyers are reviewing the decision."

Biden's campaign declined to comment. The campaign has kept its distance from the situation, not wanting to become embroiled in a new fight over nearly 300 delegates to the summer convention and saying the campaign didn't ask for the primary to be scrapped.

Biden became the presumptive nominee when Bernie Sanders suspended his campaign last month, but Sanders had made clear that he wanted to continue collecting delegates from remaining primaries, including in New York, to maximize his influence over the party platform and other decisions at the Democratic convention this summer.

Biden's campaign did not want to be seen as stepping on Sanders' efforts to do that in a state like New

York, where the Vermont senator maintains a significant following.

Sanders' allies celebrated the ruling.

"Credit to Andrew Yang and all the grassroots groups that have been carrying on the fight for democracy in New York," said Larry Cohen, who chairs Our Revolution, the grassroots organization spun out of Sanders' 2016 White House bid. "Vote by mail is the answer to the pandemic," Cohen continued, "not canceling the presidential primary when more than 80% of democrats have other elections the same day."

Sanders' representatives, in a statement forwarded by attorney Arthur Schwartz, who argued before Torres, called the decision "an extraordinary victory for the democratic process here in New York, a state much in need of something to cheer about."

Attorney Jeff Kurzon, representing Yang and Congressional candidate Jonathan Herzog, said he was thankful that the judge upheld the laws and protected the right to vote.

"We are fired up and up and ready to go vote on June 23!," he wrote in an email.

## Justice Ginsburg in hospital with infection, court says

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized Tuesday with an infection caused by a gallstone, but plans to take part in the court's arguments by telephone Wednesday, the Supreme Court said.

The 87-year-old justice underwent non-surgical treatment for what the court described as acute cholecystitis, a benign gallbladder condition, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

She is resting comfortably and expects to be in the hospital for a day or two, the court said.

Ginsburg took part in the court's telephone arguments Monday and Tuesday. She initially sought medical care Monday, when the gallstone was first diagnosed.

She has been treated four times for cancer, most recently in August, when she underwent radiation for a tumor on her pancreas.

Her most recent hospital stay was in November, when she spent two nights at Johns Hopkins Hospital with a likely infection after suffering from chills and fever.

The frail-looking liberal icon also bounced back from lung surgery to remove cancerous growths in December 2018. Her recovery from that surgery forced her to miss court arguments for the first time since she became a justice in 1993, appointed by President Bill Clinton.

She has been doing her usual workout with a personal trainer at the court, even as the justices have cancelled courtroom arguments in favor of telephone sessions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Ginsburg has said she would like to serve until she's 90, if her health allows.

## Pint-sized driver surprises Utah trooper during traffic stop

OGDEN, Utah (AP) — A Utah Highway Patrol trooper got a pint-sized surprise when he pulled over a 5-year-old driver who was swerving so badly he thought the driver needed medical attention.

Trooper Rick Morgan said Adrian Zamarripa, who turns 6 next month, did not respond to his lights but pulled over when he hit his siren on Interstate 15 in Ogden on Monday.

"I approached the vehicle and I was expecting to find somebody who needed an ambulance or paramedics," Morgan said.

But when the window came down Morgan said it was pretty clear that it was "a very underaged driver who was behind the wheel."

The boy was sitting on the edge of his seat to reach the brake pedal, the trooper said.

When asked, Morgan said Adrian told him he was going to his sister's house — in California. The boy told another trooper that he wanted to buy a Lamborghini when he got there and then flashed open his wallet showing his cash to purchase his dream car: \$3.

His parents were contacted and they came and took custody of their son and the vehicle.



Adrian has long dreamed of owning his own Lamborghini and spends hours watching videos of the luxury sports cars racing, his sister, Sidney Estrada, told the Deseret News.

On Tuesday, a local Lamborghini owner treated Adrian to rides up and down the street — with the boy in the passenger seat.

## Intel nominee faces skeptics, vows to resist Trump pressure

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee for national intelligence director sought at his confirmation hearing Tuesday to shed his reputation as a loyalist to the president, insisting to skeptical Democrats that he would carry out the job free of political influence or partisan bias.

The comments from Rep. John Ratcliffe, a Texas Republican, were aimed at quelling Democratic fears that he would be vulnerable to pressure from a president who is often perceived as politicizing intelligence and who publicly disputes intelligence conclusions at odds with his personal views. Those concerns are amplified at a time when intelligence agencies are investigating politically sensitive issues, including election meddling and the cause of the coronavirus pandemic.

Senators repeatedly pressed Ratcliffe on whether he could stand up to Trump by presenting him with analysis he did not like. They also asked if he agreed with the president's assertions that intelligence agencies had "run amok" and were infiltrated by the "deep state." Ratcliffe refused to endorse either claim and insisted he would not shape intelligence findings to meet the desires of anyone.

"Let me be very clear: Regardless of what anyone wants our intelligence to reflect, the intelligence I will provide, if confirmed, will not be impacted or altered as a result of outside influence," he told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Republican Sen. Richard Burr, the committee chairman, said after the hearing that he was satisfied Ratcliffe would serve "in an independent capacity." He promised a quick vote on his nomination.

But Sen. Chuck Schumer, speaking on the Senate floor as the hearing was underway, spoke for many Democrats by dismissing Ratcliffe as a "deeply partisan cheerleader for the president, a yes man in every sense of the phrase."

The confirmation hearing, the first in-person one held under drastic new distancing rules for the coronavirus, comes at a tumultuous time for the intelligence agencies. About a half dozen intelligence community leaders have resigned or been ousted over the last year and agencies already grappling with the prospect of Russian interference in November's election are now probing the politically charged question of whether the coronavirus is man-made or originated in a Chinese laboratory.

Ratcliffe's path to the job has been similarly topsy-turvy, with the original nomination withdrawn after bipartisan criticism he was unqualified to oversee the 17 organizations that make up the U.S. intelligence community. Trump unexpectedly renominated him in February. His chances of securing the job appear better this time around.

Democrats revealed their skepticism in occasionally contentious questioning, with Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California pressing Ratcliffe over past comments about whistleblowers and New Mexico Sen. Martin Heinrich asking for instances of when Ratcliffe had ever "spoken truth to power," particularly involving the president.

"I have to say that while I am willing to give you the benefit of the doubt at this hearing, I don't see what has changed since last summer when the president decided not to proceed with your nomination," said Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the panel's top Democrat.

Ratcliffe took pains to break with the president, including by saying he believed Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, a conclusion Trump has often resisted. And he answered "of course" when asked by Republican Sen. Susan Collins if he would communicate to Trump the intelligence community's findings even if he knew Trump disagreed with them and might fire him.

When it comes to investigating the coronavirus origins, Ratcliffe pledged that he would be "laser-focused" in that task — a key concern to Trump and other administration officials who have raised the idea that it

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could have emerged from a Chinese lab, perhaps accidentally.

Ratcliffe initially said he had not seen intelligence that it had come from a lab, but under questioning later in the hearing, he also said he had not seen intelligence that it had originated from a Chinese market either. As a caveat, he noted that he had not received a recent classified briefing on the subject.

Tuesday's hearing tested the Senate's ability to conduct business safely with coronavirus cases still on the rise in the Washington area. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called his chamber back to work Monday, while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., kept the House away, saying she had been advised by the Capitol physician that it was not yet safe to convene.

Attendance at the session was restricted, with members encouraged to watch as much as possible from their offices and come to the room when it was time for their questions. No more than two dozen people were there at any point, with the public barred from the Capitol complex.

With seats spaced at least six feet apart, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., joked that he could barely see Ratcliffe across the cavernous hearing room.

Lawmakers concerned by turnover within intelligence community leadership are eager for a permanent, Senate-confirmed replacement for Dan Coats, who left the DNI post last summer and had bipartisan support. About a half dozen officials have either resigned or been fired in the last year, including the intelligence community inspector general who advanced a whistleblower complaint that led to Trump's impeachment.

The DNI position is currently held in an acting capacity by Trump loyalist Richard Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany.

Some senators who previously seemed cool to Ratcliffe's nomination appeared to soften.

Collins, a critical GOP swing vote on the panel, said last summer that she had never heard of Ratcliffe before his nomination. But last week she said she had spoken with him and concluded that he has the experience "to meet the statutory standard" for the position.

Ratcliffe sits on the House intelligence, judiciary and ethics committees and has been a fierce defender of Trump. He forcefully questioned former special counsel Robert Mueller last summer when Mueller testified about the Russia investigation.

He was also a member of Trump's impeachment advisory team last fall and aggressively questioned witnesses during House impeachment hearings.

## States with few virus cases get big share of relief aid

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Alaska, Hawaii, Montana and Wyoming are not epicenters of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet these four states scored big this spring when Congress pumped out direct federal aid, while the two hardest-hit states, New York and New Jersey, got comparatively little given the vast numbers of cases and deaths they have seen.

An Associated Press analysis shows that some states with small populations like these took in an out-sized share of the \$150 billion in federal money that was designed to address coronavirus-related expenses, when measured by the number of positive tests for the COVID-19 disease.

Their haul ranged from \$2 million per positive test in Hawaii to nearly \$3.4 million per test in Alaska. In Wyoming, with less than 600 positive cases, the \$1.25 billion it received equates to 80 percent of its annual general state budget.

By comparison, New York and New Jersey received about \$24,000 and \$27,000, respectively, for each positive coronavirus test. Other states with high numbers of cases, including Massachusetts, Michigan and Illinois, received less than \$100,000 per case.

"If there's a fire, you don't spray the whole neighborhood. You spray the house that's on fire," said Bill Hammond, director of public health policy at the Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonpartisan government watchdog in New York. He said it doesn't make sense in this case to follow the normal political procedure of giving every state so much in the face of a public health crisis.

To be sure, the lowest population states often receive higher dollar amounts per capita when Congress

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doles out federal aid. That's due in part to political reality: Small states have the same number of U.S. senators as more populous ones, and those senators lobby hard for their states' interests.

The awards in the relief act passed in late March were based on population, but with a catch: Every state was to receive at least \$1.25 billion, regardless of its size. Lawmakers said setting such a minimum was needed to reach a deal in a divided government.

In the coronavirus fight, the disproportionate share going to smaller states has consequences. States with high numbers of infections and deaths say they need that money for immediate expenses related to fighting an outbreak that threatened to overwhelm their hospital systems, from staff overtime to setting up makeshift hospitals.

The money for state governments is a slice of a \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus. Governments are supposed to use it for new coronavirus expenses incurred from March 1 through Dec. 30. Under federal guidelines, the money cannot be used for other purposes, like making up for lost tax revenue to keep general government services running.

Some states with relatively few cases have been able to reopen their economies faster and have more options on how to spend the federal largess. Many are now trying to determine how they can spend the windfall while keeping within the federal guidelines.

Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican, is proposing using a portion of the money to help businesses that have suffered because of government-imposed shutdowns and shrunken demand, even though other parts of the federal aid are already aimed at businesses.

Gordon noted neighboring Idaho — which received more than \$600,000 per positive test — already has a similar system in place. In a public meeting streamed on video, Gordon said he knew the state would be watched carefully. After all, the state's allocation is five times per capita what New York received and nearly 90 times as much per positive coronavirus test.

"There will be unduly high scrutiny on how Wyoming uses those funds," Gordon said.

Montana's governor is also proposing business grants, along with mortgage and rent assistance and other programs.

Hawaii's Gov. David Ige said his state's share was "sorely needed" because of the dire financial consequences of halting its tourism industry as the virus spread.

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has worked for decades to implement all-state minimums for federal funding: "Regardless of total numbers of cases, states like Vermont have had to shut down, just as have other states, and the impact in states small and large has been devastating in many ways," Leahy said in a statement.

Other states are considering dividing the federal money among local governments and businesses, in addition to covering the state's health expenses. That's the plan in Alaska. One of that state's two Republican senators, U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, said the goal of the act was to get as much help to the states as possible and that he worked hard to set the \$1.25 billion minimum level.

"I think the argument that 'we were hit harder' is all relative, meaning we're not out of this pandemic and you're seeing flareups in other states," he said. "I hope that doesn't happen in our state, but it could."

West Virginia, which has the seventh-lowest number of U.S. coronavirus cases, received just over \$1 million per positive test. Gov. Jim Justice, a Republican, has said he hopes the state will be able to use the money to alleviate its growing budget shortfall, even though federal guidance on the bill suggests that would not be allowed.

New York doesn't have the luxury of trying to use the money to help cover a massive drop in tax revenue.

While it received billions of federal dollars for coronavirus-related expenses, it has received no money to help offset the loss of more than \$13 billion in revenue, said Freeman Klopott, spokesman for the state budget division. The state is now considering \$10 billion in cuts.

"New York state has been the epicenter of the pandemic and unfortunately has been home to about one-third of all U.S. COVID-19 related deaths, and federal funding provided so far has failed to recognize this reality," Klopott said in a statement.

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Steve Sweeney, New Jersey's Democratic state Senate president, said if his state were among those with the fewest infections, "we'd give the money to somebody else."

New York and other states with high numbers of cases have been lobbying Congress to provide more aid to state and local governments in a future coronavirus relief package.

Sens. Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican, and Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, are proposing \$500 billion more for state and local governments. Under their plan, the first one-third of the money would be allocated based on population, the second on the number of coronavirus cases and the third on the toll it's taken on government budgets.

Under their proposal, every state again would receive at least \$1.25 billion — and this time with looser restrictions on how the money could be spent.

Menendez said the baseline amount was a nod to political reality: "We need to get 60 votes in the Senate."

## Where's the beef? Production shutdown leads to shortages

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic have moved beyond meat processing plants and are now hitting dinner plates.

Several U.S. production plants have been temporarily shuttered in the last two weeks after hundreds of workers were sickened by the virus. That has led to meat shortages, with Wendy's pulling some burgers off its menus and Costco limiting pork sales. Fake meat companies, meanwhile, are making their moves to capture some of those lost sales.

Beyond Meat, which makes burgers and sausage from pea protein, said Tuesday it's launching new value packs to entice consumers while rival Impossible Foods is expanding sales to more than 1,700 Kroger groceries.

As of Monday, U.S. beef and pork processing capacity was down 40% from last year, according to Jayson Lusk, head of the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University.

Some meatpacking plants are coming back online after President Donald Trump issued an executive order last week requiring them to stay open. But until they're back at full capacity, consumers will likely see some shortages and higher prices for beef and pork, Lusk said. Poultry production has also been impacted, but to a lesser degree.

On Tuesday, the attorneys general for 11 Midwestern states urged the Justice Department to pursue a federal investigation into market concentration and potential price fixing by meatpackers in the cattle industry, pointing out the disparity in the price of live cattle and the retail cost of boxed beef that is sold to consumers.

"Given the concentrated market structure of the beef industry, it may be particularly susceptible to market manipulation, particularly during times of food insecurity, such as the current COVID-19 crisis," they wrote.

Just over 1,000 Wendy's restaurants — or nearly 20% — had no beef items available on their online menus Monday night, according to an analysis by Stephens Inc., an investment bank. Stephens analyst James Rutherford said some states, like Ohio, Michigan and New York, seemed to be impacted more than others.

Wendy's responded that some menu items may be temporarily limited, but it continues to supply its restaurants with beef two to three times a week. The company said it's trying to limit disruptions to its supplies.

Costco, Sam's Club, Hy-Vee and Kroger are limiting purchases of meat to avoid panic buying. Kroger Co., which also owns Ralphs and Harris Teeter markets, said it wants to ensure buyers have a broad assortment.

"There is plenty of protein in the supply chain," Kroger said in a statement.

Empty and underfilled coolers greeted shoppers in the meat department at the Costco in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Louis Park Tuesday morning, one day after the retailer started limiting fresh meat purchases to three items per customer.

On Tuesday afternoon, a Kroger store in suburban Atlanta was limiting purchases to two packages of

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chicken, two packages of pork or three packages of ground beef at a time.

Marie Livingston left the store with beef stew meat and some other cuts. She accepted the limits as inevitable.

"Ultimately, you had to see it was coming to this," Livingston said. "You have to limit the supply so everyone can get some and it's fair."

A few hundred yards away at Publix Super Markets on Tuesday afternoon, the store was limiting shoppers to two packages of chicken and was running low. But it was noticeably better stocked on beef and pork.

Some companies — including Target and McDonald's — have no restrictions in place. McDonald's said last week it has seen no supply interruptions because it uses a wide variety of suppliers.

Meat producer Tyson Foods Inc. said it's working hard to get its plants back up safely.

"It's very difficult to speculate on how challenges to the food supply will evolve in the coming weeks, but we are doing our best to maximize our production to meet demand," the company said in a statement.

Makers of alternative proteins say they can help fill the void. El Segundo, California-based Beyond Meat said Tuesday it will be offering lower-cost value packs over the next few weeks to encourage companies to try its burgers. The company said its first-quarter revenue jumped 141% to \$97 million, partly because consumers stocked up ahead of lockdowns in March.

"I think we have snuck in at just the right time," Beyond Meat President and CEO Ethan Brown said.

Impossible Foods, which makes soy-based burgers and sausage, said Tuesday it's accelerating its retail sales after seeing a falloff in sales to restaurants. Its burgers will go on sale at 1,700 Kroger grocery stores starting this week, which more than doubles the number of stores offering them. In January, the burgers were only available at 250 stores nationwide.

Impossible said consumer awareness of its products is up sharply, and it's seeing evidence that more people are trying alternative meats.

Impossible says it's able to produce plant-based foods safely because workers can stay farther apart and more machinery is automated than in slaughterhouses. Beyond Meat also said it has had no reported illnesses at its facilities.

"Anytime there's a spotlight illuminating what's actually involved in slaughtering animals and producing meat it is bad news for the meat industry," Impossible CEO Pat Brown said.

Dr. Praeger's, a New Jersey-based maker of plant-based chicken tenders, veggie burgers and other products, said it has also seen higher sales since the pandemic began and is adding another production line to handle demand.

Nielsen says sales of fresh meat alternatives were up 224% the week ending April 25. It noted fresh meat sales jumped 50% in the same period.

## Whistleblower: US failed to prepare, sought quick virus fix

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, MICHAEL BALSAMO

and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration failed to prepare for the onslaught of the coronavirus, then sought a quick fix by trying to rush an unproven drug to patients, a senior government scientist alleged in a whistleblower complaint Tuesday.

Dr. Rick Bright, former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, alleges he was reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug pushed by President Donald Trump. He said the Trump administration wanted to "flood" hot spots in New York and New Jersey with the drug.

"I witnessed government leadership rushing blindly into a potentially dangerous situation by bringing in a non-FDA approved chloroquine from Pakistan and India, from facilities that had never been approved by the FDA," Bright said Tuesday on a call with reporters. "Their eagerness to push blindly forward without sufficient data to put this drug into the hands of Americans was alarming to me and my fellow scientists."

Bright filed the complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, a government agency that investigates re-

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tialiation against federal employees who uncover problems. He wants his job back and a full investigation.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a terse statement saying that Bright was transferred to the National Institutes of Health to work on coronavirus testing, a crucial assignment. "We are deeply disappointed that he has not shown up to work on behalf of the American people and lead on this critical endeavor," HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley said.

According to HHS, Bright has not reported to his new post. But his spokeswoman said that Bright is on sick leave, following his doctor's orders, and that HHS has provided him no details on his new role.

Bright's complaint comes as the Trump administration faces criticism over its response to the pandemic, including testing and supplies of ventilators, masks and other equipment to stem the spread. There have been nearly 1.2 million confirmed cases in the United States and more than 70,000 deaths.

Bright said his superiors repeatedly rejected his warnings that the virus would spread in the U.S., missing an early opportunity to stock up on protective masks for first responders. He said he "acted with urgency" to address the growing spread of COVID-19 — the disease the virus causes — after the World Health Organization issued a warning in January.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health, said she plans to hold a hearing into his complaint next week, and Bright's lawyers said he would testify. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, appearing on MSNBC, called the complaint "very damaging."

In his complaint, Bright said he "encountered resistance from HHS leadership, including Secretary (Alex) Azar, who appeared intent on downplaying this catastrophic event."

During a Feb. 23 meeting, Azar, as well as Bright's boss, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec, "responded with surprise at (Bright's) dire predictions and urgency, and asserted that the United States would be able to contain the virus and keep it out," the whistleblower complaint said.

Bright said White House trade adviser Peter Navarro was a rare exception among administration officials, extremely concerned about the potential consequences of an outbreak. He described working with Navarro to break a bureaucratic logjam and set up military transport from Italy for swabs needed in the U.S.

Navarro was the author of several urgent memos within the White House. Bright said Navarro asked for his help, saying the trade adviser told him the memos were needed to "save lives."

Navarro's memos to top officials raised alarms even as Trump was publicly assuring Americans that the outbreak was under control.

Bright's allegation that he was removed over his resistance to widespread use of the malaria drug was already public, but his whistleblower complaint added details from emails and internal communications while bringing to light his early attempts to acquire N95 respirator masks, which he said were ignored by superiors.

In late January, Bright said he was contacted by an official of a leading mask manufacturer about ramping up production. It was estimated that as many as 3.5 billion would be needed, while the national stockpile had about 300 million.

The complaint said that when Bright tried to press the issue about masks with superiors at HHS, he was ignored or rebuffed. "HHS publicly represented not only that COVID-19 was not an imminent threat, but also that HHS already had all the masks it would need," the complaint said.

As the epidemic spread in the U.S. and engulfed the New York metropolitan area, Bright alleges that political appointees at HHS tried to promote hydroxychloroquine "as a panacea." The officials also "demanded that New York and New Jersey be 'flooded' with these drugs, which were imported from factories in Pakistan and India that had not been inspected by the FDA," the complaint says.

Last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned doctors against prescribing the drug except in hospitals and research studies. In an alert, regulators flagged reports of sometimes fatal heart side effects among coronavirus patients taking hydroxychloroquine or the related drug chloroquine.

Bright felt officials had "refused to listen or take appropriate action to accurately inform the public" and spoke to a reporter about the drug. He said he had to tell the public about the lack of science backing up its use, despite the drug being pushed by the president at press briefings.

"As the death toll mounted exponentially each day, Dr. Bright concluded that he had a moral obligation to the American public, including those vulnerable as a result of illness from COVID-19, to protect it from drugs which he believed constituted a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety," the complaint says.

On Jan. 20, according to the complaint, the WHO held an emergency call that was attended by many HHS officials, and WHO officials advised that "the outbreak is a big problem."

Trump has accused the U.N. agency of mismanaging and covering up the spread of the virus after it emerged in China. He has also said he wants to cut the WHO's funding.

Bright's agency works to guard against pandemics and emergent infectious diseases and is working to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Top officials also pressured him to steer contracts to a client of a lobbyist, he reported.

"Time after time I was pressured to ignore or dismiss expert scientific recommendations and instead to award lucrative contracts based on political connections," Bright said in the call with reporters. "In other words, I was pressured to let politics and cronyism drive decisions over the opinions of the best scientists we have in government."

Zachary Kurz, a spokesman for the agency where Bright filed his complaint, said the office couldn't comment or confirm the status of open investigations.

## Trump denies ties to Venezuelan attack with 2 US men jailed

By **SCOTT SMITH** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN** Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the United States had nothing to do with an alleged incursion into Venezuela that landed two U.S. citizens behind bars in the crisis-stricken South American nation.

Trump said he had just learned of the detention of the pair, accused by Venezuela of being mercenaries. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said they were part of an operation to kill him that was backed by neighboring Colombia and the United States.

"Whatever it is, we'll let you know," Trump told reporters in Washington before departing from the White House to Arizona. "But it has nothing to do with our government."

Authorities in Venezuela identified the two men as Luke Denman and Airan Berry, both former U.S. special forces soldiers associated with the Florida-based private security firm Silvercorp USA. Military records show both decorated soldiers served in Iraq.

A third U.S. ex-Green Beret and Silvercorp founder, Jordan Goudreau, claimed responsibility for leading "Operation Gideon," which was launched with an attempted beach landing before dawn on Sunday. Officials said Tuesday that six suspected attackers were killed, giving a revised figure from the eight previously reported.

The State Department reiterated Trump's comments that the U.S. wasn't involved, accusing Maduro of launching a "disinformation campaign" to distract the world from recent events, citing a prison riot that left more than 40 dead and dozens badly injured.

"Nothing should be taken at face value when we see the distorting of facts," a State Department spokesperson said in a statement. "What is clear is that the former regime is using the event to justify an increased level of repression."

U.S. officials said they are trying to learn more about the events, including the activities of two U.S. citizens as well as Goudreau. Answers will only come out when Maduro's "regime" has ended, the statement said.

The two ex-U.S. soldiers were detained Monday dozens of miles (kilometers) from the first attempted beach landing in the fishing village of Chuao. Authorities say they've confiscated equipment.

Goudreau has previously said the operation was designed to capture — but not kill Maduro. He said he carried it out on a "shoestring budget" after signing an agreement with U.S.-backed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who Goudreau accuses of failing to pay him.

Goudreau, 43, did not respond on Tuesday to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

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On Tuesday, Guaidó again said he had nothing to do with Goudreau, and that he had no relationship with Silvercorp, "for obvious and evident reasons, but we have to make that clear."

Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez presented more details of the plot that he said resembled a "Hollywood script" fueled by the "white supremacist" ideas of its alleged American organizers.

"They thought that because we're black, because we're Indians, that they were going to easily control us," said Rodriguez, showing images of what he said were boats and training camps inside Colombia from where the insurrection was organized.

He presented video testimony from a Venezuelan military deserter, Capt. Victor Pimenta, one of 13 captured participants.

Pimenta said that a group of nearly 60 combatants left Colombia at sundown on Friday May 1 in two boats aiming to reach La Guaira along the coast near Venezuela's capital of Caracas.

The second vessel carrying the commander of the operation, Capt. Antonio Sequea, and the two Americans experienced motor problems and had to abort the mission, he said.

Initially the stranded group tried to reach the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire, Pimenta said, but as the vessel was running out of fuel it dropped off a group of combatants along the Caribbean coastline. Commandos from Venezuela's armed forces caught up with them.

Venezuela is gripped by a deepening social and economic crisis under Maduro's rule that has led nearly 5 million residents to flee crumbling social services, such as unreliable water, electricity and broken hospitals.

The U.S. is among nearly 60 nations that back Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate leader, saying Maduro clings to power despite a sham election in 2018 that banned the most popular opposition candidates from running.

Venezuela and the U.S. broke diplomatic last year, so there is no U.S. Embassy operating in Venezuela's capital of Caracas that can offer the two detained men assistance.

"It shocks me how insane they were," said Mike Vigil, the former head of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration. "They walked right into a coiled rattlesnake without even having minimally studied the capacity of the Venezuelan armed forces. There's no way the U.S. government would've supported an operation like this."

## Trump pick to oversee virus spending pledges impartiality

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's choice to oversee a significant chunk of the \$2 trillion economic rescue law pledged Tuesday to conduct audits and investigations "with fairness and impartiality."

Brian Miller, a lawyer in the White House counsel's office, told the Senate Banking Committee during his confirmation hearing that "independence is vital" for the special inspector general for pandemic recovery. The post would place him in charge of overseeing a roughly \$500 billion Treasury fund for industry created as part of the economic rescue law approved in late March.

In written testimony, Miller pledged to be vigilant in protecting the integrity and independence of his office and vowed "to seek the truth in all matters that come before me and to use my authority and resources to uncover fraud, waste and abuse."

In a testy exchange with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Miller said his goal is to make all information about the \$500 billion fund public. Warren, who helped create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau after the 2008 recession, was unimpressed, saying Miller's time in the White House counsel's office should have disqualified him from the inspector general's role.

Trump has repeatedly demonstrated his contempt for oversight and will be a formidable obstacle for Miller or any other watchdog, Warren said. "He has already said he will muzzle you," she told Miller. "You will, however, have the chance to defend your independence and your integrity by your actions."

Miller replied that it is "fundamental for an inspector general to be independent." He pledged to work with Warren and other Democrats, even if she doesn't vote for him "as you indicated yesterday" during a private meeting.



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Warren and other senators from both parties appeared at Tuesday's hearing through a video link, choosing to stay away from the hearing room because of concerns about the coronavirus. At one point, a dog could be heard barking while Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown spoke from his Ohio home.

Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, the panel's Republican chairman, wore a mask as he led the session, the Senate's first "virtual" hearing since the coronavirus crisis largely shut down the country in March. At least five GOP senators attended the hearing, including several who did not wear masks while questioning Miller and another nominee. Miller and Dana Wade, nominated as assistant secretary of housing and urban development, both testified with their masks on.

Crapo called the hearing "a success" in terms of technology, thanks to a bevy of Senate staffers and others who scrambled to put the meeting together. Miller and Wade "both acquitted themselves well," Crapo said, and Miller answered a slew of questions about his independence.

"I think (Miller) was very capable in his responses by showing that he's got an entire career of being an effective and independent IG," Crapo said. "I think he did very well. And I expect he will be supported well on the (Senate) floor."

Miller has worked at the Justice Department and was inspector general for nearly a decade at the General Services Administration, which oversees thousands of federal contracts. Miller helped force out the GSA's director during the George W. Bush administration, drawing criticism from the White House and Republican lawmakers.

The former administrator, Lurita Doan, called Miller a bureaucratic "terrorist" and tried to cut his funding, a fact GOP senators repeatedly cited at Tuesday's hearing.

"It's a pretty good case history on independence," said Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

While he is respected in the oversight community, Miller's role in the White House counsel's office — which led Trump's defense during impeachment — is troubling, Democrats and watchdog groups said.

Brown, top Democrat on the banking panel, questioned whether Miller will be able to hold the Trump administration accountable for how it administers the business program and "guarantee that corporations getting taxpayer money put their workers first."

In the last 20 years, Brown said his staff found only one inspector general candidate who was nominated while serving in the White House counsel's office and another who served in the legal office of an earlier administration. Both nominees resigned, "one for politicizing the office and the other for a lack of independence," Brown said. "Not a great track record."

Still, Brown appeared to concede Miller's likely confirmation by the Republican-controlled Senate. If he is confirmed, Brown added, "I expect you to follow the letter and spirit of the law, and serve the American people — not President Trump. ... You must be willing to stand up to the administration and any other bad actor and to uphold the goals of the law. Anything less is unacceptable."

Noah Bookbinder, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said Miller's nomination is part of a pattern of "roadblocks thrown up" by Trump to block oversight of his administration.

In recent weeks, Trump has fired an inspector general tied to his impeachment and sidelined another who was set to lead a group of inspectors general overseeing the rescue package. On Friday night, Trump moved to replace yet another inspector general, an acting official who criticized the coronavirus response by federal health officials.

Trump also said in signing the rescue law that he will resist oversight provisions. "All of this taken together means real oversight will be met with retribution, which makes it all the more important," Bookbinder said.

## Watchdog concerned over Census Bureau's vetting of workers

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Almost 300 people working for the U.S. Census Bureau last year had "major" issues with their background checks and a lack of vetting oversight could pose risk to the public and the agency as it hires and deploys hundreds of thousands of census takers for the 2020 census, according to a watchdog report released last week.

About 70 of the workers deemed to have "major" issues were in the field last fall, verifying addresses ahead of the once-a-decade head count of the U.S. More than a dozen other workers with some kind of derogatory information in their background checks had access to Census Bureau facilities and information systems, and they included employees working in positions deemed "critical" and "high risk," according to the report from the Office of Inspector General.

"Due to the lack of oversight of its background check program, the Bureau cannot reliably attest to the suitability of its decennial workforce — increasing the risk of exposing the public, the Bureau's systems and facilities, and its employees to individuals who have not been properly vetted," the Office of Inspector General said in a management alert sent to the bureau.

Some 10,000 background checks for employees and contractors haven't been evaluated, some dating back to 2014, the watchdog office said.

In a statement, the Census Bureau said the backlog of the almost 300 major cases had fallen to 200 cases, and the remaining cases will be evaluated by mid-June.

"When we hire U.S. Census Bureau staff, we are mindful of two critical objectives. Most importantly, we want to protect the public's safety and trust. Secondly, we want to give every applicant who is fit to serve a fair opportunity to do so," the statement said. "When an issue turns out to be serious, we terminate employment."

Job candidates hired by the Census Bureau can start working while officials with another agency, the Office of Personnel Management, conduct background checks on them. If a red flag is found, it's categorized as minor, moderate, substantial or major. Once the background checks are finished, they are sent back to the Census Bureau for decisions on the candidates' suitability, according to the Inspector General's report.

Office of Personnel Management guidelines say a decision should be made within three months.

The Census Bureau needs to hire up to 500,000 temporary census takers to knock on the doors of homes where people haven't yet answered the questionnaire for the 2020 census. That doesn't start until August after the coronavirus pandemic forced a delay from a May start. As of two weeks ago, more than 41,600 temporary workers were on the payroll, the bureau reported Tuesday.

The Census Bureau suspended field operations in mid-March because of the coronavirus crisis, but bureau officials said Monday that starting this week workers in a small number of cities will begin dropping off 2020 census packets at the front doors of homes that don't receive their mail there or the mail delivery information for that household can't be verified. About 5% of households are counted in this way.

Among the locations where the field operations were resuming are cities in Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia.

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. The bureau is also asking Congress for permission to delay deadlines next year for giving census data to the states so they can draw new voting maps.

The 2020 census will help determine how many congressional seats each state gets and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding. As of Monday, almost 57% of households had answered the questionnaire.

## Where's my check? Answers to common relief payment questions

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AP Personal Finance Writer

The US government has distributed about 130 million economic impact payments to taxpayers in less than 30 days. The IRS anticipates sending more than 150 million payments as part of a massive coronavirus rescue package.

The distribution has had some hiccups, including an overwhelmed website, payments to deceased taxpayers and money sent to inactive accounts.

For those still waiting or with other questions, here are a few answers:

WHERE IS MY PAYMENT?

The government can't logistically or physically make all the payments at once, so it's doing so in steps.

For those with direct deposit information on file with the IRS, based 2019 or 2018 tax return, payments began going out on April 10.

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Payments started going out last week to Social Security beneficiaries, railroad retirees and veterans who aren't required to file a tax return; these will continue through May. Individuals in this group will get their relief by the same method they receive their other benefits, be that direct deposit or mail.

Others who are not required to file tax returns, such as low-income individuals, were encouraged to file basic information on the IRS website. Without this information, the government cannot issue a payment.

Anyone who is eligible but does not have direct deposit information on file will be mailed a check. Those began to go out in late April, but that process might take several months because of distribution limitations.

All payments were prioritized in order from lowest income to highest income.

So, first make sure you're eligible for a payment. Any U.S. citizen with a Social Security number who makes up to \$75,000 will get a payment of \$1,200; married couples who file jointly and earn less than \$150,000 will get \$2,400. The payment steadily declines for those who make more, and phases out for those who earn more than \$99,000; or \$198,000 for married couples. The thresholds are different for those who file as head of household.

If you qualify, make sure the IRS has the current and necessary information. The IRS has a Get My Payment tool on its website for people to add their direct deposit information or track the status of their payment.

**WHY WON'T THE TOOL WORK FOR ME?**

The IRS has fixed some glitches with Get My Payment since the rollout. The experience may still not be perfect.

Some taxpayers say they still cannot get past the first step of entering their basic information — name, address and adjusted gross income. The information entered must exactly match that on tax returns. Look closely for minor differences, such as spelling out Street instead of abbreviating it.

Several users said they had success with putting the address in all caps, as suggested by the LA Times. The IRS says, however, that the entry line is not case sensitive. It did say removing all punctuation may help.

If these fail, consider using 2018 tax return data.

A word of warning: Three unsuccessful attempts to log on in one day will leave a user locked out for 24 hours as a security precaution.

**WHY AM I GETTING ERROR MESSAGES ON GET MY PAYMENT?**

The "Payment Status Not Available" response has vexed many users.

It means the IRS cannot determine your eligibility right now. There are a few reasons for this. First, you didn't file a 2018 or 2019 return, or it hasn't been fully processed. Or the site simply doesn't have the information available yet; the agency is adding more data for use every day. It updates the information overnight daily.

**MY DECEASED RELATIVE GOT A PAYMENT. DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?**

It's unclear.

President Donald Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have said that these payments should be returned to the government. However, the IRS has yet to issue formal guidance, saying it's aware of the problem and working to resolve it. Experts say because of a lag in reporting data on who is deceased, the error is almost inevitable and has occurred with past stimulus payments as well.

**I DIDN'T GET A PAYMENT FOR MY CHILD, WHY?**

Parents can also get a payment of \$500 for each child, but the money only applies to eligible children, generally those 16 and under. You might not get the payment if someone else can claim them as a dependent or if they're not reflected on your most recent tax return, such as a newborn child.

People who receive Supplemental Security Income or Department of Veterans Affairs benefits also don't automatically get payments for dependents. They must add that information on the IRS website by Tuesday to get payment.

If you did not receive the full amount to which you believe you're entitled, for a child or otherwise, you'll be able to claim the additional amount on your 2020 tax return.

**I DON'T USE (OR DON'T RECOGNIZE) THE BANK ACCOUNT MY PAYMENT WENT TO. WHAT NOW?**

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If the account is closed or no longer active, the bank will reject the deposit and mail a check instead. It will go either to the address listed on your tax returns or the one on file with the U.S. Postal Service, whichever is most current.

This is a common problem for people who got a refund anticipation loan, refund anticipation check or had their refund loaded onto a prepaid debit card. In these cases, the relief payment may have been directed to the real or virtual account associated with the product. But again, if the account is closed or inactive, it will be rejected and a check will be mailed.

The IRS has corrected an earlier online error, which told users that some rejected payments were being sent to the same account a second time; they are not and will be mailed.

## WHAT IF I HAVE ISSUES WITH MY PAYMENT?

The IRS will send a letter to taxpayers about 15 days after a payment is sent letting them know how it was made and how to report issues.

It also has many answers online and is updating its site regularly.

If you still need a real person, you'll have to wait. The IRS had been unable to staff its telephone lines because of the pandemic. Employees only began to return to the agency last week and it's unclear when many services will be back up.

## Q&A: Why some planes are crowded even with air travel down

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Every once in a while, social media lights up with photos or video from flights that are nearly full, with passengers clearly violating advice from public health officials about social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

That raises the question: How can planes still be full when air travel is down more than 90% from a year ago?

In some cases, airlines are creating the crowds by canceling other flights and packing passengers on the few remaining planes. Carriers say, however, that they are taking action to ease passengers' fears about coronavirus contagion. Some are blocking middle seats — or letting passengers pay extra to guarantee an empty seat next to them. They are also starting to require passengers to wear facial coverings.

Here are some questions and answers about flying during the coronavirus pandemic.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL FLYING?

The number of people traveling on airlines is scraping along at levels not seen in decades, and there are only about 17 passengers on the average domestic flight. But that's just an average.

The number of people passing through airport security checkpoints has been rising since mid-April, but it is still down 93% from a year ago. The Transportation Security Administration screened 163,692 people on Monday, compared with nearly 2.5 million on the comparable day a year ago.

## SO WHY ARE SOME FLIGHTS FULL?

Partly it is due to the high number of canceled flights.

"On routes where there used to be scores of flights between the different carriers, now there may be two or three," says Robert Mann, a former airline executive and now a consultant in the New York area.

Airlines slash their flight schedules, and then they cancel even more flights in the last few days before departure. That can force passengers who were booked on several different flights to board the same plane.

Planes are more likely to be crowded on certain routes, especially those between so-called hub airports operated by the same airline.

## ARE AIRLINES SPACING PASSENGERS?

Several carriers are blocking some middle seats.

Delta Air Lines said Tuesday that through June 30, it will also block some window and aisle seats, leaving 50% of first class and 60% of the main cabin empty. Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said his airline will temporarily cap the number of seats it sells, probably at 67% of capacity.

Frontier Airlines said Monday that through Aug. 31 it will guarantee passengers get an empty middle

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seat next to them — if they pay an extra fee ranging from \$39 to \$89.

"Sure, there are people saying, 'You're charging for social distancing?' No, no, no," Frontier CEO Barry Biffle told The Associated Press. "We are offering the option, and it is guaranteed. We don't believe you need it -- if everybody is wearing a facial covering -- to be safe."

Brett Snyder, who runs the Cranky Flier website and a travel concierge business in California, said it was a great product for Frontier to sell during the downturn in travel.

"Why not make money on a seat that is going to be empty anyway?" he said.

So far, other carriers haven't copied Frontier.

**WHAT ABOUT FACE MASKS?**

All the leading U.S. airlines have announced plans to start requiring passengers to wear facial coverings during flights. JetBlue Airways was the first to announce the policy, which took effect Monday. The big four — Delta, American, United and Southwest — followed suit in recent days.

Airlines say they won't let customers without masks board a plane. Small children and people with medical conditions that make a mask hazardous will generally be exempt, and others will be allowed to briefly remove coverings while eating or drinking.

Crews are bracing for the inevitable passenger who will flout the rules.

"We're not going to land a plane because somebody won't keep their mask on unless they are violent or crazy," said an industry official who wasn't authorized to discuss the airline's procedures and requested anonymity. "We will flag that for corporate security, and they may not be welcome to fly us again."

The airlines are also requiring crew members to wear face masks.

**HOW DO AIRLINES CLEAN PLANES?**

Every airline says it has stepped up the cleaning of plane cabins to help prevent spread of the coronavirus. Some, like Delta, say they are using misting machines to spray anti-viral chemicals inside the cabin.

Airlines insist that the air inside their planes is safe to breathe. Cabin air on most jetliners is a mix of fresh air from the outside and recirculated air that is passed through high-efficiency or HEPA filters designed to trap most airborne particles.

**HOW LONG WILL THESE CHANGES LAST?**

Until there is a proven treatment or widely available vaccine for COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, the changes are likely to stay in place.

If people start venturing out on airplanes this summer, it won't look anything like summer 2019.

Traffic "will be light, you will have to wear a mask, there will be social distancing on planes and reduced on-board service to limit contact," Snyder said. "If there really isn't a vaccine until the first half of next year, you're not going to see anything approaching a new normal until next summer at the earliest."

## Saints emails, lawsuits could be buried in church bankruptcy

By **JIM MUSTIAN** and **MICHAEL REZENDES** Associated Press

A bankruptcy filing by New Orleans' Roman Catholic archdiocese freezes sexual abuse lawsuits and could help bury the details of alleged coverups of predator priests and thousands of internal emails documenting a behind-the-scenes alliance with the New Orleans Saints.

Attorneys for those suing the church attacked last week's Chapter 11 filing as a veiled attempt to keep church records secret, scrap a long-awaited legal deposition of Archbishop Gregory Aymond and deny victims a public reckoning that had been years in the making.

"Those victims were on the path to the truth," attorney Soren Gisleson wrote in court papers. "The rape of children is a thief that keeps on stealing."

Among the most explosive legal fights now in disarray is a lawsuit alleging Aymond and his three predecessors systematically concealed the crimes of the Rev. Lawrence Hecker, an 88-year-old priest removed from active ministry in 2002 after accusations that he abused "countless children."

A recent court motion drew direct parallels between the church's handling of Hecker and John Geoghan, a serial pedophile who molested scores of children during his 30-year career as a Massachusetts clergyman.

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The bankruptcy also freezes a court battle over a cache of confidential emails describing the behind-the-scenes public relations work New Orleans Saints executives did for the archdiocese in 2018 and 2019 to contain fallout from clergy abuse scandals.

While the Saints say they only assisted in messaging, attorneys for the men suing the church allege Saints officials joined in the church's "pattern and practice of concealing its crimes." The attorneys contend that included taking an active role in helping to shape the archdiocese's list of 57 credibly accused clergy, a roster an Associated Press analysis found was undercounted by at least 20 names.

AP, which has sought the release of the emails as a matter of public interest, said in court papers last week that it remains unclear why secrecy is warranted for "two high-profile and quasi-public institutions like the Saints and the Archdiocese."

The New Orleans archdiocese is the latest of more than 20 dioceses nationwide to declare bankruptcy, an action Aymond attributed to a "resurgence of the clergy abuse crisis" and liabilities of \$100 million to \$500 million deepened by the coronavirus pandemic. He said the filing would allow victims to be compensated directly through a "court-supervised process."

"There is not one single event or issue that prompted this filing," the archbishop said in a video to parishioners.

Attorneys for the men suing the church have already accused the archdiocese of understating the value of its total assets at also between \$100 and \$500 million. They cited an insurance declaration covering \$2.1 billion in damages, adding the archdiocese "makes no attempt to explain this discrepancy" in court filings.

An archdiocese spokeswoman declined to comment Tuesday.

Aymond had been scheduled to give a deposition later this month in the Hecker case. Lawyers for Hecker's alleged victims say they uncovered hundreds of incriminating records in discovery and still want a judge to make them public regardless of the bankruptcy.

In previous court filings, they drew a direct parallel to the successful effort by The Boston Globe nearly 20 years ago to overturn a confidentiality order protecting documents produced during lawsuits filed by victims of Geoghan.

That led to the resignation of the late Cardinal Bernard F. Law, who covered up for Geoghan's abuses with the knowledge of five auxiliary bishops, including Alfred C. Hughes, who preceded Aymond as archbishop of New Orleans.

"The public, media and law enforcement have no idea of the depth of Hecker's disgusting crimes against children or the Archdiocese's equally disgusting suppression of those crimes," the filing alleges.

But whether any of the dozens of clergy abuse lawsuits against the archdiocese will see the light of day is an open question.

John C. Manly, an attorney who has represented clergy abuse victims through more than a dozen bankruptcy filings, said "it's highly unlikely" the men suing the archdiocese will succeed in airing internal church records.

"Clearly this is a focused effort to conceal the documents," he said.

Manly said attempts to keep the lawsuits alive are longshots because bankruptcy courts generally don't want debtors to continue with legal action that may force them to spend more money.

But Mike Finnegan, an attorney with Minnesota-based Jeff Anderson & Associates, said the bankruptcy filing pushes the fight to air the church records into the bankruptcy court, where the documents could be released after a lengthy process, possibly as a condition of a bankruptcy settlement.

"There are so many people involved, and this is so important for the public and survivors, that the fight will continue," he said. "I believe those documents will see the light of day, but it will be delayed by the bankruptcy process."

New Orleans' bankruptcy reflects a strategy the church has pursued in other jurisdictions to simply "come up with a settlement and move on," said Kevin T. Stocker, an attorney who sued the church in Buffalo, New York, before it recently declared bankruptcy.

"They don't want this story out," Stocker said. "It's so ugly that they knew what was going on. They're

trying to control their brand and image.”

## Why has toilet paper run out during the pandemic?

**The Associated Press**

Why has toilet paper run out during the pandemic?

Blame the empty shelves on hoarders who stockpiled the plush paper goods. During a two-day period in March, online and in-store sales shot up a whopping 845% as states announced stay-at-home orders, according to NCSolutions, a data and consulting firm.

Since toilet paper is bulky and not profitable, retailers don't typically keep a lot of inventory on hand. That makes it hard for them to keep up when demand suddenly surges.

Americans are also using more toilet paper at home now, instead of at places like offices and schools. Yet companies can't just redirect supplies of the big institutional rolls, which are manufactured and packaged differently.

Demand has since softened and retailers including Kroger are limiting the number of rolls customers can buy at once, so it should be easier to find rolls on shelves these days.

## Barack Obama will headline televised prime-time commencement

**By The Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Barack Obama will deliver a televised prime-time commencement address for the high school Class of 2020 during an hour-long event that will also feature LeBron James, Malala Yousafzai and Ben Platt, among others.

ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC will simultaneously air the special May 16 at 8 p.m. EDT along with more than 20 other broadcast and digital streaming partners, according to the announcement Tuesday from organizers.

Several high school students from Chicago public schools and the Obama Youth Jobs Corps will join, as will the Jonas Brothers, Yara Shahidi, Bad Bunny, Lena Waithe, Pharrell Williams, Megan Rapinoe and H.E.R.

The event is titled "Graduate Together: America Honors the High School Class of 2020." It's hosted by the education advocacy group XQ Institute, The LeBron James Family Foundation and The Entertainment Industry Foundation.

Obama will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of school life, especially for seniors who have missed out on their milestone rites of passage.

"This high school graduation season will be anything but ordinary — but that's all the more reason why the Class of 2020 deserves extraordinary advice, heartfelt encouragement, and hard-won wisdom about facing new challenges in an uncertain world," Russlynn Ali, CEO and co-founder of XQ Institute, said in a statement.

"We are grateful to President Obama for giving this gift to our nation's three million high school seniors as they #GraduateTogether," she added.

## As US piles up debt to aid economy, even usual critics cheer

**By PAUL WISEMAN and MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has opened the spigots and let loose nearly \$3 trillion to try to rescue the economy from the coronavirus outbreak — a river of debt that would have been unthinkable even a few months ago.

And yet the response, even from people who built careers as skeptics of federal debt, speaks to the gravity of the crisis: Almost no one has blinked.

With the U.S. economy in a frightening free-fall, they say, the government has no choice but to pour trillions into an emergency operation. Doing less would risk a catastrophe — a recession that could devolve into a full-fledged depression. And if that were to happen, the government's fiscal health would end up far worse.

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What's more, the lessons of World War II and the 2008 financial crisis suggest to many that a combination of ultra-low interest rates and eventual economic growth can keep government debts manageable and prevent a budget crisis.

In a sign that investors worry more about a deep recession than about whether the government might eventually struggle to repay its escalating debt, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note remains well below 1%. Many analysts say that while soaring federal debt may end up slowing an eventual recovery, there won't be any recovery if the government doesn't borrow and spend aggressively now.

"Like most folks, I'm not especially concerned about deficit and debt now," said Donald Marron, director of the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank. "Interest rates remain low. Immediate health and economic concerns must take precedence."

Nonetheless, the numbers are shocking. After Congress passed four programs to sustain the economy through the COVID-19 crisis, the budget deficit — the gap between what the government spends and what it collects in taxes — will hit a record \$3.7 trillion this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

On Monday, the Treasury Department announced that it will borrow \$2.99 trillion in the April-June quarter, blowing away the previous quarterly record of \$569 billion, set in the recession year of 2008, and eclipsing the \$1.28 trillion it borrowed in the bond market in all of 2019. By the time the budget year ends in September, the government's debt — its accumulated annual deficits — will equal 101% of the U.S. gross domestic product, according to the CBO.

Policymakers are trying to fend off catastrophe. The lockdowns and travel curbs meant to contain the virus are battering the economy. GDP is expected to fall at a 40% annual rate from April through June. That would be the worst quarter on record dating to 1947. Thirty million Americans have sought unemployment benefits since the virus struck.

Even before the health crisis, the government's debt to the public, swollen by President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts, amounted to more than 80% of GDP, highest level since 1950.

The nation has been here before. In 1946, the year after World War II ended, federal debt peaked at nearly 109% of GDP. By 1962, the debt burden had dropped below the 1940 level of 44% of GDP. The surging postwar economy poured tax revenue into government coffers.

In some ways, things are different now. The economy doesn't grow as fast. From 1947 through 1962, the economy averaged a robust, debt-erasing 3.5% annual growth. It's unlikely to achieve anything that impressive anytime soon. Since 2010, GDP growth has averaged just 2.3% annually.

Economists have long worried about the consequences of big government debts. When the government takes on debt, the argument goes, it competes with private borrowers for loans. It "crowds out" private investment, heightens borrowing rates and threatens growth.

But after the financial crisis, economists began to rethink their approach to debt. The recovery from the Great Recession, in the United States and especially in Europe, was sluggish in part because policymakers declined to juice growth with more debt. The 19 European countries that share the euro currency slid back into recession in 2011. As their economies slumped, their debt problems worsened.

In the United States, rates didn't rise much even as the economy gradually strengthened. It turns out investors have a near-insatiable appetite for U.S. Treasuries, given their status as the world's safest investment. Their rush to buy Treasuries helped lower the government's borrowing costs. So did persistently low inflation.

In such a low-rate, low-inflation environment, the risk of piling on debt seems more manageable, at least for countries like the United States and Japan that borrow in their own currencies.

"We can worry much less about the amount of debt than most economists guessed," said Douglas Elmendorf, a former CBO director and now dean of the Harvard Kennedy School who for years has been a critic of runaway federal debt.

Today's U.S. policymakers enjoy the support of the Federal Reserve, which has been flooding the market with cash and keeping borrowing costs ultra-low. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell took the unusual step at a news conference last week of imploring Congress not to worry right now about the risk that its aggressive



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rescue programs will produce excessive debt.

"I have long time been an advocate for the need for the United States to return to a sustainable path from a fiscal perspective," Powell said. "This is not the time to act on those concerns. This is the time to use the great fiscal power of the United States to do what we can to support the economy and try to get through."

Likewise, Olivier Blanchard, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, challenged the old consensus on government debt in a speech last year:

"Put bluntly, public debt may have no fiscal cost... The probability that the U.S. government can do a debt rollover, that it can issue debt and achieve a decreasing debt to GDP ratio without ever having to raise taxes later, is high."

Then again, the future might not be like the recent past. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said he thinks rates will eventually start rising as the economy regains health, perhaps in 2022 or 2023.

"There's going to be a day of reckoning," Zandi said. "We are going to as a nation have to address these deficits and debts. We're going to have to raise taxes. We're going to have to restrain spending."

But for now, he said, "You have to respond with everything you've got to make sure the economy doesn't completely fall apart."

"The question is not: How much does this cost? But rather: How much will debt go up if we do this, versus if don't do this?" said Richard Kogan, senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and a budget adviser in the Obama administration.

## Woman arraigned in killing of security guard over virus mask

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A Michigan woman was formally charged Tuesday in the fatal shooting of a store security guard who refused to allow her daughter inside because she wasn't wearing a face mask to protect against transmission of the coronavirus.

Sharmel Teague, 45, was arraigned via video Tuesday in district court, according to the Genesee County prosecutor's office.

Teague, her husband, Larry Teague, 44; and her son, Ramonyea Bishop, 23, face first-degree premeditated murder charges in Friday's killing of Calvin Munerlyn, 43, at a Family Dollar near downtown Flint.

Larry Teague and Bishop have yet to be arrested and were believed to be on the run, prosecutor David Leyton said.

The three defendants also face gun charges. Larry Teague also is charged with violating Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order requiring all customers and employees to wear face coverings inside grocery stores.

Sharmel Teague argued with Munerlyn before leaving the store Friday afternoon, Leyton said Monday. Two men later came to the store, and one of them shot Munerlyn in the back of the head. Witnesses identified Bishop as the man who shot Munerlyn, according to Leyton.

No information has been released about the daughter, who has not been charged in the shooting.

Sharmel Teague was denied bond Tuesday and was scheduled for a May 14 probable cause conference. It was not immediately clear if she has an attorney.

## With camps shut, families face summer in the great indoors

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

Welcome to summer in the great indoors.

Parents around the country are learning their children's summer camps will be canceled, delayed or moved online as the fallout from the coronavirus seeps into another facet of American life. From New Hampshire to California, camps and parents are scrambling as Zoom campfires and "virtual cabins" in the living room become more likely.

It's a blow for children — and their parents — who have spent weeks cooped up during school closures and had considered camp a reward for adhering to weeks of social isolation and homeschooling. It also

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will squeeze nonprofits that rely on the infusion of cash from camp payments and put young counselors out of work.

"When we finally found out that schools were going to be closed for the rest of the year, I was like, 'Well, there's always summer camp.' I was really holding out for that," said Rasha Habiby of Los Angeles.

Her 10-year-old daughter's first-ever sleep-away camp has been canceled, and they're both devastated.

Habiby and her husband have demanding work schedules but kept their kids away from her parents to avoid possibly spreading the virus. Now, she said she may be forced to ask them to baby-sit.

"I panic. I cry. I do all those things. But what other options are there?" Habiby said. "I know we're not the only ones in this situation. I'm keenly aware of that — but somehow it doesn't make it any easier."

An estimated 20 million U.S. children attend summer camp each year, fueling an \$18 billion industry that employs over a million seasonal workers, according to the American Camp Association.

The association, which represents more than 3,100 camps, has hired independent health experts to draft recommendations for camps, and many still hope to open, said Tom Rosenberg, group president and CEO. Camps also are awaiting guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and input from state and local health departments, he said.

"Most camps are not asking if they're going to open but how they're going to open. It's essential," Rosenberg said. "Right now, 20 million kids that would normally be going to camp are cast adrift in a sea of screens."

Camp Walt Whitman, a seven-week overnight camp in New Hampshire's remote White Mountains, sent parents a letter with three options: canceling, postponing or going forward with social distancing and other precautions. The camp, which charges \$13,000 for the full session, will decide after May 20, director Jed Dorfman said.

For smaller camps, canceling could mean financial ruin. Many nonprofits rely on camp fees for their budgets and to pay contracts signed in advance. Some that have canceled are urging parents to donate all or part of the tuition or apply it to next year.

That backfired for Galileo Learning, a San Francisco-area camp that enrolls thousands of children, after it canceled and credited families for next year. After an outcry, the company asked parents whether they would like a full or partial refund or a credit. A Galileo statement said it had laid off or furloughed more than 80% of year-round staff.

Other camps are racing to move online.

Interlochen Arts Camp, which enrolls 2,800 kids and teens from 50 countries in its prestigious summer program in Michigan, will switch to virtual lessons and workshops while making the session shorter, president Trey Devey said.

The Girl Scouts of Oregon and southwest Washington canceled in-person camps for thousands but will roll out virtual experiences in June, said Allie Roberts, director of programs for the Girl Scouts in 33 Oregon counties and three counties in Washington state.

The Girl Scouts' 111 councils nationwide are each finding an approach that suits their region and membership.

"It's a heartbreaking decision but it's the right decision for the safety of our girls," Roberts said.

Other camps are shutting down completely.

Administrators in Florida realized it was impossible to practice proper social distancing at Camp Kiwanis, a sleep-away camp tucked along a lake in the Ocala National Forest. Each week, over 100 kids spend four nights and then go back to their homes in Marion County, which is seeing new coronavirus cases daily, camp director Scott Mitchell said.

The camp has been a fixture for 72 years, and one-quarter of the children get scholarships from the local Kiwanis Club, he said.

"Go on Netflix and find the cheesiest summer camp movie you can find, and that's us. It's a traditional, good old-fashioned summer camp," Mitchell said. "It's kind of a sad day for our community. ... But if you look at other places that have really been hit, it's a small price to pay."

Still, it's a bitter pill to swallow for many, including young people who have started to expect disappoint-

ment as the pandemic drags on.

Delia Graham, 15, was ecstatic to spend six weeks at Willowbrook Arts Camp, where she's been going since age 5. She's old enough to work as a half-day counselor, a step toward becoming a full-fledged staffer at the popular drama and arts camp near Portland, Oregon.

Graham and five camp friends spent days in a FaceTime group chat debating what would happen before getting the bad news, said Graham, who had already been struggling with her school's closure.

"I didn't think it would get so bad, that it would last this long," she said of the pandemic. "I really miss my friends."

## Justices wary of tying AIDS money to prostitution pledge

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In its second day of arguments by phone, the Supreme Court appeared skeptical of a requirement that foreign affiliates of U.S.-based health organizations denounce prostitution as a condition of receiving taxpayer money to fight AIDS around the world.

The justices on Tuesday heard a new version of a case they decided seven years ago involving a federal program that has spent nearly \$80 billion to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The court ruled in 2013 that the anti-prostitution pledge, contained in a 2003 law, improperly restricts the U.S. groups' constitutional rights. The new question is whether the administration can subject the foreign organizations to the pledge.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the 2013 opinion, was among several members of the court who suggested there might not be much of a difference in the new case because in many countries the U.S. organization has to work through a foreign partner. "The effort would not be as effective if the American entity were the one actually on the ground in the foreign country," Roberts said, kicking off the questioning as he did Monday.

As also happened Monday, the justices and two lawyers representing the administration and the organizations met by telephone, with live audio available to the public. The court scheduled the arguments by phone because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Justice Clarence Thomas, formerly known for his silence at arguments, asked questions for the second day in a row, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor once again forgot to unmute her line. "I'm sorry, chief. Did it again," she said.

Only eight justices took part. Justice Elena Kagan is sitting out the case, presumably because she worked on an earlier version of the case when she served in the Justice Department before joining the court.

The justices took up the Trump administration's appeal to distinguish between the domestic organizations and their foreign affiliates in their anti-AIDS programs.

Lower federal courts ruled that there is no real difference between the U.S. and foreign-based groups, which do AIDS prevention work in more than 100 countries.

The administration argues that the foreign groups don't have the same rights as their domestic counterparts. The U.S. organizations can receive the money without stating their opposition to prostitution and sex trafficking, Justice Department lawyer Christopher Michel told the justices.

The program, enacted during President George W. Bush's administration, has been a foreign policy success on a par with the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II, Michel said.

David Bowker, representing the organizations, said people generally don't distinguish between the domestic and foreign labels of the groups. "They lose their integrity, their reputation and their brand when they're forced to talk out of two sides of their mouth," Bowker said.

His clients include InterAction, Global Health Council, Pathfinder, World Vision and Save the Children.

Some justices worried that a ruling for the groups could have broader implications for restrictions the government sometimes attaches to U.S. foreign aid.

"I'm concerned it will force Congress to withhold foreign aid entirely or to allow foreign aid to be used in ways that are contrary to the interests of the people of this country," said Justice Samuel Alito, who was

part of the majority in 2013.

Roberts said in that case that the government could not force the U.S. groups to "pledge allegiance to the government's policy of eradicating prostitution."

Roberts, Alito, Sotomayor and two other justices, Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, were part of the majority in 2013 and remain on the court.

## Vote-by-mail debate raises fears of election disinformation

By ERIC TUCKER and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bitterly partisan debate unfolding on whether more Americans should cast their votes through the mail during a pandemic is provoking online disinformation and conspiracy theories that could undermine trust in the results, even if there are no major problems.

With social distancing guidelines possibly curtailing in-person voting at the polls in November, states are drawing up plans to rely more heavily on a mail-in system that has until now seen only limited use.

Historically, there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud through mail-in voting. But social media users are already pushing grandiose theories casting doubt on the method. President Donald Trump has encouraged the skepticism, saying during a televised briefing that "a lot of people cheat with mail-in voting." On Saturday, he tweeted: "Don't allow RIGGED ELECTIONS!"

Justice Department officials are concerned foreign adversaries could exploit any vulnerabilities in the vote-by-mail process, especially since even minor tampering could trigger widespread doubts about the integrity of the vote.

"Is it possible, in particular for a foreign actor, to cause enough mischief in the vote-by-mail process to raise a question in the minds of Americans, particularly Americans perhaps whose candidate has lost, that somehow the result of this election is unfair?" Assistant Attorney General John Demers, the department's top national security official, said in describing a key question confronting law enforcement.

Several disinformation experts said they have not found evidence yet that foreign actors are covertly pushing a false narrative about mail-in voting.

But a sham social media campaign that feeds existing doubts about the U.S. election process would align with the Kremlin's playbook, said Bret Schafer, a media and digital disinformation fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, a Washington think tank. During the 2016 election, Russia-linked groups polluted American voters' social media feeds with messages about hot-button topics like race relations, gun laws and immigration.

"You don't have to hack the vote to hack people's perception of the vulnerability of the vote," he said. "All you need to do is to seed enough doubt about the legitimacy of a vote."

Well before the coronavirus upended America's electoral process, federal officials were girding for the prospect of foreign interference in the U.S. election. The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security warned in February that Russia could seek to misuse voter registration data and even secretly advise campaigns or candidates, according to documents The Associated Press obtained.

Now, a potential overhaul of how millions of Americans vote could present new vulnerabilities for foreign adversaries to weaponize.

Only five states currently conduct mail-in voting, where a ballot is automatically mailed to every eligible voter.

The remaining states have substantial work in the months ahead. They will have to make major changes to their voting and tabulating systems, buy equipment or software to track the ballots and sort out who — individual voters or taxpayers — will pay for return postage in less than six months' time to accommodate more voting by mail.

Some states are exploring how to simply expand existing absentee voting systems, in which voters can request a ballot.

"Just like you wouldn't want to premiere your play straight to Broadway, it's hard to have a very new or very changed system in a high-stakes presidential election, especially under conditions where normal meetings, trainings, might be impacted by the pandemic," said Richard Hasen, an election law expert at

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the University of California, Irvine.

Those last-minute changes could spur unsubstantiated claims about rampant voter fraud, an unsupported theory that Trump and some of his supporters have already pushed for years.

Russian state media have already questioned states' attempts to postpone primaries or transition them to a mail-in process as governors grapple with how to hold an election against the backdrop of the virus.

"Coronavirus is coming, hide the ballots! Calls to cancel campaigns & voting erode already-thin trust in US primaries," read a headline on the website of the Russian television channel RT, which broadcasts in English and is aimed at audiences outside Russia.

Meanwhile, conspiracy theories that Democrats are hyping the pandemic to push for mail-in voting or that forecasts of a second wave this fall are part of a ploy to cancel an in-person vote have received thousands of likes, retweets and shares on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit. The theories are popular in dozens of Facebook groups that have been created in recent weeks to protest governors' stay-at-home orders.

"When you have this ambiguity and uncertainty, that's fertile ground for pushing out false information," said Schafer, the think tank fellow. "This is creating a perfect environment for these narratives to thrive."

Negative chatter around mail-in ballots spiked in those Facebook groups after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi proposed expanding early voting and mail-in voting last month, said Madelyn Webb, a research reporter for First Draft, an organization that tracks disinformation.

One popular meme accused Democrats of extending the quarantine to push "mail in ballots so they can cheat." The image received a combined 90,000 likes, comments and shares, mostly on pro-Trump and conservative Facebook pages.

And for under \$100, the Alaska Republican Party took out a Facebook ad that said: "Democrats are using the coronavirus pandemic to gut election fraud protections. Don't let them. Add your name to our petition to STOP BALLOT HARVESTING!" Facebook said the ad, which is still running, does not violate its policies.

Meanwhile, liberal social media users are pushing mail-in voting as a surefire option, glossing over some of the challenges such drastic changes to the voting system will present.

Facebook groups like Occupy Democrats and Being Liberal widely circulated an article promoting vote by mail, saying it has a history of success because the U.S. military has used the method for decades.

## AP Courtside: Supreme Court finishes Day 2 of phone argument

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is hearing a second day of arguments by telephone with the audio available live to audiences around the world. You can listen live here starting at 10 a.m. Eastern.

Monday was the justices' first foray into the setup they settled on because of the coronavirus pandemic. After hearing Tuesday's case, the justices will have four scheduled days of argument and eight cases remaining.

The highest-profile cases are scheduled for next week. That's when the justices will hear cases including President Donald Trump's bid to keep certain financial records private.

Here are some observations, trivia and analysis from our Supreme Court reporters (all times local):

11:55 a.m.

That's a wrap. Day Two of live arguments by telephone at the Supreme Court has finished.

The justices on Tuesday heard a free speech case that has to do with whether certain organizations combating HIV/AIDS abroad have to denounce prostitution to get U.S. taxpayer money. The arguments were by phone because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The phone arguments proceeded with hardly any delays or issues. Justice Sonia Sotomayor forgot to unmute briefly for the second day in a row. She then told Chief Justice John Roberts, "I'm sorry, chief, did it again."

Justice Clarence Thomas asked questions again Tuesday. Before Monday, it had been more than a year since he asked one.

The arguments ran about 10 minutes late. But there was a voice missing. Justice Elena Kagan recused herself from the case, presumably because she worked on an earlier version of the case when she served

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in the Justice Department before joining the court.

The justices will be back on the telephone Wednesday at 10 a.m. for two arguments. The first involves a requirement from the Affordable Care Act that employers cover contraceptives for women. The second is a free speech case.

10:35 a.m.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor may need a refresher course on how to use her telephone.

For the second day, the justice had difficulty joining in the questioning during the Supreme Court's telephone arguments.

On Monday, when it was Sotomayor's turn to ask a question, Chief Justice John Roberts called her name and then there was a long pause. Roberts called her name a second time before her voice was heard. She said, "I'm sorry, chief," before beginning her questioning.

On Tuesday, Roberts had to again call her name twice before she came on the line. She said, "I'm sorry, chief, did it again."

10:15 a.m.

Justice Clarence Thomas has done it again. The Supreme Court's longest-serving justice has asked questions on the second day the high court is hearing arguments by telephone with the audio broadcast live.

Asking a question wouldn't be a big deal for any of the other justices. Most ask a few questions in each argument. But that's not Thomas' style. Before Monday it had been more than a year since Thomas asked a question.

In Tuesday's case about U.S. aid to foreign groups working to combat HIV/AIDS, Thomas started by asking government attorney Christopher Michel: "The respondent seems to argue that your guidelines ... actually support their argument. What do you think of that?"

Thomas has been on the court since 1991. He has said he thinks his colleagues pepper lawyers with too many questions. He once went 10 years between asking questions at argument.

10 a.m.

The Supreme Court has started Day 2 of the arguments it's hearing by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The court again urged lawyers to use a landline, not a cellphone. Arguments Tuesday are scheduled to last an hour, as usual. The arguments ran about 15 minutes long Monday, when the court heard arguments by phone and allowed the world to listen in live — both for the first time.

If you followed along Monday you know the drill: The justices will ask questions in order of seniority, after Chief Justice John Roberts goes first.

Before the justices Tuesday is a free speech case that has to do with whether certain organizations combating HIV/AIDS abroad have to denounce prostitution to get U.S. taxpayer money.

Monday's case was about whether the travel website Booking.com can trademark its name.

8:15 a.m.

The Supreme Court is getting ready to hear arguments by telephone in a case about a worldwide virus, but it's not what you think.

The reason the justices aren't in their marble-columned courtroom, of course, is the coronavirus pandemic. But on the justices' minds Tuesday is the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The case before them is a free speech case that has to do with whether certain organizations combating HIV/AIDS abroad have to denounce prostitution to get U.S. taxpayer money.

The justices have dealt with this case before. In 2013 they ruled that the government cannot force U.S.-based private health organizations to denounce prostitution as a condition of getting money. The question this time around is whether foreign organizations that work with the U.S.-based ones can be required to do so to get funds.

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The court held its first day of arguments over the telephone on Monday, with audio available live for the first time. That case was about whether the travel website Booking.com can trademark its name.

8 a.m.

The Supreme Court's first day of arguments over the telephone with audio available live for the first time went off largely without a hitch.

On Tuesday, the justices will try to do it again with a second case.

Monday's glitches were minor. Justice Stephen Breyer's line was briefly garbled. And when it was Justice Sonia Sotomayor's turn to ask a question, there was a long pause and Chief Justice John Roberts said her name a second time before her voice was heard. She said, "I'm sorry, chief," before beginning her questioning.

One mild surprise came early in the arguments when Roberts passed the questioning to Justice Clarence Thomas, who once went 10 years between questions and has said he thinks his colleagues pepper lawyers with too many. But in this format, Thomas spoke up, asking questions of both lawyers in the case.

Monday's case was about whether the travel website Booking.com can trademark its name. Tuesday's case is about free speech and whether certain organizations combating HIV/AIDS abroad have to denounce prostitution to get U.S. taxpayer money.

## US service sector shrinks; first time since Great Recession

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. service sector shrank for the first time in a decade last month as the pandemic forced shutdowns and layoffs nationwide.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that its service-sector index fell to 41.8 in April, compared with a March reading of 52.5.

Any reading below 50 signals that the service sector, where the majority of Americans work, is in a contraction. It was the first time the services index has been in contraction since December 2009 and it was the lowest reading since March of that year with the nation mired in the Great Recession.

In April, all major categories fell sharply with the business activity index dropping to 26, the lowest reading on record. The new orders index fell to 32.9, and the employment index dropped to 30.

The survey found growth in only two service sector industries last month, public administration, as well as finance and insurance, while 16 industries reported declines.

In the agriculture sector, survey respondents said that the virus had created significant challenges with milk prices plunging 29% in a just a few weeks. "Milk is being dumped on farms because of the loss of markets," the ISM survey found.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, will plunge by a record annual rate of 40% in the current April-June quarter.

Last week, the ISM also reported that its manufacturing index was in contraction territory with a reading of 41.5 in April.

While the Trump administration is hoping for a big rebound this summer if and when the economy reopens, many economists believe the recession could drag on until a vaccine is widely available.

"Social distancing measures are being gradually lifted, but it will take time to undo the economic damage," said Oren Klachkin, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "Significantly weaker demand, supply chain disruptions ... and uncertainty over the virus' trajectory will pose considerable headwinds to an economic rebound."

In shortened season, stars still had chance to shine in 1981

By **NOAH TRISTER AP Baseball Writer**

The season began with Fernandomania and ended with a classic World Series matchup between the Dodgers and Yankees. Mike Schmidt slugged his way to a second consecutive MVP, and Nolan Ryan pitched

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another no-hitter.

But perhaps the best way to describe baseball in 1981 is by recounting Pete Rose's pursuit of the National League's career hits record. He tied the mark in June, then had to wait until August to break it — because a strike shut down the sport for about two months.

All Rose could do was make regular visits to the batting cage while he waited.

"I went there every freaking day," Rose said.

If baseball is able to come back at all this year, fans should be prepared for a significantly shortened season, and that 1981 campaign may be the most relevant comparison available. The season was split in two by a labor dispute, but when the sport finally returned, its stars still had an abbreviated chance to shine.

"The chaos, the change, the uniqueness, the intensity — all of those elements absolutely factor into how memorable that entire time is," said Steve Rogers, the right-hander whose Montreal Expos made their first postseason appearance in 1981.

The early days of the '81 season were dominated by Fernando Valenzuela. The Mexican rookie took Los Angeles by storm, winning his first eight starts for the Dodgers and throwing shutouts in five of them.

By the time the strike began, Rose was in the spotlight. He was with the defending champion Phillies then, and on June 10, he entered Philadelphia's last game before the strike needing one hit to tie Stan Musial's NL mark of 3,630.

Ryan was on the mound against the Phillies, and Rose tied the record with a first-inning single off him. Then Rose struck out in his next three chances against the Houston right-hander. He finally broke the record Aug. 10 against St. Louis, in his team's first game back.

Baseball's first big event after the stoppage was the All-Star Game in Cleveland on Aug. 9. Schmidt homered in the eighth inning to give the NL a 5-4 win.

"That would have been my overall best year had we played a full season," Schmidt said in an email. "I was in the midst of my prime, especially following 1980. It really had nothing to do with a unique thing I did during the strike, actually I worked for CBS as a sports anchor. I did some working out with (Phillies reliever) Tug McGraw."

Schmidt hit .316 with 31 home runs in 102 games. Baseball-Reference.com credits him with 7.7 wins above replacement that year. In 2019 — with a full season — only two NL players reached that WAR total.

If baseball's return went smoothly for position players like Rose and Schmidt, pitchers faced more of a challenge. And Rogers had the added responsibility of being on the union's negotiating committee during the strike.

"My ability to stay in shape had been curtailed pretty significantly," Rogers said. "I really did not have the capability of throwing that much."

It would nonetheless turn into a memorable year for Rogers and the Expos. Baseball expanded its post-season, allowing the four division leaders from before the strike to qualify — and also taking the teams with the best post-strike records in each division.

That led to some unusual results. Cincinnati went 66-42 for the best overall record in the game, but the Reds finished second in both halves and missed the playoffs. Kansas City went 50-53 but won the second half in the AL West and played on.

Teams played an unequal number of games. The Expos (30-23) edged the Cardinals (29-23) atop the NL East in the second half, securing what would be their lone postseason berth in Montreal.

The Milwaukee Brewers made their first playoff appearance, as well. Houston made the postseason with the help of Ryan's fifth no-hitter, Sept. 26 against the Dodgers.

The Expos fired manager Dick Williams late in the season, then went 16-11 under Jim Fanning to make the playoffs. Rogers threw a two-hit shutout against the Mets in his final start of the regular season — and he was just getting started.

In the first round of the playoffs, Rogers beat Steve Carlton twice, including in the winner-take-all fifth game at Philadelphia. He went the distance in that 3-0 victory and even drove in two runs.

In the NL Championship Series against Los Angeles, Rogers threw another complete game in a Game 3



win, but when he came on in relief in Game 5, Rick Monday homered in the top of the ninth to give the Dodgers the pennant. The ending was disappointing, but it had been a remarkable run for the Expos.

By the time the World Series ended — with the Dodgers winning in six games — it was fair to say the 1981 season, while far from ideal, had avoided becoming a farce.

That's the challenge the sport faces this year amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has put the entire season in jeopardy. If baseball does resume, it may be in front of empty stadiums, and if the start is delayed well into the summer, the season could be so short the results seem tarnished.

"Is it really going to be a true champion?" Rose wondered. "The commissioner — boy, he's got his work cut out for him. ... You can't make everybody happy."

Ultimately, though, the format of baseball's return may be a secondary concern. If the sport can be played safely, that would be a victory in itself. Whether that's really possible is still very much in doubt.

"How would you contact trace if a player got the virus and was in a clubhouse? Point being, I think the number of games is a moot point," Schmidt said. "If you need a number, and there was no problem playing the games, you probably could crown a world champion following a 60-game regular season. And a shortened postseason. It's all about money and what everyone is willing to gamble to stop losing it."

## Kenya questions deadly plane crash in Somalia that killed 6

By **ABDI GULED Associated Press**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somalia's president has promised his Kenyan counterpart a "thorough investigation" into the deadly crash of a Kenyan plane carrying medical supplies in Somalia, while one Somali official asserts that the aircraft was shot down. Six people on board were killed.

The Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority on Tuesday said the twin-engine plane with African Express crashed Monday afternoon on approach to Bardale "under circumstances we are yet to confirm."

A projectile fired from the ground hit the plane as it approached the airstrip in Bay region, Ahmed isaq, a local official with the Southwestern State regional administration, told The Associated Press.

The airstrip is a base for the Ethiopian military under the multinational African Union mission, which is combating the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group. The group controls parts of rural southern and central Somalia.

There was no immediate comment from Ethiopian authorities Tuesday.

The plane had left Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and stopped in Baidoa before going on toward Bardale, the Kenyan statement said. Kenyan authorities said they were in contact with the Somali Civil Aviation Authority.

Somalia's transport ministry called the crash "a terrible accident" and said the government was investigating.

Somali President Abdullahi Mohamed Abdullahi in a phone call with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta offered his support and condolences, Somalia's foreign ministry said.

## In clamor to reopen, many blacks feel their safety ignored

By **JAY REEVES Associated Press**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Many African Americans watching protests calling for easing restrictions meant to slow the spread of the new coronavirus see them as one more example of how their health, their safety and their rights just don't seem to matter.

To many, it seems that the people protesting — who have been predominantly white — are agitating for reopening because they won't be the ones to suffer the consequences. So far, the facts are proving them right: The consequences of keeping some businesses open have been falling disproportionately on the shoulders of black people and other marginalized groups.

"There has always been a small, white ruling class that has been OK with seeing certain populations as disposable," said LaTosha Brown, founder of the Black Voters Matter Fund, a power-building organization

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based in the South.

The pandemic has highlighted — and often deepened — gaping inequalities in the United States and around the world.

Black people are dying in disproportionate numbers from COVID-19 in the United States; people of color are especially exposed because they are more likely to hold many of the jobs that were deemed essential; and, as the reopening starts, they are likely to be among those whose workplaces open first. For instance, in New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, black people make up just under 25% of the population, but more than 40% of public transit workers.

Delmonte Jefferson, a black public health professional in Atlanta, said African Americans and other people of color want to mitigate the economic damage as much as anyone else — especially since those groups are among the ones who are suffering the most from the downturn. But they don't want a return at all costs, he said.

"Even the thought of opening the country back up shows that African Americans aren't being valued," said Jefferson, executive director of the Atlanta-based National African American Tobacco Prevention Network.

Some "reopen" protests have included black speakers, and a handful of black people have attended. But images of the rallies and Facebook pages dedicated to the movement indicate the vast majority of supporters are white.

Demonstrators from Alabama to Michigan haven't focused on race. Instead, they advocate preserving constitutional freedoms and talk about the catastrophic toll on small businesses. The protesters have included organized groups like anti-vaccine advocates, gun-rights supporters and even a militia, and many have expressed support for President Donald Trump, reflecting the way the discussion has become partisan.

But many African Americans say the fact that protesters are advocating a riskier path reveals a privileged position — as does their ability to flout social-distancing rules and even brandish weapons.

The complaints from protesters that their rights are being trampled, for instance, comes across as misinformed and misguided to racial minorities who have been oppressed for generations, said Nadia Richardson, who heads No More Martyrs, a nonprofit focused on the mental health of black women.

"It looks like from that perspective (it's) a group of people who don't really understand what it is to have your rights violated," said Richardson.

Groups including the NAACP, meanwhile, have called for greater government action to prevent the virus' spread in response to statistics showing that COVID-19 is killing disproportionate numbers of black people.

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

The toll in black communities, leaders say, reflects systemic policies that have made many African Americans far more vulnerable to the virus, including unequal access to health care and economic opportunity. That means many will face an untenable choice: go back to work or face unemployment with no benefits, said Antonio Lightfoot, an organizer for the Workers Center for Racial Justice in Chicago.

The Rev. William J. Barber, who advocates for groups that often perform front-line jobs, said black people aren't the only ones being devalued.

"The issue is not what these protests are saying to just black people but what they are saying to poor and low-income people who are the most impacted," said Barber. "Invitations to open up society and encourage people to return to their routines is an invitation to death."

Nearly 70,000 people have died from the coronavirus in the United States, according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University from official government numbers, although the true figure is likely higher. Most people who get infected suffer only mild or moderate symptoms, but some, especially the elderly and those with other health problems, become seriously ill.

As the debate over reopening has become increasingly heated, some have used racist language or symbols.

Democratic Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who is black and has been an outspoken critic of

Republican Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's decision to allow some businesses to reopen, recently tweeted an image of a text message that demanded she reopen Atlanta and called her a racial slur. Confederate flags have been visible at some demonstrations, but far more American flags are evident.

Although Americans remain overwhelmingly in favor of stay-at-home orders and other restrictions, a survey conducted in mid-April from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research revealed a partisan divide.

The survey showed that while majorities of Democrats and Republicans thought restrictions where they lived were about right, Republicans were roughly four times as likely to think they went too far — 22% versus 5%. The largely white protest attendance might simply reflect that divide since black voters are more likely to be Democrats.

Deanna Reed, who is black, has helped her church set up drive-thru virus testing and has personal reasons for wanting to maintain social distancing: Her mother works in a shipping facility where she has to provide her own masks and gloves.

"Just having to see my mom go out is tough," said Reed. "I pray for her safety daily."

## Mother's Day this year means getting creative from afar

By **LEANNE ITALIE** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Treats made and delivered by neighbors. Fresh garden plantings dug from a safe 6 feet away. Trips around the world set up room-to-room at home.

Mother's Day this year is a mix of love and extra imagination as families do without their usual brunches and huggy meet-ups.

As the pandemic persists in keeping families indoors or a safe social distance apart, online searches have increased for creative ways to still make moms feel special.

Absent help from schools and babysitters, uninitiated dads are on homemade craft duty with the kids. Other loved ones are navigating around no-visitor rules at hospitals and senior-living facilities.

Some medical facilities are pitching in by collecting voice and video recordings from locked-out relatives when patients are unable to manage the technology on their own.

In suburban St. Louis, Steve Turner and his family hope to FaceTime with his 96-year-old mother, Beverly, but they plan something more, too. Her birthday coincides with Mother's Day this year.

"We're going to create a big Mother's Day-birthday banner signed by the kids and grandkids who live here," Turner said. "She loves butterflies and we'll draw some on. We're working with the home to find a place where we can stand outside a window so she can see us."

Anna Francese Gass in New Canaan, Connecticut, is hunkered down with her husband and three children and will enjoy her usual Mother's Day breakfast in bed of rubbery eggs, slightly burnt toast and VERY milky coffee. But the day won't include her own mom, who lives nearby.

"I ordered a bunch of daffodil and tulip bulbs online, and me and the kids are planning to plant them in her flowerbed. She can supervise from the window. I just know it will put a huge smile on her face," Francese Gass said.

In Alameda, California, 23-year-old Zaria Zinn is sheltering at home with her parents and younger sister. Knowing how much their mother loves and misses traveling, they're turning their house and neighborhood into a trip around the world with help from decorations and virtual tours online.

"We made a DIY passport for her and we're creating stamps for each location," she said.

Their itinerary: Machu Picchu, Paris and Iceland, with some DIY spa time and a Hollywood-style movie night.

Making the most of Mother's Day in isolation is top of mind for Google search users. The company said the term "Mother's Day gifts during quarantine" recently spiked by 600% in the U.S. Among Pinterest's 335 million users, searches for "Mother's Day at home" have jumped by 2,971%, the company said.

In Rochester, New York, Melissa Mueller-Douglas and her 7-year-old daughter, Nurah, had planned to get together with mom and daughter friends at a hotel for a Mother's Day sleepover. When it was canceled

because of the pandemic, they got busy on Pinterest searching for ideas to bring the party home, just the two of them.

They have eye masks with rhinestones to decorate, thread for mother-daughter bracelets, instant film for a photo shoot and a chocolate fountain purchased at Walmart. Dad and Nurah's 3-year-old brother will paint together downstairs after a mom-son bike ride earlier in the day.

"We've repurposed a shimmery tablecloth and made giant flowers out of tissue paper for a photo shoot backdrop. We'll be creating a secret handshake and writing in top secret journals to each other," Mueller-Douglas said. "We're calling it The Best Day Ever Slumber Party."

Kayla Hockman, 26, in Los Angeles has been worried about her 77-year-old grandmother in Fontana, California, about 50 miles away. Usually, she and her sister treat her and their mom to brunch or an adventure out.

"My grandma's been quite depressed lately since she hasn't left her house in two months, and she's slowly losing hope," Hockman said. "She and my grandpa have a lot of problems with walking now. This whole thing of not being able to see anyone has been really taking a hard toll on them."

To cheer her up, they're planning a party on her lawn.

"It's going to be a surprise pop-up Mother's Day brunch with 'mimosas' and painting," Hockman said. "We're going to set it up for all of us to paint a sunflower, her absolute favorite. She'll paint on her porch and we'll be on the lawn, all 6 feet apart."

Willie Greer in Memphis thought food, enlisting the help of a neighbor to make his mom's recipe for pecan pie and deliver it to her in Dallas to brighten her isolation Mother's Day. He said the neighbor was happy to do it after he sent her the recipe.

"My siblings and I will also create a 'thank you' video for mom. Since we can't all be together, each of us will record a short message and at the end we'll all sing 'A Mother's Love' by Gena Hill," he said. "I'm pretty sure this is the part where my mom cries her eyes out."

These days, virtual experiences are all we have, so Lisa Hill in Portland, Oregon, decided to embrace that notion for her 79-year-old mom in Stuart, Florida, after she met a cooking instructor while volunteering to prepare meals at a shelter.

Hill has been cooking alongside Lauren Chandler, who has taken her usual in-home cooking sessions online with a twist: She's throwing in a free 45-minute session for clients to donate.

"I feel so far away from her. I can't cook for her. I can't visit," Hill said. "She's nervous about everything going on right now and it will be a good social interaction."

## The Latest: Macron criticized for opening schools next week

By The Associated Press

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

### TOP OF THE HOUR:

- 4 new cases in South Korea, China show work on containment.
- French President Macron criticized for opening schools next week.
- Italy experts warn of second wave after gradual reopening.
- British government chief acknowledges early testing shortfall.

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed plans to gradually reopen schools next week amid concerns from mayors, teachers and parents about the timing.

Macron, wearing a mask, visited a primary school in a suburb west of Paris on Tuesday that has remained open for children of health workers.

More than 300 mayors in the capital region, including Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, urged Macron in an open letter to delay the reopening of primary schools scheduled for next week.

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They denounced an “untenable and unrealistic timetable” to meet the sanitary and safety conditions required by the state, including class sizes capped to a maximum of 15. The majority of French children attend public schools.

Many parents say they won’t send their children back to school as France is one of the world’s hardest-hit countries by the coronavirus.

France starts lifting confinement measures on May 11, with businesses to resume activity and parents to return to work.

**GENEVA** — The U.N. human rights office says conditions in many prisons in the Americas are “deeply worrying” as COVID-19 spreads in many overcrowded facilities that lack hygiene.

Rights office spokesman Rupert Colville says fear of contagion and lack of basic services like access to food and health care have stoked riots and protests in some prisons.

He pointed to outbreaks of deadly violence in detention centers in Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela in recent weeks, along with attempted prison breaks in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the United States.

Colville says the incidents suggest some states had not taken “appropriate measures to prevent violence in detention facilities,” urging states to investigate the deaths and injuries and any allegations of use of force by authorities during the rioting.

**CAIRO** — Yemen’s health minister affiliated with the Houthi rebels has announced the first coronavirus death in the rebel-controlled northern part of the country.

Taha al-Motawakel says a Somali migrant who died Sunday in a hotel in the capital Sanaa tested positive for the virus. He didn’t provide details about other confirmed cases in areas under Houthi control.

The surfacing of the pandemic in Yemen has stoked fears that an outbreak could devastate its already crippled health care system.

Yemen’s civil war erupted in 2014, when the rebels seized Sanaa, and much of the country’s north. The U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition intervened to oust the rebels and restore the internationally recognized government. The conflict has killed more than 100,000 people and settled into a bloody stalemate.

The latest coronavirus death brings the total confirmed cases to 22 and three deaths across the country.

**ATHENS, Greece** — Greece’s prime minister says it appears “absolutely feasible” for restaurants and cafes to reopen on June 1 if the coronavirus outbreak keeps slowing.

On Monday, Greece reported two deaths and six confirmed infections, bringing the total death toll to 146, with confirmed infections at 2,632.

Greece began easing its lockdown measures on Monday, with the opening of a limited number of retail businesses, such as beauty salons and bookshops, and people allowed to leave their homes.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis held a video conference with several cabinet members Tuesday to discuss how to reopen the restaurant and café sector while maintaining social distancing regulations. One possibility was increasing the outdoor space for tables and chairs.

Greece imposed a lockdown early on in its coronavirus outbreak, a move credited with containing the number of deaths.

**LONDON** — Scotland’s leader Nicola Sturgeon has outlined how lockdown restrictions could be relaxed while stressing the move is not imminent.

Sturgeon says Scotland was at a “critical” moment and the lockdown will be extended for another three-week period after the next review on Thursday.

However, she says the first loosening considered by the government would be time spent outdoors. Other discussions relate to easing restrictions on community care services and businesses.

She says it’s too early to reopen schools and they possibly won’t reopen before the summer holidays.

Sturgeon says it’s preferred all four nations of the U.K. — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

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— should move together on easing the lockdown.

**THE HAGUE**, Netherlands — Dutch riot police have arrested some demonstrators who gathered in The Hague to call for an end to the partial coronavirus lockdown.

Authorities in the city allowed the unannounced demonstration by a few hundred people near the city's central railway station on condition that the protesters maintained social distancing.

However, the mayor withdrew permission when demonstrators refused to follow police instructions and officers, supported by police on horseback, began detaining people. Police didn't immediately say how many people were arrested.

The Netherlands has been in what Prime Minister Mark Rutte calls an "intelligent lockdown" since mid-March. Schools, bars, restaurants and museums are closed and people are urged to work from home and practice social distancing outside.

The first gradual easing came last week when young children resumed sports training. Elementary schools are due to reopen next week.

**NEW DELHI**, India — India has discovered two viral clusters since it partly lifted the nationwide lockdown on Monday, contributing to the largest single-day spike in cases and deaths in 24 hours.

There's been a total of 3,900 infection cases and 195 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking India's total to more than 46,000 cases and more than 1,500 dead.

The Health ministry says the spike was due to late reporting of information by several state governments.

A vegetable and fruit market in Chennai, a southern Indian city, has been linked to more than 300 cases. Many of those who had been working in the market, which is among the largest in the country, had returned to their villages due to the lockdown and public health officials are now trying to retrace their footsteps.

In Tripura, a state in India's north-east, which shares a border with Bangladesh, a total of 27 new cases were reported, of which 13 were linked to the Border Security Force or BSF, the country's border guarding force.

**ROME** — Italian experts are warning a second wave of coronavirus infections will most certainly accompany Italy's gradual reopening from Europe's first lockdown.

They are calling for intensified efforts to identify possible new victims, monitor their symptoms and trace their contacts

Dr. Silvio Brusaferro, president of the Superior Institute of Health, briefed a Senate committee on Tuesday about the next phase of Italy's coronavirus pandemic. He joined experts a day after 4.4 million Italians went back to work and restrictions on personal movement were eased for the first time in two months.

Brusaferro says the key to keeping the outbreak under control lies in the early isolation of people with suspected infection, more tests and the quarantine of their close contacts. He says it will require "a huge investment" of resources for training medical personnel to monitor possible new cases. He adds any phone app that can help trace contacts, while useful, doesn't substitute for the actions of people.

The head of the institute's infectious disease department, Dr. Giovanni Rezza, told La Repubblica the coming weeks were essentially an "experiment" to see how the infection curve reacts to the easing of the lockdown and production shutdown.

"We are not out of the epidemic. We are still in it. I don't want people to think there's no more risk and we go back to normal," Rezza told La Repubblica.

In Italy's hard-hit northern Lombardy, tens of thousands of sick overwhelmed the health care system. Scientists say a second wave of infection would particularly hit the south, which didn't have many infections.

**BERLIN** — The German government and the country's automakers plan to discuss stimulus measures to promote modern technology.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, says the German leader and several ministers

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held a telephone conference Tuesday with the chief executives of automakers in Germany and the head of the IG Metall industrial union.

Germany is home to automakers such as Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW, and the sector is a crucial employer in Europe's biggest economy. The companies are restarting production in Europe after the coronavirus pandemic brought it to a near-standstill.

Seibert says participants agreed a working group should discuss economic stimulus measures "that constitute a contribution to modernization in the direction of innovative vehicle technologies." He says they aim to discuss the results in early June.

**LONDON** — The British government's chief scientific adviser has acknowledged that the country should have been testing more people for the new coronavirus early in the country's outbreak.

Patrick Vallance told Parliament's health committee that "if we'd managed to ramp up testing capacity quicker it would have been beneficial, and for all sorts of reasons that didn't happen."

Critics say Britain's Conservative government responded too slowly when COVID-19 began to spread, and failed to contain the outbreak by widely testing people with symptoms, then tracing and isolating the contacts of infected people.

Countries that did that, including South Korea and Germany, have recorded lower death rates than those that did not.

The U.K. has recently expanded its testing capacity and is setting up a "test, track and trace" program as it looks to relax a nationwide lockdown.

Britain is one of the world's hardest-hit countries in the pandemic, and looks likely to overtake Italy for the largest number of COVID-19 deaths in Europe.

**BERLIN** — Several German states are setting out plans to reopen restaurants and hotels in the coming weeks — the latest step in a gradual restart of public life.

Governor Markus Soeder of Bavaria, the state with Germany's highest per capita coronavirus infection rate, on Tuesday set out what he said is a cautious plan to reopen the hospitality sector in his region.

Soeder says restaurants can serve outdoors starting May 18 and indoors a week later, with limited numbers of customers, limited opening times and strict hygiene precautions. Starting May 30, hotels can welcome tourists — though without opening saunas or swimming pools.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and state governors plan to consult Wednesday on Germany's next steps in loosening coronavirus restrictions. But individual states, which are responsible for imposing and lifting lockdowns, increasingly are pressing ahead with announcing proposals of their own.

The northern state of Lower Saxony on Monday proposed opening restaurants on May 11 and hotels on May 25. The Baltic Sea region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania wants to open restaurants on Saturday, with hotels welcoming locals from May 18 and guests from other German regions a week later.

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** — Churches in Norway can again carry out ceremonies as of May 10.

However, there can be a maximum of 50 people in churches, and there must be at least one meter (3.3 feet) between church goers.

Bishop Atle Sommerfeldt, the head of the Church of Norway, told The Associated Press that he is pleased more people will attend baptisms, weddings, funerals, and regular services.

Like elsewhere, priests in Norway, a predominantly Lutheran country, have carried out online services during the lockdown. Norwegian churches shut down March 12, the Norwegian news agency NTB wrote.

**TEHRAN, Iran** — Iran's state-run IRNA news agency says the country's president, Hassan Rouhani, has spoken over the phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Tuesday's report says the two discussed bilateral cooperation on fighting the coronavirus pandemic, and during the phone call, Rouhani thanked the Japanese government for its humanitarian assistance to Iran on combating the virus.

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Rouhani was quoted as saying that with the "escalation of the United States' cruel and inhumane sanctions against Iran," the country faces "many problems today, even in the field of medical equipment and food supply."

Iran, which has been the hardest-hit country in the Middle East in the pandemic, says its death toll rose to over 6,300 after 63 more people died on Monday. The Health Ministry's spokesman, Kianoush Jahanpour, says Iran has so far confirmed nearly 100,000 cases.

**STOCKHOLM** — A Swedish newspaper says a technology institute in Sweden has found large concentrations of the coronavirus in Stockholm's sewage system.

The analysis by the KTH Royal Institute of Technology was made in the purification plant in Bromma, west of the capital. The institute told Dagens Nyheter, one of Sweden's largest newspapers, that the test that can predict a second virus wave.

Since the beginning of April samples have been taken from two treatment plants in Stockholm with the purpose of monitoring how the amount of virus residues develop over time, the newspaper reported.

Initial results showed the highest virus concentration at the Bromma waste water treatment plant, which handles wastewater from northern Stockholm suburbs. At another treatment plant, an increase in the content between the first and second samples was seen.

The institute told Dagens Nyheter that the survey had quickly grown into an international research project involving six countries. No one at the institute was immediately available for comments.

There are no known cases of infection spreading through wastewater or drinking water.

**MADRID** — Spain added 185 recorded deaths to its coronavirus tally, now counting a total of 25,613 diagnosed patients who succumbed to the COVID-19 disease.

The figures, which are in line with the overall slowdown of the pandemic in the country, don't include thousands more who have died in nursing homes in March and April before they could be tested.

Despite the country's limited ability to conduct tests until recently, health ministry data showed infections rose on Tuesday to 250,000, including some 30,000 identified by antibody tests after showing no symptoms or overcoming the disease.

Most new infections are happening among health workers, the data showed.

Top health official Fernando Simón says the easing trend is clear and the goal is avoiding any rebound of the outbreak. He says more than 123,000 people have recovered from the disease.

Spain this week started to roll back from a lockdown in place since mid-March, one of the world's strictest.

**LONDON** — New figures show Britain has had more than 30,000 deaths among people with the coronavirus, possibly a third more than the official count.

The Office for National Statistics says there were 29,710 deaths involving COVID-19 in England and Wales through April 24 — 34% more than the government's figure of 22,173 for the same period. Deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland, collected separately, push the number over 30,000.

Britain's official death toll, which includes cases where there was a positive test for the virus, stands at 28,734, just behind Italy's 29,079 and the third-highest in the world.

The statistics office data, which is published with a 10-day lag, includes deaths where COVID-19 is suspected, even if there was no test.

Scientists say it will be hard to determine the total toll from the disease until there are complete statistics for excess mortality during the pandemic.

Britain's statistics office says the number of total deaths registered in the week to April 24 was slightly lower than the previous week, but still more than double the five-year average.

**NEW DELHI** — Authorities in India's capital are imposing a special tax of 70% on liquor purchases to dissuade huge gatherings a day after thirsty drinkers formed long queues at stores across the country.

The new tax on retail liquor purchases in New Delhi is called the "special corona fee." It will be effective



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from Tuesday.

On Monday, after some lockdown restrictions were eased, thousands turned up at liquor stores without following social distancing guidelines. This led the authorities to shut many of the liquor shops. In some places, officers had to resort to baton-charge to disperse crowds.

The ban on liquor sales formed an important component of the ongoing six-week countrywide lockdown and was meant to rein the pandemic by limiting social gatherings. The ban, however, also deprived state governments in India of tax revenue.

India has recorded nearly 45,000 cases and more than 1,500 deaths. On Tuesday, the country reported almost 3,900 new infections for its highest single day rise.

The pace of infection is growing in India and experts say the virus still hasn't reached its peak.

BERLIN — The head of Germany's national disease control center says there will be a second wave of coronavirus infections, but his country is well-prepared to deal with it.

Lothar Wieler, the head of the Robert Koch Institute, was responding Tuesday to a question about whether a planned contact-tracing app is still relevant given that new infections have slowed significantly. Wieler put the current reproduction rate in Germany — the number of other people whom one person with the virus infects — at 0.71.

However, Wieler pointed to the nature of a pandemic and says "we know with great certainty that there will be a second wave — the majority of scientists is sure of that. And many also assume that there will be a third wave." He says that means "this app is not coming too late."

Wieler says Germany's "preparation is definitely better" for a second wave. He added a lot has been done in recent months and doctors know more about how to deal with COVID-19 cases.

Germany is currently in the process of loosening restrictions imposed in March to slow the initial coronavirus outbreak.

WAGAH, India — Nearly 200 Pakistanis stranded in a nationwide coronavirus lockdown on the other side of the border in India are crossing back home.

Border security forces allowed masked passengers in private vehicles with luggage strapped to roofs to cross the Attari-Wagah border that separates the sprawling Punjab region split between Indian and Pakistan. The border opened Tuesday for the first time since the ongoing lockdown began on March 24.

India has recorded nearly 45,000 cases and more than 1,500 deaths. The lockdown was partially lifted on Monday to allow some employment for the millions of daily wage workers who have survived only on donated food. But the pace of infection is growing and experts say the virus still hasn't reached its peak in India.

## **VIRUS DIARY: Staving off the virus while our water runs out**

**By TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI Associated Press**

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — I know we're meant to be washing our hands frequently. We're trying. But we're running out of water again and I don't know when the water truck is going to be back.

Queuing and crowding for food was a daily chore even before the coronavirus. It's worse now. Social distancing is a luxury.

Our economy is broken. Only Nicolas Maduro's Venezuela has a higher inflation rate than us. We've had critical shortages of water, food, gas, cash. We thought things couldn't get worse. The virus saw to that.

Water is my biggest concern. It's usually delivered on a truck by a private company. The municipal water system has been dilapidated for years. We might get municipal water out of a tap at home once or twice a week if we strike it lucky. Mostly, when I turn on a tap it gurgles, spurts some muddy-colored liquid for a few seconds, then stops. My kids won't be washing their hands in that.

Jeffrey is my water guy. My delivery time is Friday afternoons. I pay Jeffrey, he pumps 5,000 liters from the tanks on his truck into the one I installed at my house and we're good for another week.

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Jeffrey doesn't arrive every Friday now. The trucks are being stopped at lockdown roadblocks.

When Jeffrey doesn't show, I go to Plan B. A friend has a borehole to access groundwater in his yard. I call him and go round. At the gate, I yell. He answers, passes his hosepipe over the fence. I fill as many containers as I've managed to fit in my car. I don't even see Kuda. Haven't for a while. We just talk over the fence and laugh at what we're doing. Then I'm off home with tomorrow's showers and laundry water slopping around on the back seat.

At work, I document the food queues, one of many elements constraining the lives of harried Zimbabweans. There's been little change in attitudes, even with the threat of the virus hanging over every line. If anything, the people pack tighter, more afraid of missing out on food.

A cough here at the front of the queue. A sneeze there at the back. Heads snap to see who it came from. Sometimes people demand the guilty party leave the queue. They never do. The expressions on faces are a mix of concern and determination, with eyes narrowed, that this day's queuing won't be in vain. The faces are clearly visible because hardly anyone wears masks. In the ongoing quest for overpriced bread and milk, who has money for masks?

I do have personal protective equipment. But I can't avoid the queues forever. I sometimes think, "What groceries do we need at home? Damn, I should be in that queue." But I'm working.

Even in my car, I'm uneasy. Roadblocks are plentiful — one thing that is. Police or soldiers want to know what I'm doing, where I'm going. They leer in through the window. I explain, like I've done nearly every day since our lockdown began. But I'm really doing some kind of impossible mental calculation about how much of their saliva landed in my car, or on me, when they barked out that question. I've now taken to rolling up the window more. It's a balancing act. How much is enough to protect myself without angering them?

There are brighter moments — the extra intimacy with family. I have three children. My eldest son is 16 this year. We're starting to talk in the evenings about what he wants to do after school. Maybe a future in agriculture. He's fascinated by aeroponic farming. Growing plants in air. It suits our water situation.

Talking about his future reassures me that there will be one. When we're done, I go and check how much water we have left in the tank.

## At senior home, staff stays put 24-7 to stop virus spread

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — As girls, Nadia Williams and her sister spent countless hours imagining their weddings. Now 30, Williams helped her younger sibling plan her big day, but when it came on Friday, she couldn't be at her side as maid of honor. Instead, she put on a sequined dress, pulled her hair back, held a bouquet, and watched the ceremony alone, via Zoom, from a community for older adults.

Williams is among about 70 employees who are sheltering in place alongside more than 500 residents at an upscale assisted-living facility just outside Atlanta. Since the end of March, Park Springs has had employees live on its 61-acre campus instead of commute from home to protect residents from the coronavirus — an unusual approach, even as nursing homes have been among the hardest-hit places by the pandemic.

"Most facilities are so short on space," said Betsy McCaughey, of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths, a nonprofit that provides guidelines for preventing coronavirus at nursing homes. She lauded the idea of keeping staff on site, noting it also protects workers' families and communities.

The approach has been used elsewhere: In France, staff at a nursing home ended a 47-day quarantine Monday. In Connecticut, the owner of an assisted-living facility that is housing staff on the premises, Tyson Belanger, has called for government funding to help more senior communities do so.

In Georgia, Williams, a health care administrator, said her duty to the residents came first, even though it meant missing the wedding.

"I wish I was there, definitely," she said, choking up in a video interview with The Associated Press. "I wish I was able to help her get ready."

Park Springs' lockdown started after four employees and a resident tested positive for the virus. Most

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nursing homes have limited visitors, and many screen people for fevers or ask whether they've had contact with anyone with the virus. Park Springs' administrators said they feared those strategies might not be enough.

"We knew we had to do something drastic," said Donna Moore, chief operating officer of the company that owns Park Springs.

In some ways, Park Springs is more like a resort than a traditional elder-care facility. Residents — some needing no medical care — are spread out in apartment buildings, homes and duplexes on the gated campus near the base of Stone Mountain, a giant rock formation that lures tourists with a trail to the summit and an enormous carving of Confederate leaders.

Residents pay an entrance fee that can top \$500,000, with monthly fees ranging from about \$2,500 to over \$6,000, depending on the type, size and location of their home and whether they live alone or as a couple, according to Park Springs' website. The median cost of a one-bedroom unit at an assisted-living facility in Georgia last year was just over \$3,300 monthly, according to a survey by insurance giant Genworth Financial.

Some facilities might not have the amenities or financial resources to keep staff on campus, said Charlene Harrington, a professor emeritus of nursing at the University of California, San Francisco.

"If it's a lovely place, maybe the workers wouldn't mind staying there," she said.

Park Springs has a gym, tree-lined walking trails to a lake, a steakhouse and an art studio. Employees can use the gym, and administrators have organized karaoke, bingo and Easter dinner for them. They're also paying those living on site more — a decision made after volunteers had committed to stay, COO Moore said.

Those employees represent a fraction of Park Springs' normal 300-person staff. Another 30 or so are working from home, but the majority have been furloughed.

Employees' on-site logistics have required sacrifice. Moore sleeps on an air mattress in a tent she set up in a community hall. Her 18-year-old daughter, Megan, texts recordings of her singing to keep her mom's spirits up.

For Justin Craft, who runs Park Springs' food service, there have been no returns home for family dinners on a table set by his 12-year-old son.

Instead, he and his wife have weekly date nights and dinners with their boys separated by a fence on campus. On Thursday, she brought takeout from one of their favorite restaurants. He pulled his food under the gate, and she grabbed a small bottle of wine he'd left on a fence post. They sat at tables about 15 feet apart on opposite sides of the fence and chatted.

"It's our new normal, but we're used to it by now," Crystal Craft said.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, and the vast majority recover. But for some others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia or death. Nationwide, 20,000 deaths have been linked to virus outbreaks in nursing homes and other long-term care centers.

The Park Springs' employees and resident who tested positive recovered. Since the lockdown, the facility has seen one additional case — a 96-year-old resident with dementia tested positive April 23. Park Springs allows visitors for residents who are near the end of their lives. A daughter and a caregiver saw the woman, and she died three days after her positive test.

On campus, employees' workdays are longer, with expanded duties. Resident Kaffie McCullough, 74, teared up praising their efforts.

"I expect my family to jump in and help me out when something is somewhat of a crisis in my life. I don't expect that from the people who are providing services for me," she said.

Initially, Moore asked volunteering employees to stay on the property through the end of April. Now, she's asked if they can stay longer, perhaps for all of May.

Moore left an open book on a table with a pen for her staff's answers. When she returned, most had written: "I'm staying till the end."

## Coronavirus returns long-banned drive-in movies to Iran

By MEHDI FATTAHI and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The new coronavirus pandemic has brought back something unseen in Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution: a drive-in movie theater.

Once decried by revolutionaries for allowing too much privacy for unmarried young couples, a drive-in theater now operates from a parking lot right under Tehran's iconic Milad tower, showing a film in line with the views of hard-liners.

Workers spray disinfectants on cars that line up each night here after buying tickets online for what is called the "Cinema Machine" in Farsi. They tune into the film's audio via an FM station on their car radios.

With stadiums shut and movie theaters closed, this parking-lot screening is the only film being shown in a communal setting amid the virus outbreak in Iran, one of the world's worst. Iran has reported more than 98,600 cases with over 6,200 deaths, though international and local experts acknowledge Iran's toll is likely far higher.

"It was very fascinating, this is the first time this is happening, at least for people my age," said Behrouz Pournizam, 36, who watched the film along with his wife. "We are here mostly for the excitement to be honest, the movie itself didn't matter that much. I didn't care what movie it is or by whom or which genre."

The film being shown, however, is "Exodus," produced by a firm affiliated with Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guard. The film by director Ebrahim Hatamikia focuses on cotton farmers whose fields die from salt water brought by local dams. The farmers, led by an actor who appears to be the Islamic Republic's answer to American cowboy stand-in Sam Elliott, drive their tractors to Tehran to protest the government.

There is precedent for this anger. Iran had built dams across the country since the revolution — especially under hard-line former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad — that environmentalists blame for damaging waterways and farmland. But this film instead involves "a peasant protest against the local authority that symbolically resembles President Hassan Rouhani's government," the state-owned Tehran Times said.

Rouhani, a relative moderate in Iran's Shiite theocracy, has increasingly faced hard-line criticism amid the collapse of his nuclear deal with world powers. Those allied with his administration have criticized the film.

Moviegoer Atefeh Soheili, however, was glad just to enjoy entertainment outside of her home.

"Now I'm sitting here with clean hands and if I want to eat something or relax I don't need to worry about distancing from other people," she said.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 6, the 127th day of 2020. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox.

On this date:

In 1863, the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia ended with a Confederate victory over Union forces.

In 1882, President Chester Alan Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants from the U.S. for 10 years (Arthur had opposed an earlier version with a 20-year ban).

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg caught fire and crashed while attempting to dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 35 of the 97 people on board were killed along with a crewman on the ground.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav (VEE'-chek-slav) M. Molotov.

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Comedian Bob Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II, some 15,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor island surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he had sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2004, President George W. Bush apologized for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers, calling it "a stain on our country's honor"; he rejected calls for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation.

In 2013, kidnap-rape victims Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, who went missing separately about a decade earlier while in their teens or early 20s, were rescued from a house just south of downtown Cleveland. (Their captor, Ariel Castro, hanged himself in prison in September 2013 at the beginning of a life sentence plus 1,000 years.)

Ten years ago: A computerized sell order triggered a "flash crash" on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrials to a loss of nearly 1,000 points in less than half an hour. Conservatives captured the largest number of seats in Britain's national election but fell short of a majority. (Conservative leader David Cameron ended up heading a coalition government.) A court in India sentenced to death the only surviving Pakistani gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks. (Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged on Nov. 21, 2012.)

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu completed formation of a new governing coalition. The NFL released a 243-report on "Deflategate" that stopped short of calling Patriots quarterback Tom Brady a cheater, but did call some of his claims "implausible" and left little doubt that he'd had a role in having footballs deflated before New England's AFC title game against Indianapolis and probably in previous games. Former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright, 92, died in Fort Worth, Texas.

One year ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, reported to a federal prison northwest of New York City for crimes including tax evasion and campaign finance violations related to hush-money payments made to protect Trump. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin notified the Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that the administration would not turn over the president's tax returns to the House, saying the request "lacks a legitimate legislative purpose." The co-owner of Maximum Security, disqualified from first place in the Kentucky Derby, said the horse would not run in the Preakness, the middle jewel of the Triple Crown; the announcement came hours before the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission denied an appeal of the disqualification. In a Rose Garden ceremony, President Donald Trump awarded golfer Tiger Woods the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. CBS News announced that Norah O'Donnell would become anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News" and that Gayle King would get two new morning show co-hosts. Britain's Prince Harry and wife Megan Markle became parents as Markle gave birth to a boy who would be named Archie.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays is 89. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 86. Rock singer Bob Seger is 75. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 75. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 74. Actor Alan Dale is 73. Actor Ben Masters is 73. Actor Richard Cox is 72. Actor Gregg Henry is 68. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 67. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 65. Actress Roma Downey is 60. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 60. Actress Julianne Phillips is 60. Actor-director George Clooney is 59. Actor Clay O'Brien is 59. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 56. Actress Leslie Hope is 55. Actress Geneva Carr (TV: "Bull") is 54. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 53. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 49. Actress Stacey Oristano is 41. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne is 38. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 37. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is

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37. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 34. Rapper Meek Mill is 33. Houston Astros infielder Jose Altuve is 30. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 27. Actor Noah Galvin is 26.

Thought for Today: "To know your ruling passion, examine your castles in the air." — Richard Whately, English clergyman (1787-1863).

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